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AUGUST 2023
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MISSION

OU Daily's quarterly magazine covers Norman and OU issues in depth and provides a public forum to discuss its local issues while providing students on our staff real-world media experiences.

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OPINIONS & SUBMISSIONS

Letters to the editor or guest columns may be submitted to dailyeditor@ou.edu. They will be edited for accuracy, space and style and run at the discretion of the editor-in-chief. Students must list their major and classification; faculty or staff must list their title. Our Views are the view of the Editorial Board. Opinions are not necessarily those of the Editorial Board.

LEGAL

One free copy is available to members of the community. Extra copies may be purchased. Thefts are subject to legal action. OU Daily is a publication of OU Student Media. It is printed at no cost to Oklahoma taxpayers.

CORRECTIONS

OU Daily is committed to accuracy. If you find an error in our work, submit a correction at oudaily.com/corrections.

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FROM THE EDITOR



REGHAN KYLE/OU DAILY

OU Daily is an independent, student-led news organization serving the OU community and the city of Norman. Its newsroom is located in Copeland Hall Room 160.

We're ready to get back to school, are you?

Welcome to, or back to, OU.

I have always been somebody who loves school and I usually look forward to returning to classes, going to football games and seeing my friends every single day. This year, however, is extra special to me as I return to Norman for my senior year and return to the Daily as its next editor-in-chief.

I transferred to OU in the middle of my sophomore year, and I was terrified, faced with finding my place on a campus I had never visited in a city where I knew next to nobody. OU Daily was the first community I became a part of, and I have seen this incredible staff cover and serve the OU and Norman community with diligence and transparency. I am extremely lucky to work alongside them and lead this newsroom into the next year.

For those of you who don't know, OU Daily is an independent, student-led news organization dedicated to accurately and inclusively serving our audience at OU and in the city of Norman. We offer wide-ranging coverage regarding campus news, local politics, sports and culture.

The Daily has over 75 student employees working on our news, sports, culture, copy, visual, design, video and engagement desks who are dedicated to bringing you accurate information. We also have our ad and marketing team that supports our enterprise by increasing OU Daily's sales and public awareness. To better serve our audience, we have renewed our commitment to accept opinion submissions and have started offering community listening sessions.

OU Daily produces stories, photos, videos and more on our website, seven days a week, as well as produces themed guides throughout the year focusing on important

campus issues, Sooners football, Norman's best local businesses and more.

The Daily serves our community as a modern, multimedia news organization, reaching an average 1.8 million readers annually. Last year, the College Media Association's Pinnacle Awards named OU Daily as the nation's best college news website and news magazine. We were also recognized for having the nation's best podcast by the Society of Professional Journalists and received the state's top honor, the Carter Bradley First Amendment Award, for our reporting.

Thank you for picking up our Back to School Guide and reading our work online at oudaily.com. Please sign up for our newsletters and follow us on our social media. We can be found on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Threads and TikTok.

The Daily is dedicated to telling both students' and Norman's stories. I am so excited to lead OU Daily, and I am looking forward to the stories this year will bring.

Sincerely,
 Karoline Leonard
 OU Daily Editor-in-chief



Karoline Leonard
 Editor-in-chief
karolineleonard@ou.edu

WHAT YOU MISSED

Catch up on news that shaped the summer

BY PEGGY DODD • PDODD@OU.EDU

May 17: Adams Center demolition begins

A fixture on campus since 1964, Adams Center was demolished over the course of summer 2023. All three residential towers will eventually be removed to make space for new residence halls in the coming years as OU moves into the Southeastern Conference.

May 18: Oklahoma Republicans look to defund state-funded universities with DEI programs

Sen. Rob Standridge (R-Norman) and Rep. Justin Humphrey (R-Lane) filed a concurrent resolution seeking to defund state-funded higher education should institutions not immediately disband Diversity, Equity and Inclusion programs. DEI is included as a pillar in OU's Strategic Plan, "Lead On, University," launched in 2020.

May 19: Oklahoma Attorney General agrees to not enforce ban on gender-confirming care

Gov. Kevin Stitt signed the ban into law on May 1, prompting the American Civil Liberties Union and other organizations to file a lawsuit alleging a violation of the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment. While the lawsuit travels through the justice system, Oklahoma Attorney General Gentner Drummond agreed not to enforce the ban.

June 9: Swatting bodycam footage and 911 calls released

Two months after the April 7 swatting case at OU, authorities released 23 calls to 911 and body camera footage from several officers from that evening. Following the incident, OU and FBI confirmed campus had been a target of an international swatting. To hear the calls from the swatters and see body camera footage, visit oudaily.com.

June 13: Ward 3 Councilmember Bree Montoya sworn in

The Norman City Council swore in Montoya following a legal battle with a resident. Montoya was scheduled to be seated in May, but due to a restraining order filed against council members by a Ward 3 voter, Montoya's oath of office was pushed back.

June 14: OU Board of Regents approves tuition hike

Regents passed a 3% increase for both in-state and out-of-state tuition during a June budget meeting. This increase equals around \$280 more a year for



REGHAN KYLE/OU DAILY

After serving as a freshman residential building since 1964, Adams Center was demolished over the course of summer 2023.

Oklahoman students. Two days later, education leaders in the state Senate publicly criticized the hike, saying continued tuition increases are unsustainable for families and students.

June 16: Supreme Court upholds Indian Child Welfare Act

This ruling from the U.S. Supreme Court affirmed the constitutionality of the Indian Child Welfare Act, which governs child custody proceedings for Native American children. ICWA was passed in 1978, allowing Indigenous children to be placed within their tribal community.

June 28: OU research team receives international honor

The Royal Society of Chemistry awarded the Faraday Horizon Prize to OU biochemistry professor John W. Peters and his research team. Peters and the team discovered how to sustainably split electrons into separate energy pools, finding new ways to capture and manipulate energy from renewable sources.

