

# THE BAJA OKLAHOMAN

*Newsletter of the OU Club of Austin*

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

## Scholarships' number and \$\$\$ amount to rise?

*Board reviews treasurer's insightful 7-year study*

The possibility of increasing the amount of scholarships per student given out each year by the OU Club of Austin has become more likely.

The club's board of directors were given a detailed fiscal study at their meeting this month by Treasurer Jessica Benedict that made clear the impact on the club treasury of any changes.

Sentiment has been running strong on the board of late that if the club can afford it, more money per recipient would be a great help to students. And perhaps more scholarships might be granted, as well.

Jessica's detailed number crunching presented the board with figures for granting the present three \$2,000 scholarships per years to as many as seven scholarships ranging up to \$3,500 each.

The figures she presented showed the effects on the present \$72,000 or so the club has available for its grants.

### In other board action

## Two leadership posts filled

In other action at its March meeting, the board named Graham Kenney as the club's new secretary, pending his firm's approval.

And it is believed that a member has found who will serve as communications coordinator. Stay tuned.

Also, Alisa Macy told the board she will step down later this year after nine years as our scholarship chair.

The club still is looking for a student recruitment coordinator. If you might be interested in this, please call Fred

She showed two figures for each of the next seven years, through 2017.

One set of figures was based on no additional contributions to the fund (which hasn't happened in any year).

The second set showed the effect based on the average amount of money contributed annually in recent years by club members to the fund.

Board members were encouraged to take a look at increasing the amount when a club member contributed another \$10,000 for scholarships recently.

The club member, who asked for anonymity, also said s/he is open to making further such contributions.

And the donor expressed particular interest in hearing of any deserving student who wants to attend the University of Oklahoma but could not do so without receiving a full scholarship.

The board will convene next on Apr. 21 to review scholarship applications

for this year. As with all meetings of the club board, members of the OU Club of Austin are welcome to attend.

Scholarship applications must be postmarked by Apr. 1 to be considered. Applications are on the club's website: <http://www.ouclubofaustin.com>, then click "OU Scholarship Awards."

Alisa Macy scholarship chair, told the board that usually some 15-20 applications are received each year.

## 25 prospective Sooners hosted at Austin event

Some 70 people, including 25 students who have been accepted for admission to the University of Oklahoma were on hand when officials of the University and of the OU Club of Austin hosted a reception last month.

The gathering enjoyed fajitas, chips and dips while learning more about what it's like to be a freshman at OU.

On hand were J. Andy Roop, director, prospective student services for the University; Christina Lee, South Texas representative of OU, and, from the OU Club of Austin, Dan Hodges, vice-president; Alisa Macy, scholarship chair, and Jessica Benedict, secretary.

Dan described the work of the OU Club of Austin for the group.

Another reception — the Sooner Sendoff — may be held in early May for Austin area students who decide to enter OU later this year.

Last year's Sendoff, the first held here, proved a popular event.

# Sooner teams: doin' fine this year

The diamond, it appears, will provide a nice antidote to the basketball court this year for Sooner fans.

The baseball team was undefeated (15-0) at this writing and ranked second and third in the two national polls.

And the Sooner softballers were 10th nationally and sporting a 14-5 record.

**Other good news, too** And many of the other of the 18 varsity sports the Sooners engage in are yielding satisfying results, as well.

Also making waves, for example, are OU's gymnastics teams. The women just finished up their third undefeated regular season in four years and are ranked 4th in the nation going into the Big 12 meet this weekend at Columbia, Mo.

The men, ranked second nationally, also were undefeated with one match remaining this Saturday, against Penn St. and Illinois before the national team

## Sports notes

finals next month at Columbus, Ohio.

**Cross country team excels** Also having a fine season this year was the Sooner cross country team, which finished a school record 5th in the national meet.

Moreover, the team was named a national all-academic team for its classroom performance.

The men's and women's golf programs are doing well this spring.

The women's track and field team recorded a program-best sixth-place finish in the NCAA indoor meet, as the Sooner men's and women's teams combined to add eight All-Americans to their growing list of national winners.

The wrestling team, ranked 7th nationally, will appear in the national tourney at Philadelphia this weekend.

And the OU tennis teams are playing well. The men's and women's teams have just two losses each so far and are ranked in the top 25 nationally.

**Lamar court named for Tubbs** The basketball court at Lamar University in Beaumont now bears the name of

Billy Tubbs and his wife of 52 years, Pat.

The former OU coach, who excelled at the Sooner helm in 1980-94, is a Lamar alumnus now in his 27th year of service to the school. He has served as basketball coach and athletic director and presently is special assistant to the LU president.

**Nothing tops college days** Recent OU football standout Gerald McCoy took the court at halftime of a recent Sooner women's basketball game with Baylor. But most fans thought he was Boomer, the OU mascot.

When McCoy took off the costume head he was wearing, the stands erupted.

Fresh from a good rookie NFL season, McCoy recalled for the crowd how it was in college:

"When I would roll over on game day here, I was always so excited. Not because I had a game, even though I do love the sport, but because of the atmosphere, man.

"The fans here are the best in the country. Game day in Norman, Oklahoma, is on another level. You see people setting up tents two days before. You see them lined up down the street on Lindsey. That's great to see.

"The NFL atmosphere is OK. But it's nothing like college," McCoy said.

**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	(pending)
Treasurer	Jessica Benedict
Membership	Janet Atwood
Watch parties	Lee Lanham
Communications co-ord.	(pending)
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)

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

2811 Inridge Dr., Austin 78745

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## Liking what he sees, Boren, now in his 17th year at OU, wants 25-plus

David Boren has made it official. He wants to become the longest-serving president in the history of the University of Oklahoma.

