

The Valley Buckeye

The Newsletter of the OSU Alumni Club of the Sacramento Valley

OSU Women's Lacrosse 'leaps' Davis



The Ohio State women's lacrosse team came to Davis to plow the Aggies on February 29, leap day. The Buckeyes won handily in a game in which senior Kristen Slashor tied her own OSU record with 8 assists.

The game wasn't really close as OSU won 18-7 and was up 12-2 at the half. We like to think that we had something to do with the great start as our club decorated the Applebee's in Davis for the team's pregame meal.

About 10 Club members were able to play hooky to step-up and help decorate (see photo above).

The players and coaches were ecstatic about the effort on our part. It was a shock to the players as the coaches kept the decorating a secret so they'd be surprised. They were not expecting Columbus West!

Eight of us also enjoyed the game. Thanks to all that participated. Read the thank you note reprinted to the right.

Thank You!

"Dear Shannon and the members of the Sacramento Valley Ohio State University Alumni Club,

Thank you so much for your support and your decorations while we were in the area. It felt so much like home in Applebees that we almost forgot we were in California...Almost!

We appreciate the time you took to make our pregame meal and the stands at UCDavis Scarlet and Gray. There was far too much blue and gold wouldn't you think!

Thank you again for your hospitality. We hope to see you again on our next trip out in 2010.

Sincerely,

The Ohio State Women's
Lacrosse Team

Go Bucks!"

Buying Buckeye Gear This Year?

Hey area Buckeyes, are you planning to buy Buckeye clothes, music, or a big inflatable Brutus this year? If so, buy from the store that gives a hefty sum back to our club.

College Traditions (www.collegetraditions.com, 800-628-4678) has a program where our own Sacramento Valley club receives 15% of your total bill just for shopping with them. So, if you are thinking about

buying something, ANYTHING that is Buckeye related, check with College Traditions and you'll be giving back to the club. All you have to do is give them our club code:

AL9563

You can order by phone or on the 'net. If you order by phone, provide the code or let them know that you are from the Sacramento Valley club. We'll receive a portion of your purchase.

PRESS FROM THE PRES

Hello Sacramento Buckeyes!

I write this note at what I believe to be an exciting time. Since my wife and I moved to Davis in 2002 we've enjoyed the club. The club has been good and steady. We weren't shaking the tree but we were solid. However, I always wanted a bit more out of the experience - I wanted more crazy "nuts" to share my experiences! I am happy to be in this position to help grow our own Buckeye "grove".

The board and I would like to see the club take the next step toward becoming one of the elite clubs in the country. Due to the number of alumni and fans in the area, we may never be the largest OSU alumni club but we can still have a big impact - with Ohio State, the OSUAA, and our community as a whole.

I know that this will not be easy and we have a lot of work to do, but this is something that we can accomplish.

The first step I want to see is that we grow as a club. The allure of the Sac Valley club for me has always been sharing a common experience with others - whether this was having the same major at OSU, being from the same part of the state, or just being rabid fans of OSU football. You can help us to grow by joining. If you are not yet a member or have let your membership lapse, we welcome you to join. Included in this packet is a 2008 membership form for you to join or renew. If you are wondering whether you have paid dues for 2008, look at the address label mailed to you - if "2008" appears in the upper corner, then you are a current paid member.

The next step I want to see us take is to continue to provide the scholarships that we have given the past few years. In the past two years alone, we have provided \$5,500 to six students that were going to Ohio State. This is super and the club and board would like to see this continue. Eventually, I'd like for our club to have an endowed scholarship through OSUAA. But, this will take time and some persistent fund raising. The cost to start an endowment is \$25,000, a formidable sum. I know that we are capable of raising these funds over a period of 5-10 years. To achieve that goal, we must begin the process. Hopefully, this is something we'll see started in the next few years.

As always, the football gamewatches are a blast and are usually how our members first learn about the club. I love the gamewatches and hope they continue to flourish. We are also looking to expand our offerings of other activities. We have recently hosted two of the OSU women's athletic teams to the area to great success. On the nonathletic front, our members have enjoyed the symphony, a world-renowned pianist, a walk through an arboretum, and provided Christmas meals and food to a local needy family. We are looking to have a photography workshop this year, maybe a club picnic, and a day hike in the Sierras. These are all ideas from the members and we would be happy to hear about activities in which you would like to participate.

If you are not yet a member, I offer you to take a little time and see what we are about. I think you will find that we have many great activities and a purpose to which you can relate. Hopefully, this "seed" will sprout so you will grow to be a part of our "grove".

In closing, remember what our club is all about: sharing a common experience, helping to send area students to Ohio State, and serving our community together. With your help, our club can grow, fulfill our goals, and enjoy our time together. We'd love for each of you to join our growing grove of sturdy Buckeyes!

Go Bucks!

Shannon Still
President, OSU Alumni Club of the Sacramento Valley
still.7@osu.edu
530-756-1415

Youngstown State Tickets

We have Youngstown State tickets for Aug 30. Ticket buyers must be OSUAA members.

Contact Shannon Still at
still.7@osu.edu or
530-756-1415
ASAP.