June 29: Supreme Court cites OU in affirmative action ruling

OU announced its admission process would not change after the U.S. Supreme Court struck down affirmative action. OU was cited in the court's opinion through the *McLaurin v. Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education* case. George McLaurin was the first Black student at OU. On account of being denied admission based on race in 1948, McLaurin would not be allowed to attend the

university until 1950 after his exclusion from OU was deemed unconstitutional.

June 30: Supreme Court denies Biden's student loan forgiveness plan

The U.S. Supreme Court overturned President Joe Biden's plan to forgive up to \$20,000 in student loan debt. Following the decision, Biden announced his administration would attempt a new approach to student loan forgiveness through the 1965 Higher Education Act.

July 7: State Superintendent Ryan Walters draws national headlines after Norman meeting

While speaking at the Norman Public Library Central to an angry crowd, State Superintendent of Public Instruction Ryan Walters drew national attention following comments about the Tulsa Race Massacre. Walters said students shouldn't be taught the massacre was "inherent" because of skin color. The next day, Walters said he had been taken out of context and condemned the massacre.

July 11: Ward 5 Councilmember Michael Nash returns to council

After winning the election in April, Nash was welcomed back to the dais by several council members after being sworn in. Nash had previously served as the Ward 5 representative from 2020-22.

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OUR MISSION

The mission of Student Affairs is to enhance students' academic success by developing student skills, cultivating diverse campus life experiences and enriching the university community through programs and services.

WHAT WE DO

- Assist students in realizing their goals – academic, personal, and professional.
- Provide diverse cultural experiences to the University community.
- Offer programs designed to enhance the academic experience.
- Provide leadership development opportunities.
- Create a safe and healthy environment in which students may live, study, socialize and work.

our departments, programs, & services

- | | |
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| Health Services | Student Conduct |
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Members of Alpha Chi Omega and Sigma Phi Epsilon perform during the Rah! Rally – an annual event around homecoming – in 2019.

FILE/OU DAILY

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Get engaged and connected on campus

FROM STAFF REPORTS • DAILYNEWS@OU.EDU

Acts of Kindness Association: A casual organization of people on campus dedicated to participating in random acts of kindness. You may see sticky notes plastered on bathroom mirrors with words of affirmation, or social events around campus where the organization serves food to welcome students back, celebrate the graduating class or try to lighten everyone's spirits during finals. The organization also hosts food and supply drives for those in need of assistance.

Beekeepers' Association: When you join the Beekeepers' Association you'll have the opportunity to be trained in assisting the maintenance of two beehives. Within the organization there are groups who specialize in different areas such as the gardening group which is currently working with Norman High to build a pollinator garden.

Student Government Association: SGA is comprised of elected student leaders who serve as voices for their peers and distribute funds to other student organizations. SGA is divided into four branches including the Undergraduate Student Council, Crimson Leadership Association, Graduate Student Senate and the Campus Activities Council.

Campus Activities Council: CAC is the programming branch of the Student Government Association. Its job is to initiate campus-wide programs to welcome new students and build community and leadership. The council puts on events such as Howdy Week, a week-long event that educates new students on campus culture. Other events include Fall Family Weekend and Homecoming Reunion Week.

Rug Making Club: A creative outlet for students and one

of the largest art clubs on campus, Rug Club is open to anyone interested in the art of rug making. "RUG RUG RUG!"

Union Programming Board: The UPB organizes events in the Oklahoma Memorial Union to help engage students with their peers and enrich student life. Events include haunted houses, laser tag and bingo days.

OU Gaming Club: Both students and alumni are free to play video games with one another at the OU Gaming Club. Casual and competitive play that spans across universities allows gamers to meet and bond over a shared love of gaming.

American Indian Student Association: AISA promotes the safety and inclusion of all Indigenous people — American Indian, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian and other Indigenous students at OU. The organization also fosters community by organizing cultural events such as the Spring Powwow and the Indigenous Royalty Pageant.

Asian American Student Association: The AASA helps spread the knowledge and culture of all Asian American students at OU. Asian languages, traditional attire, cuisine and history are all celebrated through several events throughout the year such as the OU Asian Royalty Pageant and a Lunar New Year celebration.

Black Student Association: The BSA promotes interaction and communication between Black students in an effort to provide students with a sense of home and community on campus. The BSA hosts events such as the Stompedown Step Show and the OU Black Royalty Pageant.

Hispanic American Student Association: HASA serves to strengthen the Hispanic and Latin American community at OU by promoting Hispanic heritage, culture and traditions. HASA enhances both educational and developmental skills for students who wish to get involved, as well as organizes events such as the Day of the Dead Street Festival and the OU Hispanic Royalty Pageant.

International Advisory Committee: The IAC is an umbrella organization that coordinates other international student organizations on campus. Its executive team hosts intercultural events to increase awareness of the international community and build connections among international students at OU. Some of those events include the International Gala, International Pageant and Eve of Nations.

Women's Health Advocacy: WHA is dedicated to educating students on health literacy, contraception and menstrual health. The organization has created several gender-neutral menstrual stations on campus equipped with menstrual products for anyone who may need them.

Society of Women Engineers: SWE provides support for women in the engineering field by granting them professional, academic and social growth opportunities. Join them for general body meetings, movie nights and alumni presentations. Make sure you don't miss their Women's Day Coalition event where the organization celebrates International Women's Day.



Goddard Health Center on Elm Avenue is OU's campus health clinic.

REGHAN KYLE/
OU DAILY

HEALTH, SAFETY RESOURCES

Manage your well-being as a college student

FROM STAFF REPORTS • DAILYNEWS@OU.EDU

Your mental and physical health are susceptible to decline under the stress of college. Being away from the doctors you may be used to can make it even more difficult to find help. Fortunately, OU has Goddard Health Center.

