

THE BAJA OKLAHOMAN

Newsletter of the OU Club of Austin

1905 Shadow Brook Circle, Round Rock, Texas 78681 •

891-0078 •

June 2010

Officer elections for 2010-11 will be done by email

Details still were being worked out at presstime for the election of officers to serve the OU Club of Austin in 2010-11.

Plans are to conduct the election via email.

Messages will be sent current club members sometime during this month, soliciting nominations for all positions. Members may offer nominations for one, several or all offices. And it's just fine to nominate (volunteer) yourself for one of the positions. In fact, this is encouraged.

Once the nomination deadline is passed, a second email will be sent to members. This will list nominees and establish a deadline for members to cast their votes via return email.

A list of current officers is on page 2, as well as on the club website.

The club has had seven presidents since its formation in 1988: Rick Akin, 1988-95; Mike Wilkinson, 1995-96; Shane Hainzinger, 1996-2001; Val Billups, 2001-03; Rod Davis, 2003-04; Rick Williamson, 2004-07, and Kevin Niyah, 2007-10.

Sooner Sendoff treats students, parents

Some 40 people were on hand last month when the OU Club of Austin conducted its Sooner Sendoff.

The get-acquainted gathering gave OU Club members a chance to meet graduating high school seniors who have decided to attend the University this fall.

3 scholarships awarded soon-to-be Sooners

*Grants are from the proceeds of a fund
raised by OU Club of Austin members*

Winners of this year's scholarships to Central Texas high school seniors to attend the University of Oklahoma have been announced.

Alisa Macy, scholarship chair of the OU Club of Austin, made the announcement after a number of applications were examined.

This year's winners:

• **Katelyn Kimble**, Georgetown High School. Plans to major in music education.

• **Samantha Purcell**, Vista Ridge High School, Cedar Park (Leander school district). Plans to major in education.

• **Raymond White**, John Connally High School, Austin (Pflugerville school district). Plans to major in linguistics.

This is the first time since the OU Club of Austin began awarding scholarships in 1998 that three grants have been made.

In addition to the meet-and-greet, future Sooners and their parents were able to ask any questions they had about OU before the students go to Norman later this year.

The scene was the Brick Oven restaurant, which again proved a congenial venue for such a gathering.

In recent years two scholarships were awarded annually. A third was added this year in tribute to Sally Reagan, a dedicated OU Club leader who passed away last summer.

Each grant amounts to about \$2,000 a year. Half of that is from the OU Club of Austin; the balance is from matching tuition waivers given by the University, which usually total another \$1,000.

The club's share of the scholarships comes from the proceeds of a fund the club has raised. The fund now amounts to \$56,285.

If you would like to consider contributing to the scholarship fund, please contact Alisa or club treasurer Fred Dupy via email:

austin-club@ouclubofaustin.com

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Record number of athletes graduate in 2010

One hundred and twenty-one varsity athletes were among those who received degrees from the University of Oklahoma this spring.

This is a school record. Among the recipients were two former football players — Mark Clayton and Derrick Strait — who left Norman a few years back for the National Football League.

Strait, from Austin Lanier, earned a degree in sociology/criminology. Clayton's degree is in communications.

"I'm glad to get it done," Strait said. "There was never any doubt in my mind that I would come back.

"I appreciate the people at OU helping me get it finished. It feels good."

Clayton is planning on a career in counseling students after his pro football career. He thinks his message of the importance of finishing work on his bachelor's degree will be useful to high school students.

"There's some kids that are really lost," he said. "They just need some

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direction and some guidance. I want to help them make it a goal to finish college like I did."

Athletes more studious OU head football coach Bob Stoops observed recently to a *Daily Oklahoman* sportswriter that, in recent years, he hasn't had to stay on his players as much about keeping up with their studies.

"Ten years ago I bet I had maybe 30 percent I had to chase around.

"It was 50 percent when I was in school [at Iowa], and I was one of 'em."

The culture among student-athletes has changed, Stoops said. "I bet it's now two percent I really have to chase."

Athletic Dept. donates OU continued its decades-long tradition of the athletic department contributing financially to the academic side of the University.

This year's contribution was for \$7 million. This continues the practice since 2003 of the department giving at least \$2.5 million a year to academics. And in the years before that other significant financial contributions were also made.

OU is one of the few athletic departments in the country that does this. At most Division I schools, it's the other way around — the academic budget including some appropriations to athletics.

New Hall of Fame OU is well represented in the recently opened Oklahoma Sports Hall of Fame and Mu-

Texas, Missouri, Nebraska

Switzer's 3 most memorable games

Barry Switzer recently listed these as the three most-memorable games of his 23 seasons on the OU sidelines for a *Tulsa World* sportswriter:

1971: OU 48, Texas 27 — the Sooners show their wishbone, in just its second year, is better than UT's

1975: OU 28, Missouri 27 — Joe

seum.

The hall, located in a three-story building at 4040 N. Lincoln Blvd., Oklahoma City, features such items as running back Joe Washington's famed silver shoes and Steve Owens' 1969 Heisman Trophy.

Can't wait till 2016 It's too soon to say how it'll turn out, really, but a sixth grader at Checotah is attracting interest in football circles with his precocious abilities on the field.

Chandler Garrett, already standing 6-1, has been making people sit up and take notice at football camps and is the new sensation out of Checotah, a small Eastern Oklahoma town still basking in the glow of hometown gal Carrie Underwood's meteoric rise to country singing fame.

"Even more important," says Garrett's middle school principal, "is he is so smart."

