

THE BAJA OKLAHOMAN

Newsletter of the OU Club of Austin

1905 Shadow Brook Circle, Round Rock TX 78681 • 512-431-2069 • July 2013

Kickoff party set Aug. 29

Central Texas Sooners will gather on Thursday evening, Aug. 29, 6 p.m., at Blackfinn Ameripub, 11410 Century Oaks Terrace, for our annual football season kickoff party.

Blackfinn is a new site for the event and plans are being made for a festive time.

The pub is located in the Domain (on MoPac, between our Round Rock and downtown watch-party sites).

Among the evening's highlights will be a drawing to give away four tickets to the Sooners' first two games. Those are the Louisiana-Monroe game on Aug. 31 and the West Virginia game on Sept. 7.

To be included in the drawing you will have to be

a current OU Club of Austin member. Those who wish to join the club will be able to do so that evening.

An email blast is being planned to spread word to some 1,500 OU exes who now live throughout Central Texas.

Also, plans will be announced at the party for giving out four tickets to this year's Oklahoma-Texas game in Dallas. That may involve a silent auction rather than a drawing.

Meantime, as happens at our pre-season party, you'll be able to connect or re-connect with other like-minded folks and visualize the wonder of yet another Oklahoma football season.

Two — maybe three — watch-party sites will serve us

As we did last year, OU Club of Austin members will gather at two football watch-party sites this season.

Once again, those sites will be the Round Rock Marriott, 2600 La Frontera, and Fado's Irish Pub, 214 West 4th.

Plans were ironed out at this month's meeting of the club's board of directors.

An added feature this season will be distributing four tickets to the Sooners' home games this fall, as well as the Texas game in Dallas.

Since the Sooners' opening game will be aired only on pay-per-view, a watch party is not planned at this point. But that might change, if a local gathering spot decides to offer the game.

Blackfinn Ameripub, where our

pre-season kickoff party will be held on Aug. 29, has reached out to the club and asked to be considered as another watch-party site for us.

It may be that they will offer the Monroe game — and perhaps the West Virginia game, as well — and see what the turnout of OU fans is.

You'll be kept apprised of developments via the *Baja* and/or the club website and email services.

Alumni Assn. staffer likes what he sees here

Michael T. Dean paid another visit to Austin this month and told the board in no uncertain terms that the club is — well — doin' fine.

Actually, "phenomenal" is the word he used.

Michael is the director of marketing and development for the OU Alumni Assn.

"Austin is one of the better organized clubs and one of our best funded ones," he told members of the board of directors at their July

meeting.

He said not many OU Clubs have a \$100,000 endowment fund and a healthy operating fund, as well.

Asked how the club endowment compares with other clubs, Michael said Tulsa's is the largest and Austin's is in the top five.

He complimented the club on finding a second watch-party site and listened with interest to discussion of a possible third one.

He said the club's newsletter, the *Baja*, is "the best in the nation" among OU clubs. (Shucks.)

He suggested that the club sponsor other events during the rest of the year. A tour of wineries south of Austin was one suggestion he offered, as well as a float trip in conjunction with the San Antonio club.

"I can't commend you all enough," Michael said. "You're doing everything right."

'NEATH A WESTERN SKY: University will go to flat-rate undergrad tuition beginning this fall

Beginning this fall, the University of Oklahoma will begin charging a flat rate for tuition.

The new rate will be based on the current tuition for 15 semester hours and will enable full-time undergraduate students to enroll for as many as 21 hours at the flat rate.

Students taking fewer than 12 hours in a semester will be charged at the old per-hour rate.

It is hoped this will save undergraduates a good deal of money and will encourage graduation in four years or less.

For more details, see the University's website, then click "Admissions & Aid" in the red block at the top.

Student wins a Fulbright An OU music education doctoral student, Beth Mattingly of Norman, has received a Fulbright Scholarship.

She plans to conduct research in Hungary. There, she will focus on

what is known as the Kodaly method, an approach to music education developed by composer Zoltan Kodaly in the mid-20th century.

Coach aids campaign OU women's basketball coach Sherri Coale has been named to the board of an organization founded by a Norman OB-GYN to battle Parkinson's disease.

The physician, Dr. Nicole Jarvis, 38, contracted the disease two years ago and has been on a crusade to combat it.

A fund-raising banquet is scheduled in Norman this December by the group.

OU prof's DVD course OU history professor J. Rufus Fears has developed a 36-lecture DVD and CD course on world history that is being advertised for sale nationally.

Each of the 30-minute lectures traces an experience that forever changed world history, according to advertising placed by The Great Courses, an educational service based in Chantilly, Va.

