Dear Alumni & Friends,

We are pleased to unveil our Sightseeing Sooners tour selections for 2018, where for the first time in our program’s history we will visit all 7 continents on a record-setting 38 tours! We hope that you will take advantage of one or more of the wonderful travel opportunities in the coming year. While visiting exotic, historical or educational destinations, you will have the added value of traveling with the OU family and reconnecting to your alma mater in a meaningful and life-changing way!

If you have never traveled with us before, we invite you to give Sightseeing Sooners a try and be a part of this special group. Our tours are open to anyone so if you have family or friends you enjoy traveling with, please feel free to invite them to join you on these once-in-a-lifetime experiences. Our tours are designed to promote educational and cultural experiences for our alumni and friends and when you travel with Sightseeing Sooners, a portion of your tour cost will help support the OU Alumni Association.

Within this catalog, you will find a variety of destinations, price ranges and modes of travel. Please note the adventure legend and price chart to guide you as you learn about the different tours and what they include.

Please be aware that in this ever-changing travel climate, all prices, itineraries, dates and departures are subject to change.

Detailed brochures about each tour will be mailed approximately 6-9 months prior to departure. If there are specific brochures you want to make sure you receive, please contact me at (405) 325-1224, lquirk@ou.edu, or you can request brochures on our website at ou.edu/alumni/travel.

This is an exciting time for our Sightseeing Sooners program as it continues to gain momentum and interest among our beloved OU family of alumni and friends. Our success could not happen without the loyal and committed support from people like you, so thank you! Enjoy looking through this extensive catalog and come “Travel Sooner” with us in 2018!

Sincerely,

Lea Ann Quirk
Director of Alumni Programs
OU Alumni Association
| Expedition to Antarctica | January 4-17 | 6 | Breathtaking Bordeaux | July 16-24 | 15 |
| The Wolves of Yellowstone | January 21-27 | 6 | Polar Bears & Beluga Whales | July 31-August 6 | 16 |
| Romance of the Mekong | February 6-21 | 7 | Machu Picchu to the Galapagos | July 31-August 15 | 16 |
| Tahiti & French Polynesia | February 13-23 | 7 | The Mighty Mississippi | August 5-20 | 17 |
| Great Trains & Grand Canyons | February 25-March 2 | 8 | The Majestic Great Lakes | August 14-23 | 17 |
| Moroccan Discovery | March 2-15 | 8 | Switzerland | August 22-30 | 18 |
| Wings over East Africa | March 9-21 | 9 | Village Life in Dordogne | September 6-14 | 18 |
| A Week in Ireland: St. Patrick’s Day | March 14-23 | 9 | Autumn Inspiration | September 13-23 | 19 |
| Radiant Rhythms | March 20-April 2 | 10 | Wines of the Pacific NW | September 16-24 | 19 |
| Australia | April 6-19 | 10 | Amalfi Coast | September 18-26 | 20 |
| Gateway to Sunshine | April 6-22 | 11 | Ancient Vignettes | October 3-14 | 20 |
| Gems of the Danube | May 14-24 | 11 | Flavors of Northern Italy | October 13-21 | 21 |
| European Serenade | May 16-25 | 12 | Glorious Greece | October 13-24 | 21 |
| Portrait of Italy | May 26-June 10 | 12 | Barcelona: The City Experience | October 20-25 | 22 |
| Changing Tides of History: Baltic Sea | June 14-23 | 13 | Legends of the Nile | October 23-November 3 | 22 |
| Gaelic Exploration | June 17-28 | 13 | Cuban Tropical Rhythms | October 26-November 5 | 23 |
| Journey Through Britain | July 2-15 | 14 | Glamorous Retreats | November 1-9 | 23 |
| Cruise the Rhine River | July 11-19 | 14 | London & Paris | November 18-26 | 24 |
| Vistas & Glaciers | July 13-23 | 15 | Holiday Markets | December 4-12 | 24 |
ADVENTURE LEGEND

Ocean Cruise
Land Tour
River Cruise
Lake Cruise
Airfare Included
Single Traveler
Family Friendly
Nature & Wildlife

PRICE CHART

$ Starting price is at or under $2,999 per person
$$ Starting price is between $3,000-$5,999 per person
$$$ Starting price is $6,000 or above per person
MISSION
The goal of the Sightseeing Sooners travel program is to provide educational travel opportunities for our alumni and friends, and to carry the strong Sooner spirit to every part of the world.

INFORMATION
The Sightseeing Sooners travel program will offer 38 trips in 2018 that will visit all 7 continents. The offerings include ocean and river cruises, land tours, nature and wildlife experiences, along with other types of programming. Sightseeing Sooners provides alumni and friends the opportunity to travel together on trips that provide enriching and quality educational travel opportunities, sometimes with an OU host, but always under the direction of top-rated tour directors and operators. Our goal is to create a unique OU experience for our travelers and connect alumni back to their alma mater in a special way.

DISCLAIMER
Dates, schedules, pricing and program details are all subject to change. Please verify details, dates and pricing directly with the tour operator prior to booking a reservation and check www.ou.edu.alumni/travel for updates throughout the year.

The University of Oklahoma Alumni Association provides the service of facilitating unique travel opportunities for its alumni and friends. Though the Sightseeing Sooners travel program works with tour operators to offer interesting and educational trips, please remember that OU does not conduct tours, nor does it act as an agent for guests interested in tours. The Sightseeing Sooners travel program, instead, functions as a facilitator with tour operators with whom our travelers make arrangements for undertaking travel. We are pleased to act as a liaison with tour operators should you have any questions before, during or after your tour.

We encourage you to familiarize yourself with each tour operator’s cancellation and refund policies, and also to investigate other services such as trip cancellation insurance. The University of Oklahoma Alumni Association is not responsible for changes to trips or travel arrangements, or for losses or additional expenses resulting from travel.

2018 TRAVEL PROVIDERS
EXPEDITION TO ANTARCTICA

THE WOLVES OF YELLOWSTONE

OCEAN CRUISE WITH OU HOST, DR. INGO SCHLUPP
January 4-17, 2018

Join us for this spectacular 14-day journey featuring a nine-night exclusively chartered cruise to Antarctica, Earth’s last frontier. Cruise aboard the intimate M.S. LE BORÉAL, one of the finest vessels in Antarctic waters, featuring private balconies in 95 percent of the deluxe, ocean-view accommodations. Experience the White Continent in its unspoiled state—fantastically shaped icebergs, turquoise glaciers, bustling penguin rookeries and breaching whales. Accompanied by the ship’s expert team of naturalists, board sturdy Zodiac watercraft for excursions ashore and observe Antarctica’s abundant wildlife. Spend two nights in vibrant Buenos Aires. Extend your journey with the exclusive three-night Iguazú Falls post-program option.

