

Sooner Shorts



CHAMPS x FIVE!

The OU women's gymnastics team roared back from a huge deficit to win the NCAA Championship against opponents No. 2 Florida, No. 4 Utah and No. 7 Auburn on April 16. This marks the fifth national title for the Sooners—all under coach K.J. Kindler, who has led the program for 16 years. "I can't say enough about how great this team was," Kindler said at the post-meet press conference. "Fighters to the end, when it would've been easy to count themselves out."

Forbes

OU Named One of Best U.S. Employers

OU ranks as the top employer in Oklahoma and among the top 50 nationwide in *Forbes'* 2022 "America's Best Large Employers" list. The University also placed fourth in a subcategory dedicated to education. The annual list is based on an independent survey of 60,000 U.S. employees across 25 industry sectors and considers every aspect of the employee experience in companies with more than 5,000 workers. "This achievement is a testament to the remarkable commitment and care of our faculty and staff, who work hard every day to make OU such a special place," said President Joseph Harroz Jr.



PAT, I'LL TAKE A WIN

Watching "Wheel of Fortune" from childhood paid off in a big way for OU women and gender studies senior Joya-Dean Hemagin, who won \$40,000 and trips to Spain and the British Isles during her March 22nd appearance on the classic TV game show. The Headington Hall resident adviser managed to keep her success a secret until the final moments of a watch party attended by friends and her mother, who drove up from Hemagin's hometown of Grand Prairie, Texas, for the big reveal. Hemagin plans to save the cash prize for post-college life and is looking forward to her first travel outside the United States.

Sooner Magazine is published quarterly by the University of Oklahoma Foundation Inc. with private funds at no cost to the taxpayers of the state of Oklahoma. The magazine is printed by the Transcript Press, Norman, Oklahoma, and is intended primarily for private donors to the University of Oklahoma and members of the University of Oklahoma Alumni Association. Opinions expressed are those of the author and do not reflect the official position of the University of Oklahoma or the University of Oklahoma Foundation Inc.

Archived copies of Sooner Magazine are available on the University of Oklahoma Foundation Inc. website: <http://www.oufoundation.org>.

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Creating Connections

OU's partnerships with tribal nations and Indigenous communities are strengthened with the appointment of Tana Fitzpatrick as associate vice president of tribal relations. Fitzpatrick assumes responsibility for developing, enhancing and sustaining collaborations and heads a strategic plan for OU's Indigenous peoples initiatives. A member of the Crow Tribe of Montana and descendant of the Sioux, Ponca and Chickasaw, Fitzpatrick came to OU from the Library of Congress, where she served as a specialist in natural resources policy for the Congressional Research Service. She previously worked at the U.S. Department of the Interior, the Office of Management and Budget, and as a prosecutor and in-house counsel for tribal governments.



New Sooner Magazine editor

After seven years as editor of *Sooner Magazine*—and an additional decade as associate editor—Lynette Lobban (center) is setting off on new adventures. Three generations of editors gathered for Lobban's March retirement celebration, including Carol Burr (left) who led *Sooner Magazine* for a monumental 39 years, and incoming editor Anne Barajas Harp (right), who has served as associate editor since 2015.



GAYLORD COLLEGE Named No. 2 Program in the Nation

The Broadcast Education Association has recognized the Gaylord College of Journalism and Mass Communication at the University of Oklahoma as the No. 2 program in the country out of more than 300 member institutions nationwide. In four categories of individual media disciplines, OU landed in the top 10, including No. 1 in film and video programs, No. 3 in news programs, No. 4 in sports programs and No. 8 in scriptwriting programs.