

# THE BAJA OKLAHOMAN

*Newsletter of the OU Club of Austin*

1905 Shadow Brook Circle, Round Rock, Texas 78681 • 512.431.2069 • March 2014

## Happy Hour set Thursday, Apr. 24

To celebrate the seemingly overdue arrival of this spring, OU Club of Austin members will gather at a local restaurant, the Park on South Lamar, 4024 S. Lamar, Thursday, Apr. 24, 5-7 p.m.

In addition to the usual camaraderie at our gatherings, the evening will feature an auction of OU-related items to benefit the club's scholarships fund.

Club vice-president Lawrence Cagigal has been working to acquire a couple of items for the auction. Lined up so far are two footballs, one

autographed by Bob Stoops, the other by Barry Switzer. And more items are possible.

Club president Graham Kenney has been in touch with the OU President's Associates office in Norman and they are hoping to send someone to our event. The Associates also are hoping to provide an autographed basketball for the auction.

Proceeds from the auction will go to the club's scholarships fund.

Attendees will be offered light refreshments and two drink tickets.

### *Club's board looks ahead to what 2014 might bring*

With the new year now well under way, members of the OU Club of Austin board of directors have begun looking ahead to what the club might undertake during 2014.

Work now is under way to distribute scholarship applications to Central Texas high school seniors who might be considering attending the University this fall.

The board plans to review the applications in May. Meantime, a revised scholarship application now

is up on the club's website.

Future watch parties were discussed. Having multiple sites for the parties last fall was regarded as a good move by the board.

A review of attendance at the three sites is being made.

The Blackfinn Ameripub in the Domain was the most well-attended of the watch-party sites last fall. Some 40-50 Sooners showed up for most of the telecasts there.

As for Fado's Irish Pub

downtown, more people to help out with the parties are needed.

And at the third watch-party site, at Round Rock, the board plans to review attendance there and determine whether to continue having parties there.

Club membership now has topped 200 homes for the first time in our 25-year history.

The club's scholarship fund now stands just over \$100,000, and the operating treasury is about \$5,400.

## New club T-shirts — sorry: O-shirts — planned

New OU Club of Austin O-shirts will be made available soon.

The club's board has been discussing the design for the logo that will adorn the shirts. And a local graphic artist will be put to work on that.

It has been several years now since club shirts were made available for sale to club members.

The shirts' new logo likely will incorporate the OU logo with an Austin landmark such as the Capitol building or the bridge over the Colorado River on Loop 360.

### *Inside . . .*

*Work on Owen, Noble may not mean more seating — Page 2*

*OU Research Park named tops in nation — Page 3*

# Castiglione: expansion not primarily the goal of work planned for Owen Field, Lloyd Noble arena

Recent news that the University of Oklahoma is planning renovations at its football and basketball venues has led to some wondering if expansions in seating are part of the plans.

Not so much, said OU athletic director Joe Castiglione recently.

"With a 92-game sellout streak [in football] and a high demand for tickets, one might think the seating capacity is the drive-all," Castiglione said. "It's not. It may go up some, but we aren't trying to look to expand like some of the other schools are doing.

"The prevailing thought right now is to try to get as close to bowling-in the south end zone as possible. The geometric design of the stadium doesn't allow us to bowl it in exactly how it looks on the north end, but it would get very close to looking like it

## Sports notes

does connect."

Castiglione, being interviewed on radio station KREF in Norman, went on:

"In the case of Lloyd Noble Center, we certainly aren't looking to make it bigger. If anything, there's a good chance the seating capacity will get smaller because of the alterations we are making to create a better experience for fans."

He added that it will be some time before plans for upgrading both venues are developed.

**Spring football game set** This year's spring football game will be played on Saturday, Apr. 12, 2 p.m.

2014 season ticket holders and

students will be admitted free. For others, tickets are available for \$5 each online or by contacting the athletic ticket office.

**Tulsa game reset** The Sooners' football game at Tulsa this fall has been rescheduled for Sept. 6, instead of Sept. 20.

This was done when ESPN contracted to televise the game. Kickoff time still is unknown.

