

THE BAJA OKLAHOMAN

Newsletter of the OU Club of Austin

1905 Shadow Brook Circle, Round Rock TX 78681 • 512-431-2069 / 512/255-6402 • August 2013

See you there: Pre-football-season social

Appetizers, drink tickets provided by club; raffle planned for four tickets to each of OU's first two games

Two pairs of seats to the Oklahoma Sooners' first two games of the new football season will be raffled when the OU Club of Austin holds its annual pre-season gathering.

We'll reunite on Thursday, Aug. 29, at Blackfinn Ameripub in the Domain, 11410 Century Oaks Terrace, 6-8 p.m.

Appetizers and drink tickets will be provided by our club.

The raffle of the four tickets to each of the Sooners' games with Louisiana-Monroe (Aug. 31) and West Virginia (Sept. 7) will be open to

members only. But non-members will be able to join that evening at Blackfinn.

Being offered are two sets of seats, both on the west side.

One pair is in the upper deck, around the 40 yardline (Sec. 105, row 15), contributed to the club by Fred Dupy, the club's vice-president of development.

The other, donated by Greg Olds, bulletin editor, is five yards into the north end zone), Sec. 9, row 49.

See you there, Thursday evening, the 29th.

Three watch-party sites for us this fall

But only one site for 1st game — Fado's downtown, 4th near Lavaca

To accommodate Sooner Sprawl in Austin and the rest of Central Texas, the OU Club of Austin has been expanding the number of its watch-party locations.

For years, one site seemed enough. But with the membership now residing all over the metro area, the need for some additional sites became apparent.

Joining our long-time standby at the Marriott in Round Rock, last year we added a downtown venue, Fado's Irish Pub on West 4th, just east of Lavaca.

Then this year, we're adding a third site, at Blackfinn Ameripub, 11410 Century Oaks in the Domain. That's on the east side of MoPac (Texas

Hwy. 1), just north of Braker Lane.

For OU's first game of the season, we'll employ only one site, however: Fado's downtown.

After that, we'll be at all three venues: the Round Rock Marriott, Blackfinn and Fado's.

The story above mentions raffling two pairs of tickets to OU's first two games this year.

And four tickets also will be raffled (or distributed by other means) at later watch parties for each of the other four games this fall in Norman.

Moreover, we'll have tickets available, as well, for the Oklahoma-Texas game in the Cotton Bowl on Oct. 12.

Details later.

Meantime, make plans now to get family and friends and come on over to Fado's for the Sooners' 2013 opener.

Then, for Game 2, we'll be all over town.

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'NEATH A WESTERN SKY: OU an early leader in pioneering the state's supercomputer boom

It is often said that the state of Oklahoma is a bit too modest, its people not wanting to brag too much, 'cause Mama said that was tacky.

That nod in the direction of courtesy and good manners can, however, at times mean that a place and its people don't realize how well they are doing.

Consider this latest example: For more than a decade, Oklahoma has become among the top locations for supercomputers in our nation.

So said Steven Smith recently. He's the president of the Assn. of Information Technology. Smith was, reported the Oklahoma City-based *Journal Record*, noting the recent installation of the state's third academic supercomputer.

The supercomputers are at the University of Oklahoma, Oklahoma St.



University and, installed this spring, Tulsa's City Hall. And a fourth supercomputer is to be installed soon at Langston University.

The supercomputer at OU, nicknamed "Boomer," has helped researchers and students forecast weather and explore genetics. Boomer also has been used in fields ranging from physics to biology and from library studies to history.

Oklahoma caviar Not only is the state becoming a leader in this country's supercomputer-generated research, there's another field in which Oklahoma has lately become prominent.

Journalists in the state have been having a good time the last few weeks after discovering that not only does Oklahoma produce caviar, a state agency is manufacturing and selling the penthouse-style product to national and international markets.

The source is the paddlefish (*aka* spoonbill), which for millenia has lived in what today are Oklahoma waters, particularly those in Grand Lake of the Cherokees, as well as other lakes and streams in Northeastern Oklahoma.

The Oklahoma Fish and Game Dept. operates a research outlet at Miami, Okla., and five years ago began manufacturing and retailing cans of caviar, as well as selling the eggs

wholesale to national and international producers. Most of the product goes to Europe and Japan

Recently, ABC News anchor Diane Sawyer told her audience of the news, scarcely concealing her astonishment.

OU facility given tribe A physical rehabilitation center operated by the University of Oklahoma has been conveyed to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation by OU.

The George Nigh center in Okmulgee is the first to be given to a tribal nation by a public university in Oklahoma. OU maintained the center since 1999.

"This is a happy day for the University," OU president David Boren said, "because we know we're placing the clinic in the hands of people who will meet a responsibility to those who need intense rehabilitation."

