

THE BAJA OKLAHOMAN

Newsletter of the OU Club of Austin

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

— B E D L A M —

Watch party this Saturday evening; kickoff at 7 p.m.

The eagerly awaited Bedlam 2012 game will probably attract a good number of OU fans in the Austin area to our club's watch party this Saturday evening.

As usual, we'll gather at the Marriott in Round

Rock (see calendar, page 4).

The game promises to equal last year's frenzied struggle in Stillwater. The winner will take the Big XII crown home with them.

See you there.

Austin alum recalls the old days in Norman

An Austin alumnus of the University of Oklahoma had an interesting letter published recently in *Sooner Magazine*, publication of the OU Foundation.

Dr. Robert F. Elzey, who holds degrees in psychology (1950) and medicine (1954) from OU, said a previous issue of the magazine had rekindled some fond memories he has of his days growing up in Norman and attending the University.

"I well remember Fred Swisher's Varsity Shop. When I was two and

my mother didn't have anyone to watch me when she had a class, she would drop me off at the Varsity Shop with Joe Chatman and Ray Rickner.

"They would entertain me until she picked me up. The book storage was upstairs, and there was a spiral slide to send books down to the shop. They would slide me down the slide. Whee!

"When an early teen, my first job was at the Leslie Merle Beauty Salon sweeping and mopping floors. The Duchess Powell hired me next

door at Sooner Drug as a soda jerk. Her young son grew up to be Harold's Clothing Stores.

"Next job was with Joe Chatman, who started the Varsity Book Shop after the Varsity Shop closed.

"You mentioned Rickner's and the Monterrey but not the 600 Cleaners. The Transcript [Press] prints the *Sooner*. My grandfather, Robert H. Parham Sr., was co-owner and business manager of the [Norman] *Transcript* until his untimely death in a car accident, January 1929," Dr. Elzey wrote.

Chair needed for scholarship cmte.

Help wanted.

Our club is searching these days for a successor to chair our scholarship committee.

Alisa Macy is stepping aside after serving nine years in the post.

If you might be interested, please contact Fred Dupy, club president, at 512-431-2069.

Inside this issue

Broadcaster Bob Barry Sr. memorialized

— Page 2

Barry Switzer statue unveiled on campus

— Page 3

OU journalism college honors C-SPAN founder

— Page 3

Bob Barry Sr., 80, honored for his work, life

Broadcaster's service, character praised at his memorial

Memorial services for Bob Barry Sr., 80, longtime broadcaster of Oklahoma football and basketball, drew a crowd of people with widely varied backgrounds this month to Norman's St. John's Episcopal Church.

Perhaps *Tulsa World* sportswriter Guerin Emig characterized the event best when he wrote:

"They walked down the aisle at the

Sports notes

service for Bob Barry Sr. Thursday, one after another. Coaches and players. Broadcasters and media execs. University leaders from Oklahoma and Oklahoma State. Civic leaders from Norman, Oklahoma City and beyond. . . .

"A woman in the back pew . . . took it in and said, softly: 'He really touched a

lot of lives, didn't he.'"

Barry was at the microphone for 382 OU football games after being hand-picked by former coach Bud Wilkinson for the job. Wilkinson had been impressed by Barry's work broadcasting the football games of Norman High School.

Barry's tenure in the Owen Field broadcast booth covered the years 1961-72 and 1991-2010.

He was born in Oklahoma City and attended OU but his studies were curtailed by military service, the Air Force

He married the former Joan Ellen Hester. The couple had two sons.

Dole to Boren: please stay *The Tulsa World* obtained copies recently of emails written to and from OU on the question of the University remaining in the Big XII Conference.

Among the messages found, in response to the *World's* open-records request, was a message to OU President David Boren from a former fellow U.S. senator, Bob Dole, an alumnus of the University of Kansas.

Dole wrote: "David. My message is that I hope OU is going to stick with the 'Big XII.' The central part of the country can support its own conference. . . .

"OU is the 800-pound gorilla and your support is critical."

Baseball park Upgraded locker rooms and a few dozen additional seats have been approved for L. Dale Mitchell Park, the Sooners' baseball home.

The \$7 million project was approved recently by the University regents, meet-



—Bruce Plante/*The Tulsa World*

ing at Lawton.

Two rows of seating are to be added behind home plate and backstop netting will be added.

Venables candidate at KU? The name of OU's defensive coordinator Brent Venables has arisen as a possibility to assume the vacated head football coaching job at Kansas.

However, every year at this time, as head coaches are fired or quit, such talk is common.

But Venables is a Kansas native and KU has seen what an OU assistant can do for a program (Mark Mangino).

Another KU possibility mentioned is former Texas Tech head coach, Mike Leach, said to be the name most often heard in Kansas these days. Time will tell.

Student BKB tickets reduced OU has announced it is sharply reducing the cost of student season tickets at its men's basketball games this season.

Students are being charged \$40 this year instead of the usual \$140.

Head coach Lon Kruger said he backed the move in order to get more students to attend games. A big student section is an important boost for the team, he 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
Communicatins co-ord.	(vacant)
Scholarship chair	Alisa Macy
Student recruitment chair	(vacant)

Club website:

<http://www.ouclubofaustin.com>

Webmaster: Craig Likes

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'NEATH A WESTERN SKY: University honors founder of C-SPAN TV congressional channel

Broadcaster Brian Lamb was honored this month by the University of Oklahoma's college of journalism.

Lamb has been, since 1979, the founder and mainspring of C-SPAN, which telecasts all sessions of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives. The cable channel also airs numerous Congressional committee hearings and has programs in which viewers may question reporters and public officials.

Lamb, speaking to a gathering on campus, recalled that among the first of his supporters was Steve Janger, an OU grad and founder of the Close Up Foun-

Campus notes

ation, which has sent many high school students to Washington.

\$75 million weather pact The University's standing as a center of weather research was given another boost recently.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration this month selected OU to participate in a cooperative research project that will bring \$75

million to the University..

The project is designed to advance radar research and further improve severe storm forecasts.

Business college grant Bonnie and Ben Walkingstick recently established a \$250,000 scholarship fund for OU's Price College of Business.

Ben, a Cherokee born at Tahlequah, was an insurance man and founder of a bank at Chandler.

He and his wife said they want to help others graduate as debt-free from college as he. "I just hope that we can help someone."

Unveiling held this month

Switzer statue now stands on campus

A statue of former OU head football coach Barry Switzer (1973-88) was dedicated on the University campus before the Texas A&M game this month.

Speaking at dedication ceremonies attended by some 1,000 spectators were OU President David Boren, Athletic Director Joe Castiglione and former Big Eight and present Big XII Commissioner Chuck Neinas.

Also on hand were Switzer's nine grandchildren.

Switzer recalled in remarks to the crowd that he was given just a nine-month contract when he succeeded Chuck Fairbanks as head coach.

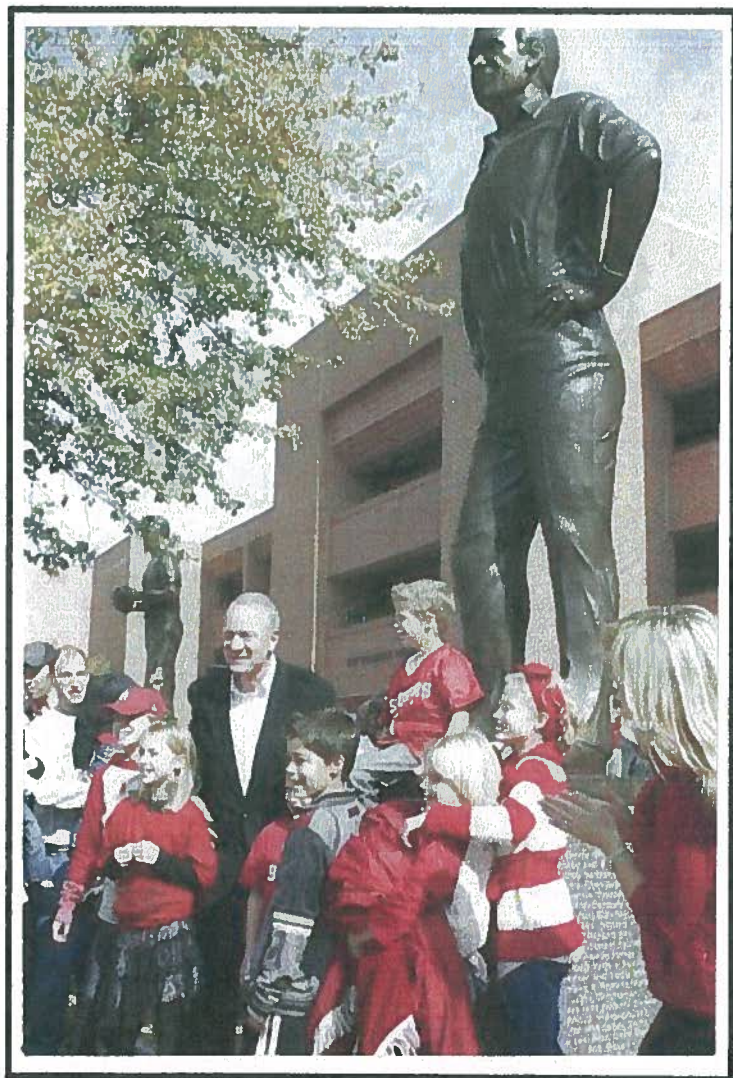
"That's all I need with the players I know we've got," Switzer said he told OU's president at the time, David Sharp. Switzer's first three teams compiled a 32-1-1 record.

"Above all," Boren told the crowd, "we honor him today for the man he is. No coach of any sport has ever exceeded Barry Switzer in loving his players, being there for his players, giving them the shirt off his back if they needed it. That's Barry Switzer. That's the heart he has."

Switzer then spoke and the curtain was drawn from the statue.

It stands in the courtyard of Bud Wilkinson House across from Owen Field. Nearby are statues of two of the three other Sooner coaches who won more than 100 football games — Wilkinson and Bennie Owen.

Stoops, who had 133 wins going into this week's OSU game, will in time stand with these three. OU is the only school to have as many as four coaches who have won more than 100 games.



—Alonzo J. Adams, Associated Press

Former OU head football coach Barry Switzer stands with his nine grandchildren at the dedication of the Switzer statue on the University campus this month.

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

Forwarding services requested

Calendar of events

Event/(TV channel)	Day/date	Time	Where
Football watch party OU @ OSU (ABC)	Dec. 3 Sat.	7 p.m.	Marriott Hotel, 2600 La Frontera (near Tx 45, between MoPac and I-35)

Next issue: December

**Got a tip? email:
golds@austin.rr.com**



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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