Gohagan & Co. | Estimated prices starting at $9,795 per person, double occupancy

LAND TOUR
January 21-27, 2018

This winter, head to Yellowstone National Park for a very special seven-day wildlife expedition. Amidst crisp air, bare trees, frosted earth and brilliant thermal features of Yellowstone National Park, the wildlife viewing in winter is better than any other time of year. The elements of nature are in full sway and its wild inhabitants, close-knit family groups of wolves, are on the move: hunting, searching for warmth, and surviving. Search for the elusive predators while traveling in safari vehicles and interpreting tell-tale signs with the help of an Orbridge Expedition Leader. Learn historic and ecological aspects of the successful reintroduction of the gray wolf to the Yellowstone region. Enjoy a private after-hours museum visit along with other exclusive experiences, and overnight in atmospheric hotels and authentic park lodges. Don’t miss this extraordinary experience in the “Serengeti of North America.”

Orbridge | Estimated prices starting at $3,995 per person, double occupancy
ROMANCE OF THE MEKONG

February 6-21, 2018

Once known as French Indochina, Vietnam and Cambodia showcase centuries of history and a fusion of French and Asian cultures. Explore Saigon, formally known as Ho Chi Minh City, with visits to the Reunification Palace, Notre Dame Cathedral, the War Remnants Museum and the Cu Chi Tunnels. In Siem Reap, discover the wonders of ancient Angkor. Explore with expert guides who will bring these archaeological sites to life. Spend seven nights cruising the Mekong River aboard the luxurious, all-suite Mekong Navigator. Visit riverside towns as well as Cambodia’s capital of Phnom Penh. Visit the city’s Royal Palace, and learn about Cambodia’s troubled past at the Choueng Ek Memorial at the killing fields. Speakers will offer fascinating presentations and talks during the journey. While cruising, enjoy river-view accommodations, all meals, wine with dinner, and complimentary local spirits and beer. Settle into deluxe hotel accommodations in Saigon and Siem Reap.

AHI Travel | Estimated prices starting at $5,295, double occupancy

TAHITI & FRENCH POLYNESIA

February 13-23, 2018

Join us for a uniquely designed nine-night program in the tropical paradise of French Polynesia’s Society Islands. Sail for seven nights aboard the Five-Star M.S.Y. WIND SPIRIT, a small sailing ship carrying only 148 guests and rated the #1 Tahiti cruise by “Condé Nast Traveler.” This small ship experience amidst the islands, atolls and motus of the South Pacific includes air from Los Angeles, all onboard gratuities, complimentary alcoholic and nonalcoholic beverages throughout the cruise, complimentary watersports and an exclusive excursion on each island. Tour the idyllic island landscapes of Tahiti, Moorea and Bora Bora. Visit a vanilla plantation and black pearl farm on Taha’a. Explore early Polynesian culture on Raiatea and Huahine. Join a marine biologist for dolphin-watching. Specially arranged lectures and discussions encompass the islands’ history and cultural heritage. This exceptional itinerary also includes two nights in the five-star LE MÉRIDIEN TAHITI in enchanting Papeete. Post-Program Option in a deluxe seaside resort on Bora Bora is offered.

Gohagan & Co. | Estimated prices starting at $6,795, per person, including airfare from Los Angeles
**LAND TOUR WITH OU HOST, DEAN SUZETTE GRILLOT**

March 2-15, 2018

On this fascinating 14-day small group journey, your eyes and heart are opened to a truly foreign land, an age-old culture and genuinely hospitable people. Begin with a tour of the Moroccan capital, Rabat, and cross the river to Sale for lunch in a private home. Visit Volubilis’ Roman ruins, one of five UNESCO sites you encounter. Travel on to Fez with its fascinating medina, and embark on a sunset camel excursion to Merzouga’s breathtakingly beautiful sand dunes. View spectacular scenery en route to Ouarzazate in the snow-topped High Atlas, including dramatic Todra Gorge, and travel the fabled “Route of a Thousand Kasbahs.” Stop at the village of Ait ben-Haddou, a UNESCO site. In alluring Marrakech, your walking tour of the medina ends in the city’s heart, Djemaa el Fna Square. Your final destination: storied Casablanca, where a highlight is your visit to the magnificent Hassan II Mosque.

**Odysseys Unlimited | Estimated prices of $5,679 per person, double occupancy, airfare included**

---

**LAND TOUR**

February 25-March 2, 2018

“The Grand Canyon is the one great sight which every American should see.” In 1903, President Theodore Roosevelt said this when he first laid eyes on one of nature’s most awe-inspiring sights. Every traveler should explore our own beautiful American West, and that is exactly what you will do on this exciting travel program to Arizona. This travel experience features a combination of American West highlights with the scenery of Grand Canyon National Park & the red rocks of Sedona, the Native American history at the Montezuma Castle National Monument, the Old West nostalgia of two train rides & five nights at a resort property in Sedona. Just north of Phoenix, Sedona is known for its upscale resorts, artist galleries and breathtaking red rock scenery, and is the perfect “home base” for this six-day adventure. With roundtrip airfare included, we hope you can join us on this amazing trip.

**Premier World Discovery | Estimated prices starting at $2,545 per person, double occupancy, airfare from select cities included**

---

**GREAT TRAINS & GRAND CANYONS**

**MOROCCAN DISCOVERY**
LAND TOUR
March 9-21, 2018

Revel in jaw-dropping wildlife viewing and beautiful natural vistas on a thrilling 10-night safari adventure to East Africa’s premier parks and reserves. Set out as the sun rises over the savannah, anticipating the day’s unexpected encounters with an astounding variety of magnificent animals. As your expert guide offers fascinating insights, study wildlife up-close in their natural habitats and snap incredible photos. In specially outfitted Land Cruisers, journey to the best vantage points in Kenya’s Masai Mara Game Reserve and Amboseli National Park, as well as Tanzania’s Serengeti National Park and Ngorongoro Conservation Area. Witness Mount Kilimanjaro and the Great Rift Valley, and explore the Ngorongoro Crater and the Oldupai Gorge. Meet members of the Maasai, who live on the open plains and raise cattle. This remarkable small-group safari experience features first-class accommodations, including a luxury tented camp in Masai Mara; a dedicated Travel Director; highly skilled safari guides; and an extensive meal plan. Three flight transfers also ensure extensive viewing time.

AHI Travel | Estimated prices starting at $7,295 per person, double occupancy

A WEEK IN IRELAND:
ST. PATRICK’S DAY
March 14-23, 2018

On this adventure through the Emerald Isle, you’ll see that even the oldest traditions continue to thrive, and there’s no better time to discover the country’s vibrant spirit than during St. Patrick’s Day. Begin in the capital city of Dublin, where you’ll take in historic sites such as St. Patrick’s Cathedral and Trinity College before joining locals and revelers at the legendary St. Patrick’s Day parade. Then, take off to discover every shade of emerald in Ireland’s countryside, traveling through County Cork and County Kerry—where you’ll earn “the gift of gab” by kissing the Blarney Stone.