Goddard, located near Catlett Music Center, offers almost every service the average student may need.

Pharmacy services: Goddard has a pharmacy where you can send all your prescriptions for pickup. You don't need to risk losing your perfect parking spot to make your way to Walgreens or CVS.

Labs and testing: An on-site lab also allows Goddard to provide a variety of testing including various blood tests. They even have X-rays for those unfortunate South Oval bicycle collisions you may find yourself in.

Physical services: You can make an appointment for a health checkup or walk in for urgent care — a service that comes in handy when the yearly flu begins to make its rounds on campus.

For gender-nonconforming students, Goddard can provide hormone therapy for those who were already receiving it before coming to campus. They also provide

referrals for people wishing to transition during their time at OU.

Goddard also offers contraceptives, gynecological services and appointments related to sexual and reproductive health.

Nutrition and allergy services: For help with your nutrition, Goddard has its own dietician. The health center also offers regimented allergy injections for those with severe allergies that they have considered trying to get rid of.

Mental health services: In addition to the many physical and medical services Goddard provides, OU also has the University Counseling Center within the health center. There, students can get help for any mental health issues they may be experiencing. Whether through counseling or psychiatric services, they are available to help you with what you need.

While it can be easy to let college overshadow your health, it's important to be sure you are taking care of your body and mind as much as your grades, if not more. Your classes can wait, your health can't.

It is also important to take note of essential safety resources.

City of Norman: The city offers an alert system that can be subscribed to by

texting [NORMANEVENTS to 226787](tel:226787).

OU Safe Ride: OU SafeRide is a university program that provides students with access to a free and safe ride in Norman from 10 p.m. to 3 a.m. on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. You can download OU SafeRide on the App Store or Google Play. Log in with your universal 4x4 and password and make sure you allow the app to access your location and send notifications. Once you enter your phone number, you are all set to use OU SafeRide!

Storm shelters: OU has many buildings that can serve as storm shelters in the case of tornadic weather on or near campus. The Bizzell Memorial Library serves as a severe weather refuge area on both lower levels in designated areas. Both Dunham and Headington College have basements that operate as safe spaces in the case of severe weather and both Couch and Walker Towers possess storm shelters on site. All four buildings in Cross Village have a storm shelter on the first floor. Additionally, Dale Hall on the South Oval has a basement often used by upperclassmen students who live near campus in the case of severe weather.

SIGN-UP FOR OU ALERTS

RAVE alerts: Visit ecs.ou.edu to review and update your emergency contact information. To receive text messages, OU's primary mode of emergency communications, your cell number must be in the mobile phone field. OU Alerts will come from 672-83 or 226-787. Add both to your contacts and name them OU Alert so an emergency text won't appear as a random number or spam/junk.

WHAT TO DO IF THERE IS AN ACTIVE SHOOTER

The following are guidelines. Continuously assess survival options. Trust "gut" feelings.

Run: If possible to flee safely, do so.

- Have an escape plan; move quickly.
- Don't wait for others to validate your choice.
- Leave belongings behind.
- Move away from sound of threat.
- Heed police directions on exit.
- Keep hands visible to officers.
- Call 911 as soon as safe to do so.

Hide: If flight is impossible, hide.

- Move to a secure area.
- Turn off lights, silence devices.
- Lock, barricade doors.
- Get away from door, line of sight.
- Plan how to attack if door breached.
- Don't huddle, spread out.
- Look for makeshift weapons.
- Call 911 only if shooter can't hear.
- Shelter until reached by authorities.
- Do exactly as told by police.

Fight: Police can't recommend just one procedure. Assume shooter can wound/kill everyone if not stopped.

- Throw items at shooter upon attack.
- If in a group, attack from all sides.
- Pin the shooter and any weapons until officers take control.
- Do exactly as told by police.

Information to give 911

- Clarify you are on OU's campus.
- Location of assailant(s).
- Number of assailants.
- Physical description of assailant(s).
- Number, type of weapons in use.
- Number of potential victims.

SEVERE WEATHER

@OUemergencyprep: This Twitter account, run by the Department of Campus Safety, gives campus-specific weather information.