Letter from Archie



PAYING FORWARD

When I came to the Alumni Association four years ago, one of the motivating factors for me in taking this job was the fact that it would give me chance to pay forward for future generations of Buckeyes.

As many of you may know, the concept of paying forward has been one of the bedrock principles that I've used in my life. My college football coach Woody Hayes was a firm believer in this idea and it was something I heard him preach and watched him practice. Coach Hayes got the idea of paying forward from Ralph Waldo Emerson's essay on Compensation. Emerson wrote, "You can pay back only seldom. . . . You can always pay forward and you must pay line for line, deed for deed, and cent for cent."

These words have always been impactful for me, particularly because I can look back at my life and recognize that any accomplishment I achieved came in part because of the efforts of others. I consider myself an example of how paying forward can help advance a life.

This is why so many of our efforts at the Alumni Association are devoted to paying forward. It is why we decided to support the

Recovery School District in New Orleans, an effort that to date has raised nearly \$70,000 for kids in need. It is why we decided to make our Alumni Cup golf outing benefit our scholarship endowment, an idea that has led to more than \$50,000 in scholarship funds being raised. And it is why I take tremendous pride in the fact that our clubs and societies raise more than \$400,000 in scholarship funds each year.

Everywhere you look, you can find ways that the Association, our members, and our constituent groups are paying forward. You probably don't have to think very hard to come up with ways that your group is helping to do the same. That makes me extraordinarily proud.

The idea of paying forward is also one that is clearly on the mind of Ohio State President E. Gordon Gee. I had to smile when I saw his list of six strategic goals and got to goal No. 5, which is "Commit to our Communities." President Gee recognizes that Ohio State and its alumni do not exist in a vacuum. We are all part of a broader community and being active in these communities is so very important.

This is the type of work that you and your group are doing on a regular basis. You've taken a leadership role, which is something that we take note of here at Longaberger Alumni House. So keep the faith, keep up the good work, and let's keep paying forward to ensure that others will enjoy a bright future.

Holiday Mixer & Elections

The Sacramento Valley club held their annual elections in conjunction with our 3rd Holiday Reception and Silent Auction on December 4th, 2007.

The silent auction was a success and the club raised over \$1,400. for the scholarship fund. This is great fundraiser and will help support future OSU students from the Sacramento Valley. Thanks to all that donated raffle items.

We also voted for the 2008 board at the reception. No positions were challenged so the entire slate was approved unanimously. The new board is as follows:

President: Shannon Still
Vice-President: Gary Penwell
Secretary: Disa Johnson
Treasurer: Jennifer Still
Board members: Joe Cain, Jeff Forward, Ramona Moenter, Beverly Nicholson, Trad Raper

Also, the club approved a new constitution that has since been ratified by OSUAA. Thanks to Joe Cain for his tireless work updating our outdated document to bring it in line with OSUAA.

The Sacramento Valley website also made its debut at the reception. This site, which Gary Penwell has worked on tirelessly, looks great. Check it out in the article about the website on page 5.

Special thanks to Judy Bartlett and Kristine Owensby for securing a great spot to hold the reception and for putting together the food and decorations.

OSU WOMEN'S SOFTBALL TEAM VISITS AND WINS IN SACRAMENTO



above: Club member Ralph Cornwell gets autographs for players on his Del Campo JV team
right: Softball Coach Kalafatis joins her players in finishing "Carmen, Ohio"

The OSU women's softball team came to Sacramento March 14-16 to play in the Capitol Classic, hosted by Sac State. Ranked No. 19 nationally at the time, OSU finished with three wins and two losses after some exciting play. In the final game, OSU pitcher Kim Reeder struck out a Colorado State batter for the last out, with bases loaded, to win 5-4.

After Sunday's win, the winning team made their way

to the home of club members Ramona and Barry Moenter for a nice lunch. About 15 club members joined the festivities for lunch and to mingle with the players. We celebrated the birthday of one of the players with a softball cake, discussed what it is like traveling while being a student, and finished by singing *Carmen, Ohio*. The event was a great success for our club.

Thank you to Barry and Ramona for all of their help and hospitality. It was a real treat to welcome the student athletes from our university. Additionally, some members of the club were in attendance at all five games giving good support for the traveling team. Thank you for your support. We don't get too many opportunities to see our teams play in our town, and we made the most of this opportunity!



2007 FOOTBALL GAME WATCH RECAP

The 2007 season was a successful one for Ohio State, and also for our alumni club. The football gamewatches were fun and we saw many new faces during the 2007 season that we hope to see in the future.

While the Buckeyes were battling on the field, we were turning in record attendance for the gamewatches (we can say "record" because this is the first year we have official counts for all games). The attendance was impressive. We had almost 1000 fans show up at our main locations - MVPs and Center Court, including about 230 for the BCS Championship game alone. The numbers for the title game were shocking to the board as we've never neared that number of fans when we were not meeting with another club. Thank you to all that came out! The raffles during the games were a success and netted us \$806 for the scholarship fund. For having a raffle at only five games, this is an impressive number.