Go Ahead Tours | Estimated prices starting at $2,599 per person, double occupancy, airfare included
RADIANT RHYTHMS
BUENOS AIRES TO RIO DE JANEIRO

OCEAN CRUISE
March 20-April 2, 2018

Begin your South American luxury cruise with an overnight in Buenos Aires, the capital of Argentina, boasting superb cuisine, chic boutiques and the world’s widest boulevard. Set sail on Oceania Cruises’ Sirena for Uruguay’s capital, Montevideo, a major port that retains a comfortable small-town feel. Next, take in Punta del Este’s expansive stretches of sparkling waterfront, Rio Grande’s ancient architecture and Porto Belo’s pristine beaches. The next stop, São Paulo, is known for its cuisine, music and shopping; while the following port of Paraty has preserved colonial architecture and vehicle-free cobblestone streets. Continue to Ilha Grande, a protected ecological area that is only traversed by foot, bike or boat; and then explore Buzios’ unique and gorgeous beaches before the last stop in Rio de Janeiro, a city with a captivating coastline—including the famous Copacabana and Ipanema Beaches.

Go Next | Estimated prices starting at $3,499 per person, double occupancy, airfare included

LAND TOUR
April 6-19, 2018

Join our 11-night journey that highlights Australia’s sophisticated cities, verdant terroir and native wildlife. Begin in the waterfront metropolis of Sydney to experience the grand Sydney Harbour, tour the Opera House and see the golden sands of sweeping Bondi Beach. Travel to Adelaide in South Australia to taste regional specialties, sip chilled riesling and explore Kangaroo Island’s unspoiled habitat, rich with sleepy koalas, sea lions and wallabies. On Australia’s southeast coast, discover cosmopolitan Melbourne, where cafes, jazz clubs and wine bars pepper artsy laneways. Then fly to Cairns in Queensland’s tropical north to revel in the amazing Great Barrier Reef. Experience this wonder up close as you cruise from Port Douglas to Agincourt Reef. Local guides and experts provide fascinating insight during included excursions and interactive talks. This small-group experience features deluxe accommodations and an extensive meal plan including wine with dinner.

AHI Travel | Estimated prices starting at $5,695 per person, double occupancy
**GATEWAY TO SUNSHINE**  
LOS ANGELES TO MIAMI  

April 6-22, 2018

The sunny scenery of Central America awaits you after you embark the luxurious Oceania Cruises’ *Marina* in iconic Los Angeles. Explore the famous San Diego Zoo; the unique desert coastline of Cabo San Lucas; and the glamorous resort town of Acapulco, a magnet for celebrities from Elvis Presley to Elizabeth Taylor. Admire Puerto Quetzal’s astounding volcanoes, the awe-inspiring rainforest canopies of San Juan del Sur and the rare virgin tropical dry forest of Puntarenas, before traversing the Panama Canal, a marvel of engineering named one of the Seven Wonders of the Modern World. Dive into Spanish Naval History in Cartagena; scan the clear turquoise waters of George Town, for the rare green sea turtle is bred on its palm-fringed shores; and finally disembark the *Marina* in Miami, a melting pot of Latin and Caribbean cultures.

*Go Next* | *Estimated prices starting at $4,299 per person, double occupancy, airfare included*

---

**GEMS OF THE DANUBE**  
PRAGUE TO BUDAPEST  

May 14-24, 2018

The Danube River has shaped not only the beautiful European landscape, but also the histories of the diverse regions it flows through. Stretching for hundreds of miles, the river links countries, cultures, people, and age-old traditions. From fairy-tale landscapes dotted with castles to grand hilltop cities and charming rural villages, a treasure lies beyond each horizon. Embark on an all-inclusive, credit card-free luxury river cruise aboard the state-of-the-art *Scenic Jewel*. With a meticulously planned itinerary, unforgettable shore excursions and all onboard drinks and dining included, there is no better way to experience the Danube River region and immerse yourself in the history and culture that lines its banks.

*Go Next* | *Estimated prices starting at $4,749 per person, double occupancy*
OCEAN CRUISE
May 16-25, 2018

Ancient architecture and colorful villages await you on your voyage around Italy and the Eastern Mediterranean. Embark on your luxury cruise aboard Oceania Cruises’ Riviera in Rome, Italy’s treasure of history and architecture. Relax as you arrive at the picture-perfect Amalfi Coast, filled with lemon groves, quaint fishing communities and ancient religious monuments. At the foot of Mount Etna lies Catania, home to a vibrant, youthful cultural scene. Depart Italy to Argostoli, Greece which houses the ruins of St. George Castle, as well as Koutavos Lagoon—a feeding ground for Loggerhead turtles. Explore the medieval history of the Adriatic Sea in Kotor; breathe in the magnificence of Diocletian’s Palace in Split; and learn all about Hippocrates, the “Father of Modern Medicine,” in his birthplace of Kos. Your time aboard Riviera will come to a fitting conclusion in Venice, a mysterious and romantic city best traversed using its iconic gondolas.

Go Next | Estimated prices starting at $2,799 per person, double occupancy, airfare included

LAND TOUR
WITH OU HOSTS DR. KEITH AND KIM GADDIE
May 26-June 10, 2018

From the breathtaking Amalfi Coast to eternal Rome, through the gentle Umbrian and Tuscan countryside to treasured Venice, this wide-ranging 16-day small group tour showcases ancient sites, contemporary life, priceless art and unique accommodations. Begin in stunning seaside Amalfi, experiencing the breathtaking coast by sea and by land, and visiting Pompeii’s exquisite ruins. Continue to Rome, where your sightseeing includes the Colosseum, the Forum, St. Peter’s Square and the Sistine Chapel. Traveling north, spend three nights in pastoral Umbria, savoring a cooking demonstration in Orvieto, and a visit to the charming town of Assisi. Journey through the equally alluring region of Tuscany, touring walled Siena, the Renaissance’s living monument of Florence, and the classic hill town of San Gimignano. Enjoy a local wine tasting before concluding your tour in wondrous Venice. Savor more time in this delightful city on an optional 3-day/2-night post-tour extension. This tour will also feature a visit to OU’s Italian Center at Arezzo!

Odysseys Unlimited | Estimated prices of $6,034 per person, double occupancy, airfare included
**CHANGING TIDES OF HISTORY**
Cruising the Baltic Sea

Experience the cultural rebirth of the Baltic states, the magnificent imperial riches of St. Petersburg and the luminous “White Nights of Summer” on this remarkable six-country, eight-night Baltic Sea cruise. **By special arrangement, enjoy enriching presentations by former President of Poland Lech Walesa and noted author and scholar Sergei N. Khrushchev, son of Nikita Khrushchev, former Premier of the Soviet Union.**

Cruise aboard the exclusively chartered Five-Star M.S. LE SOLEAL from Copenhagen, Denmark, to Stockholm, Sweden, visiting Gdansk, Poland; Tallin, Estonia; Helsinki, Finland; and Visby, Sweden. Spend two days in St. Petersburg. Wonders of Norway Pre-Cruise and Splendors of Stockholm post-cruise options are also available.

*Gohagan & Co.* | Estimated prices starting at $6,495 per person, double occupancy

---

**GAELIC EXPLORATION**
Dublin to Dublin

Immerse yourself in Gaelic tradition as you sail through the Emerald Isles. Start your journey in Ireland’s cosmopolitan capital of Dublin, where you’ll embark on Oceania Cruises’ Nautica and head back in time to Viking-founded Waterford, the oldest city on the island. Admire nature’s bounty in the delightful fishing town of Cobh and the mountainous Glengarriff. Gaelic heritage comes to life in Galway at An Taibhdhearc—the national Irish language theater of Ireland—and historic Londonderry, the only completely walled city remaining in the British Isles. In Belfast, birthplace of the Titanic, discover an industrial city polished into a beautiful Northern Irish destination; and embrace Viking history at the Manx Museum in Douglas. From the beaches to The Beatles, Liverpool delights with a combination of modern attractions and classic British heritage. Finally, hike the magnificent Welsh countryside from your port in Holyhead before disembarking the Nautica back in Dublin.

*Go Next* | Estimated prices starting at $4,799 per person, double occupancy, airfare included
LAND TOUR  
WITH OU HOST, DR. JONATHAN STALLING  
$$(3)$$  
July 2-15, 2018

On this wide-ranging 14-day small group tour you travel from gracious Edinburgh to England’s legendary Lake District, from spectacular Snowdonia to the rural Cotswolds and Roman Bath, ending in cosmopolitan London. Arriving in Edinburgh, visit Edinburgh Castle, encounter the Royal Mile and Holyrood, and have time for independent exploration. Traveling on to the beautiful Lake District, stop at William Wordsworth’s Dove Cottage, and Hill Top, the 17th-century farmhouse of Beatrix Potter of “The Tale of Peter Rabbit” fame. Reaching Wales, visit 13th-century Caernarfon Castle, and Snowdonia National Park. Continuing in England, your exploration includes Shakespeare’s Birthplace and Anne Hathaway’s Cottage in Stratford-upon-Avon. See Bath’s historic Roman Baths, the Jane Austen Centre, and the Cotswolds before traveling to London, with a visit of Stonehenge en route. In London, your panoramic city tour passes many of the city’s celebrated landmarks. Enjoy more time in London with an optional 3-day/2-night post-tour extension.

Odysseys Unlimited | Estimated prices of $6,396 per person, double occupancy, airfare included

CRUISE THE RHINE RIVER

RIVER CRUISE  
July 11-19, 2018

Discover the Rhine River’s timeless beauty with the people you love most on a fun and fascinating cruise designed especially for families. Aboard the elegant, first-class Amadeus Silver III, unpack once and enjoy a choice of engaging excursions in Holland, Germany and France. Glide along Amsterdam’s picturesque canals and see the Anne Frank House. Witness Kölner Dom, Cologne’s awe-inspiring Gothic cathedral, and sail through the spellbinding Rhine Valley with its forested hills crowned by castles. Enjoy Strasbourg’s exquisite old town, lined with half-timbered homes along narrow canals, plus explorations in other medieval river cities. With your family members, learn more about Europe’s history and culture from expert local guides and lecturers, and share your discoveries together. This exclusively chartered, seven-night journey is open to passengers ages 10-17, traveling with an adult, and features onboard children’s activities coordinated by two energetic Youth Directors; a generous meal plan; and wine and beer with lunch and dinner for the adults.

AHI Travel | Estimated prices starting at $2,895 per person
OCEAN CRUISE
BIG 12 ALUMNI CRUISE WITH OU HOST, TOBY ROWLAND
July 13-23, 2018

Explore the astounding glaciers, native traditions and awe-inspiring scenery on this cruise up and down the Alaskan and Canadian Pacific coast. Embark on Oceania Cruises’ *Regatta* in Seattle, Washington’s waterfront city and home of the famed Space Needle. Cruise Alaska’s more sheltered Inside Passage, a stunning waterway edged by verdant forests, mountains, and glaciers; and dotted with countless islands. Your first stop is Ketchikan, once proclaimed the Salmon Capital of the World, on your way to Alaska’s capital city, Juneau. From authentic totems to upscale shopping, Juneau is a picturesque blend of the historical and the contemporary. Catch sight of the beautiful Alaskan wildlife—from brown bears to bald eagles—along America’s longest fjord in Haines. Stand in awe of the massive and majestic Hubbard Glacier before immersing yourself in native Tlingit culture in Hoonah and the multicultural hub of Sitka. Finally, cruise the open blue waters of the Outside Passage to Victoria, western Canada’s oldest city and a bastion of British heritage, before disembarking the *Regatta* back in Seattle.

This cruise will include alumni and friends from Big 12 schools, along with dignitaries and special celebrity guest, Verne Lundquist.

Go Next | Estimated prices starting at $4,049 per person, double occupancy, airfare included

BREATHTAKING BORDEAUX
BORDEAUX TO BORDEAUX
July 16-24, 2018

Experience the breathtaking beauty of the Dordogne and Garonne rivers, which together have shaped the scenery and culture of the Bordeaux region of France. In addition to the world-class wines made possible by Bordeaux’s perfect combination of climate and soil, the region has built a rich tapestry of culture and tradition from Gothic churches to opulent châteaus and medieval villages, all thanks to these magnificent waterways. Embark on an all-inclusive, credit-card free luxury river cruise aboard the state-of-the-art *Scenic Diamond*. With a meticulously planned itinerary, unique and unforgettable shore excursions, and all onboard drinks and dining included, there is no better way to experience the Bordeaux region and immerse yourself in the history and culture that lie inside.