Sweepin' down the plain Oklahoma stands sixth among the states now in producing wind power. That standing may improve by year's end.

That's when the OU Spirit Wind Farm's 44 wind-powered turbines go into operation. The new farm will mean the Norman campus will be solely reliant on wind energy for its power needs.

OU Foundation growing Since 1970 the OU Foundation, whose work greatly benefits the University, has raised or been pledged some \$400 million in bequests and other planned gifts.

Founded in 1944, the Foundation now has assets approaching the \$1 billion mark.

The Baja Oklahoman

is a publication of the OU Club of Austin, a non-profit organization of University of Oklahoma alumni and other 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, as well as on the back page of this newsletter. Membership is \$25 a year; \$35 for a family.

Club officers — 2012-13

President	Graham Kenney
Vice-president	Dan Hodges
VP-development	Fred Dupy
Secretary	Adam Kice
Treasurer	Jessica Benedict
Membership	Janet Atwood

Watch parties:

Round Rock	Manuel Garcia
Fado's	Jessica Benedict
Blackfinn	Ellis Goodwin
Email coordinator	Ellis Goodwin
Scholarship chair	Amy Rader Kice
College Fair chair	Amy Rader Kice

Club website:

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

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austin-club@ouclubofaustin.com

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Greg Olds, editor

email: gold@s.austin.rr.com
2811 Inridge Dr., Austin 78745
phone: 512.891.0078

OU tuition gift cards now available

The University of Oklahoma has begun offering the chance to give an OU student the gift of education. The bursar's office has created the OU Gift Card, redeemable to pay tuition, fees and other bursar-approved charges.

The gift cards are available in denominations of \$25, \$40, \$50, \$100, \$250 and \$500. They can be bought online at www.ou.edu (then click on "Search" in the upper-right corner, and type in "bursar" for the page).

Cards also may be bought in person on the Norman campus. Anyone can buy one of the cards at any time and need not know the current balance of the student's account.

If a student's balance is current, the card's value will be posted to the student's account for future use.

OU now is one of the few universities in the nation to permit payment of tuition and fees in this manner.

Heartening evening of song dims tornado's memory

Sold-out Owen Field gala boosts state morale

It's difficult to overstate the remarkable nature of Oklahoma's response to the tornadoes that struck Moore and vicinity, and skirted just north of Norman.

Two benefit concerts, one in Oklahoma City aired by NBC-TV and several cable channels, and another at Norman's Owen Field were spectacular successes, artistically as well as financially. Both were sold out of tickets in a few hours.

Not only was a significant amount of money raised (figures not yet announced) to help victims of the storm, a massive boost in morale for the entire state was presented.

Home-grown talent Both concerts were loaded with talent, much if not most of it Oklahoma-grown.

Blake Shelton, born in Ada, spearheaded the OKC show in May for a capacity crowd of some 18,000 people at the Chesapeake Energy Arena (home of the NBA's Thunder). And dyed-in-the-wool OU fan Toby Keith, who grew up in Moore after being born in Clinton, was the driving force behind an eight-hour concert the following month in Norman.

Garth Brooks, Tulsa native who grew up in Yukon, made his first performing appearance in the state since 1997 when he sang at Owen Field.

Keith told the crowd, "I got to watch some of the greatest football at Owen Field growing up here. . . . That was like 1,452 beers ago." Keith then sang his song "Beers Ago," changing the line "red Solo cup" to "red Sooner cup." Most everybody there expressed appreciation for the change.

Pride gets lights A \$50,000 grant from a foundation will mean the Pride of Oklahoma will no longer have to practice in less than ideal lighting conditions.

The Robert Glenn Rapp Fdn. recently made the bequest to the band. It will provide permanent, state-of-the-art lighting.

For years the band has made do in evening practices with ambient light from the nearby tennis courts and

Sports notes

softball complex.

The Rapp Fdn., named for an Oklahoma City independent oilman, has contributed some \$3.3 million since 1984 to OU.

Gasso's son to Purdue J.T. Gasso, the son of OU softball coach Patty Gasso, has taken the job of assistant softball coach at Purdue.

The last two years he served as graduate manager for the Sooner softball team.

He told *The Daily Oklahoman* that he learned a lot during his two years at OU and came to understand much of his mother's thinking and strategy during games.

State ranked 6th in football A columnist for the website Bleacher Report recently ranked the 50 states as to their excellence in college football. He ranked Oklahoma, with its three major college teams sixth nationally.

The other four states of the Big 12 ranked: Texas 1st, Kansas 25th, Iowa 29th and West Virginia 34th. In the top five nationally behind Texas were California, Ohio, Florida and South Carolina.

"Not many states have three teams

as good as the three hailing from the state of Oklahoma," wrote the website's Alex Callos. He noted that the number of teams in a state did not affect its status in his standings.

