Winter photographs are usually things of beauty, snow clinging to the pitched roofs of campus buildings, statues, shrubbery and graceful tree limbs. The December 2007 ice storm left no such images of beauty, but it did bring out the cameras to record the destruction on the Norman campus. (See "Prologue" on the inside front cover.)

National Weather Center meteorologists explained that the storm was "the result of persistent widespread rain that fell into a shallow layer of below-freezing air, allowing the rain to freeze upon contact with exposed objects." The most prominent objects unfortunately were the trees, to devastating effect.