

THE BAJA OKLAHOMAN

Newsletter of the OU Club of Austin

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Scholarship applications being sought



SCHEDULED FOR THE NORMAN CAMPUS — This 24,000-square-foot building soon will be rising on the University of Oklahoma campus at Norman. The \$6.5 million structure will serve as the home of the rowing team's practices. The building is expected to be open by the spring of 2014. (Story, page 3)

What's in a name? We endeavour to clear that up

The question arose the other day, and may persist in the minds of some others:

Why is our club's monthly newsletter called *The Baja Oklahoman*?

Credit for the name rests, I believe, with former editor, Manuel Garcia. In the Summer 1997 issue, Manuel thus dubbed the newsletter.

The reference is from two sources, I think: the Mexican state of Baja California and Dan Jenkins' novel *Baja Oklahoma*, in which Jenkins was, with characteristic dry humor, referring to Texas.

—Greg Olds

Alumni Assn. posting videos to YouTube

Our brethren (and cistern) over at the OU Club of Houston point out that OU people might enjoy checking out Alumni Assn. video on YouTube.

A couple of times a month or so, the OU association puts up a clip. Generally, these feature updates about academic programs, sports and behind-the-scenes perspectives.

The site is at:

**www.youtube.com/user/ousooner
alumni**

- The Houston club's website also advises that, tentatively, the annual Sooner Caravan will be in Houston on June 3 this year. Football coach Bob Stoops and men's basketball coach Lon Kruger will be there, and perhaps others.

- The Houston club now sponsors its watch parties at five different sites.

Postmark deadline is April 30; four \$5,500 grants set

Applications are now being accepted for the scholarships offered by the OU Club of Austin to Central Texas students who want to attend the University of Oklahoma.

Beginning in 1998, the club offered one or two \$1,000 scholarships to area students. That year, two CenTex students received the aid. Since then the scholarship fund has grown to the extent that now four scholarships worth \$5,500 each are conferred (some of that from matching funds provided by the University).

Application forms are available at the club's website:

www.ouclubofaustin.com

Scholarship applications must be postmarked by April 30.

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'NEATH A WESTERN SKY: 2nd annual Teach-In will center on the Great Depression and World War II

In what is becoming an annual event at the University of Oklahoma, a Teach-In will be held on the Norman campus next month.

Last year, when OU's first Teach-In was held, thousands of participants heard outstanding historians and scholars of the period discuss the American Revolutionary War and the adoption of the U.S. Constitution.

This year, the subject will be the Great Depression of the 1930s and World War II.

On March 11, attendees will hear such speakers as Pulitzer Prize winning historians David McCullough and David Kennedy, as well as outstanding scholars H.W. Brands, a biographer of Franklin D. Roosevelt; Noah Feldman, international law professor at Harvard; Christina Romer, economics professor at the University of California-Berkeley, and

to be admitted to OU, just four days after the University had turned her down.

The Langston graduate was represented before the high court by

Thurgood Marshall and Tulsa attorney Amos Hall.

Her admission helped clear the path for further desegregation at OU. In 1950 a three-judge federal court ordered the admission of George McLaurin to the graduate school. Again,

Campus notes



— *The Tulsa World*

Ada Lois Sipuel Fisher and OU President George Cross in 1948

an expert on the economic causes of the Depression, and David Wrobel, OU history professor.

Alum gives big to library A former student at the University has bequeathed \$1.4 million to the Oklahoma City library system.

The gift, from LaVerne Taylor, who died recently at 93, was in gratitude for years of good times at a neighborhood library, Belle Isle.

Mrs. Taylor was a graduate of Norman High School. She and her husband met while attending OU. He was Gordon Taylor, who retired as senior vice-president of Oklahoma Gas & Electric.

A record: gifts to OU Recent gifts to the University from private sources were at a record level for any six-month period in OU history.

The total was \$139.7 million for the six months ending last Dec. 31. By comparison, the same period in 2011 had private contributions of \$85.4 million.

65 years ago The U.S. Supreme Court ruled in early 1948 that a black student must be admitted to the law school of the University of Oklahoma.

Thus, Ada Lois Sipuel Fisher of Chickasha became the first of her race

Marshall led the effort.

In 1992 Ms. Fisher, then a holder of master's and law degrees from OU, was named to the University's Board of Regents.

The OU cases were instrumental in blazing a trail in the nation towards more widespread legal integration and to Marshall's being named the first black to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court.

OU: best value A national publication has named the University of Oklahoma as among 100 U.S. universities that provide quality education at relatively low cost.

Kiplinger's Personal Finance magazine ranked OU 70th nationally.

Cited were OU's relatively high ACT scores. Seventy-two per cent of the current freshman class have an ACT score of at least 24. That figure is comparable to that of the 2011 freshman class.

Also, the magazine said, OU's faculty-student ratio is particularly low, 18-1. Some schools on the list have ratios as high as 25-1.