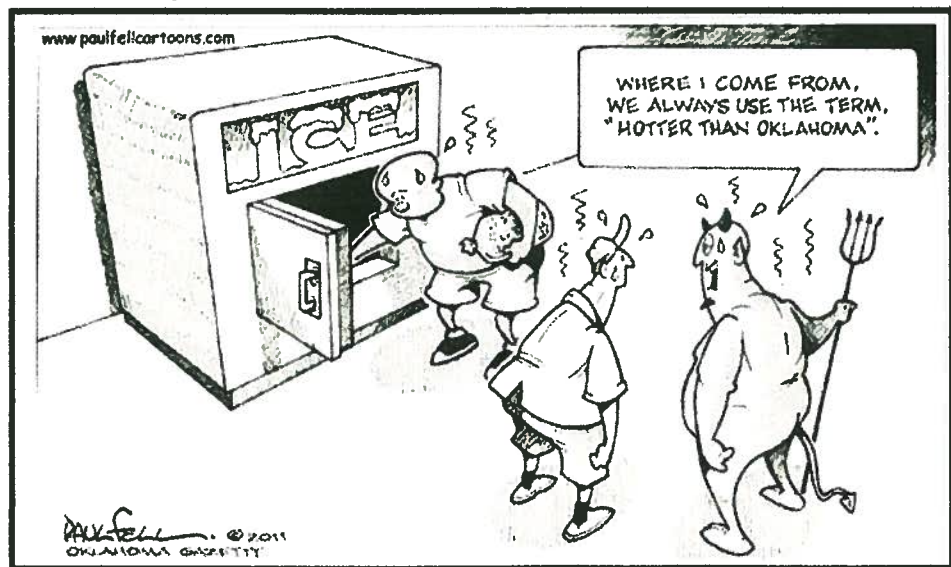
Another Hollywood Okie Former OU basketball superstar Blake Griffin is now involved in the shooting of his first movie role these days.

Adding to the list of Oklahoma-connected films and people, Griffin is to appear in "Flock of Dudes." The movie is described as a bromance comedy in which a guy must break up with his pals if he is ever to mature.

Griffin, who plays in the NBA these days with the Los Angeles Clippers, will have a supporting role.

Power couples The recent news that pro basketball stars Kevin Durant (Oklahoma City Thunder) and Monica Wright (Minnesota Lynx) are to be married led *The Tulsa World* to propose a list of other "power couples" with Oklahoma connections.

There are, for example, Landry and Whitney (Hand) Jones of OU football and women's basketball fame; gymnasts Nadia Comaneci and former OU star Bart Conner; Tress Way, former OU punter, and Brianna Turang, former Sooner softball and soccer star; Barry and Becky Switzer, former OU football coach and women's gymnastics coach, respectively, among others.



—Paul Fell / *The Oklahoma Gazette*

OU Club of Austin
1905 ShadowBrook Cir.
Round Rock TX 78681

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Gene Roop: Member of OU's 1939 Final Four team

A member of the 1939 Oklahoma team that competed in the first NCAA national men's basketball tournament and Final Four died recently in

Sallisaw.

Gene Roop, 95, was for years the golf pro at Tulsa's Mohawk Park course and shot his age at 89. Also, he

recorded eight holes-in-one during his career as a club pro.

He recalled recently how the 1939 Sooner team managed to get the team manager to San Francisco for the national tourney. The Athletic Dept. didn't have the money for the manager to make the trip, so team members put the young man into a duffel bag, smuggled him onto the train, then hid him in a bathroom.

Roop, a Tulsa native, also excelled in tennis. He was two-time Big Six Conference doubles champion.

OU won its first round game in the 1939 tourney, beating Utah St. but then lost in the second round to the eventual national champion, Oregon.

Calendar of events

Event	Date	Time (tv)	Where
Pre-season kickoff party	Aug. 29 Thur.	6-8 p.m.	Blackfinn Ameripub 11410 Century Oaks
Football watch party La.-Monroe @ OU	Aug. 31 Sat.	6 p.m. (PPV)	Fado's Irish Pub 214 West 4 th
Football watch parties West Virginia @ OU	Sept. 7 Sat.	6 p.m. (Fox)	Blackfinn, Fado's and Round Rock Marriott, 2600 La Frontera
Football watch parties Tulsa @ OU	Sept. 14 Sat.	11 a.m. (ABC or ESPN)	Round Rock Marriott, Blackfinn, Fado's
Football watch parties OU @ Notre Dame	Sept. 28 Sat.	2:30 p.m. (NBC)	Round Rock Marriott, Blackfinn, Fado's
OU Club board	Oct. 16 Wed.	6 p.m.	301 N. Congress Ave., suite 2000 (20 th floor)



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

O.U. Club of Austin • 1905 Shadow Brook Circle • Round Rock, TX 78681