

# 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 2012

## Deadline for scholarship applications: April 30th

*Grants will be given area students*

Austin area students who will enter the University of Oklahoma this fall are being invited to apply during April for scholarships.

The OU Club of Austin will accept applications through April 30 that will provide some assistance to Central Texans headed to Norman to enter the University this fall.

Last year, the club more than doubled the amount of the grants.

Combined with matching funds from the University, the club granted three scholarships, each worth \$5,500 for the academic year.

In previous years the amount had totalled \$2,000.

Applications are available on the club's website. In the list at the left of the home page, click on "OU Scholarship Awards." The website is at:

[www.ouclubofaustin.com/oucoa](http://www.ouclubofaustin.com/oucoa)



—Photo by Greg Olds

**CHAMP'S RING** — Former Sooner footballer Mark Bradley displays his 2006 National Football Conference (Chicago Bears) championship ring in Austin. Mark was here recently along with Jay Wilkinson to promote their new books. (Also see pages 2-3.)



—Photo by *The Ponca City News*

**MO ANDERSON AT PONCA CITY** — Maureen "Mo" Anderson, left, member of the OU Club of Austin, was on hand recently when the Pioneer Woman of the Year award was presented former Oklahoma Lt. Gov. Jari Askins. The Renaissance Winter Ball is held each year at the Marland Mansion in Ponca City to recognize the woman who has made a significant contribution in her field. Mo won the honor the year before.

## What will OU's Norman campus look like in Legos?

OU students were invited this week to enter a competition to recreate parts of the University campus at Norman in Lego building blocks.

That should yield some nifty photos.

The event will be conducted at the Oklahoma Memorial Union.

Teams of four to six students will compete to see which can produce the truest representations of the campus.

They'll also be judged on creativity and speed.

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James Garner autobiography tells of his days in Norman, Korea, Hollywood — *Page 4*

# 'NEATH A WESTERN SKY: Group of students petition University for a gender-neutral housing unit

Some 60 OU students rallied this month on the Norman campus. They were urging University officials to approve a gender-neutral housing unit.

The students contended that such a move would protect gay students from harassment.

OU President David Boren accepted a petition from the students at the rally and told them he will study the question. "I take this very seriously," he told the crowd.

**OU graduation rate rising** The University of Oklahoma's graduation rate has been soaring in recent years. The figure most recently was 67.8 per cent.

This compares to 40.5 per cent in 1994, the year Boren became president.

Likewise, the University's retention rate for freshmen stands now at an all-time high for OU's University College, 84.9 per cent. That's a measure of students who have enrolled for their sophomore years after entering OU as

## Campus notes

freshmen.

**Law school rated** OU's law school is ranked in the top half among 195 university law schools.

Annual ratings published by U.S. News & Report rank the school 82nd nationally.

**Alum's sculpture for Ellison** A sculpture unveiled recently at an Oklahoma City library honoring the late Ralph Ellison is the work of an OU alumnus.

David Phelps, whose work is on display around the country, moved to Oklahoma from California in 1980 and graduated from the University.

Ellison, an Oklahoma City native, is best known for his 1952 book, *The Invisible Man*. The book deals with social and intellectual issues that faced black people in the early 20th century.

**Shadid an OU ex** Pulitzer Prize winning reporter Anthony Shadid, who died recently in Syria while working for *The New York Times*, was an Oklahoma City native who attended OU before graduating from the University of Wisconsin in 1990.

His parents, who still live in Oklahoma City, told *The Daily Oklahoman* they didn't know their son was in Syria at the time. But, it was explained, he usually tried not to alarm them by telling them when he was venturing into possibly unsafe territory.

A memorial service was held this month in Oklahoma City.

**Historians speak** OU was host to several leading American historians recently at a daylong series of public lectures.

Headliners were Gordon Wood, David

McCullough, David Hackett Fisher and Peter Onuf.

They discussed the nation's Constitution and the foundations it represents. The program was put together by OU's Institute for American Constitutional Heritage. Kyle Harper is the institute's director.

**Norman big on "Hunger"** The current movie "Hunger Games" was based on a series of books by Suzanne Collins.

Amazon revealed recently the top 20 cities where the books have been sold. Norman ranked 20th and was the only Oklahoma or Texas city in the top 20.

**OU profs: men 330, women 71** The disparity in men to women on the OU faculty still is wide, *The OU Daily* reported recently

But increases in female college enrollment in recent years probably will mean improved equality.

