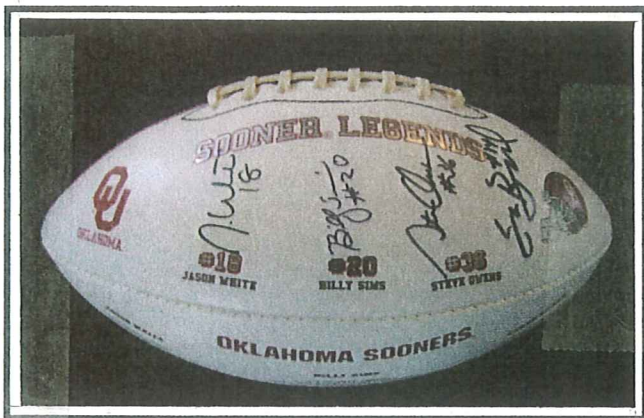


# THE BAJA OKLAHOMAN

*Newsletter of the OU Club of Austin*

1905 Shadow Brook Circle, Round Rock, Texas 78681 • 891-0078 • April 2010

## *Austinite's prized possession*



—Photo by Janene Davis

**FOUR OUT OF FIVE** — The autographs of four of OU's Heisman Trophy winners adorn this football owned by Twan Brady, OU Club of Austin member. From left are the signatures of Jason White (2003), Billy Sims (1978), Steve Owens (1969) and Sam Bradford (2007). Story, page 3

## *Spring Sociable set Thursday, April 29*

OU Club of Austin members, their family and friends will gather at a particularly beautiful spot in downtown Austin on what should be a fine spring evening later this month.

We'll convene on Thursday, Apr. 29, 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the Marker 10 Spirits & Cuisine Bar at the Hyatt on Lady Bird Lake, 208 Barton Springs Road.

Janet Atwood handled arrangements for us and says the evening will be centered on a patio at the hotel that overlooks the lake downtown.

It's bound to be a good time. We look forward to seeing you there.

## Overflow crowd hears about school life at OU

### *Officials from Norman, Houston on hand*

Sixty people were on hand last month when the OU Club of Austin hosted prospective students of the University of Oklahoma and their parents. The event attracted twice the number of people ever to attend in its nine-year history.

In the crowd, which overflowed from the banquet room at the Iron Cactus in north Austin into the main dining room, were 28 graduating high school seniors who have successfully applied to OU. Of these, some two-thirds have chosen to attend school in Norman; the others are still considering their options.

More than 70 students from Central Texas have been approved for admission this fall by OU.

Students and their parents heard brief remarks from Andy Roop, OU director of student recruitment services (SRS); Michael Dean, director of marketing and development for the OU Alumni Assn.; Christina Lee of Houston, OU's SRS representative in Texas, and Rick Williamson, an OU Club of Austin leader.

Christina described for attendees enrollment and residency procedures at Norman. She also offered VIP tours of the campus.

Rick described the activities of the OU Club of Austin and outlined the club's annual scholarship program, which this year has grown to three \$2,000 grants.

He also passed out 20 scholarship applications, as well as 14 applications for membership in the OU Club of Austin. Rick was kept busy for an hour after the event broke up, answering questions, as did the three OU officials from Norman and Houston.

Fifty-eight percent of incoming freshmen at OU are from out of state now. Of these, 73 percent are from Texas.

### *Inside this issue . . .*

**Touring OU student group visits Austin; to be an annual event**  
*Page 2*

**Volunteers needed for College Fair and watch parties**  
*Page 3*

**Sooner Caravan sets two Texas stops this summer**  
*Page 4*



## Student group enjoys variant of spring break

By Rick Williamson

Seven well-rounded and exceptionally well-grounded OU students were chosen — from several hundred applicants — to be among the first participants in the OU Alumni Association's "Alternative Spring Break Road Trip" last month.

The OU Club of Austin was chosen to be one of four OU Clubs in Texas to take part in the initiative.

The students were chauffeured in an OU van — led by Michael Dean, OUAA director of development and marketing, and Andrew Wertz, OUAA assistant director, throughout their four-day tour to Houston, San Antonio, Austin and Dallas over the March 14-20 Spring Break week.

The OU Club in each of these cities arranged for and sponsored a lunch for the students on their des-

ignated visitation day. The Austin event happened to fall on St. Patrick's Day and was held at the Iron Cactus restaurant near the Arboretum.

Students were introduced to each club's members and guests who attended. Each gave a three-minute overview of themselves, along with a brief statement on what this opportunity has meant to them.