**Men's gymnastics no. 1** OU's men's gymnastics team finished the regular season atop the national rankings.

The ratings are based on overall scores in matches during the season.

Meantime, the OU women's gymnastics team is ranked third nationally as they head into the post-season.

**Rowing team wins Big 12** OU's rowing team took the conference title, beating four other Big 12 schools.

## The Baja Oklahoman

is a publication of the OU Club of Austin, a non-profit organization of University of Oklahoma alumni and other 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, as well as on the back page of this newsletter. Membership is \$25 a year; \$35 for a family.

### Club officers — 2013-14

President	Graham Kenney
Vice-president	Lawrence Cagial
VP-development	Fred Dupy
Secretary	Adam Kice
Treasurer	Jessica Benedict
Membership	Janet Atwood
<b>Watch parties:</b>	
Round Rock	Manuel Garcia
Fado's	Jessica Benedict
Blackfinn	Ellis Goodwin
Communications coordinator	Ellis Goodwin
Scholarship chair	Amy Rader Kice
College Fair chair	Amy Rader Kice

### Club website:

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

### Club email:

[austin-club@ouclubofaustin.com](mailto:austin-club@ouclubofaustin.com)

### Club newsletter:

Greg Olds, editor  
email: [goldso@austin.rrc.com](mailto:goldso@austin.rrc.com)  
2811 Inridge Dr., Austin 78745  
phone: 512.891.0078

## Football's proposed 10-second rule: what effects on OU?

The proposal to slow down college football games by banning offenses from snapping the ball within the first 10 seconds of the play clock's 40-second run between plays was considered from the point of view of the Oklahoma Sooners recently.

Though it now appears the proposed rule won't go into effect this fall, due to many coaches' objections, the prospect of that rule led *Tulsa World* sportswriter Eric Bailey to analyze how such a change might affect the Sooners. He did so by reviewing OU's Sugar Bowl win over Alabama.

Bailey began by noting that OU probably played at its slowest offensive tempo of the season during the Sugar Bowl.

But, he went on, at several of the game's most decisive points, it was OU's hurry-up snaps that were important.

Only six times, Bailey wrote, did OU snap the ball in the first 10 seconds of the 40-second clock at New Orleans. Five of those were during second-quarter scoring drives, including three consecutive plays during the drive that put the Sooners ahead for good, when Trevor Knight passed 43 yards to Jalen Saunders for the score that made it 24-17.

"Overall, OU snapped the ball within 15 seconds on 19 separate occasions," Bailey wrote. "Tempo was an important part of OU's offense. Taking away a team's ability to dictate tempo can handcuff an offense (not only Oklahoma, but fast-paced top 10 teams like Auburn, Baylor, Clemson and Oregon.)"

As for OU's defense, it is difficult to predict what the effect of the rule would be. But, Bailey went on, "the coaches recruited defensive players to adjust to the Big 12's style of play (read up-tempo)."

# 'NEATH A WESTERN SKY: OU's research park, not yet 10 years old, honored as tops in U.S.

The University of Oklahoma's growing Research Campus has been named 2013's best by the Assn. of University Research Parks.

University President David Boren said the award recognizes OU's park for "excellence in innovation and places it among such past recipients as the Research Park Triangle in North Carolina."

In less than a decade, Boren added, "the 277-acre Research Campus in Norman has been transformed from an empty field into a thriving economic engine shaped by a community of public and private-sector collaborations."

To date, four buildings are in the Norman park. A fifth is to be completed this fall.

"These buildings bring together OU academic units and private-sector parties," Boren said.

On the Research Campus now are buildings devoted to work in weather, robotics, genomics, bioengineering, chemistry and biochemistry.

**Other research news** Also in response to the University's growing devotion to research, OU recently made a purchase of property in Oklahoma City.

Late last year OU bought the Presbyterian Health Foundation Research Park. OU's Health Sciences Center will use the property as a springboard to further biomedical research

**Grants to fire victims** Members of Alpha Gamma Delta who were displaced by a fire earlier this year that made their sorority house uninhabitable for the present have each received \$250 grants to ease their relocation and restocking.

