A Year of Great Wins and Losses
– Mike Kourie, President

The leap year of 2004 was a very good one for our club. For the second year in a row our paid memberships totaled over 200 families setting a new record. We raised over $6,000 for the third year in row for our local scholarship fund. We collected over 75 toys during Christmas and donated them to a local charity. Our own Heather Guarnera was awarded a prestigious “Best Buckeye” award by the Alumni Association and our club was awarded its first ever Gold Star as one of the top 10 clubs in the country. Destroying that team from up north and our bowl opponent capped off a year of a lot of great wins!

Unfortunately we lost two members of our club. The tragic death of our beloved “tbdbitl” member Mike Barnhart shocked us and his family. The tradition of him playing Carmen Ohio at the end of each game at the National will be missed but it will also remind us of him in the future. We also lost Marcia Bosley to breast cancer. She was one of the most pleasant and kindest people that I have ever met. Marcia was very passionate about our Buckeyes as well as her Chicago Cubs. Mike and Marcia died too early but they touched a lot of people in their short time with us.

2004…A Year of Great Wins and Great Losses!

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In October of 2004 the entire Buckeye nation experienced a great loss with the passing away of Mike Barnhart. Mike is an outstanding example of the Buckeye spirit we all share. Please see the tribute in this issue.
Fiesta Bowl 2004

We opened 2004 back in a familiar place – in Tempe Arizona in the Fiesta bowl! Although it was not for a chance at the National Championship like the year before, it was another opportunity to compete in the Bowl Championship Series. The Buckeyes were victorious over Kansas State 35-28. As we celebrated our Back-to-Back Bowl Victories, we said goodbye to Bowl MVP Craig Krenzel and Chris Gamble among others.

Buckeyes: Under the Tuscan Sun

On April 27, 2004 a few Buckeyes met for a wonderful wine tasting dinner at Il Fornaio in Irvine. The evening started off with some champagne and some great appetizers. After some mingling and some more champagne, we all took our seats and waited for the wine introductions and pouring to begin.

Each wine was paired perfectly with each course. First we had our choice of salad, the Insalata Del Fornaio or the Insalata Di Portobello Tartufato, both paired with a crisp white, Albana di Romagna, Tre Monti, 2002. Next was the main course, a choice between Ravioli Di Verdura alla Checca, a house-made ravioli filled with swiss chard, pine nuts, basil and parmesan cheese (which I would personally recommend J); the Tagliata Chiania, a grilled sirloin steak topped with a green peppercorn sauce and balsamic vinegar; and the Salmone alla Griglia, a New Zealand organic grilled salmon brushed with olive oil. The dinner options were pared with the Barbera d’Asti, Michele Chiarlo, Piemonte 2001.

Finally it was time for the Tiramisu, lady fingers dipped in espresso and rum, layered with mascarpone cheese and dark cocoa served with the Port Sandeman, Founder’s Reserve. A perfect pair to top off a perfect evening.

The staff of Il Fornaio was very helpful and gave an explanation about each wine before it was poured. It was a great atmosphere and a great time.

I’m a relatively new member of the OC/IE Alumni Club so it was a great way to get out and meet some long time members, try some tasty wine, and get some great dinner at the same time! For those of you who missed it, you really missed out. I’m just hoping that it will be a Buckeye tradition for those of us in Orange County. And I don’t know about you, but writing this made me hungry!
When you think of Ohio State, you think of tradition, values, and family among a few things. I moved to Orange County 2 years ago and found it difficult to connect with some of the people out here. In comes the Ohio State Alumni Club of Orange County/Inland Empire into my life. With this group of people I see the things I think of when I think of Ohio State. One of the things that I noticed was tradition; yes, even in the OC there can be tradition. Yes, we do come every Saturday during the football season to watch our Buckeyes, but there are other traditions that we are involved with. The summer picnic tradition at Doheny Beach is one of my favorites. We had the same spot as last year. This spot is reserved many months in advance due to the overwhelming popularity of this area of Orange County beach. As everyone arrived, we saw some of the same old faces, but much to our surprise, there were many new faces. These faces ranged all the way from only a few months old to many years older, but even with the age differences, fun times were to be had by all. I traveled to Doheny with a couple other members. When we got to the beach people were helping to set up the tents, tables, and the food, the most important part of any good picnic. President Mike was firing the grills up and the drinks were being chilled in the coolers. The kids that came brought everything from sport balls to electric scooters, but the most important activity was Cornhole. If you haven’t been to Ohio lately, this is the game that is sweeping the state. It involves bean bags and holes in plywood. The object of the game is to get as many bean bags into or close to the hole without falling off the plywood after a certain amount of rounds. Some played with footballs, scooters, and baseballs, while others chatted the day away. Then came the main event. CORNHOLE. About eight teams of two people played. When all was said and done in the tournament all that was left standing was President Mike and his infamous counterpart Leo. Mike is a pro at this game due to the fact that the game was his and he played it with his two boys all of the time. Most of the people that had been knocked out of the game thought that this wasn’t very fair. So, we took the balloons intended for the balloon toss and decided they would look better being hurled through the air at Mike and Leo. Nothing beats a spontaneous water balloon fight. Every year the picnic seems to have a new element of surprise and fun. I am glad that I was able to spend that time with my extended family, The Ohio State University Alumni Club. These are the times that we should cherish, and never forget how grand life is. See you at the beach next summer!

President of our club, presented Kathy and Andy with gifts of appreciation from our club for their visit and time with our members! Our OC/IE club events are a success because of all of you! Thank you for your participation! Our university guests know they will be greeted with a great group from the OC/IE club and they truly do enjoy their time here with us! Thank you all for being such active members in our club events!

– Christie Brockhage
What can I say about Mike? I don’t know where to begin. He was the love of my life. I feel like you can only invest yourself in one major relationship like this in your lifetime. He was my husband, my lover, my friend, for almost 25 years…no one can take those memories away from me. He brought so much into my life...without him, I might never have experienced driving through endless scenic farmland, with rustic barns and hay bales, in the Ohio countryside; hiking and camping in the Smokey Mountains in the crisp fall air, with the fall colors; plunging through tropical rain forests and climbing to spectacular cliffside vistas in the Hawaiian islands; taking many driving trips through the deserts, canyons, and mountains of the southwest; river rafting and camping on the Colorado River; getting drenched in a midwestern summer thunderstorm; driving through a snowstorm on a highway in Ohio (a white-knuckle ride, for a native California girl); standing, bundled up with aching earlobes, in the snow, to get a picture next to a thermometer verifying that the temperature really WAS zero degrees in November. I remember the first time he held Kelly, so carefully, after she was born. So many memories…the first time he took me on a tour of the Ohio State campus, visiting all his old haunts, recalling his experiences and memories...how proud he was of his school, and the band. How he loved the band! And how proud he was to have been a part of that great tradition that was the Ohio State Marching Band. (Everyone in our circle of friends needed no explanation of what “TBDBITL” meant.) So many of his values and joys in life were filtered through the prism of his experiences being in the band. He considered it such an honor, to be permitted (no, expected) to bring his horn and play the alma mater at the alumni club gatherings. You don’t know what a thrill it was for him to be considered part of a new Buckeye “tradition”! He loved his school, he loved the band, he loved music in general. It was one of the many common interests, common threads holding us together. We had our ups and downs, and some rough times, but I never lost hope that we would have many more years together. We should have had him a lot longer than we did. I’m sure we all feel cheated, in a way. I loved Mike with all my heart, and will miss him terribly...as will a lot of you, I’m sure. Any time I see a marching band, or listen to a big band, or hear a Sousa march played REAL fast, (and I have them all!), I will think of Mike…and know that he’s probably enjoying it, too.

– Debra Donan
“I first met Mike last year when we were both playing in the Irvine Valley College Wind Symphony. I was wearing an OSU sweatshirt, and Mike came up to me and invited me to join other Buckeyes at the National Sports Bar. I’ll never forget how proud he was this year when he came back from the first OSU game and showed me a picture of where he was standing out on the field with his euphonium as part of the Alumni Band. That was Mike.”
– Leslie White

“Mike’s love for his daughter Kelley and his pride in her accomplishments are among the many things we will remember about him. His eyes lit up when he talked about her.”
– A Tribute to Mike from Darrell and Anna Burch

“I didn’t know Mike that well, but he made me learn the Ohio State song. I didn’t know it and he said I should. I now have the lyrics memorized, but I regret that he won’t be playing it with me anymore.”
– Tim Kane

“Mike was a very special person. I looked up to him as a friend and mentor. He was the person that inspired me to be a part of the TBDBITL Alumni. He was the person that encouraged me to join the OC&IE Alums. On my first Alumni Band participation, Mike’s dad warmly welcomed me to the group and introduced me to those special people that make things happen. I quickly found out that as friend of Mike I had many new friends in Columbus.”
– Bob Nixon

“Mike was the melody of our club spirit. He’ll always be a part of Carmen Ohio for me.”
– Terry Cooper

“Mike was a wonderful Buckeye! He represented the best of everything we want a Buckeye to be. Mike shared stories about his experiences and gave back whenever asked. We will miss his positive attitude and sharing nature. As you remember Mike, please use those inspirational memories to find a way to give back to Ohio State and our Orange County/Inland Empire club as Mike always did.”
– Susan Munthe

“Mike and I sat one table apart at the games. We would talk about Ohio, football, the band, our interests, etc. When Peg and I went to the game last year in Columbus it was Alumni Band Day and we looked for Mike at the skull session. There he was in the middle of it all doing what he did best, playing all the OSU songs we have cherished over the years. After last week’s win over Michigan I’m certain Mike joined Woody and a host of OSU fans in heaven for the singing of Carmen Ohio and that just maybe the angels have learned how to do Script Ohio.”
– Rich Macintosh
### Season Results • 2004

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Opponent</th>
<th>Result</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sat., Sept. 4</td>
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<td>Sat., Sept. 11</td>
<td>Marshall</td>
<td>W 24-21</td>
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<td>Sat., Sept. 18</td>
<td>North Carolina State</td>
<td>W 22-14</td>
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<td>L 24-13</td>
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<td>Iowa</td>
<td>L 33-7</td>
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<td>Indiana</td>
<td>W 30-7</td>
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<td>W 32-19</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Oklahoma St.</td>
<td>W 33-7</td>
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Our Buckeye Holiday Spirit!

We have spirit yes we do! To celebrate the holiday season in Buckeye style, our club gathered again this year for our annual holiday party on December 11, 2004. We had over 80 Buckeyes attend on a nice, glorious California afternoon at the beautiful home of Mike and Kitty Kourie. We were lucky to also have Dan Stultz, place kicker for the Buckeyes in the 90’s, as our special Buckeye and guest speaker. Dan gave a great speech and highlighted his experiences on our football team and shared his insights on the tradition and honor of being a Buckeye. Our club President, Mike Kourie, after Dan’s visit said proudly, “He embodies what the current generation of Buckeye and student/athlete should be. What a gentleman and class act! He is a tremendous representative of our university and association. He made this year’s party special and memorable. Our members really enjoyed hearing his stories and his passion for Ohio State and the Alumni Association.”

Speaking of class acts, our local club membership is certainly a class act too! We decided this year to include a toy drive for our club members to bring a toy to the party to donate for needy families during the holiday season! We had an amazing response with so many wonderful toys for so many families in need with children. Our club’s generous toy donations provided wonderful blessings to many needy boys and girls! Due to our club’s success in our toy drive effort, we have decided to make our toy drive donation a annual part of our holiday party in December each year! To those who helped with our toy donation offering in 2004, thank you!

Mike and Kitty Kourie did a wonderful job of hosting our club again at their grand home. We are very blessed and always look forward to our special gatherings at their home. It is such a great setting to simply spend time with our fellow Buckeyes in a beautiful environment. The Kouries treated us to another amazing evening including delicious beef brisket, pulled pork and fixings and our favorite beverages. The alumni club board members pitched in to round out our delicious dinner with tasty appetizers, salads, side dishes and yummy desserts! It was a Buckeye team effort that ended the event in a “W” for all who attended…Wonderful! May our Buckeye Holiday Spirit live on each and every day throughout the year! We are truly blessed and proud to be Southern California Buckeyes!

Alamo Bowl

Under great pressure from the media and internal conflicts within the program our beloved Buckeyes end 2004 in the same fashion they started it, winning a Bowl Game.

Ohio State played Oklahoma State in the 2004 Alamo Bowl in San Antonio Texas. The Buckeyes put all doubts to rest on the field by dominating the Oklahoma State Cowboys. After dominating Rival M1@&@n the Buckeyes didn’t miss a beat, dominating on both sides of the ball and coming away with a third consecutive Bowl victory! When it was all said and done, the Buckeyes left the field 33-7 victors on the outstanding performances by Justin Zwick and an awe inspiring night from Teddy Ginn.

After a pair of victories (Michigan and Oklahoma State) we are all excited to see what the 2005 campaign will bring!
Every year the National Alumni Association hosts a conference to gather clubs and societies across the nation to share ideas and discuss issues with each other. A part of that conference is an awards luncheon where the top clubs, newsletters and outstanding achievements by an individual are recognized. In 2004 the Orange County/Inland Empire was recognized as an Elite club in the entire nation with the highest honor a club or society can receive – A GOLD STAR! The club was recognized as well for outstanding newsletter and our own Heather Guarnera was recognized for outstanding achievements in making our own scholarship program one of the best in the nation. Her hard work and dedication to the program and the club are a key component in its success. CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL INVOLVED!

Scholarship Report

Thanks again to all our club members that have participated in our scholarship fundraising activities this year. Our students and their parents are truly grateful for your contributions.

November marks the start of our 2005 scholarship award process. Applications are due no later than February 1, 2005. As a club we have worked very hard this year to raise money to help make fellow California teens into Buckeyes!

Locating future Buckeyes in our area is very difficult. We want to make sure we are helping as many young students as possible! If you know of any local students that are considering Ohio State, please give them the following contact information.

To request scholarship information and/or an application, please contact:

Heather Guarnera
Scholarship Chair
949-218-2717
bucks avoidance1@hotmail.com

GO BUCKS!!

– Heather Guarnera

Ohio State Recruiters Seek Future Buckeyes

Over 5,000 Southern California high school students and their parents had the opportunity to speak with members of OC/IE OSU alumni club at local College Fair Nights. Students received the latest information on academics, athletics and admissions.

Annie Ploszaj, who volunteered at the Mater Dei fair said, “I loved the chance to talk about my experiences and brag about my Alma Mater.” She mentioned that students asked a lot of questions about different academic programs. They were especially interested in Medicine, Business, Engineering and Journalism/Communications.

Kevin Burke said of his experience, “This was my first time to do a college fair and I loved it! The kids were so excited to hear about living in the dorms, picking a major and attending the football games.”

Ohio State had a very strong presence in the community this year; often we were one of only 2 or 3 Big Ten schools at each fair. