



Mason Drumm



Josh Gateley

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On the Cover • As a U.S. Navy veteran, Nate Ferraro knows firsthand how difficult it can be to leave military service and enter a college classroom for the first time in years—or ever. Now an engineering graduate student, Ferraro is the first director of OU's Warrior-Scholar Project, which builds on strengths veterans already possess to help them make a successful transition from soldier to student.

Story on Page 6 Photo illustration by Hugh Scott and George Dotson.

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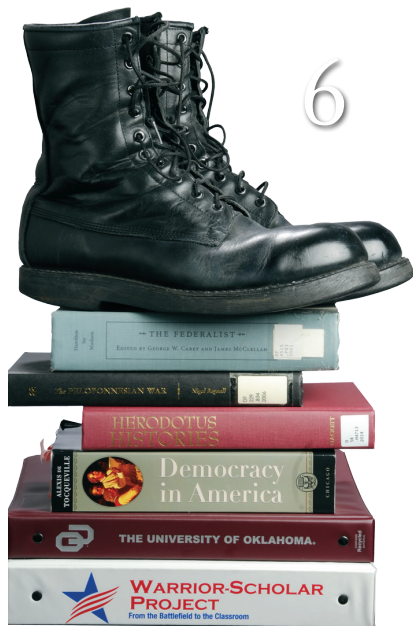
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6 THE WARRIOR-SCHOLAR PROJECT After serving in dangerous war zones across the globe, the most intimidating place for many U.S. veterans is the college classroom. The University of Oklahoma is one of a handful of schools nationwide that offers a leg-up through the Warrior-Scholar Project, an academic boot camp that gives veterans the confidence to tackle their higher education goals.

14 ALL THE THINGS YOU CANNOT SEE Audiences in the newly renovated Elsie C. Brackett Theatre were thrilled by the OU premiere of “Ragtime,” but what they may not have realized in the midst of the emotionally powerful musical were all the behind-the-scenes technical improvements that made the production seem effortless.

18 CELEBRATING NATIVE CULTURES With 39 culturally diverse tribal nations in the state of Oklahoma, OU is uniquely positioned as a national leader in the study of Native American cultures and histories. A new department designation for Native American Studies and the establishment of the Native Nations Center underscore OU’s commitment to the study of America’s Indigenous peoples.

26 IN NO ONE’S SHADOW Ty Darlington had a tough act to follow when he replaced Gabe Ikard as starting center for the Sooner football team. It didn’t take long for coaches and players to discover that Darlington, a two-time All-American who boasts a 3.9 GPA and is active in community service, sets a high bar when it comes to personal goals—on and off the playing field.

In this issue

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