

# THE BAJA OKLAHOMAN

*Newsletter of the OU Club of Austin*

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

## Big 12 happy-hour watch party set

*March 9th, featuring two games in the conference men's basketball tourney*

Big 12 alumni organizations will gather downtown next month as play gets under way in the conference men's basketball tournament.

The Happy Hour watch party will be held on Wednesday, Mar. 9, beginning at 5 p.m., at the Third Base Sports Bar, 1717 West 6th — #210r.

That's the first day of the tournament. We'll be able to watch games 3 and 4

(seeds no. 7 vs. 10 and 6 vs. 11, at 6 and 8:30, respectively) that evening, as well as meet and mingle with OU fans and followers of other Big 12 schools.

Michelle Murphy, handling arrangements for the event, says Third Base will be offering their best specials to us that night.

Jessica Benedict, OU Club of Austin treasurer, has been Michelle's contact on this.

## Austin-area prospective Sooners will hear about OU

### *Invitation-only program for students and their parents*

Students from Austin and elsewhere in Central Texas who are considering entering the University of Oklahoma later this year will be the guests of the University at a reception here this month.

On hand the evening of Tuesday, Feb. 22, 7 o'clock, will be representatives of OU from Norman.

The event is by invitation only. On hand will be prospective OU students and their parents. They will hear a presentation by University officials and be given the opportunity to ask questions.

Alisa Macy, scholarship director for the OU Club of Austin, will be on hand. Alisa is doing double duty in the absence these days of a student-recruitment leader.

If time permits, she or perhaps another OU Club member will briefly tell attendees about our club and its good works.

Dubbed the Sooner-Bound Texans reception, the event next week will be held at the Iron Cactus restaurant, 606 Trinity, downtown.

Guests of honor will be Centex students who have been accepted for admission to the University this year. Among these are students who plan to attend OU, as well as others who still are considering their options.

Last year, it was reported that 58

percent of incoming freshmen at OU were from out of state. Of these, 73 percent were from Texas.

Some 110 Centex students were accepted for admission last year.

### *Inside this issue . . . .*

**Private donations to OU continue their steady pace**

*Page 2*

**OU TV channel may be on the air this year**

*Page 3*

**Club calendar: Next board meeting set March 10th**

*Page 4*



# 'NEATH A WESTERN SKY: \$10 million more given to OU by private donors, President Boren announces

The tenure of David Boren as president of the University of Oklahoma has been marked by significant increases in private contributions to the school.

Since 1994, when Dr. Boren was named president, OU's private endowment has increased more than five-fold, growing from \$204 million to more than \$1.5 billion.

In that period, almost \$1.8 billion in construction projects have been completed, are under way or are forthcoming on OU's three campuses at Norman, Oklahoma City and Tulsa.

That trend was noted once again at the most recent meeting of the OU Board of Regents in Oklahoma City, when Dr. Boren announced another \$10 million in private donations.

Of that, \$6 million was from OU Law Professor Emeritus Frank Elkouri and his wife, Edna Asper Elkouri, for student scholarships.

## Campus notes

The couple explained they had received scholarships while students and realize from that experience how important such grants are.

**Two other donations** Also announced by President were two other contributions:

- \$2 million from Francis and Kathleen Rooney of Tulsa to complete OU's building in Arezzo, Italy, for study-abroad students.

The building will be part of the University's new College of International Studies, whose establishment the regents approved at their January meeting.

President Boren said another \$12 million will be raised for the new college. This money will fund such things

as faculty positions and internships for students while abroad.

- Another \$2 million from Corix Utilities, Inc., which will establish the Corix Institute for Water and Sustainability at OU. The organization will conduct a new Oklahoma Water Survey.

The institute will be located in the National Weather Center on the OU campus.

**No. 1 in Merit Scholars** The University now has the most National Merit Scholars of any public college or university in the nation.

And OU ranks fifth among all U.S. public and private schools in this regard.

**Research standing rising** The Carnegie Foundation recently placed the University in its highest tier of research-activity classification.

