



# SOONER MAGAZINE

Volume 41 Number 4

for private donors to the University of Oklahoma  
and members of the University of Oklahoma Alumni Association

- 4 NEW HOPE FOR TAR CREEK** An OU environmental scientist's career-long dedication to a doomed creek in Northeastern Oklahoma is finally showing promise.
- 8 MEET OU'S NEW PROVOST** An internationally recognized microbiologist, André-Denis Wright is a self-described "people person," and he's ready to collaborate.
- 10 THE EAGLE THAT FLIES HIGHEST** OU alumnus Jerry Elliott-High Eagle had a vision when he was five that one day he would help land men on the moon. In 1969, he did just that. And it was only the beginning.
- 18 A MUSEUM FOR KIDS OF ALL AGES** From Roy Rogers to Batman, creator Kevin Stark's Toy and Action Figure Museum in Pauls Valley, Okla., speaks to the kid in all of us.
- 24 HELPING HUMANS FLOURISH** An OU institute demonstrates how practicing virtue is not only the right thing to do, it also leads to healthier lives for people and their communities.
- 28 WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS** After unexpectedly finding themselves in the losers' bracket of the Women's College World Series, the top-seeded Oklahoma Sooners softball team fought its way back to the top.

*In this issue* SUMMER 2021