Bigger baseball park? Informal talks have been occurring around the OU athletic department recently about the need for expanding the seating capacity at the University's Dale Mitchell Park, home of Sooner baseball.

Tennis team rising OU's new men's tennis coach was expected to vitalize the program but the success of John Roddick's first season was remarkable, nonetheless.

For the first time ever, the Sooner men became one of the 16 teams in the national finals at Athens, Ga. Along the way, they upset 14th-ranked Texas Tech.

In the opening round at Athens, 20th-ranked OU toppled no. 3 Texas, then lost an Elite Eight quarterfinals match to homestanding Georgia.

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 — 2009-10

President	(vacant)
Vice president	Steve Watson
Secretary	Mark Carlson
Treasurer	Fred Dupy
Membership	Janet Atwood
Watch parties	Rick Williamson
Events coord.	(vacant)
Scholarship chair	Alisa Macy
Recruitment chair	(vacant)

Club website:

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

Greg Olds, bulletin editor
e-mail: goldsa@austin.rr.com
2811 Inridge Dr., Austin 78745
phone: 891-0078

'NEATH A WESTERN SKY: Superstar singer Toby Keith working to help kids, families at OU Children's Hospital

Country music singer Toby Keith has been busy in recent months working to help make life more bearable and convenient for children and their families who are battling pediatric cancer.

The native of Clinton, who did most of his growing up on a farm in Moore, has been raising money of late to erect the OK Kids' Korral, a 16-unit guest lodge on the campus of the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center.

The 30,000-square-foot facility will house families who have a child undergoing cancer treatment at OU's Children's Hospital.

In December 2008, Keith and a number of volunteers, working through the Ally's House Foundation in Norman, renovated Children's Hospital's ninth floor, where kids are treated for cancer.

After some walls were removed, the unit now features a more convenient area for kids and their families. The floor today has a playroom, as

Campus notes

well as family-resource, multi-station infusion and palliative care rooms.

The infusion room is for administering chemotherapy, transfusions and other treatments. Parents can sit with their child and watch movies or play games during treatment.

Now, the Toby Keith Foundation is concentrating on raising money for the Kids' Korral.

Last month, a golf tournament at Norman resulted in "a huge" amount of money being contributed for the Korral.

4,000+ degrees given The Class of 2010 was honored in graduation ceremonies last month. Conferred were 2,535 bachelor's, 893 master's, 107 doctoral and 605 professional degrees.

Ceremonies were held in Oklahoma Memorial Stadium. The ad-

dress was given by Doris Kearns Goodwin, Pulitzer Prize-winning author and presidential historian.

Starring role for OU prof Tom Huston, head of the University's drama department, starred in the recent filming of a movie.

He portrayed famed Oklahoma aviator Wiley Post in "Pearl," the story of Pearl Carter Scott, a Chickasaw woman from Marlow thought to have been the youngest licensed pilot in the nation in 1928.

Several Chickasaw actors had roles in the film, which was shot at Oklahoma City, El Reno and the Guthrie area.

State's 1st 'green roof' The OU campus now features Oklahoma's first "green roof" — trays holding some 1,280 square feet of plants and grasses.

This sits now atop the National Weather Center research building on the OU campus.

Professor given grant Sunil Joshi, an assistant professor of microbiology and immunology at OU, has received a \$100,000 grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

The money will assist him in his research into improving immune systems, particularly for people living in developing countries.

OU research breakthrough Re-searchers at the University's Health Sciences Center have developed, for the first time, a vaccine that may be useful in both treatment and prevention of cancer, tuberculosis and several viral diseases, including HIV.

The vaccine uses a protein that activates a distinct part of the human immune system.

Norman airport busier The Oklahoma Highway Patrol recently transferred its airplanes and helicopters to Max Westheimer Airport, Norman, from Wiley Post airport in Oklahoma City.

Westheimer is home also to aircraft of the Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics and the OU flight school.



— <http://www.tobykeithfoundation.org>

OK KIDS' KORRAL — This is the architect's rendering of the proposed 16-unit guest lodge to be built on the grounds of the OU Medical Center in Oklahoma City. The building will house the families of children who are being treated for cancer at the University's Children's Hospital. Completion of the structure is expected in 2012.

OU Club of Austin
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Round Rock TX 78681

Forwarding services requested

Six organ recipients benefit from late Sooner's generosity

Marlie Mena, who helped OU to two appearances in the Women's College World Series, was killed awhile back in a traffic accident at Norman.

But the sting of her loss was eased somewhat when it became known

that she was an organ donor.

"Six different individuals were recipients of Marlee's organs," her brother Steve said. They were of "all ages — a couple of elderly grandparents, some middle-aged people, some younger people.

"The one organ that wasn't able to help an individual went to research, her pancreas," Steve added.

The Mena family has since met one of the families who benefited from Marlie's generosity, a family from Spavinaw whose son received one of Marlie's kidneys.

At the time of her death, Marlie was teaching and coaching at a Putnam City elementary school.

"It was inevitable that Marlee's next step was coaching," OU coach Patty Gasso said.

"She used her God-given gift to teach, coach and share her life with young children."

Both her life and thereafter.

Calendar of events

Nomination of officers for 2010-11	June (exact date TBA)	email notification planned of current club members
Voting to be conducted for 2010-11 officers	July (exact date TBA)	email notification planned of current members
Pre-season kickoff dinner	Sept. 2 Thursday	TBA
1st watch party of 2010 football (Utah St.)	Sept. 4 Saturday	Marriott Hotel, 2600 La Frontera Blvd. (near Tx 45 between MoPac and I-35)
Central Texas College Fair	October dates TBA	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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