Fears' series is titled "The World Was Never the Same: Events That Changed History." It covers events dating back to the 18th century B.C.

through the American Revolution and the attacks of 9/11.

To check it out, see the website at www.thegreatcourses.com

New dinosaur grounds The Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History has identified a heretofore unknown stomp ground for dinosaurs in Oklahoma.

Mark Micozzi, professor of geography at East Central State, Ada, was part of a group digging recently in the ground near the Black Mesa Nature Preserve in the northwestern tip of the Oklahoma Panhandle. The group was trying to determine if dinosaurs had once been in that part of the state.

Micozzi came upon what looked to him like a flat triangular stone. But when the relic was shown to Kyle Davies, a fossil preparator at OU's Noble natural history museum, Davies recognized it as coming from a type of dinosaur known as a theropod.

Dinosaurs are known to have been in the eastern part of the state back in their day, around Atoka, for example. But the Panhandle find this summer now seems to indicate another hunting ground for fossil hunters.

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	Graham Kenney
Vice president	Dan Hodges
VP of development	Fred Dupy
Secretary	Adam Kice
Treasurer	Jessica Benedict
Membership	Janet Atwood
Watch parties	
Round Rock	Manuel Garcia
Downtown	Jessica Benedict
Email co-ordinator	Ellis Goodwin
Scholarship chair	Amy Rader Kice
College Fair chair	Amy Rader Kice

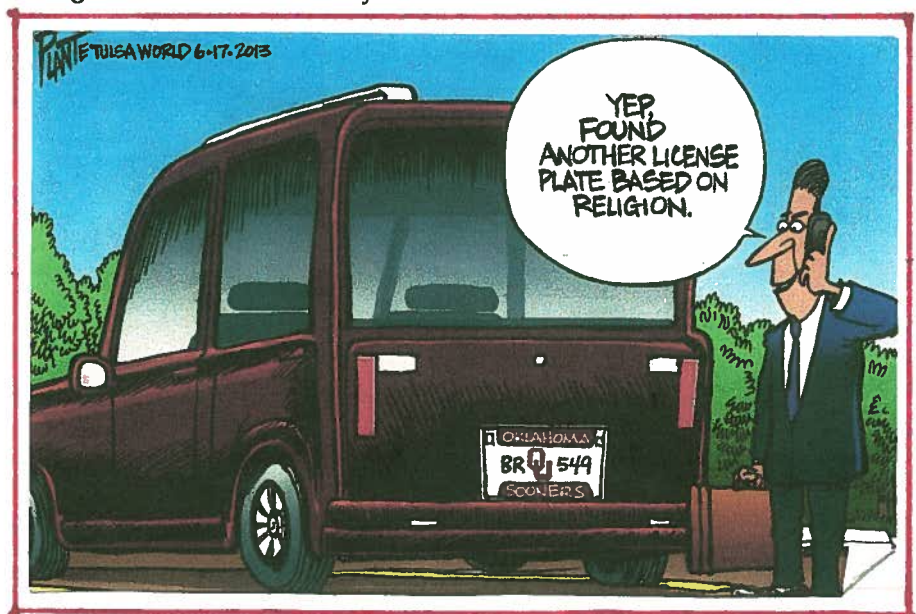
Club website:

<http://www.ouclubofaustin.com>

Webmaster: Craig Likes

Club email:

austin-club@ouclubofaustin.com



NEWS REPORT: A minister in Bethany has filed a lawsuit challenging the state of Oklahoma's showing what he regards as a religious symbol on license plates. The plates show a drawing of sculptor Allen Houser's "Sacred Rain Arrow" statue. A federal court recently upheld the minister's contention.

— Bruce Plante / *The Tulsa World*

OU football picked to finish 2nd in Big 12

For the first time in six years, the Oklahoma Sooners will begin the football season not ranked as the top team in the Big 12.

Sportswriters picked OU to finish second behind Oklahoma St. and just slightly ahead of TCU, Texas, Baylor and Kansas St.. Six of the 10 league teams got first-place votes in the poll.

Meantime, the consensus of the four major college football magazines has it that the Sooners will finish third in the conference, behind OSU and Texas, and stand 16th nationally.

Ricketts wins high honor Keilani Ricketts, OU's star softball pitcher and slugger, has won the 2013 Honda Cup. The award is presented each year by Collegiate Women's Sports Awards to the nation's outstanding women's athlete in college.

Ricketts also was twice named CWSA's top women's athlete in softball.

"My teammates helped me stay determined," Ricketts said. "Winning the Honda Cup has been great to represent my school and my state.

"I wouldn't be here without the people of Oklahoma. They have motivated me to be prideful to use softball to represent them well."