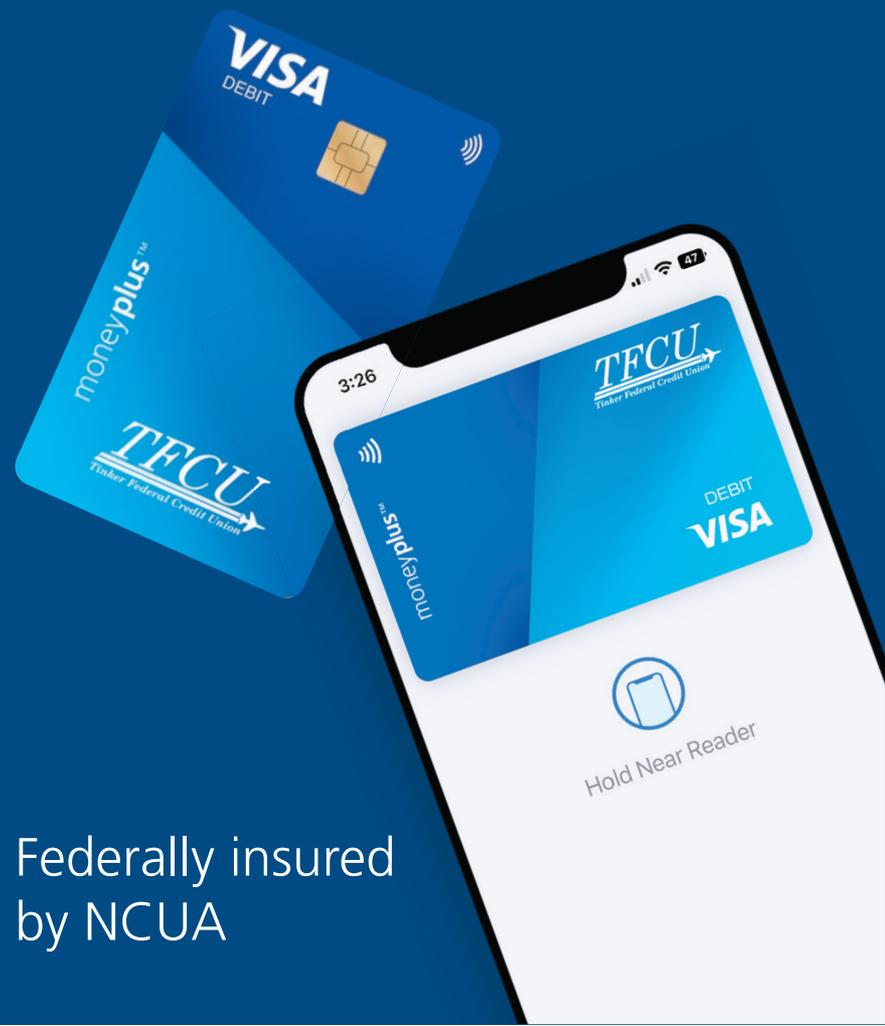


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SOFTBALL WINS 3RD STRAIGHT NATIONAL TITLE

OU's camaraderie and commitment secures WCWS victory to end record season

BY NICK COPPOLA • NICHOLAS.W.COPPOLA-1@OU.EDU

OKLAHOMA CITY — On an 0-2 count to Florida State's Katie Dack with two outs in the seventh inning, OU catcher Kinzie Hansen had a plan — one specifically designed for Sooners pitcher Jordy Bahl.

She knew Bahl could strike batters out with a fastball high in the zone. In a two-strike count, it became Hansen's go-to call with Bahl, so she went back to it.

Check swing. Ball one.

Hansen called another one. Check swing. Ball two. Her plan didn't work.

Luckily for her, she had a backup plan. In Hansen's mind, it wasn't Bahl's best pitch, but she knew it would give OU (61-1) its third consecutive national championship. On a 2-2 count, Hansen called a change-up.

"I knew based on the pitch call that it was a good setup," Hansen told OU Daily. "We got her. I knew that would get the last out."

Bahl swayed her arm back and forth, almost in slow motion. Her gaze was fixed on Hansen as if she was the only person that mattered at that moment. After a brief pause, she threw the change-up and got Dack swinging.

Strike three. National champions.

That pitch gave the Sooners a 3-1 win over Florida State (58-11) in Game 2 of the Women's College World Series championship finals on Thursday, June 8, in Oklahoma City. It is OU's seventh national title in program history, becoming the second team to win three in a row since UCLA achieved the feat from 1988-90.

Bahl ripped off her mask and pumped her arms, her routine celebration every time she ends an inning with a strike-out. Hansen heaved the ball in the air with the same amount of passion. Both embraced for a hug, and the passion turned to euphoria, then to tears.

Before the pitch, Bahl took a deep breath and told herself "seventy percent" as a reminder not to overthrow the pitch. Then, infielders Alyssa Brito and Grace Lyons told her "Eyes up," OU's mantra during the 2023 season.

"It just means give it over to God," Bahl said. "Just trust that the end is already written. Firmly believe in those things. Set your eyes on it, and it allows you to be free. It lifts you and allows you to just play your game."

It was the climax for a team that dominated with an NCAA-record 53 consecutive victories, a team that showed much camaraderie throughout the season. It showed in Brito and Lyons' comments to Bahl before the last pitch and in the Sooners' postgame celebrations, as no player celebrated alone.

The Sooners celebrated with a dogpile near the pitcher's circle, then in the confetti after lifting their trophy. They joyfully walked to center field in the manner they did everything all season — together.

For some players, the shared bond between teammates is what makes their championship special.

"This has been the most enjoyable out of the three I've had,"

junior infielder Tiare Jennings told OU Daily. "The second one (in 2022), we just kind of cruised through. But this third one, I've experienced so much joy with everyone, and it's what makes it the best one yet."

From junior center fielder Jayda Coleman's leaping catch to rob FSU of a home run in the third inning, to Lyons' home run in the fifth inning, the Sooners celebrated as emphatically as possible.

They did so not only to show their passion, but to increase the morale of their teammates. The louder the Sooners get, the more confident they get, and it's what they say is the driving force behind each win.

That mindset isn't just present in players but in coaches as well. Before the season began, coach Patty Gasso took each of her players out to eat. Gasso didn't talk about strategies or game plans, but about the players' lives, wanting to know them better.

It was part of her efforts to show more care to players, and it showed during bad times, too. Every time Gasso clashed with a player, she looked to improve herself first, allowing her players to have more leeway in how she operates the team.

Gasso believes her actions were much needed en route to the seventh national title.

"I surrendered my ego to make sure I did that," Gasso said. "That was a step in the right direction. With this group, I stepped back.

"That is what's freeing for them. If you're wondering why they don't look nervous, that's because they're not. They know it's written."

OU's shared bond also gives them unwavering belief in one another. After the fourth inning, the Sooners trailed 1-0 to the Seminoles after a home run from FSU's Mack Leonard. But, OU responded instantly with two home runs in the fifth inning from infielder Cydney Sanders and Lyons, giving it a lead it wouldn't concede.

"We never had a doubt," Hansen said. "No matter what the score is ... we always believe in each other. We believe in our coaches. We know that we'll get it done. We never doubt that."

Sanders credits her home run to what her teammates told her in the dugout.

"They just told me 'See the ball, hit the ball,' and that's all I really needed from them," Sanders told OU Daily. "Because of them, that's all I was thinking. I just kept it simple, and it ended up working out."