Speaking during a campus observance of his becoming the second-longest-serving president last month, Dr. Boren said he wants to exceed the 25 years that George Lynn Cross served (1943-1968).

"Dr. Cross was my mentor," Boren said. He was my teacher and my very dear friend. I think he would approve of me setting out to break his record.

"So I have about eight more years

to go. I'm going to eat my Wheaties and ride my stationary bike and try to do it."

He would be 79 when he surpasses Dr. Cross. Boren has also served Oklahoma as its 21st governor (1975-79) and as a U.S. Senator (1979-94).

His unflagging enthusiasm for his job in Norman was evident in a recent letter to OU donors.

Calling his time as OU's president "the most rewarding years of my life," his letter spelled out only the latest in a series of steps forward the University has made in recent years.

# 'NEATH A WESTERN SKY: Tsunami leaves Japanese student group at OU stymied about returning home

A group of 19 Japanese students who have spent the last month studying at the University of Oklahoma was wondering over last weekend just when they might be permitted to fly back home to Japan.

The group, students at Japan's Ritsumeikan University, had completed their month's work at OU and planned to fly out of Oklahoma City over the weekend.

Donna DeLuca, director of the Center for English as a Second Language at OU, told *The Norman Transcript* that some emotional relief had been provided by most of the students being in contact with their families via email and Facebook.

Also, the *Transcript* reported that eight OU students studying in varying regions of Japan also were not harmed during last Friday morning's earthquake. This was according to Jack Hobson, director of Education Abroad at OU, which handles the arrangements for outgoing students.

Hobson said the university has contacted each of the eight OU students in Japan. Most of them are studying in the south of the country, farther from the most heavily damaged areas.

One OU student studying in Yamagata, Japan — the closest of the eight to the destruction — noted power outages as the primary aftermath of the quake, Hobson said.

He said the students are still attending classes as normal.

**OU student in the fashion world** *GQ* magazine, which deals with men's clothing fashions, recently featured a tie designed by an OU senior, Michael Hitsman, who also has established his own menswear company this year.

Although Hitsman, of Tulsa, is planning to enter medical school, he also comes from a long line of tailors. His grandfather and great-grandfather were tailors. And the younger Hitsman used to make ties in his garage and sell them to friends and family.

Now Hitsman's ties are being sold in Oklahoma City and Norman stores. They must be good. They sell for

## Campus notes

around \$75 each.

**Regents chair dies** Larry Wade, chair of the University's Board of Regents, died earlier this month.

Wade, 72, of Elk City, has been succeeded in the interim by the vice-chair, John M. Bell, a Norman ophthalmologist.



LARRY WADE



DR. JOHN BELL

**OU researchers score** Fossils recovered in the mid-1990s by a team of researchers from OU's natural history museum have been determined to be that of a formerly unknown species.

The discovery has just been described in a British scientific journal. The article was written by an international research team that includes Richard L. Cifelli, curator of vertebrate paleontology at OU's Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History.

The article describes the recovery of the fossils of an adult and a juvenile dinosaur by Sam Noble researchers in Utah.

The new species, believed to date back 110 million years, has been named

*Brontomerus mcintoshi*, known by the nickname "Thunder Thighs"

The remains are in Norman at the Noble museum.

**Museum addition on schedule** The \$13 million addition to the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art on the OU campus is proceeding as scheduled and will be available to the public this fall.

The 8,300-square-foot addition is being built atop the existing building. It will house the Eugene B. Adkins Collection, which includes American Indian art and works by artists from Taos, N.M.

**Boren book revised** A book written by OU President Boren has been updated and released recently.

*A Letter to America* has sold 27,000 copies since being published three years ago. That led to several national book tours which Boren made throughout the country.

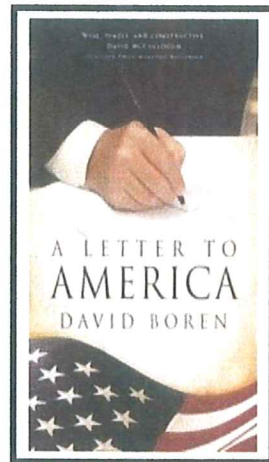
David McCullough, Pulitzer Prize-winning historian, has termed the work "wise, timely and constructive."

Boren, a former member of the U.S. Senate, who resigned to become OU's president, writes that the nation is at a crossroads and that decisive action is needed, and soon.

The book was published by the OU Press.

**Watts a lobbyist now** Former OU quarterback and four-term U.S. House member J.C. Watts has become a lobbyist for an Oklahoma City-based trade group.

Watts last month became associated with the Domestic Energy Producers Alliance. He will represent the oil and natural gas industry in Washington, D.C., with former U.S. Rep. Martin Frost, Texas Democrat.



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

**Forwarding services requested**

### You do something?

We'd like more reports on what our members are up to in their personal and working lives. If you have something of interest, please do email the *Baja* at [golda@austin.rr.com](mailto:golda@austin.rr.com)

### *OU Club of Austin Twitter, Facebook sites available thru club's website*

The January issue of *The Baja Oklahoman* offered information about connecting with OU Club of Austin sites on the social networks Twitter and Facebook.

A far better way to connect with these sites than was set out in January has been offered by our webmaster, Craig Likes.

Craig has put two buttons at the top of the club website that connect you directly and with less maneuvering with both the Twitter and Facebook sites.

For a bump-free path, check out these connections, at the top of the club website page:

<http://www.ouclubofaustin.com>

### Calendar of events

Event/(TV channel)	Day/date	Time	Where
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



## 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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