Thank you to David Bryant for the decorations. Thank you to everyone else that helped decorate the locations and make us feel like we were in a Columbus bar. We appreciate everybody that helped to make the past season a success for our club.

Have Address Changes?

Send address (email or snailmail) changes to our club secretary Disa Johnson (johnson.1806@osu.edu). All address changes should go to the secretary.

We can't let you know what we're doing if we can't contact you!

New Club Website

The club has an exciting new venue for you. Thanks to an idea from a member, the support and input of the board and a lot of time, mainly from our new Vice President, Gary Penwell, we have our own brand new OSU Alumni Club of the Sacramento Valley website.

We have links to all your favorite Buckeye related sites, including traditions and trivia about OSU. There's a page about all the events the club sponsors. We've got words to our beloved Buckeye songs and there are mp3s so you can listen to the songs. Check out all the links to vendors who sell OSU related merchandise. There are over 100 pictures of our members from club events and games. Visit the website to see if you are in a picture! There are dozens of jokes and funny pictures about Michigan and other foes, a Buckeye candy recipe and much, much more.

Call Gary at 916-722-3368 or email him at gpenwell@comcast.net if you have ideas, pictures or suggestions for the board to consider including on the website. Visit often because we are always adding new things!

Come visit us at
www.sacvalleybuckeyes.com

CLUB VITAL SIGNS

Paid Memberships

2008 Paid Memberships 70, up from 45 in 2007 (help us get to 100 this year!)

Operating Fund

The Operating Fund Balance is currently \$2,751.84. This is up from \$1,670.00 in January 2007, which dipped from \$2,460.74 in January 2006. The Operating Fund is used for newsletters printing and mailing, website fees, registration and travel to the Alumni Leadership Conference, and the partial cost of some club events. This fund is also often used to front the club money for football and other event tickets.

Scholarship Fund

Balance currently \$4,328.95. This is down from \$4,459.74 in January 2007, but increased from January 2006, with \$3,582.00. The Scholarship Fund is used for to cover the expenses of the scholarships we provide to Ohio State students from the area. Our balance is lower than 2007, as we provided \$3,000 for scholarships during the year while our Silent Auction was not as successful as previous years. We will provide up to \$2,500 in scholarships during 2008.

2008 Sacramento Valley Board and Contact Information:

President: Shannon Still, still.7@osu.edu, (530) 756-1415
Vice-Pres: Gary Penwell, gpenwell@comcast.net, (916) 722-3368
Secretary: Disa Johnson, johnson.1806@osu.edu, (608) 770-3472
Treasurer: Jennifer Still, jstill_osu@sbcglobal.net, (530) 756-1415
Board Members:

Joe Cain, jl Cain45@yahoo.com, (530) 758-7022
 Jeff Forward, jefff1569@yahoo.com, (530) 666-3616
 Ramona Moenter, rrmoenter@hotmail.com, (916) 424-0444
 Beverly Nicholson, beverlynicholson@comcast.net, (916) 300-4025
 Trad Raper, trad.raper@target.com, (916) 792-9870

GO BUCKEYES !

NEW BOARD MEMBERS IN 2008

Gary Penwell

Gary Penwell is the new club Vice-President and our esteemed website coordinator. Gary received his BS in Business Administration from OSU in 1967, a MBA from the University of Utah in 1973. Mr. Penwell retired from the USAF in 1988 and from a second career in Marketing/ Desktop Publishing/Graphics in 2005. He currently works part time at LaMesa RV in Davis driving motorhomes.

Gary is married to Peggy, also a '67 OSU grad (Education). She is currently in her last year of full time teaching. Upon her retirement, they plan to do some extended RVing in their motorhome.

Gary and Peggy have two daughters, each with two children. The extended Penwell family live near one another in the Citrus Heights/Fair Oaks areas. Gary and Peggy are lifetime members of the OSU Alumni Association and long-term members of our club.



Disa Johnson

Disa was born and raised in Buckeye-land (Dublin, OH) where she graduated from Dublin Coffman High School before heading to Ohio State. She is the daughter of two OSU grads. Her mother, club member Sharon Johnson, has a degree in Family and Consumer Sciences, and her father earned his degree in Geology. In 2003, Disa received her BA in English with a special emphasis on Folk Lore.

Before heading to Sacramento to become our club secretary, Ms. Johnson moved to Madison, WI to pursue a promotion with the company for which she worked in old Columbus-town. After three years in cheese country, Disa decided to move to Sacramento and she is currently a client/sales consultant for OSHA Review, Inc., working to help keep dental offices OSHA compliant. In her "spare" time, she's pursuing a teaching credential and Master's degree in Education from National University.

Many may not have known, prior to seeing her photo here, that Disa is the proud owner of Brutus Hayes Buckeye, a 3 year old, 180 lb, English Mastiff who loves to put on his helmet and jersey for game days. He also sports his leather Ohio State collar on a daily basis and is truly the biggest Buckeye fan in town - in dog terms!



Trad Raper

Trad is the newest Board member and immediately stepped in to run our BCS Championship Gamewatch. Watch for the full bio and photo in the next newsletter.