OU is the same way on defense. After senior Alex Storako pitched four innings, Bahl replaced her in the fifth inning. As soon as she entered, the Sooners relaxed, as they believed she wouldn't falter. And she didn't, pitching three clean innings to end her WCWS run with 24.2 straight scoreless innings, the third longest streak in tournament history.

Some players had so much belief they already began celebrating before the game was over.

"When she went out, I said 'This game is over,'" Jennings said. "She was nails. Her poise and energy is unmatched. I



REGHAN KYLE/OU DAILY

Senior outfielder Rylie Boone and redshirt freshman utility Quincee Lilio cheer on their team during the WCWS game against Stanford on June 5.

knew she was gonna knock them down for us. She's been steady her whole life."

Players like Sanders experienced a championship for the first time. Others like Bahl, Hansen and Jennings experienced it for a second or third time. Some like Lyons have experienced it for the final time. But, no matter their experience, background, stat line or pedigree, there's one thing each OU player has in common — a vast amount of care for one another.

As each player lined up to receive their trophy in the pitcher's circle, Gasso watched them near first base. As she witnessed the players gleefully cheering each other on, Gasso was filled with pride. OU worked from preseason to postseason to form the connection they did, and it all paid off with another national championship.

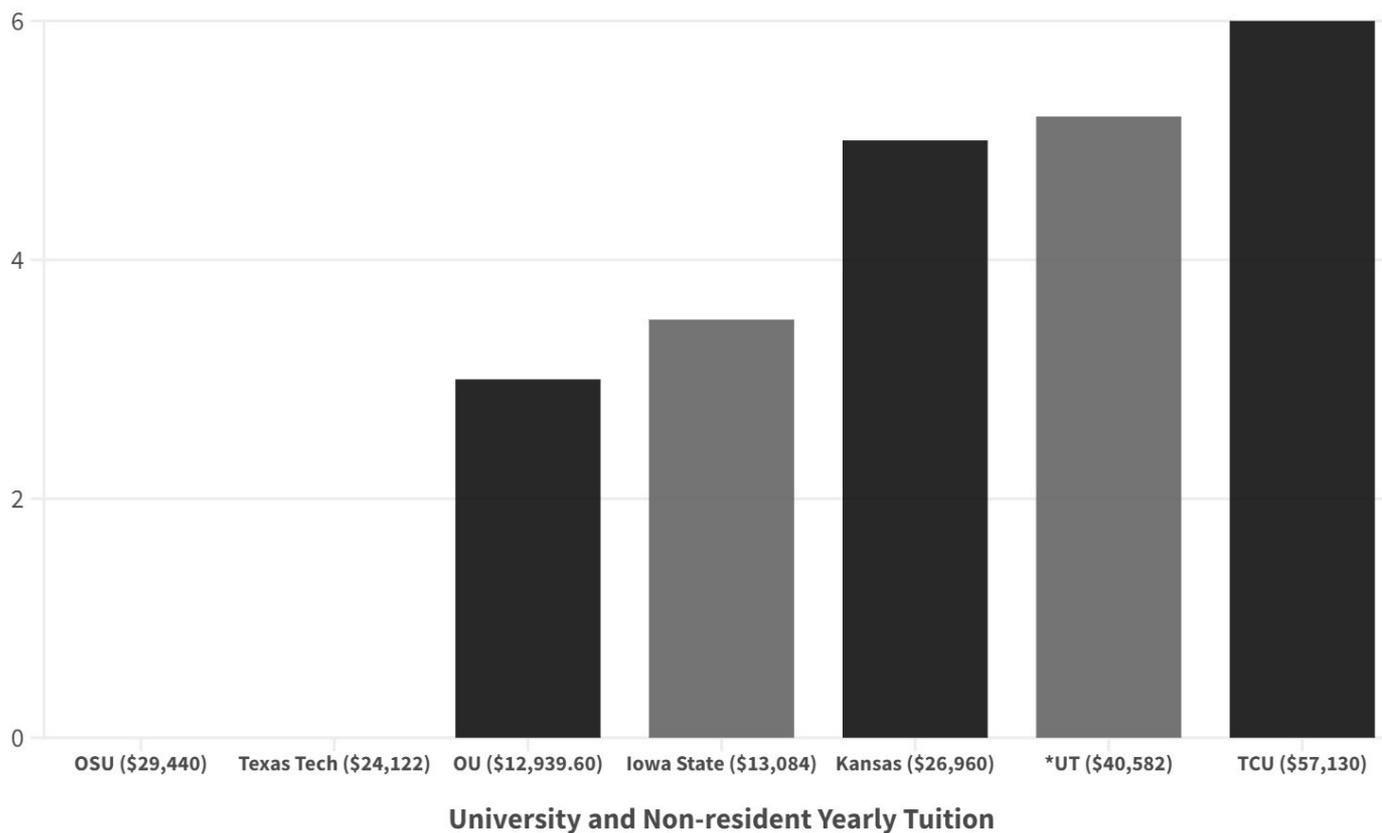
Gasso loves the victories, but she loves the lasting bond more than anything else.

"I want to be my best for them," Gasso said, emotional. "They make a commitment to me, so I need to give it back. This is our family, so I need to give it back. This is our family, so you take care of them. I raise them like they're my own.

"To see their growth, their heart, their expressions, it's like being a proud mom. They're the coolest young women I've been around in a long time, and I love them."

2022-23 Tuition Increases Across Big 12

% Change



"The good news is we've got a multi-year plan and it's five to seven years. We know what our capital budget is, we know how much space we have. It allows you to build new dorms to replace the ones that we have while being financially responsible."

- JOE HARROZ JR.,
OU PRESIDENT

*UT tuition increase for non-residents and graduate students only

REGENTS APPROVE TUITION HIKE

OU board raises tuition for the 3rd consecutive year citing need in the 2024 budget

BY TEEGAN SMITH • TEEGAN.D.SMITH-1@OU.EDU

The OU Board of Regents approved the 2024 budget, a tuition increase for all OU students and voted on various agenda items in a meeting on Wednesday, June 14, at their retreat site in Tulsa.