Go Next | Estimated prices starting at $3,899 per person, double occupancy
LAND TOUR WITH OU HOSTS, DRS. DOUG GAFFIN & MARIËLLE HOEFNAGELS
July 31-August 15, 2018

This 16-day South American adventure – with a small group limited to only 20 guests – begins with touring of Lima. Spend two nights in the magnificent Sacred Valley visiting important Inca sites and indigenous villages. Travel by train to Machu Picchu, the stunning “Lost City of the Incas,” overnighting at an on-site hotel and exploring the ruins on two tours. Discover the archaeological hub of Cuzco, and enjoy lunch in a gracious family’s home. Tour Quito, a UNESCO site, then fly to the fascinating Galapagos Islands where you spend four nights on Santa Cruz Island in a beautiful hotel, taking day cruises on a privately chartered yacht to nearby islands. Learn about Darwin’s “living laboratory” firsthand as you observe giant Galapagos tortoises and other unique Galapagos wildlife during your excursions. Your journey concludes back in Quito. Discover the Amazon’s amazing flora, fauna, and villages on a 4-day/4-night pre-tour option.

Odysseys Unlimited | Estimated prices of $8,943 per person, double occupancy, airfare included

POLAR BEARS & BELUGA WHALES

Head north and discover the beauty and wilderness of Churchill, Manitoba. Known as the “Polar Bear Capital of the World,” this small town on the banks of the Hudson Bay is famous for these majestic animals, who spend summer and fall on the local shores before returning to the pack ice when it forms in early winter. In summer they share the area with more than 60,000 beluga whales and a wide variety of other wildlife. Come and see this annual exhibition that can only be found here in the Canadian north, and meet the local people who call it home.

Pioneering spirits and welcoming smiles are waiting for you.

Orbridge | Estimated prices starting at $3,995 per person, double occupancy
**T H E  M I G H T Y  M I S S I S S I P P I**

**MINNEAPOLIS TO NEW ORLEANS**

August 5-20, 2018

Experience the full grandeur of the Mississippi River aboard the iconic and stately American Queen riverboat. Put yourself in a Mississippi state of mind with an overnight stay in the thriving arts and cultural hub of Minneapolis before embarking in historic Red Wing. Stroll through lovely La Crosse, Dubuque’s National Mississippi River Museum and Mark Twain’s hometown of Hannibal; before taking a tour of St. Louis, known as the “Gateway to the West.” Victorian heritage surrounds you in Cape Girardeau; an abundance of art awaits in Paducah, a stop in Dover lets you tour Civil War history at Fort Donelson and the blues and barbecue abound in Memphis. Tour lovingly restored mansions in Natchez before crossing over into Louisiana where you’ll explore stops in St. Francisville, Baton Rouge and Nottoway; and finally bid farewell to the American Queen in the wild and wonderful city of New Orleans.

**Go Next** | **Estimated prices starting at $3,599 per person, double occupancy**

---

**T H E  M A J E S T I C  G R E A T  L A K E S**

**CHICAGO TO TORONTO**

August 14-23, 2018

Explore the verdant wilderness, rocky shores and pristine islands of North America as you sail the Great Lakes aboard the 202-guest M/V Victory I. Embarking in the cultural hub of Chicago, you’ll leave the Windy City and cruise scenic Lake Michigan on your way to the idyllic Victorian atmosphere of Mackinac Island. Traverse the legendary Soo Locks in Sault Ste. Marie, the Midwest’s oldest city; sail the shimmering waters of Georgian Bay; and explore the native traditions of Manitoulin Island. Celebrate music history at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland, and relive the glory days of the American automobile at the Henry Ford Museum in Detroit. Cap off your cruise by experiencing the immensity and grandeur of Niagara Falls from the thrilling perspective of a Hornblower vessel before disembarking in Toronto, one of the most culturally diverse cities in the world.

**Go Next** | **Estimated prices starting at $5,999 per person, double occupancy**
SWITZERLAND

LAND TOUR
August 22-30, 2018

Switzerland is a gem nestled in the heart of Europe. Discover picture-perfect towns, alpine meadows and majestic mountains during fascinating excursions via cable cars, lifts and alpine railways. Settle in Interlaken, in the Alps’ Bernese Oberland. Travel by train to Kandersteg and visit Oeschinen Lake. Stroll through Lucerne and take a relaxing cruise on Lake Lucerne. A rail excursion takes you to Grindelwald and the Rosenlaui Glacier Gorge. Explore the Lauterbrunnen Valley by train or on foot — the choice is yours — and make your way to Mürren for incredible views of the Jungfrau, Mönch and Eiger peaks. Visit the wood-carving center of Brienz and travel by antique steam train to see the famed Rothorn. Later, continue to Interlaken to explore this lovely town. Local guides and speakers provide fascinating insight during included excursions and lectures. This program includes first-class accommodations, a Swiss rail pass and an extensive meal plan featuring wine with dinner.

AHI Travel | Estimated prices starting at $2,995 per person, double occupancy

VILLAGE LIFE IN DORDOGNE

LAND TOUR
September 6-14, 2018

Experience the provincial character of Dordogne for one full week in Sarlat-la-Canéda, one of the most beautiful and well-preserved medieval villages in France. Stay in the family-owned Plaza Madeleine Hôtel, formerly a grand 19th-century townhouse. Discover the region’s charming villages, medieval castles and prehistoric treasures through specially arranged excursions and cultural enrichments, including the medieval pilgrimage site of Rocamadour and the fascinating prehistoric cave paintings of Rouffignac and Cap Blan, all part of UNESCO’s World Heritage list; the perfectly reproduced cave art in Lascaux IV; and the exclusive Village Life® Forum with a local resident who will share candid insights into daily life in Dordogne. Bordeaux pre-program option.

Gohagan & Co. | Estimated prices starting at $3,795, per person, double occupancy
AUTUMN INSPIRATION
NEW YORK TO MONTREAL

September 13-23, 2018

Experience the explosive colors of autumn as you sail up North America’s immense and beautiful Atlantic coast. Embark on your luxury cruise aboard Oceania Cruises’ Insignia in New York, the “City that Never Sleeps.” Your first stop is New England’s own European-style resort city, Newport. Take in America’s revolutionary history on Boston’s renowned Freedom Trail before docking in Bar Harbor, where you can immerse yourself in the awe-inspiring Acadia National Park. As you sail north into Canada, you’ll discover Saint John, a Victorian city with its own curious reversing river. Embrace British and Scottish traditions in Halifax before sailing across the magnificent Gulf of Lawrence to Sept-Îles, a port town fronted by a stunning seven-island archipelago. Flanked by emerald mountains and towering plateaus, Saguenay claims Canada’s only navigable fjord; while Québec City, the only walled city in North America, shows old-world European charm seeping into the heart of French Canada. You’ll disembark in Montréal, Canada’s second-most populous city, which blends North American charisma with European charm.