This has been a goal of OU for some 30 years.

**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	(vacant)
Treasurer	Jessica Benedict
Membership	Janet Atwood
Watch parties	Lee Lanham
Events coord.	(vacant)
Scholarship chair	Alisa Macy
Student recruitment chair	(vacant)

#### Club website:

<http://www.ouclubofaustin.com>

Webmaster: Craig Likes

#### Club email:

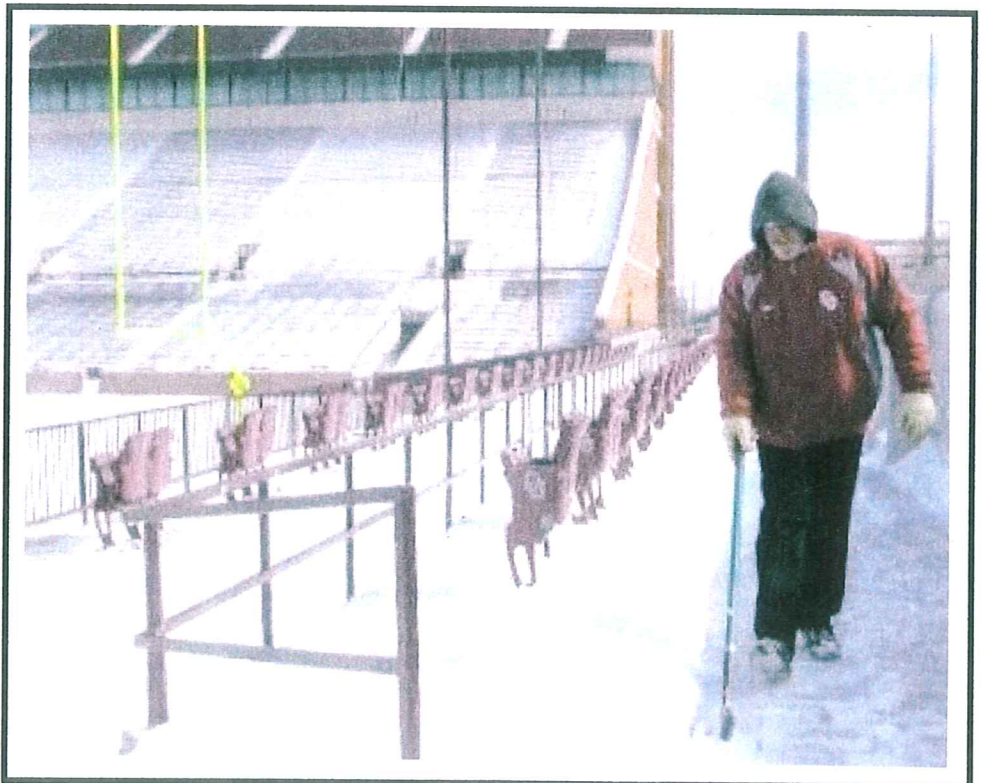
[austin-club@ouclubofaustin.com](mailto:austin-club@ouclubofaustin.com)

Greg Olds, bulletin editor

e-mail: [olds@austin.rr.com](mailto:olds@austin.rr.com)

2811 Inridge Dr., Austin 78745

phone: 512-891-0078



—Photo by *The Daily Oklahoman*

**IT'S HOCKEY TIME IN OKLAHOMA?** — Well, not at Memorial Stadium in Norman, though this scene can make one wonder. The venerable venue took on a Winter Olympics look twice this month as unusually heavy snows cascaded down onto Soonerland. Here Kevin Duffy, an OU groundskeeper, clears a walkway in the south end zone.



# OU may have its own TV channel on the air this year

Plans are being pursued by the University of Oklahoma to have its own TV channel up and running before the end of this year.

"I wish I could tell you exactly when," Kenny Mossman, OU senior associate athletic director, told *The Tulsa World*.

"But we've worked on it long enough and have enough of an idea of what our model will resemble that we feel confident we'll be launching something in the not-too-distant future," Mossman said.

The University has been discussing partnerships with several firms that would assist in the venture. One scenario has Fox Sports Network providing content and Cox Cable handling distribution.

ESPN also has been involved in discussions.

**Good start already made** Mossman noted that two years ago, the University spent \$2.5 million on a high-definition control room, cameras and upgrades to the TV studio at Owen Field. That work was done primarily to operate the new \$9.6 million video boards at the football stadium, as well as at Lloyd Noble Center.

The OU channel would operate on a 24-hour basis, providing original programming that includes live and recorded Olympic sporting events and coaches' shows.

Also, there is the possibility that some men's and women's basketball games and even a football game or two each year would be carried on the proposed OU channel.

And there would also be plenty of historical programming, such as Barry Switzer or Bud Wilkinson coaches' shows, replays of historic Sooner games and the like.

Some academic programming is also envisioned.

**Oldest OU footballer dead** Woody Huddleston, believed to be the oldest living former OU football player, died last month in Pompano Beach, Fla. at 98.

Huddleston, born and raised in

## Sports notes

Ada, scored the Sooners' touchdown against Texas in 1937, a 7-7 tie. He lettered in 1935-37.

A good account of his years at OU is on the SoonerFans website: <http://www.soonerfans.com/forums/showthread.php?t=150522>

**Wrestling coach retiring** Jack Spates, for 18 years the Sooners' wrestling coach, has announced he will retire after this season.

Under Spates, OU has produced two Big 12 titles, 53 All Americans and six national champions. His record to date is 235-96-12 at Oklahoma.

Spates says he plans to remain in Norman after retirement. "I love Norman. I love Oklahoma. I love OU,"

he said. It may be that his retirement will include some ministerial work. Spates holds a theological degree from Baptist Bible Seminary.

**Spring football game Apr. 16** Tickets for this year's spring football game have gone on sale. The game is set for Saturday, Apr. 16. Kickoff is tentatively scheduled at 2 p.m.

Tickets are available at SoonerSports.com, the Athletics Ticket Office or at 1-800-456-4668. The cost is \$5 before Apr. 12, \$10 after that.

**Gymnasts continue to excel** Both the OU women's and men's gymnastics teams are doing well this year. The men were ranked third in the nation and the women fifth in the latest rankings.

The men have already posted wins over three high-ranked teams this year — Minnesota (7th), Ohio State (8th) and Nebraska (11th).



—Photo by *The Daily Oklahoman*

**SNOWED-IN SCHOONER** — This replica of the Sooner Schooner sits all by its lonesome in front of Billy Sims' barbecue restaurant near 24th Avenue NW and Main Street in Norman. Two snowstorms that struck Oklahoma early this month are among the more memorable winter weather events in the state's history. Temperatures hit 30 below zero in the Tulsa area a state record.



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

**Forwarding services requested**

## Calendar of events

<b>Event/(TV channel)</b>	<b>Day/date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Where</b>
Big 12 watch party (men's basketball tourney)	Mar. 9 Wed.	5 p.m.	Third Base Sports Bar 1717 West 6th — #210r.
Board meeting (all club members welcome)	Mar. 10 Thurs.	6 p.m.	301 Congress Ave. ste. 2000
Postmark deadline to apply for OU scholarship	April 1 Friday		Application on OU Club of Austin; mail to PO Box 2433, Wimberley
Board meeting (all club members welcome)	Apr. 21 Thurs.	6 p.m.	301 Congress Ave. ste. 2000
Sooner Sendoff dinner and program	May 3 or 4 (date tent.)	TBA	TBA

### *Longtime member living now in California*

Mack Palmer, one of our pioneer members, moved recently to California.

Mack made the move around Christmas and is now living with his son Grif in a Los Angeles suburb.

He can be reached via email at [mackflyguy@gmail.com](mailto:mackflyguy@gmail.com) or by regular mail at 11330 Lasaine Ave., Granada Hills CA 91344.



## **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**