Presentations were given throughout the meeting to discuss strategy and ideas for the future of the university. The first presentation explored strategic planning via trends in higher education.

Haven Ladd, a higher education strategist with EY-Parthenon, discussed the current trends in enrollment and cited evidence that national enrollment numbers have been decreasing for roughly a decade.

The regents then discussed the 2024 budget and declared a need for a 3% increase to both in-state and out-of-state tuition. This would be around \$280 more per year for Oklahoma residents.

OU's Chief Financial Officer Matthew Brockwell discussed the master plan for freshman housing. Phase 1

totalled \$195 million and Phase 2 is projected to total \$210 million.

The National Weather Center was granted funds in the 2024 budget for an expansion totaling \$9.5 million.

A spokesperson for the enrollment management division shared the demographics of the incoming OU freshman class. Oklahoma City and Western Oklahoma were the only regions in the state that had a growing yield.

The regents approved an update to the language in OU's institutional equity documents.

The board also agreed to create a new tailgating and major event day policy to ensure maximum safety and enjoyment for campus visitors during sports games and other events.

OU President Joseph Harroz Jr. gave his state of the university speech before the Board of Regents approved the consent agenda and began discussing the related items.

The board unanimously approved the 3% tuition increase for in-state and out-of-state students, as well as tuition increases ranging from 1% to 7% for eight professional programs in the OU Health Sciences Center.

Harroz said this fall is projected to have the largest incoming class for the third consecutive year and commented on how the university plans to accommodate the 6% jump in numbers.

"The good news is we've got a multi-year plan and it's five to seven years. We know what our capital budget is, we know how much space we have," Harroz said. "It allows you to build new dorms to replace the ones that we have while being financially responsible."

Harroz said the university has raised over \$800 million of its \$2 billion fundraising goal at this time.

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St. John's Episcopal Church

235 W. Duffy St. | Norman, OK 73069
www.episcopalnorman.org



May we restore all people to unity
with God and each other in Christ

Sundays: 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
Wednesdays: 6:00 p.m.



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We are a spiritual family with a global mission to make disciples, plant churches, and work for the peace and prosperity of our cities

Sunday Services: 9 a.m. & 11 a.m.
College Ministry: Wednesdays at 7 p.m.

ENGAGE. ENCOURAGE. EMPOWER. ENGINEER.

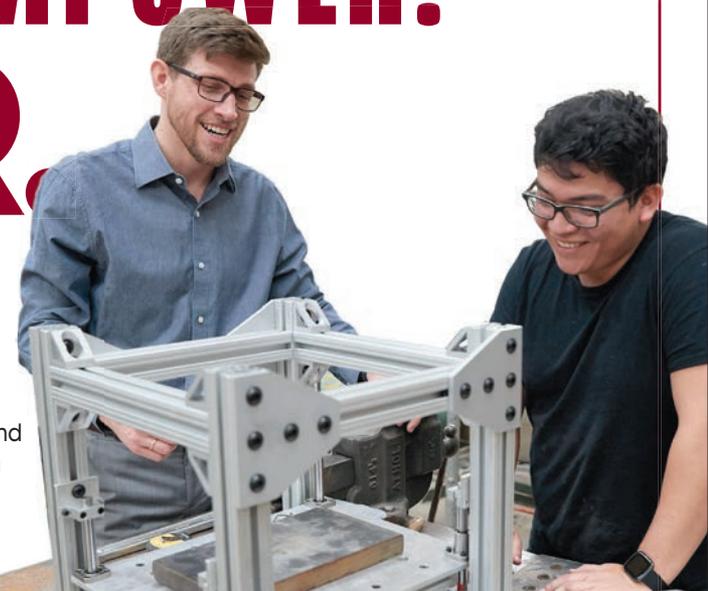
Join us on the Engineering Quad for two events to kick-off the fall semester and welcome you to the Gallogly College of Engineering

MONDAY, AUGUST 14 • 2–5 PM
**New Engineers
Welcome**

Stay tuned to our Instagram for updates and a schedule of all the fun activities.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 25 • NOON–3 PM
Shell Fall Fest

Join Shell and over 40 Engineering student organizations and competition teams for our annual welcome back event! You will have the chance to connect with representatives from Shell about jobs and internships, but also figure out how to get involved with one of our many student organizations.



6 CAMPUS LEADERS TO KNOW

Learn about key people who make decisions and affect change at OU

BY PEGGY DODD • PDODD@OU.EDU



Joseph Harroz Jr.: OU President

Harroz graduated from OU in 1989, later earning his law degree from Georgetown University in 1992. For 26 years, Harroz has served in various OU leadership roles, including nine years as the College of Law dean.

In 2020, Harroz was named the 15th president of OU. Throughout Harroz's tenure, he has overseen the creation and implementation of the Strategic Plan. The plan aims to position OU as one of the nation's top public research universities, make the university affordable and attainable and ensure student belonging and success. Harroz has also guided OU through new freshman housing efforts and the merger of OU Health. Currently, Harroz is leading OU through its journey from the Big 12 Conference to the Southeastern Conference.



André-Denis Wright: Senior Vice President and Provost

A microbiologist researcher, Wright became OU's first Black senior vice president and provost in 2021 after emerging the favorite in a national search. Before coming to Oklahoma, Wright served in leadership positions at the

University of Vermont, the University of Arizona and Washington State University. In 2021, Wright told OU Daily he aims to be a source of inspiration, encouragement and unity to all members of the OU family while focusing on intentional support and development efforts. Wright manages all academic initiatives at the Norman campus and oversees policies, faculty recruitment and development, institutional budgeting and enrollment management.