Go Next | Estimated prices starting at $3,949 per person, double occupancy, airfare included

WINES OF THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST
PORTLAND TO CLARKSTON

September 16-24, 2018

Your journey through the Pacific Northwest wine region begins with a stay in the heart of Vancouver, Washington, where you can stroll through local galleries or hop across the river to the nearby “City of Roses,” Portland. Embark on the luxurious American Empress and cruise into Astoria, one of the oldest cities west of the Rockies. Explore The Dalles, a picturesque frontier town once known as the end of the Oregon Trail, before delving into the fascinating Columbia Gorge Interpretive Center Museum in the charming small town of Stevenson. A legendary piece of American history comes to life in Sacajawea State Park, the 1805 campsite of fabled explorers Lewis and Clark and the famous Shoshone Indian guide to whom the park owes its name. Before disembarking American Empress, you’ll stay the night in Clarkston, Washington, where you can wander the town known as the gateway to Hells Canyon or venture to nearby Spokane, the urban heart of the Inland Northwest.

Go Next | Estimated prices starting at $3,499 per person, double occupancy
LAND TOUR
September 18-26, 2018
$$
Journey to the Amalfi Coast, a serene paradise of majestic mountains, pastel houses and the cerulean Mediterranean Sea. Spend seven nights in your base of Vietri sul Mare and enjoy fascinating excursions and educational programs designed to immerse you in the region’s daily life. Travel a serpentine coastline to Amalfi, and admire Positano, Italy’s most vertical village. Taste buffalo mozzarella at a local dairy farm, and see Paestum’s fascinating Greek ruins. Tour Naples and view treasures at the city’s Museo Archeologico Nazionale, one of the world’s most important archaeological museums. Peek into the lives cut short at Herculaneum and Pompeii by the A.D. 79 eruption of Mount Vesuvius. Invigorate your senses while exploring lemon-scented Sorrento and marvel at the colorful gardens and Arabesque architecture of Villa Rufolo. This Alumni Campus Abroad program includes first-class accommodations and an extensive meal plan complemented by wine with dinner. For single travelers, there is no single supplement.

AHI Travel | Estimated prices starting at $3,295 per person, no single supplement

OCEAN CRUISE
October 3-14, 2018
$
Ancient cultures come to life as you explore the art and history of Southern Europe. Embark on your luxury cruise aboard Oceania Cruises’ Riviera in cosmopolitan Barcelona, Spain’s gem of art and architecture, and set off to Provençal France, where you will be welcomed into the historic port city of Marseille. View the great masterpieces of the Renaissance—Brunelleschi’s Duomo, the Baptistry of San Giovanni, Michelangelo’s David, the Ponte Vecchio, and the Uffizi Gallery—in Florence, while even more remnants of Italy’s glorious past await you in Rome, Italy’s capital city. Near the legendary ruins of Pompeii, Sorrento delights with cobblestone streets, a seaside promenade, and classic Greek mythology. Gaze upon the surprisingly modern architecture of Messina, famously rebuilt after a ruinous earthquake in 1908, before you explore Malta and the ancient walls of Europe’s smallest capital city, Valletta. As you cross into Greece, you’ll soon be lounging on the black sand beaches of Santorini and trekking through the medieval walled city of Rhodes. Your time on the Riviera concludes in Athens, one of the world’s oldest cities and the Cradle of Western Civilization.

Go Next | Estimated prices starting at $2,999 per person, double occupancy, airfare included
FLAVORS OF NORTHERN ITALY

LAND TOUR
October 13-21, 2018

Join our small group for an intimate, nine-day journey to the culinary and cultural heart of Northern Italy—a region brimming with exquisite local wines, specialty ingredients, soul-satisfying signature dishes, and the wonderful Italians who conjure them with time-honored techniques. Settle in to a beautiful, family-owned wine estate outside Verona within reach is a connoisseur’s pick of centuries-old wineries, artisan producers and extraordinary historic sights. With each day highlighted by exclusive experiences, you’ll access authentic Italy, learn from local Italians and most of all, revel in la dolce vita—the joyful celebration of food, friends, and life.

Orbridge | Estimated Prices starting at $3,995 per person, double occupancy

OCEAN CRUISE
October 13-24, 2018

Classic mythology, glistening oceans, and ancient cities await you on this luxurious tour of Greece. Embark on Oceania Cruises’ Riviera in Athens, the Cradle of Democracy; and set off to Gythion, the port city of Sparta. Play around in Katakonos, a quiet seaside town where you can head inland to Olympia, birthplace of the Olympic Games. Enjoy astounding views of Mount Etna in Taormina and explore Valetta, Europe’s smallest capital, before cruising the Mediterranean to the island of Crete and Heraklion’s astounding ruins. Soak in the ever-present sunshine of Rhodes, and lounge on the fabulous black sand beaches of Santorini that epitomize Grecian beauty. You’ll hear the bells of over 300 churches echo over the otherwise-tranquil island of Patmos, where John the Apostle wrote the Book of Revelations, before you complete your voyage of Greece back in Athens.

Go Next | Estimated prices starting at $2,999 per person, double occupancy, airfare included
**BARCELONA: THE CITY EXPERIENCE**

*LAND TOUR*
October 20-25, 2018

A sparkling city on the Mediterranean Sea, Barcelona’s charm is in its altogether unique character. From Antoni Gaudí’s bright, surrealist architecture to its world-famous culinary scene and sunny shores, the city has a feel and flavor like no other European capital. Start your trip with a guided sightseeing tour, led by your expert tour director. Then, enjoy free time to explore the twisting corridors of the Gothic Quarter and uncover the fanciful creations of Gaudí on your own, or add excursions to personalize your experience. You’ll see Barcelona like a local and discover the sights and tastes that make the heart of Catalonia stand out from the rest.

*Go Ahead Tours | Estimated prices of $2,889 per person, double occupancy, airfare included*

**RIVER CRUISE**
October 23-November 3, 2018

On this once-in-a-lifetime journey, experience Egypt’s splendid cultural heritage and eternal allure. Contemplate the Great Pyramid in Giza and the enigmatic Sphinx. In Cairo, explore the Egyptian Museum’s dazzling treasures, discover its mosques, churches and synagogues, and revel in the old bazaar’s hubbub. Fly to Luxor and sail by felucca boat to the impressive Luxor Temple. Journey to the intriguing Valleys of the Kings and Queens. At the Oriental Institute’s Chicago House, learn about their meticulous epigraphic survey work. Then embark on a luxury Nile cruise to tour the temples of Karnak, Edfu and Kom Ombo. See Aswan’s High Dam and fly to Abu Simbel to witness Ramses’ colossal temple. Discuss what you are most curious about with your Egyptologist, a gifted, licensed professional who accompanies you on all excursions. While cruising, enjoy deluxe accommodations and generous meals, including wine with dinner. This nine-night, small-group program includes a travel director, four nights in a deluxe Cairo hotel and an overnight first-class hotel stay in Luxor.

