



# SOONER

Volume 42 Number 1

## MAGAZINE

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

**4 AN INAUGURATION OVERDUE** The University of Oklahoma's 15th president has a long, personal history with OU and is adamant that students under his watch get the same opportunities he had to change their lives through education.

**7 ESPORTS GETS DOWN TO BUSINESS** With the proliferation of "Power Five" teams and careers in promotions, management, development and more, OU has established a new esports department to give its students a competitive edge in the multi-billion-dollar online gaming industry.

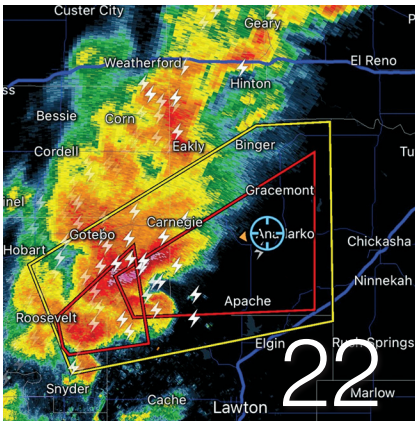
**14 THE LOST AND FOUND LYNN RIGGS** The author of *Green Grow the Lilacs*, the basis for the ever-evolving musical *Oklahoma!*, was a shy kid from Claremore, Okla., who found his voice, friends and talents at OU in the 1920s.

**22 OU'S AI WEATHER PIONEER** If recent hailstorms have you wondering about the next severe weather event, you're not alone. OU computer scientist Amy McGovern is director of a new NSF-funded weather institute that uses artificial intelligence to sift through mountains of data to deliver warnings well ahead of the storm.

**26 OU'S TREASURE CHEST TURNS 21** The project to preserve Oklahoma's past rallied the Norman community, the state and the university to join forces in creating the beloved "dinosaur museum," more formally known as the Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History. The mission continues.

# *In this issue*

FALL 2021



## IN EVERY ISSUE —

- 2** *Sooner Shorts* • News and Events
- 12** *The Big Idea* • How do you provide medical care to those who live far from clinics?
- 20** *Sooner Nation* • The dynamic Katie den Daas
- 31** *Your Letters*
- 32** *Lest We Forget . . .* • Mildred Andrews Boggess: an organist worthy of note
- 33** *Epilogue* • Sooners prevail in historic Red River Rivalry

**On the Cover** • Two years after Joseph Harroz Jr. took on the responsibilities of an OU president, his appointment was officially celebrated during inauguration ceremonies Sept. 17. The former dean of OU Law says current challenges are some of the biggest in OU history, but so are reasons for optimism.  
 Story on page 4.

Photo by Travis Caperton

---

### EDITOR

*Lynette Lobban*

### ASSOCIATE EDITOR

*Anne Barajas Harp*

### ART DIRECTOR

*George T. Dotson*

### STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

*Travis Caperton*

### PUBLISHER

*The University of Oklahoma Foundation Inc.  
 Guy L. Patton, President*