

Sooner Shorts

Danadalihe!gvi!

(Congratulations in Cherokee)



Lynette Lobban

OU's Sam Noble Museum of Natural History received the 2017 University Museums and Collections Award by the International Council of Museums. The prestigious prize recognizes the Sam Noble's Oklahoma Native American Youth Language Fair, which brings hundreds of students, teachers and elders together to keep tribal languages alive. Other finalists for the university museum award hailed from France and China.

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A Perfect Match

Administration at the University of Oklahoma is constantly looking for new ways to engage and enhance student experience. And what could be more personal than helping students find the perfect roommate? A housing questionnaire helps pair students with others who have similar traits—like being an early riser—to ensure the best possible roommate experience. Civil engineering freshman Sarah Elkin was paired with international studies freshman Mary-Kate Mason. So far, so good. “I think it did a really good job,” Elkin says.



Clive Montdev

APP-RECIATING AREZZO

OU students on the university's Arezzo, Italy, campus find a multitude of ways to serve their Italian host community. Sooners recently came to the rescue when the mayor of Arezzo needed a smart phone app that would help attract tourism to the ancient city. Visiting Gallogly College of Engineering students jumped in, using a combination of classroom experience and background as media-savvy millennials. The app should be guiding the feet of travelers within the next year.



Jordan Miller/The Daily

Top 10 Talent

Christina Warriner, co-founder of OU's Molecular Anthropology and Microbiome Research Laboratories, was named to *ScienceNews The SN 10*, which introduces the world to 10 young innovators "who stand out to mentors and peers as people who will make a difference." Warriner's work to extract DNA from fossilized teeth was detailed in *Sooner Magazine* (see *The Secret World of Microbiomes*, Summer 2017) and she has been featured in the PBS NOVA documentary, *Secrets of the Sky Tombs*.

Photo provided



Travis Caperton

Boren announces retirement

President David L. Boren addressed an audience of OU faculty, staff and students at the Reynolds Performing Art Center on Sept. 19 and announced his decision to retire, effective June 30. The president and First Lady Molly Shi Boren have served OU since 1994, creating transformational change on all three OU campuses. For more on the Borens, see "Postscript," page 32.



Travis Caperton

MUM'S THE WORD

Each fall OU's talented landscaping crews let the flowerbeds do the boasting. VanVleet Oval is set ablaze with crimson and cream mums that virtually shout, "Boomer! Sooner!" as they burst into bloom. The campus is so lovely "by day and night" that it regularly finds a home on the Top 10 list of the most beautiful college campuses in the U.S., according to theodysseyonline.com.

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