*AHI Travel | Estimated prices starting at $4,795 per person, double occupancy*
OCEAN CRUISE
October 26-November 5, 2018

Open the door to Cuba and the Caribbean on this week-long luxury cruise. Embark aboard Oceania Cruises’ Sirena in Miami, an international city built on the foundation of Cuban immigration; and make your way to Great Stirrup Cay—a vision of Bahamian paradise—before visiting the Southeastern cultural hub of Santiago de Cuba; home to Desi Arnaz, Bacardi Rum and the Battle of San Juan Hill. Sail the warm waters of the Caribbean Sea to the astounding bayside city of Cienfuegos, a former French settlement which remains a paragon of 19th-century urban planning. Your last stop on the island is Havana, where you’ll go beyond the tourist destinations with our unparalleled Go Next Exclusive Excursions. Finally, wave goodbye to Cuba and cruise to Cozumel, the Mexican destination that draws visitors to its extraordinary reefs, ancient Mayan ruins, and expansive beaches, before returning to Miami.

Go Next | Estimated prices starting at $2,599 per person, double occupancy, airfare included

GLAMOROUS RETREATS
ROME TO MONTE CARLO

Glitz and glamour await as you sail the ports and resorts of the French and Italian Rivieras. Embark on your luxury cruise aboard Oceania Cruises’ Marina in Rome, Italy’s treasure of history and architecture. Relax in botanically-rich Portofino before leaving the mainland for the towering cliffs and white sand beaches of Sardinia. Tucked into a sheltered bay on the Côte d’Azur, Bandol is best known for its superb rosé wine; while Toulon offers more than a mere glimpse of France’s fascinating naval history. The grand finale of your riviera voyage comes as you visit two of the most famous resort cities in the world: the fashionable celebrity playground of Saint-Tropez; and the height of opulence, Monte Carlo, where your one-night stay will allow you to explore the tiny but densely-packed city-state before you disembark the Marina.

Go Next | Estimated prices starting at $1,799 per person, double occupancy, airfare included
**LAND TOUR**  
November 18-26, 2018

Take in all the local highlights on citywide tours of London and Paris before enjoying free time to create your own experiences in both of these world-class capitals. Start in London, where you’ll spot icons such as Big Ben and Buckingham Palace, then cross the English Channel on the Eurostar train to Paris’ Gare Du Nord. In “the City of Light,” enjoy a café au lait from a bistro terrace in view of the Eiffel Tower, stroll along the Seine, and get up close to the masterpieces in world-class museums. Then, set out to explore Paris’ arrondissements on your own.

*Go Ahead Tours | Estimated prices of $3,289 per person, double occupancy, airfare included*

---

**RIVER CRUISE**  
December 4-12, 2018

Delight in the magical merriment of Germany’s holiday markets on a seven-night cruise that celebrates enduring festive traditions. During Advent, villages of wooden kiosks festooned with pine branches, red ribbons and cheerful lights spring up in town squares along the Rhine and Main Rivers. Linger in these fanciful Christkindlmarkts, as you savor the tantalizing aromas of mulled wine and gingerbread. Aboard your first-class ship, relax on deck as the stunning scenery unfolds around you, vistas of clifftop castles, charming villages and rolling hills. Sail through the scenic Rhine Gorge, and gaze upward at the soaring spires of Cologne’s magnificent cathedral. Admire the quaint timbered architecture of medieval gems Miltenberg and Rothenburg on the Romantic Road. Walk through the stately halls of Würzburg’s palace, and explore beautiful Koblenz. While in Cologne, Bamberg and Nuremberg, select from a choice of intriguing excursions. Enjoy insightful lectures and ample onboard meals, including wine and beer with lunch and dinner. For solo travelers, the single supplement is waived.

*AHI Travel | Estimated prices starting at $1,995 per person, no single supplement*
WHO CAN TRAVEL WITH SIGHTSEEING SOONERS?
The opportunity to travel with Sightseeing Sooners and the OU Alumni Association is open to all OU alumni and friends.

WHERE CAN I GET MORE DETAILED INFORMATION ABOUT A CERTAIN TRIP?
Brochures or other available information may be requested from the OU Alumni Association online at ou.edu/alumni/travel, or by calling our office. Brochures for each trip will be mailed by the tour operator approximately 6-9 months prior to departure, however, each tour operator makes their own decision on how many brochures to mail so not everyone in our travel pool receives every brochure. In most cases, there is no need to wait for a brochure to reserve space on a tour. Many tours fill quickly and we encourage you to call the tour operator to help you make your decision.

DO YOU OFFER SPECIALS OR DISCOUNTS?
Most of our travel partners offer special discounts throughout the year. In many cases, these special discounts are an EBD (Early Booking Discount) price. Book early to get the best price and to take advantage of special amenities (see each trip brochure for more details).

HOW DO I REGISTER FOR A TRIP?
To register for the various travel opportunities listed in this catalog, please contact the respective tour operator for that program. Contact information for the tour operators will be outlined in individual trip brochures or you can call the OU Alumni Association to get contact information.

WHAT IF I'M ONLY BOOKING FOR MYSELF?
All trip pricing is based on double occupancy, or two people sharing a room or cabin, unless specified by the “no single supplement” text and icon. Many of the trips offered will require a single supplement for those who wish to travel alone. On most tours, a limited number of single rooms are available.

MAY I ARRANGE MY OWN AIR TRAVEL?
To lock in low airfares, our tour operators have negotiated special rates with major airlines that may require you to take non-direct flights. Please feel free to discuss “land only” options with the tour operator should you desire a more direct flight or want to use frequent flyer miles. The OU Alumni Association has no control over air travel and sometimes challenging airport infrastructures. Important to remember: If you book your own flights, you are responsible for making connections with the main group.

WILL MY TOUR INCLUDE AN OU FACULTY OR STAFF HOST?
A minimum number of participants is required to secure the services of an OU host. We make every effort to send a host from OU on as many departures as possible as we know this greatly enhances the travelers’ experience and makes the trip unique. If this is important to you in making your decision to travel with our program, please call us to confirm our faculty/staff hosted tours and for more information.

HOW MANY OU ALUMNI AND FRIENDS SHOULD I EXPECT TO TRAVEL WITH?
While we are optimistic that all of our 2018 tours will receive high reservation numbers, there is no way to predict the response to a particular tour. Our group sizes over the years have ranged from as small as two people to as large as 45. Our average sized group since 2012 has been around 14 travelers. If it’s one of our OU exclusive, faculty-led tours, the group size is usually kept to a maximum size of 24. You can always call the OU Alumni Association to check the status of a trip’s group size before or after you book a tour.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I NEED TO CANCEL? WILL I GET A REFUND?
Tour participants are subject to cancellation penalties as outlined in the individual trip brochures. Cancellation penalties are structured to coincide with advance payments that our tour operators must make to their suppliers, and the penalties are strictly enforced due to these contractual commitments. Because our tour operators have different cancellation policies, please make sure that you understand all cancellation penalties prior to making your trip deposit. Each tour operator has a unique cancellation and refund policy. Please review each trip brochure carefully prior to reserving space on a tour. We also strongly encourage purchasing trip cancellation insurance.