"There weren't many women in the profession 20 or 30 years ago," Frances Ayres told the *Daily*. "Now there's a lot more women actually graduating. . . . The mix is changing, but it takes time for it to catch up," she 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 — 2011-12

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

#### Club website:

<http://www.ouclubofaustin.com>

Webmaster: Craig Likes

#### Club email:

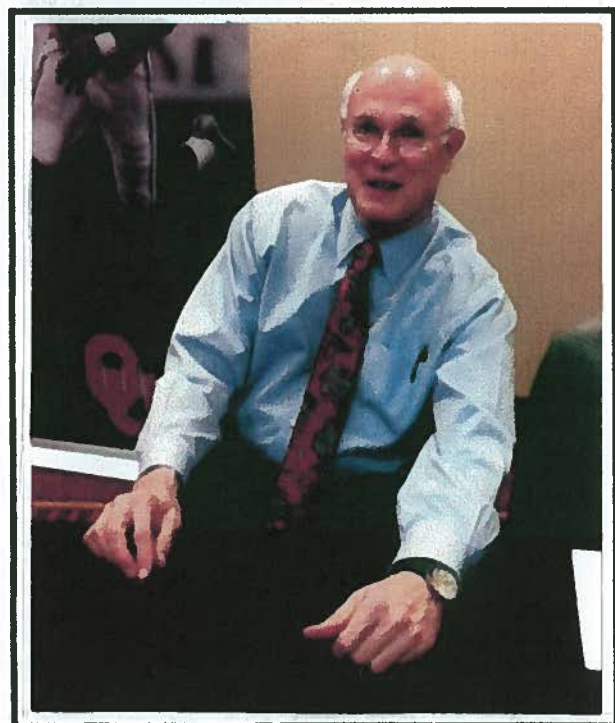
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— Photo by Janet Atwood  
JAY WILKINSON, son of former OU coaching great Bud Wilkinson, greets members of the OU Club of Austin at the recent book signing event here.

# Thunderstruck? Oklahoma's college basketball

## State's four Division I programs suffer attendance declines

Since the fall of 2008, when pro basketball came to Oklahoma, the state's four Division I basketball programs have suffered significantly at the gate.

Attendance at Oklahoma, Oklahoma State, Tulsa and Oral Roberts universities have dropped sharply, a *Tulsa World* study revealed recently.

Meantime, the Oklahoma City Thunder is on a streak of more than 40 consecutive sellouts of 18,203 fans at home games

The *World* reports that OU's attendance dipped from 11,490 in 2008-09 to 8,470 in the season just ended. The paper summarized things this way:

School	Arena capacity	2008-09 attendance	2011-12 attendance
OU	11,528	11,490	8,470
OSU	13,611	10,031	9,239
Tulsa	8,355	5,102	4,301
ORU	10,575	5,625	4,629

However, the news may not be attributable solely to the Thunder. A recent *USA Today* article held that college basketball attendance across the nation is dropping. And many head

### Sports notes

coaches have been fired this spring nationally by athletic directors who explain their decisions, in part, by citing lower attendance and income.

*USA Today* has it that digital access to games has risen sharply in recent years and notes that many collegiate stars put in one year on campus then split for the professional ranks.

The attendance crisis is not limited to mid-major and lesser conferences, *USA Today* goes on, but even the six biggest-name conferences such as the Big 12 have suffered a six per cent dip in attendance the last four years.

**Austin Box scholarship** The family of former OU linebacker Austin Box has established a \$3,000 annual college scholarship to assist student athletes from Enid High School.

Box died last spring of a prescrip-

tion drug overdose.

**OKC gets women's regional** Oklahoma City will host one of the four regional women's basketball tournaments in 2013. The city also hosted regionals in 2008 and 2009.

Also, Oklahoma City recently was awarded the Big 12 women's tourney for 2014. It will be played in Dallas next year.

**1940s Sooner dies** Merle Dinkins, 87, an early recruit in OU's Wilkinson period, died recently at his home in Shawnee.

Dinkins, an all Big Six end in 1944, then served during and after World War II, returning to OU and playing for coaches Jim Tatum and in Bud Wilkinson's first season.

**Softball on TV** Two OU softball home games have been scheduled for television on ESPN.

Telecast will be games against Missouri on April 22 and Texas on May 6.

**Sooners return as coaches** Three former OU football players are returning to Norman this season to serve as coaching assistants.