The major bad mark for the University, the magazine reported, was OU's four-year graduation rate, 36 per cent.

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 — 2012-13

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

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\$6.5 million on-campus rowing facility set

The OU intercollegiate rowing program received a big shot in the arm recently. Plans have been announced for a \$6.5 million practice facility on campus.

The project, recommended by President David Boren, was approved by the University of Oklahoma Board of Regents at their meeting last month. The 24,000-square-foot facility represents the latest addition to an impressive list of infrastructure additions and improvements by OU's athletic department on the campus.

Current project plans call for groundbreaking to commence in March with an anticipated completion in the spring of 2014.

The structure will be just south of Lloyd Noble Center on Blankenship Blvd., near the rugby and soccer fields.

Basketball teams doin' fine On the basketball court, meanwhile, the Sooners' women's and men's teams are having good success this winter.

Despite being hampered by injuries this season, including the loss of a key player, Whitney Hand, the women's team is among the league's top teams, as usual.

But all Big XII teams are looking up at Baylor, which has not yet lost a conference game.

Aaryn Ellenberg has become the

Sports notes

Sooners' leading scorer. She has 10 games in which she has scored at least 20 points.

As for the men, the highlight of the season so far was defeating perennial national power Kansas. OU is ranked in the 40s by the Sagarin among the 347 men's teams playing nationally this season.

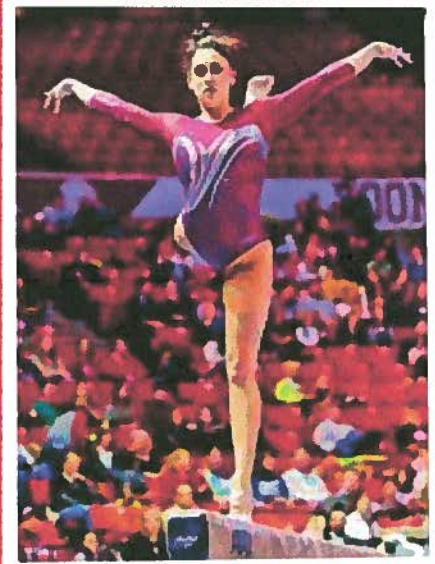
That should yield a position in the national tournament next month as Coach Lon Kruger's work continues to show good results.

Pre-season rankings Sooner teams in several spring sports are winning fairly high rankings in pre-season polls.

The Sooner baseball team was the top choice among Big XII coaches this month and were rated in the second 10 nationally in polls conducted by *USA Today*, *Baseball America* and *Collegiate Baseball*.

OU's softball team was ranked second nationally behind Alabama early this month, then replaced the Tide atop the ESPN/USA softball poll at mid-month.

Senior pitcher Keilani Ricketts threw a pair of no-hitters in the sea-



— *The Norman Transcript*

Oklahoma junior Taylor Spears has been one of the keys to the Sooners' early season success and rise to no. 2 among the nation's women's gymnastics teams.

son-opening weekend in the Kajikawa tourney at Phoenix.

Sophomore slugger Lauren Chamberlain socked four homers in the tournament's five games.

The women's gymnastics team was ranked second in the nation this month.

Keith Jackson honored Former OU football star Keith Jackson has been honored by the NCAA for his work with at-risk youth and for his stellar football career at OU.

He received the association's Silver Anniversary Award at a recent banquet at Grapevine, near Fort Worth.

Jackson is the second Sooner athlete to win one of the NCAA Silver Anniversary Awards. The other was Lee Roy Selmon, in 2001.

OU tops football recruiting According to Hookem.com, a UT sports website, Oklahoma topped the Big XII in the recent sign-up of football players.

Hookem ranked UT second, followed by Oklahoma St., Baylor, West Virginia, TCU, Kansas, Kansas St., Iowa St. and Texas Tech.

OU's spring football game scheduled Saturday, April 13; buy tickets online

The annual Red-White spring football game will be held on Saturday, Apr. 13, 2 p.m., at Owen Field.

All seating will be general admission. Tickets for non-student adults will be \$5 and can be bought online at www.soonersports.com or by phoning 1-800-456-4668. The price will increase to \$10 on April 10.

Children and current OU students will be admitted free.

Campus parking lots will be open and free of charge.

The day will begin with the second annual Big Boomer Barbecue, held immediately north of the stadium. A variety of local barbecue will be offered, as well as live music and kids' amusements rides.

And vendors will be on hand, selling a selection of OU apparel and other merchandise.

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

Forwarding services requested

OU Club of Austin

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on Twitter, Facebook

Calendar of events

Event (TV channel)	Day/date	Time	Where
Red-White spring football game	Sat. Apr. 13	2 p.m.	Owen Field, Norman
Postmark deadline for scholarship applications	Tues. Apr. 30		Applications on club website. Mail to: Fred Dupy, 1905 Shadow Brook Cir. Round Rock
Sooner Caravan in Houston	Mon. June 3 (tentative)	TBA	Houston (locale TBA)



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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