SHOULD I PURCHASE TRAVEL INSURANCE? IF SO, HOW SOON DO I NEED TO ENROLL?
We strongly recommend that you purchase travel insurance to ensure coverage in case of illness, injury, medical evacuation, delay or unforeseen emergency. For your convenience, the OU Alumni Association has partnered with USI Travel Insurance Select to provide travel insurance to our travelers. We encourage you to call (800) 937-1387 for details and coverage options. TIS brochures are automatically mailed from our office once a reservation is made but you can request them from our office at any time. We also ask you to research the many options of travel insurance available to you, as each person has individual needs. While we feel TIS offers some of the best possible coverage, you may purchase travel insurance from another provider. We also suggest that you check with your medical insurance provider to determine if you are covered outside the United States. Medicare does not provide coverage outside the United States.
Dr. Suzette Grillot, was named Dean of OU's College of International Studies in 2012. She previously served as the College's associate dean from 2008-2012 and was essential to its creation and development. Additionally, Dean Grillot serves as the William J. Crowe, Jr. Chair in Geopolitics, and the Vice Provost of International Programs.

Dean Grillot is a prolific author, with articles published in the "British Journal of Political Science," "International Politics," and "Contemporary Policy," among many others. In June 2012 Dean Grillot returned from a 10-month appointment as Faculty-in-Residence at OU's satellite campus in Arezzo, Italy. She has hosted two tours for us - the sold-out Portrait of Italy tour in 2014 and the South American Tapestry tour in 2016.

Dean Grillot received bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Oklahoma State University and earned her PhD in Political Science from the University of Georgia. She joined the faculty at the University of Oklahoma in 1999.

Ingo Schlupp is a Professor of Biology at OU. He is an evolutionary ecologist and his work focuses on deep questions in biology, including biogeography and speciation. He and his family hail from Germany and moved to Norman in 2005 to join the OU family. He has conducted many field research trips to several countries, mainly to collect fishes for his research. He has published more than 150 peer-reviewed research articles and received several awards, including a research prize from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. After co-editing a book on Livebearing fishes, he is now working on a new book on Sexual Selection. Ingo enjoys reading broadly and photography.

Ingo is married to Andrea, who – after raising four children – is now pursuing a degree in Social Work at OU.

Kim & Keith Gaddie have been at OU for over two decades. Kim is a Sooner alumna, with a master's degree from the Herbert School of Mass Communication and a doctoral in political communication. She is currently the managing editor of "Social Science Quarterly" (housed at OU) and also a popular instructor in OU CAS Study Abroad and the Osher Lifetime Learning Institute. Keith has been on faculty at OU since 1996 and is currently President's Associates Presidential Professor and chair of Political Science.

Together, the Gaddies will serve as the inaugural Senior Fellow couple leading Headington College, one of OU’s two new Yale-style residential colleges, situated just south of Gaylord Family-Oklahoma Memorial Stadium. They are parents to four children (Collin, Alec, Cassidy, and Kenedy), three of whom attend OU. They also raise English bulldogs. They met at Florida State University and also attended the University of Georgia, where Kim took her A.B. in advertising and Keith completed his doctorate. The Gaddies are avid travelers at home and abroad, having led student study abroad groups in Ireland, Scotland, Russia, and Finland. Travel for them is about the ‘aha’ moment and lots of exploration, but also those quiet moments to stop and reflect with good libation, good food, good company and, preferably, a beautiful sunset.
Jonathan Stalling is a Professor of English at OU specializing in Modern to Contemporary American Poetry, Comparative Poetics and Translation Studies. He is a contributing editor to “World Literature Today” and is the co-founder and editor of “Chinese Literature Today” magazine and book series.

Dr. Stalling is also the founder and Director of the University of Oklahoma’s Mark Allen Everett Poetry Reading Series and is the author of four books including “Poetics of Emptiness,” “Grotto Heaven,” “Yingelishi,” and the forthcoming book “Lost Wax.” Stalling is also the translator of “Winter Sun: The Poetry of Shi Zhi 1966-2007.” Dr. Stalling served as a Sightseeing Sooners host in 2015 on the Enchanting Ireland tour, and will serve again in 2017 on the Classic China and Yangtze River tour.

Dr. Stalling and his wife, Amy, have been married for 18 years and enjoy spending time with their 3 children, Isaac, Eliana, and Rowen.

Toby Rowland is in his sixth year as “Voice of the Sooners.” In addition to sitting in the play-by-play chair for OU football, men’s basketball and baseball, Rowland hosts numerous television shows on Sooner Sports TV powered by Fox, and radio shows for Learfield Sports. A two-time Emmy Award winner, Rowland spent 12 years as a sports anchor, reporter and producer at KWTV in Oklahoma City. He won the Oklahoma Association of Broadcasters Award for Best Sportscast and the Society of Professional Journalists Award for Best Sports Reporting. Toby became a household name in Oklahoma as host of the award winning Friday Football Blitz, taking high school football coverage to a new level in this state.

For the past 13 years Rowland has also hosted the “T-Ray in the Morning Show” on KREF SportsTalk 1400. His show is now syndicated statewide across the state of Oklahoma. A 1995 graduate of Southern Nazarene University, Toby got his start calling games as the play-by-play voice for Crimson Storm basketball, football and baseball. He is married to his college sweetheart, Jennifer. They have three children; Trevor (18), Payton (16) and Chloe (9).

Dr. Doug Gaffin is a David Ross Boyd Professor of Biology and former dean of University College at the University of Oklahoma. He has received multiple teaching awards, but he may be most proud to have been named winner of OU’s version of Dancing with the Stars in 2015. Doug studies scorpion sensory biology and taught the huge Introductory Zoology course for 20 years to over 20,000 students. More recently he has been teaching smaller courses for the Honors College. He has lots of interests including volleyball, camping, hiking, hiking, and playing the banjo, yet he most enjoys hanging out with his lovely wife, Dr. Marielle Hoefnagels.

Marielle is an award-winning associate professor at the University of Oklahoma in the Departments of Biology and Microbiology/Plant Biology. At OU she teaches several courses, including non-majors biology, a class on fungi and a scientific writing class. She also writes two university-level biology textbooks for McGraw-Hill, and she loves to read and to explore Oklahoma and the world with Doug. Together they have accompanied OU students to Arezzo and have traveled with the OU Alumni Association to China and Iceland.

ou.edu/alumni/travel | 27