

THE BAJA OKLAHOMAN

Newsletter of the OU Club of Austin

1905 Shadow Brook Circle, Round Rock, Texas 78681 • 512-431-2069 / 512-255-6402 • April 2011

Club's scholarships doubling in value

Board raises each grant from \$2,000 per year to \$4,500

From the president

A good evening for us all

By FRED DUPY, President

The board of directors of our club enjoyed themselves greatly the other evening.

Meeting downtown one night recently, we had the pleasure of going through 11 applications for scholarships which the OU Club of Austin awards each year.

The applications reflect years of good work and attention to the vital nature of education. Not only on the part of these Central Texas high school students but their parents and other adult mentors, as well.

The evening's elation was raised to new levels when we decided during our discussions that we can — and must — increase the assistance we offer (See adjacent story.)

And thanks to a detailed and most helpful study conducted by our treasurer, Jessica Benedict, we are confident we made not only a good decision but a knowledgeable one.

A year ago the amount we rely on for our share of the grants stood at \$57,285. Today the figure is \$72,386. And growing. This money has come from individual members of our club.

If you want to help send kids from Central Texas "north of the border" to OU, you might consider a contribution to the club fund. It is tax-deductible.

I will be glad to discuss this with you on the phone (431-2069 or 255-6402) or in person. Or email the OU Club: austin-club@ouclubofaustin.com

Something I've been told that has always stuck with me is this: The one thing which can't be taken from you is an education.

To play a role in giving this encouragement to the young people of our community is priceless. I hope you can help.

While going through the 11 applications for OU Club of Austin scholarships, club leaders decided it is time to increase the amount of each grant.

Since 1998 the club has given scholarships to Central Texas students to assist them in attending the University of Oklahoma. Usually, the help has amounted to \$2,000 a year, half of that from OU, half from our club.

This year, the board decided at its March meeting, there will be three scholarships granted, each for \$4,500 for the coming school year.

Of this, \$3,000 will come from the club, \$1,500 from the University.

"It became time to do this," explains Fred Dupy, club preesident. "Rising tuition and other costs require that we provide as much help as possible."

There's no word yet on who this year's three recipients will be. Probably, that will be announced sometime in May.

But it is clear that the OU Club of Austin is making a significant effort during a difficult economic period to assist Central Texas students in attending OU.

"These scholarships are one of the two or three most important things we do," Fred said. "And we're glad to find that we can do this."

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named** [Page 2](#)

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"hidden hotel" —
968 rooms** [Page 4](#)

Despite the date at the top of this page, we know it's May now, when this April issue of *Baja* has reached you.

A computer breakdown combined with the editor's innate indolence were the causes.

The May issue will reach you in May. I promise. —*greg olds*

Coaching additions announced

A couple of other coaching changes have been announced in recent weeks by the University of Oklahoma.

In addition to the hiring of new men's basketball coach Lon Kruger, the Sooners have also added:

- Mark Cody, who becomes head wrestling coach. Cody goes to Norman

Sports notes

from American University.

- And Pam DeCosta goes back to Norman as a women's basketball assistant. The former head coach at San Jose St. was an assistant during Sherri Coale's first two years at the OU helm.

Cody succeeds Jack Spates, for 18 years OU's wrestling coach. DeCosta replaces Stacy Hansmeyer, a 10-year member of the Coale staff.

Lindell Pearson dies A star on Bud

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 — 2010-11

President	Fred Dupy
Vice president	Dan Hodges
Secretary	(pending)
Treasurer	Jessica Benedict
Membership	Janet Atwood
Watch parties	Lee Lanham
Communications co-ord.	(pending)
Scholarship chair	Alisa Macy
Student recruitment chair	(vacant)

Club website:

<http://www.ouclubofaustin.com>

Webmaster: Craig Likes

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New athletic dorm to be built



Regents recently approved this new \$75 million home for many of the University of Oklahoma's approximately 600 student athletes. Located on the site that was for 43 years the home of O'Connell's Irish Pub & Grille, just southeast of Owen Field, the new dorm is expected to be opened by August 2013.

Wilkinson's 1949 football team, Lindell Pearson, is dead at 82. Services were held in March in Oklahoma City.

Pearson, a star at OKC Capitol Hill, originally went to Arkansas but, as sports historian Harold Keith wrote, he was "recovered a few weeks later by a swift counter-raid."

A new Sooner voice Toby Rowland, the sideline reporter for the last two years, has been named to succeed the retired Bob Barry Sr. as the play-by-play announcer for Sooner sportscasting.

A native of Mustang, Rowland, 37,

succeeds a man twice his age. In addition to his OU duties, he also is sports reporter for channel 9 in Oklahoma City and hosts a radio talk show there.

Rowland said, on accepting his new post, that he is honored to be following in Barry's footsteps behind the OU mike, as well as those of John Brooks, Walter Cronkite and Curt Gowdy.

Men's basketball player signs OU has recently signed a transfer from Wyoming to join the Sooner men's basketball squad.

Amath M'Baye, a 6-foot-9 Senegal native, has two years' eligibility left.

Sooner Caravan to skip Houston this year; will be in Dallas June 2

In years past a half-dozen stops were scheduled for the annual Sooner Caravan. Last year there were four such stops; this year, just three as Houston will be skipped.

The series of meet-and-greets scheduled this year:

- **Dallas** — Thursday, June 2, Addison Event Center, 14775 Midway (just south of Belt Line Road). For ticket

info, contact: toyaharris@gmail.com

- **Tulsa** — Wednesday, June 8, OU-Tulsa campus, 41st and Yale.

