

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2019

The University of Oklahoma

January 2020

The University of Oklahoma Board of Regents in May named Joseph Harroz Jr., at the time serving as dean of OU College of Law, as interim president.

OU's Class of 2023 was the largest class in the history of the University of Oklahoma. It also was one of OU's most diverse, with more than a third of the students identifying as minorities. Nearly a quarter of the freshman students were first-generation college students.

Nine OU students and alumni were named Fulbright grant recipients for the 2019-2020 academic year. Since 1949, there have been 97 Fulbright Scholars at OU, traveling to 29 countries.

Three OU honors students were named 2019 Goldwater Scholars, bringing to 56 the total number of OU students named Goldwater Scholars.

In its 2020 Best Colleges rankings, OU placed at No. 132 among the best national universities overall and No. 60 among national public institutions. The university was ranked No. 172 in best value in the nation and No. 195 in campus ethnic diversity. Several undergraduate programs were ranked nationally as well, with the undergraduate engineering programs in petroleum engineering coming in at No. 5, undergraduate business programs at No. 50 and overall undergraduate engineering programs ranked at No. 108. OU was ranked No. 93 as best for veterans in colleges and universities the nation.

OU received more than \$119.2 million in private cash gifts in the 2019 fiscal year, which included contributions from 1,493 corporations, 621 foundations and more than 28,630 alumni and friends of the university. Of those giving in FY 2019, 7,073 were first-time donors.

In academic year 2018-2019, more than \$25.3 million was awarded to students, including student-athletes, on all three campuses from privately funded scholarships.

The Seed Sower Society, a distinguished group of donors whose cumulative gifts to the university total \$1 million or more, inducted new members, bringing the total of individuals, corporations and foundations honored by the society to 450.

The University of Oklahoma dedicated the OU Center for Quantum Research and Technology in October, placing OU and Oklahoma on track to become a leader in quantum technologies. A generous gift from the Avenir Foundation helped establish CQRT. Since 2005, the Avenir Foundation – founded by family members of legendary OU physics professor Homer L. Dodge – had donated more than \$30 million to OU.

In November, the university announced a \$20 million gift made to Stephenson Cancer Center at OU Medicine. The gift from the Stephenson Family Foundation and Peggy and Charles Stephenson, the center's namesakes and longtime supporters of OU, will expand the research mission of Stephenson Cancer Center. To extend the impact of the gift, Stephenson Cancer Center is committed to raising an additional \$20 million, bringing a total of \$40 million to discover new ways to prevent, diagnose and treat cancer.

The Gallogly College of Engineering dedicated the new home of the Stephenson School of Biomedical Engineering at a ribbon-cutting ceremony in September.

OU's MBA programs received their highest rankings in the past 15 years from U.S. News and World Report, just two years after their relocation to Oklahoma City's Innovation District. According to the report, OU's full-time program rose 18 spots to 58th in the nation, while the professional part-time program rose eight spots to 52nd. The rankings placed OU's programs among the Top 35 public universities that offer MBA programs.

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The Pat Tillman Foundation announced the names of two OU students chosen as 2019 Tillman scholars. In recognition of their service, leadership and potential, the class received scholarship funding to pursue higher education and continue their service in the fields of health care, business, law, public service, STEM, education and the humanities. There had been nine Tillman Scholars at OU since the program began in 2008.

The OU-Tulsa Integrative Immunology Center was serving as the central biomarker research laboratory for two Tulsa-based NIH Centers of Biological Research Excellence, CIRCA and NeuroMAP. Combined, these two centers recently had recently federal grants in excess of \$22 million. In these centers, more than 20 area researchers were working in integrated teams attempting to find better treatments for mood disorders and to better understand the impacts of childhood adverse experiences on health and wellbeing.

The OU-Tulsa Early Childhood Education Institute was advancing quality in early childhood (birth to age 8) education through research, program evaluation and community collaboration including long-standing collaborations with nationally known early childhood programs in Tulsa, including three Educare sites, CAP-Tulsa and 22 sites across the United States.

The Gallogly College of Engineering faculty at OU-Tulsa were working with the Oklahoma Department of Transportation to establish a big data computing center for real-time processing of travel times of the Oklahoma highway system, snowplow truck tracking and monitoring intelligent vehicle wireless sensors and road weather information systems.

The University received one of the largest single gifts in OU history with a \$20 million investment to renovate OU ROTC program facilities, including the historic Armory, and to establish a scholarship endowment benefiting students enrolled in the Army, Navy or Air Force ROTC programs. A year-long celebration of the centennial of the Army Reserve Officers' Training Corp at OU culminated at the OU vs. Army football game in 2019.

The Sooners opened the 2019-20 academic year with 38 athletic national championships and a continuing streak (seven years) of producing at least one national title each year, with the title produced by women's gymnastics in 2019. Men's gymnastics led all teams with 12 national team titles.

OU has won 290 conference titles since its first in 1915. Softball, women's gymnastics and men's gymnastics had won eight consecutive league titles, while football had won the Big 12 championship for four consecutive seasons.

The spring 2019 semester marked OU's 15th consecutive semester with a student-athlete GPA above a 3.00. The 3.11 recorded by OU's student-athletes during the 2019 spring semester was the third-highest single semester mark in recorded school history and marks the third consecutive semester with a GPA of 3.10 or higher.

The 2018-19 academic year marked the 20th consecutive year for OU to produce at least one CoSIDA Academic All-American.

Source: Office of Marketing and Communications