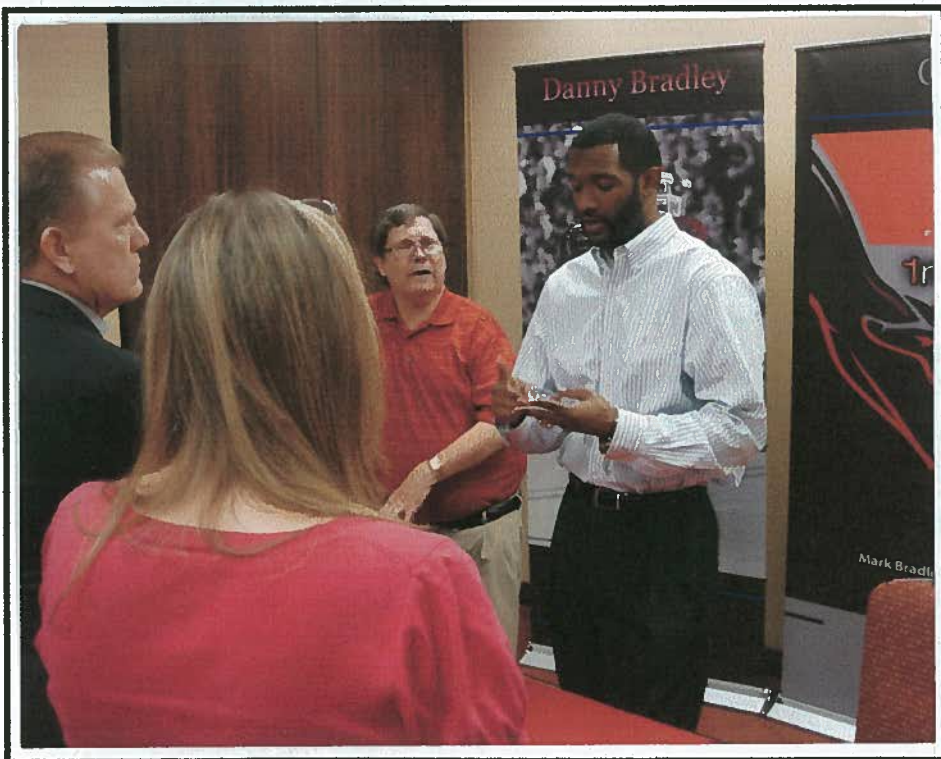
Derrick Strait will serve as defensive quality control coach; Joey Halzle, as an offensive graduate assistant, and Joe Jon Finley, offensive quality coach.

They are being joined by Ryan Walters, a former Colorado player, who will be a defensive graduate assistant. He was on the staff at Arizona when returning OU defensive coordinator Mike Stoops was head coach there.

**Quinton Carter to Africa** Former OU footballer Quinton Carter, who established a charitable foundation while becoming an All American at OU, was in Africa this month to draw attention to people in need.

Carter and other professional football players were in Uganda and Tanzania to help another charity, Pros for Africa, dig water wells and provide hearing aids and food to people in need.

He said his own foundation is growing well past his original vision. This is meaning is opportunities to help others is growing, as well.



— Photo by Greg Olds

DANNY BRADLEY, right, discusses his newly released book, *1nseparable*, with several members of the OU Club of Austin. From left are Steve Watson, Janet Atwood and Fred Dupy.

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

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## James Garner autobiography released recently

The autobiography of James Garner, former OU student and Norman native, was recently released by Simon & Schuster.

In *The Garner Files: A Memoir*, Garner recalls, among other things, his days in Norman, growing up in

hardscrabble conditions, beset with injuries while on the OU football team and being wounded while serving in the Army in the Korean War.

But most of the book, co-written by Jon Winokur, relates to Garner's career in the movies and on TV.

Garner, now 83, tells numerous anecdotes about himself and fellow stars, says a reviewer in *The Daily Oklahoman* — not all of them flattering to Garner or others. But interesting.

Also recounted are Garner's two major lawsuits filed against the producers of what probably were his biggest TV hits — *Maverick* and *The Rockford Files*.

Garner contended successfully in those cases that he had been underpaid, particularly in view of the shows' being widely aired as syndicated reruns.

### Calendar of events

Event/(TV channel)	Day/date	Time	Where
Red-White spring football game	Apr. 14	2 p.m	Owen Field, Norman
Deadline to apply for club scholarship (see p. 1)	Apr. 30	Mon.	Mail application to: Fred Dupy, 1905 Shadow Brook Circle, Round Rock



## 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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