The three young women and four young men were purposely selected to represent as diverse a spectrum as possible, ranging from sophomores to seniors, from Oklahoma and out of state, from high academic achievers (including two National Merit Scholars) to high extracurricular achievers, representing several ethnicities and each from different undergraduate study programs.

The program's goal is to bring this sample cross-section of OU students to the attention of OU alumni, and vice versa, starting where most OU graduates live — in Texas.

And in doing so, it brings grassroots awareness to both students and alumni alike, thereby strengthening the bond between them. By conducting the tour over Spring Break week, it showcases how mutually satisfying to all students — present and past — this Alternative Road Trip can be compared to what is deemed the usual Spring Break routine.

The Alumni Association's Mr. Dean said this is the first of what is



**VISITORS FROM NORMAN** — The OU Club of Austin hosted a luncheon last month for nine visitors from the Norman campus. They were here to spread the good word about the University. From left are students Emily Langhorst, Jason Robison and Jimmy Andrade; OU Alumni Assn. officials Andrew Wertz, assistant director, and Michael Dean, director of marketing; and students Brandon Mikael, Dana Mohammad-Zadeh, Abby Castro and Stuart Downey. Local arrangements were handled by Rick Williamson at the Iron Cactus restaurant, Arboretum.

**The Baja Oklahoman** is a publication of the OU Club of Austin, a non-profit organization of University of Oklahoma alumni and friends of the University in Austin and Central Texas • Members are encouraged to submit material for publication. • An application for club membership appears on the club's website. Membership is \$25 a year; \$35 for a family.

### Club officers — 2009-10

President	(vacant)
Vice president	Steve Watson
Secretary	Mark Carlson
Treasurer	Fred Dupy
Membership	Janet Atwood
Watch parties	Rick Williamson
Events coord.	(vacant)
Scholarship chair	Allsa Macy
Recruitment chair	(vacant)

#### Club website:

<http://www.ouclubofaustin.com>  
Webmaster: Craig Likes

Greg Olds, bulletin editor  
e-mail: [goldsa@austin.rr.com](mailto:goldsa@austin.rr.com)  
2811 Inridge Dr., Austin 78745  
phone: 891-0078

intended to become an annual program. He noted that the Alumni Association is responding to a student initiative in undertaking the event.

This first trip has earned good media coverage, better-than-expected student response and institutional support on the OU campus, as well as an open arms support of the alumni clubs invited to participate.

Here from Norman with Mr. Dean were: Emily Langhorst, freshman from Wisconsin, National Merit Scholar; Jason Robison, sophomore from Fairview, Okla., student government leader; Jimmy Andrade, freshman from Houston, Presidential Community Scholar; Andrew Wertz, assistant director, OU Alumni Association (group leader); Brandon Mikael, junior from Houston, campus student leader; Dana Mohammad-Zadeh, sophomore from San Diego, Calif., National Merit Scholar; Abby Castro, freshman from Oklahoma City, President's Leadership Class, and Stuart Downey, sophomore from Oklahoma City, President's Leadership Class.



*Only Vessels' is missing*

## Austinite's football has signatures of four OU Heisman winners

Fort Knox may not have all the gold it used to but one OU Club of Austin member has begun her own collection of Sooner gold.

The first ingot has been put into the "vault" owned by Twan Brady. It's actually made of leather but 'tis gold indeed. Even better.

On the ball are signatures of four of the five Oklahoma footballers who have won the coveted Heisman Trophy, recognition as being the top collegiate footballer in a season.

The story began a few summers ago when the OU Club of Austin held a gathering at the Oasis restaurant on Lake Travis. As part of a fundraiser, several autographed footballs were sold that day. Twan bought one of them, already bearing the autographs of three OU

Heisman winners — Steve Owens (1969), Billy Sims (1978) and Jason White (2003).

Missing was the signature of the school's first winner, Billy Vessels (1952), who died in 2001.

"The balls sold for only \$100 that evening," Twan recalls. "What a bargain."



**BOB AND TWAN BRADY**

"Bob and I have proudly displayed the football on our mantel ever since," she adds, referring to her late husband.

Then, last fall, wanting to get the latest Sooner Heisman winner's signature, that of Sam Bradford (2007), she enlisted the assistance of others to get the ball from Austin back to Norman.

Another OU Club of Austin member, Coleman Stephens, took the ball to Norman and handed off to Janene and Rod Davis, the club's former "first family."

The Davises, in turn, contacted friends on the campus and in time Sam added his signature to the ball.

The ball's round trip wasn't completed until this month, when Rod and Janene drove down

to see the Sooner women basketball team play in the recent Final Four at San Antonio.

While here, they returned the ball, now bearing the autographs of four Sooner icons, to Twan.

Now the question remains: Whose signature will she add to the ball next?

## **Wanted:** College Fair, watch-party volunteers to assist us this fall

If you think you might have some time available to help the OU Club of Austin in two of its most vital activities, please consider doing so.

Needed are people to staff the OU booth at this October's College Fair. The fair offers prospective OU students a chance to explore with Sooner alums what is offered at Norman.

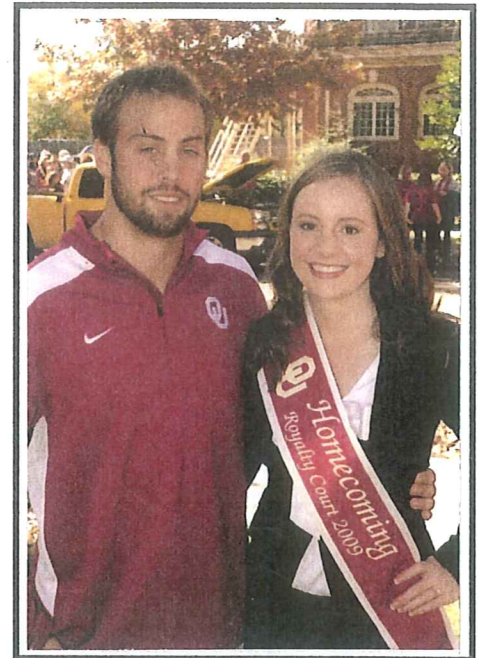
Usually, the fair extends over sev-

eral days each October in Austin and several area cities. Thousands of high school students and their parents show up.

Likewise, we need some hands to tend to our football watch parties.

If you think you can help with either or both of these, please talk it over with Rick Williamson, RixMail@usa.net (email) or 576-1644.

## *June wedding planned*



**The two winners of OU Club of Austin scholarships in 2006 will marry this June. David Peebles and Meredith Willinger are shown in this homecoming photo last fall on the Norman campus.**

## Scholarship winners to be announced soon

Alisa Macy, scholarship chair for the OU Club of Austin, convened her panel earlier this month to discuss applications received for the club's annual scholarships.

Three grants worth \$2,000 will be made soon.

Committee members have been reviewing the applications on their own the last few weeks. The meeting this month was to let members share their views with each other and determine the winners.

This will be the first time three scholarships will be conferred by the club.

The third grant was made possible by the generosity of Sally Reagan, longtime OU Club of Austin leader, who passed away last August.



**OU Club of Austin**  
**1905 Shadow Brook Circle**  
**Round Rock TX 78681**

**Forwarding services requested**

## Sooner Caravan sets two stops in Texas: Dallas, Houston

The annual Sooner Caravan will make stops in Dallas this month and in Houston in June.

The annual tour made by several coaches and Athletic Director Joe

Castiglione affords an opportunity for Sooner fans to enjoy a meal with OU athletic leaders and to savor the possibilities of a new sports year.

Tickets for each site are \$30 for

adults and \$15 for children over 12.

Caravan stops also are planned at Tulsa (May 25) and Oklahoma City (Aug. 5).

On hand at each stop to discuss prospects for OU athletics in the coming year will be, in addition to Mr. Castiglione, Bob Stoops, head football coach; Sherri Coale, women's basketball coach; Jeff Capel, men's basketball coach, and several student-athletes.

To make reservations, please phone, mail or fax the Sooner Club at (866) Sooner Club or (405) 325-8000. Reservations must be made at least seven business days in advance.

An order form is at:  
[http://www.thesoonerclub.com/03\\_benefits\\_caravan.html](http://www.thesoonerclub.com/03_benefits_caravan.html)

### Calendar of events

Spring Sociable	Apr. 29 Thursday	Hyatt on Lady Bird Lake 208 Barton Springs Road (477-1234)
Dallas Sooner Caravan	7 p.m. June 3	6911 Lemmon Ave. HESS Club
Houston Election of officers	7 p.m. June (exact date TBA)	5430 Westheimer Road TBA
for 2010-11 Pre-season	Sept. 2	TBA
kickoff dinner	Thursday	
1st watch party of 2010 football (Utah St.)	Sept. 4	Marriott Hotel, 2600 La Frontera Blvd. (near Tx 45 between MoPac and I-35)
Central Texas College Fair	October dates TBA	TBA



## CLUB OF AUSTIN

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Membership dues: \$25 a year • \$35 for a family  NEW  RENEWAL

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