David Surratt: Vice President of Student Affairs and Dean of Students

An alumnus of OU, Surratt took to his position in 2019 after serving in a similar position at the University of California, Berkeley. While attending OU in the early 2000s, Surratt worked in Residential

Life in Walker Tower. His responsibilities as dean of students include heading several programs that focus on access to education, leadership abilities, advocacy and student well-being. Surratt has launched programs that support incoming students and helped guide OU through its COVID-19 and masking policies. Surratt has long been involved in diversity efforts and promoting civic engagement among the student body. He helped draft part of the Strategic Plan that aims to create a sense of belonging at OU by listening to student demands.



Quy Nguyen: Director of Student Life and an Assistant Dean of Students

Nguyen received both his bachelor's and master's degrees at OU, joining Student Life in 2008. Within Student Life, he has served as the adviser for the Campus Activities

Council and OU Cousins, a program aimed at connecting international students to the community, while overseeing orientations, campus programs and multicultural organizations and services. Nguyen has worked alongside the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in his position, taking part in town halls and attending protests or events on behalf of the university to further hear from and engage with students. When COVID-19 hit Norman, Nguyen worked to guide students through a digital environment, including enforcing an online Panhellenic recruitment process.



Erin Simpson: Director of the Gender + Equality Center and an Assistant Dean of Students

Simpson has earned several degrees from OU, including a bachelor's in elementary education, a master's in adult and higher education and a graduate certificate

in women and gender studies. She is currently a doctoral candidate in the adult and higher education field. Simpson joined the GEC in 2018, serving not only as director but also as coordinator for OU Advocates, a free and confidential support service for all OU community members who experience sexual violence or harassment. Previously, Simpson worked in Residence Life at OU. During her time at the GEC, Simpson has expanded the reach of OU Advocates and saw the center move into the Oklahoma Memorial Union.



Belinda Higgs Hyppolite: Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and Chief Diversity Officer

Higgs Hyppolite was selected for her role in 2020. Prior to landing at the DEI center, she served in a variety of roles at OU. Higgs Hyppolite worked

in Student Affairs on retention efforts for at-risk students, as well as in Academic Affairs, Greek Life and Multicultural Affairs. During her time with DEI, Higgs Hyppolite guided the launch of the OU TRIO Center, home to three programs aimed at helping students from low-income, first-generation and under-resourced backgrounds secure a path through their education. She also works to support the Accessibility and Disability Resource Center to ensure diversity at OU. Higgs Hyppolite aims to build the DEI programming as part of the Strategic Plan goal to become a place of belonging and emotional growth.

ADVICE FROM SGA PRESIDENT

How to make the best of your time on campus



Christopher Firch
SGA President
sgapres@ou.edu

Dear Sooners,
I am excited to officially welcome all of you to the University of Oklahoma! No matter your background, beliefs or interests, we are thrilled to embrace you into the OU Family today.

My most significant piece of advice going into college is to be open. Stay open to the possibilities and opportunities that the University of Oklahoma brings to all of its students. Whether



SGA president Christopher Firch speaks to new students and parents during OU's Admitted Student Day in March.

FILE/OU DAILY

it's choosing a major you didn't know existed but piqued your interest, joining a student organization that pushed you in ways that did not seem possible, or saying "Hi" to your future best friend in the elevator on your way to your first class in college; OU has life-changing opportunities, but they will only be life-changing if you are open to them.

Secondly, OU has an incredible community. When I moved to OU as an out-of-state student, I was 17, stepping into a new chapter of my life and feeling nervous about what would come. I know many, including myself, feel overwhelmed about entering the new world of college. But know that you are not alone. Through investing in my relationship with my professors, hallmates, residential

advisers and more, I have been supported and loved in ways I could have never imagined.

Lastly, embrace challenges and persevere. College can present numerous challenges, both academically and personally, but embrace these obstacles as opportunities for growth and learning. Remember that setbacks are a natural part of the journey, and they can often lead to valuable lessons and shape us into the incredible individuals we were meant to be.

The future is in your hands, and I am so excited to witness what this great university has in store for you. Live on, OU, and remember, there's only one Oklahoma!

Christopher Firch, SGA President

KNOW YOUR STUDENT GOVERNMENT

The Student Government Association serves and advocates for the student body. Additionally, it is responsible for allocating over \$600,000 of the student activity fee each year to registered student organizations.

Executive Branch: This is SGA's version of the White House.

Executive cabinet:

- President – Christopher Firch
- Vice president – Emelie Shultz
- Chief of staff – Maria de Asis
- Various other cabinet officials

Undergraduate Student Congress: This is SGA's version of the House of the legislative branch.

Committees:

- Congressional administration
- External affairs
- Human diversity
- Campus outreach safety and concerns
- Sustainability
- University policy
- Ways and means

Offices: 1st floor of Student Leadership Center in the Conoco Wing of Oklahoma Memorial Union.

Meetings: 7 p.m. Tuesdays in Dale Hall 103.

Online: ou.edu/sga/undergraduate-student-congress

Graduate Student Senate: This is SGA's version of the Senate of the legislative branch.

Committees:

- Academic affairs
- Development and philanthropy
- External affairs
- Internal affairs
- International student affairs
- Public relations
- Sustainability
- Ways and means

Offices: 1st floor of Student Leadership Center in the Conoco Wing of Oklahoma Memorial Union.

Meetings: 7 p.m. Thursdays on Zoom.

Online: ou.edu/sga/graduate-student-senate

General counsel: This office serves students in ways such as representing those charged with academic misconduct or student code violations, as well as students who wish to appeal a grade; reviewing registered student organizations policy agreements and ensuring the SGA constitution and enactments of the legislative branch are followed.

Online: ou.edu/sga/general-counsel

Superior Court: This is SGA's version of the Supreme Court. It handles all cases arising under the SGA constitution and acts of the legislative branch.

Online: ou.edu/sga/superior-court

Campus Activities Council: This is the programming branch of SGA. It is responsible for programming inclusive, campus-wide events that serve all students, build

community and develop leaders.

