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4 WHEN ZIKA STRIKES Epidemiologists are the public's first line of defense when an unknown or mutating virus starts wreaking havoc with the world's human population. Fortunately, scientists like those at the OU College of Public Health are armed with formidable tools in surveillance, data collection and computer modeling to keep the bad bugs at bay.

8 THE 60-SECOND POLITICIAN The Julian P. Kanter Political Commercial Archive at the University of Oklahoma is a treasure trove of some 160,000 political advertisements dating back from 1950 through present day. The collection, which is frequented by political and communications scholars, reveals much about how Americans relate to politicians, issues and each other.

14 PROFESSOR PAWS When it comes to teaching a class of occupational therapists all the things that service dogs can do for their patients, Mary Isaccson of OU-Tulsa discovered that four legs work better than two. Meet Niko, the first full-time canine professor in the College of Allied Health, who is a living, wagging example of what people with handicaps can achieve with the right help.

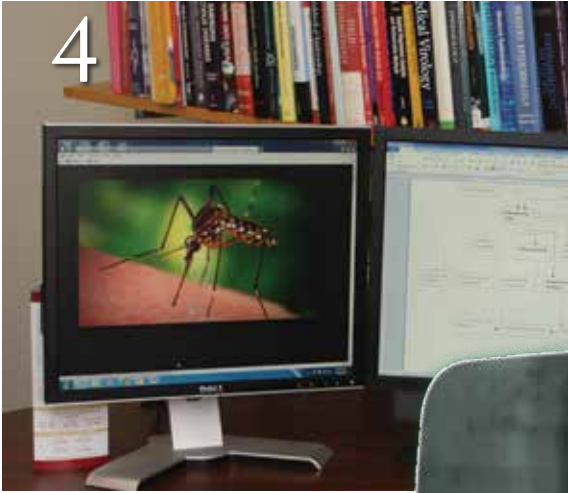
18 HOW MUSIC WORKS During her 38 years at OU, Professor Gail Boyd de Stwolinski helped students understand the method behind the melody in her music theory classes. Since 1985, *The Journal of Music Theory Pedagogy*, housed in the center bearing her name, has served as the internationally recognized standard for the teaching of music theory.

20 LEARNING TO LEAD Professors are experts in their chosen fields, but not always confident in leadership roles. Kelvin Droegemeier, OU Vice President for Research and a Regent's Professor of Meteorology, wants to change that through a dynamic new leadership academy designed with faculty in mind.

26 GYMNASTICS TEAMS MAKE IT COUNT What could be better than winning one NCAA national gymnastics championship in a single year? Why, winning two, of course. And that is just what the OU's men's and women's teams delivered in an unprecedented feat of tandem national titles. The victory also marked the men's 10th national championship, the seventh under head coach Mark Williams.

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SPRING 2016



Lynette Lobban



Aaron Anderson



Julian P. Kanter Commercial Archives

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- 12** *The Big Idea* How do you unlock the mysteries hidden inside storm clouds? Send in the drones.
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On the Cover • The Zika virus, which has been linked to the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito, is just one of the challenges public health officials confront on a daily basis. The behind-the-scenes work of epidemiologists combines the skills of a detective with the meticulous research of a scientist to analyze, predict and prevent health catastrophes. Story on Page 4 Photo illustration by George Dotson.

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