CONTENTS

3 DÉTENTE IN THE LABORATORY
Teaching vs. Research. As the ages-old debate rages on, University of Oklahoma chemistry professor Bruce Roe and his team of student researchers prove that in the dissemination of knowledge, the two territories are not mutually exclusive.

7 SHE’S NOT JUST MRS. SAM
Helen Robson, OU Class of 1941, once pictured herself in international banking. Then she met Sam Walton. In their nearly 50 years together, Sam revolutionized U.S. retailing, while Helen added a chapter to the history of volunteerism.

13 GRANDEUR RESTORED
In 1929 the new Bizzell Memorial Library was dubbed “Oklahoma’s Crown Jewel”; the Great Reading Room was its centerpiece. Long bypassed in efforts to modernize and expand, the reading room is once again an architectural showplace.

16 FRIDAY’S FORECAST
Director Elbert W. “Joe” Friday and his colleagues at the National Weather Service may not be able to change the weather—yet—but they are giving human beings a defense against its excesses with greatly improved forecasting accuracy.

20 AT LARGE IN LONDON
When four University graduates crossed the ocean to enroll at the London School of Economics, they found a world of differences in teaching, grading, testing and the cost of living, but they also discovered some unexpected Sooner connections.

26 THE MAGIC KEYBOARD
A composer can hear his work in progress without assembling an orchestra; a lone musician can practice a duet or play with an ensemble. Many piano pedagogists are ecstatic over the possibilities; some purists want no part of the new technology.

Prologue • Inside Front Cover
Letters & Tickets • Page 2
Sooner Spotlight on Dwyane Smith • Page 31
Sooner Snapshot • Inside Back Cover

ON THE COVER
The newly renovated Great Reading Room once again is calling attention to the artistry of the woodcarvers, sculptors and stonemasons that makes Bizzell Memorial Library the Norman campus’ most beautiful building. Story on Page 13.