The funds came from a University student group, Sooners Helping Sooners, that works year-round to assist students in need.

Additional grants were expected to be made to sorority members whose needs were greater.

**Teach-in on the Civil War** What is becoming an annual event on the Norman campus occurred again this month.

## Campus notes

It was the annual Teach-In conducted by OU's Institute for the American Constitutional Heritage. Several historians and authors from across the nation addressed this year's subject, the American Civil War.

The event was open to the public and featured lunch and dinner sessions, as well as lectures throughout the day.

**Other notables to be at OU** Two other national figures are speaking at

Norman later this spring.

Appearances are being arranged for U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor and CIA director John Brennan.

**OU Fdn. income up** Investment income rose sharply for the OU Foundation during the 2013 fiscal year.

The Foundation reports a rise of 14.3 per cent in its income over the year before.

The fund-raising arm of the University has set an annual target of at least 9 per cent return on its investments. And plans are to disburse 5 per cent of annual income to the University each year.

## Boren again warns against \$\$\$ cuts to higher education in Oklahoma

For the second time in a year, University of Oklahoma president David Boren has issued a public warning about what he sees as underfunding of higher education in the nation and, in particular, Oklahoma.

Noting that Oklahoma Gov. Mary Fallin has again proposed reductions in allocations to the state's public universities, Boren recently had full-page ads placed in several of the state's larger daily newspapers and wrote a column that begins with the statement that the state of Oklahoma's "future is at risk."

This came after a similar effort last May.

In the column he wrote, Boren said, "It is time we asked ourselves some basic questions: Who are we as a people? What kind of state do we want to be? What kind of a state do we want to pass on to our children and grandchildren?"

Boren goes on to say that in a recent survey of Oklahoma business men and women it was asked what would bring in higher paying jobs and more investment in the state of Oklahoma.

Overwhelmingly, he said, the business people replied: excellence in education.

"History proves our business leaders right," Boren wrote. "The U.S. doubled the real incomes of our people only once. It was during and after the GI Bill of Rights was adopted when we gave free higher education to veterans and those who helped in the war effort during World War II."

He observes that in the 1970s, the state was paying 50 per cent of the cost of higher education. That dropped sharply to 32 per cent when Boren became OU president in 1994 and stands at 17 per cent now, to be cut to about 15 per cent under the proposed new state budget.

He adds that the proposed new state budget would cut taxes but would do so in a manner that favors higher-income people.

"I am proud to be an Oklahoman," Boren wrote. "In national surveys over many years, Oklahomans have been ranked at or near the top in generosity. Oklahomans are not greedy. Oklahomans are unselfish. Oklahomans believe in fairness. Oklahomans believe in giving opportunity.

"We are as willing as our parents and grandparents to make sacrifices to help our children and others who deserve our help. It is our turn and we as Oklahomans are ready to do the right thing."

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

**Forwarding services requested**

## Artist Allan Houser being honored

OU is participating in events noting the centennial of Oklahoma native sculptor and artist Allan Houser.

A hundred of Houser's drawings are being exhibited at the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art on the Norman campus through May 18.

Admission, as always, is free at the Jones museum, thanks to support of the OU Athletic Dept.

In all, 12 Oklahoma museums and other venues are conducting Houser showings this year.

Houser (1914-1994) was born to a Chiricahua Apache family near Fort Sill. Some of his work has permanent homes on the OU campus in Norman and at the State Capitol.

Over some 50 years he produced more than 700 sculptures and was also a watercolorist and sketch artist.

### *Calendar of events*

Event	Date	Time	Where
Red-White spring football game	Apr. 12 Sat.	2 p.m.	Owen Field, Norman
Soonerland Spring Happy Hour	Apr. 24 Thurs.	5-7 p.m.	The Park on South Lamar, 4024 S. Lamar
Board of Directors meeting	May 15 (tentative) Thurs.	6 p.m.	TBA



## CLUB OF AUSTIN

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Cell phone(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Landline(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership dues: \$25/year • \$35 family ... NEW ... RENEWAL**

*Mail this form to the address below or join/renew online: [www.ouclubofaustin.com](http://www.ouclubofaustin.com)*

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