Standing CAC events:

- Howdy Week
 - College Bowl
 - Concert Series
 - Film Series
 - Speakers Bureau
 - Fall Family Weekend
 - Homecoming Reunion Week
 - University Sing
 - High School Leadership Conference
 - OU Dance Marathon
 - Scandals
 - Spring Family Weekend
- Online:** ou.edu/sga/cac

Elections: Many SGA positions are elected regularly by a vote of the student body.

Fall elections:

- SGA president and vice president, as voted on by all students on the Norman campus.
- Undergraduate Student Congress representatives, as voted on by students within specific academic districts.

Spring elections:

- Campus Activities Council chair, as voted on by all students on the Norman campus.
- Undergraduate Student Congress representatives, as voted on by students within specific academic districts.
- Student Bar Association president, as voted on by law students.

2023-24 CALENDAR



TREY YOUNG/OU DAILY

Incoming freshmen visit booths at a Camp Crimson involvement fair before classes start in August.



REGHAN KYLE/OU DAILY

Quarterback Dillon Gabriel sets a throw against Baylor during the 2022 season.



TREY YOUNG/OU DAILY

The Nghiems perform at the Norman Music Festival, a three-day event held in April.

ACADEMICS/CAMPUS

Date	Event
Aug. 7-9	Camp JumpStart - OU Writing Center
Aug. 11-18	Camp Crimson
Aug. 15-20	Panhellenic Formal Recruitment
Aug. 15-20	Interfraternity Council Recruitment
Aug. 21	Fall classes begin
Aug. 21-25	Howdy Week
Sept. 4	Labor Day
Sept. 16	Saturday Writing Retreat
Sept. 29-Oct. 1	Fall Family Weekend
Oct. 6	OU-Texas holiday
Oct. 16-21	OU homecoming
Nov. 7-11	University Sing
Nov. 18	Saturday Writing Retreat
Nov. 22-24	Thanksgiving holiday
Dec. 4-8	Dead week
Dec. 11-15	Finals week
Dec. 15-17	Graduation weekend
Jan. 15	MLK holiday
Jan. 16	Spring classes begin
March 18-22	Spring break
April 29-May 3	Dead week
May 6-10	Finals week
May 10-12	Graduation weekend
Other events not set as of publication time.	

SPORTS

Date	Event
Sept. 2	OU football vs. Arkansas State
Sept. 9	OU football vs. SMU
Sept. 14	OU soccer vs. Kansas
Sept. 16	OU football at Tulsa
Sept. 21	OU soccer vs. Kansas State
Sept. 22-23	OU volleyball vs. Texas
Sept. 23	OU football at Cincinnati
Sept. 30	OU football vs. Iowa State
Oct. 1	OU soccer vs. UCF
Oct. 7	OU football vs. Texas (Dallas)
Oct. 7	OU volleyball vs. BYU
Oct. 11	OU volleyball vs. TCU
Oct. 12	OU soccer vs. Texas
Oct. 16	OU soccer vs. BYU
Oct. 19-20	OU volleyball vs. Kansas State
Oct. 21	OU football vs. UCF
Oct. 28	OU football at Kansas
Nov. 4	OU football at Oklahoma State
Nov. 9-10	OU volleyball vs. Houston
Nov. 11	OU football vs. West Virginia
Nov. 18	OU football at BYU
Nov. 24	OU football vs. TCU
Nov. 25	OU volleyball vs. West Virginia
Dec. 2	Big 12 football championship (Arlington)
Other events not set as of publication time.	

MUSIC/ARTS/CULTURE

Date	Event
Aug. 11	2nd Friday Norman Art Walk
Aug. 12	Outdoor Movie Series - Quantumania
Aug. 17	Thomas Rhett at Paycom Center
Sept. 8	Samantha Crain at Factory Obscura
Sept. 8	2nd Friday Norman Art Walk
Sept. 8	Outdoor Movie Series - Black Panther
Sept. 9	Helen Kelter Skelter at Factory Obscura
Sept. 13	Ashnikko at Criterion
Sept. 14-24	Oklahoma State Fair
Sept. 16	Lego Fan Expo at OKC Convention Center
Sept. 26	The Gaslight Anthem at Criterion
Sept. 27	Queens of the Stone Age at Criterion
Oct. 2	National Night Out at Sooner Mall
Oct. 11	Hozier at Criterion
Oct. 13	2nd Friday Norman Art Walk
Oct. 14	All American Rejects at Zoo Amphitheater
Oct. 20	Rainbows are Free + Helen Kelter Skelter at Legacy Park
Oct. 28	Zombie Run at Ruby Grant Park
Nov. 10	2nd Friday Norman Art Walk
Dec. 8	2nd Friday Norman Art Walk
April 5-7	Medieval Fair
April 25-27	Norman Music Festival
Saturdays	Norman Farmers Market (year round)
Other events not set as of publication time.	

UPCOMING EVENTS

 paycom center

Thomas Rhett - August 17 WITH COLE SWINDELL
& NATE SMITH

Santa Fe Klan - August 18 WITH SNOW THA PRODUCT
& TORNILLO

PBR - September 8-10

Jelly Roll - September 19 WITH ASHLEY MCBRYDE
& STRUGGLE JENNINGS

Koe Wetzel - September 30 WITH WADE BOWEN
& TANNER USREY

\$uicideboy\$ - October 1 WITH GHOSTMANE, CITY MORGUE,
SEMATARY & RAMIREZ

Odesza - October 12 WITH BOB MOSES, TOKIMONSTA
& QRTR & OLAN

Jason Aldean - October 13 WITH MITCHELL TENPENNY,
COREY KENT & DEE JAY SILVER

WWE Raw - October 16

Nitro Circus - October 20

Cody Johnson - December 2 WITH CHRIS JANSON
& DREW PARKER



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