Owen field sold out Toby Keith's benefit concert for victims of the tornadoes that struck in and around Moore and Norman during May was sold out in just a few hours.

The gala, featuring mostly country-Western singers and musicians from Oklahoma — with plenty of help from others — was a big success.

Some 60,000 seats were made available by the University at Owen Field earlier this month for the event.

OU sports tops in Big 12 The athletic program at the University of Oklahoma was ranked atop the Big 12 Conference in competition for the 2012-13 Learfield Sports Dir-

ector's Cup.

The cup competition is based on a school's records in its top 10 women's and men's sports.

Nationally, the award was won by Stanford. OU placed 7th in the U.S., the school's highest finish.

The Sooners ran up the most points for the softball team's national championship, followed by national runner-up finishes by both the men's and women's track teams.

Nineteen of OU's varsity sports qualified for postseason competition during 2012-13.

Paris, Shock reunite Former OU star Courtney Paris has rejoined the Tulsa Shock of the Women's NBA.

She was briefly off the roster a few weeks ago but was restored when another Tulsa player was traded.

Community service champs In the past academic year OU athletes compiled an impressive record in service to the local community.

Sooner student-athletes, coaches and athletic staff members gave 2,651 hours to community service and outreach projects in the last academic year. Some 75,000 state youths were served in 63 Oklahoma school assemblies, as well as through work in programs with the Norman Public Schools, Boys and Girls Clubs of Oklahoma City and the United Way.

This was the first year the University has had a community-relations department.

Basketball team abroad The Sooner men's basketball team will undertake a five-game European tour during August.

OU will play two games in Ghent, Belgium, then go to France for games in Normandy and Paris. Opponents will be from Europe's top two professional divisions.

Memorial Stadium security The National Football League announced recently that it was tightening restrictions on what fans can bring into its stadiums. The news raised the question: how

might this affect college stadiums?

At OU, it presently appears, things will be basically unchanged.

The Tulsa World checked with officials at Norman, Tulsa and Stillwater to see what will be permitted this fall. At OU, the paper found this:

What's allowed: bags smaller than 10 inches by 10 inches that have been searched; items related to medical conditions or child care.

What's not allowed: large bags, backpacks, fanny packs, cases for binoculars and cameras, stadium seats with armrests and/or more than 16 inches wide, coolers or containers.

That's pretty much what's been in effect since 9/11 but an OU spokesman told the *World* that there may be some modifications put into place for this season.

Sam's camp Former OU quarterback Sam Bradford conducted his summer football camp in Norman recently and clearly enjoyed it as much as did the kids who attended.

"I remember growing up and going to summer camps and absolutely loving them," the 2008 Heisman Trophy winner told a reporter. "I hope these kids are having as much fun as I used to have."

New baseball coach Pete Hughes has become the Sooners' new baseball coach. He replaces Sunny Galloway, who now heads the Auburn program.

Hughes comes to Norman from Virginia Tech, which the Sooners played in a regional playoff series this spring. At Virginia Tech Hughes took the school's baseball program to heights never before achieved.

Gasso gets a raise OU regents expressed their gratitude for 19-year softball coach Patty Gasso's second national championship by giving her a 40 percent salary increase, to \$350,000 a year.

Her record at OU is 928 wins, 283 losses and two ties.

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

Forwarding services requested

Five leadership positions filled at July board meeting

Five positions in the leadership of the OU Club of Austin were announced at this month's board of directors meeting by President Graham Kenney.

Ellis Goodwin will take two of the positions — that of email coordinator and to handle arrangements for the Aug. 29 pre-season gathering at Blackfinn's.

Adam Kice will be the new club secretary, Graham's former post, and also will help with the Aug. 29 kickoff party.

Adam's wife, Amy Rader Kice,

will chair our scholarships committee (to be assisted by treasurer Jessica Benedict) and lead our College Fair undertakings.

Graham said that later on plans will be made for additional club activities during the year. He men-

tioned, in particular, a spring gathering.

Meanwhile, the club still is waiting on a couple of the winners of its four \$5,500 scholarships to decide whether to accept admission to OU this fall.

C A L E N D A R	Event	Day	Time/tv	Where
	Pre-season	Aug. 29	6 p.m.	Blackfinn Ameripub,
	kickoff party	Thur.		11410 Century Oaks
	Football watch parties	Sept. 7	6 p.m.	Round Rock Marriott,
	West Virginia @ OU	Sat.	Fox	2600 La Frontera, and
				Fado's, 214 West 4 th
	Board meeting	Sept. 12	6 p.m.	301 N. Congress,
		Thur.		suite 2000 (20 th flr.)



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