- **Oklahoma City** — Monday, Aug. 1, National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum.

On hand will be OU head coaches Bob Stoops (football), Sherri Coale (women's basketball) and the newly hired Lon Kruger (men's basketball).

'NEATH A WESTERN SKY: US defense secretary will give this year's commencement address on May 13

Robert Gates, U.S. secretary of defense, will give the commencement address at the University of Oklahoma on Friday, May 13, 7 p.m..

Gates, former president of Texas A&M and once director of the Central Intelligence Agency, was a speaker in

Campus notes

1997 at OU's first foreign policy conference.

He also is an honorary board member of the University's International Programs Center.

'Jersey Shore' class set An OU professor will teach a course based on the characters who appear in the MTV hit series "Jersey Shore."

Prof. Sarah Barry will offer the course online for three credits during the August intersession.

An online description says the course "is designed to explore how gender, race and class are depicted in MTV's 'Jersey Shore.' We will look at European, specifically the Italian, diaspora and how American's response to the nation's globalization

and subsequent cultural contact constructed the image of the Italian-American, beginning in the 19th century and how that compares to images and personalities of the 'Jersey Shore' cast."

Charitable baldness Some 20 OU students had their heads shaved on the South Oval. It wasn't some prank gone wrong. The shorn students were demonstrating their support for childhood cancer research.

One of the students, Kristy Nguyen, rubbing her now completely bald pate, said "I feel a lot lighter. And I won't have to worry about buying shampoo for awhile."

The event was sponsored by Alpha Phi Omega, in cooperation with the St. Baldrick's Foundation. The foundation is dedicated to raising research money to fight childhood cancer, which strikes some 160,000 kids worldwide each year.

Too many friends? An OU student has begun to wonder if it's possible to have too many friends. The operators of Facebook think it is.

Chinh Doan recently hit the 5,000 mark on Facebook friends and can add no more unless she "unfriends" some of them.

"How can you put a limit on friendships?" the student from Oklahoma City asked.

Big Event draws thousands Some 5,400 volunteers, most of them OU students, participated during this year's Big Event, an annual occasion in which OU offers students a chance to give back to the Norman community.

The volunteers painted, cleaned, gardened and did other chores for social service agencies, churches and schools at 160 sites throughout the city.

Music faculty member retiring Steven Curtis, for 25 years a member of the OU School of Music faculty, is retiring at the end of this semester.

He was honored recently with a concert of OU choirs. Rather than sit in the audience, Curtis directed the choirs himself.

In late May he'll take OU choirs on a two-week tour of France. After three days in Paris, the group will tour central and southern France. They'll perform concerts along the way.

Nursing college's centennial The OU College of Nursing recently began observance of its 100 years of service.

A yearlong series of events has been planned, including fund-raising.



—Photo by *The Tulsa World*

Oklahoma Gov. Mary Fallin signs the last beam just before it's put into place on OU's Waymon Tisdale Specialty Health Clinic being built in north Tulsa.

Will open next spring

Last beam put in place at Tulsa for OU's Tisdale medical clinic

Oklahoma Gov. Mary Fallin signed her name on the final steel beam, which then was raised by a crane into place atop the new building going up in north Tulsa.

Thus did state officials celebrate a topping-off ceremony for the Wayman Tisdale Specialty Health Clinic being built by the University of Oklahoma.

The 44,000-square-foot clinic, named for a star OU basketball player and gifted jazz musician, is scheduled to open next spring. The facility will provide specialty care, diagnostic testing, outpatient surgery, urgent care and chemotherapy for people in a here-

tofore medically underserved part of the city.

"I'm excited. I am jubilant," Tulsa City Councilmember Jack Henderson told the crowd. The new clinic will be in Henderson's district.

"I cannot wait until we open these doors to the citizens who need these services so badly," Henderson added.

In addition to providing much-needed help to the community, the Tisdale clinic also will be a training ground for medical students and high school students who want to learn more about the health-care profession, Gov. Fallin said.

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

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Highway 9 postal site in Norman doubles as 968-room hotel

One of the buildings erected in recent years along Highway 9 in south Norman usually is regarded by passersby as the national training center for U.S. postal employees.

But, as *The Daily Oklahoman* noted recently, the new building also is a re-

sort hotel managed by the Marriott Corp. and is open to the public.

The hotel's 968 rooms are all equipped with WiFi and range from one-bedroom units to suites. And the hotel's operating practices are an environmentalist's dream come true.

One recent first-time guest commented that his stay at the hotel was like a cruise ship on land — but without any seasickness, said general manager Yves Badaroux.

The hotel operates the Route 66 Lounge, as well as indoor and outdoor volleyball courts, a full-service spa, extensive lunch and dinner buffets, a complete gym and a salt-water swimming pool.

Baja is not sure how things go during football season, for example, but if you're interested in booking a room on, say, Sept. 2-3 this year, the phone is (405) 447-9100. We'd be glad to hear if you can book a room this fall.

Calendar of events

Event/(TV channel)	Day/date	Time	Where
Board meeting (all club members welcome)	May 19 Thurs.	6 p.m.	301 Congress Ave. ste. 2000
Pre-season kickoff dinner	Sept. 1 Thurs.	TBA	TBA
Season opening football game: Tulsa @ OU	Sept. 3 Sat.	TBA	Owen Field Norman



CLUB OF AUSTIN

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Work No. _____

E-mail address _____ Fax _____

Areas of interest _____

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

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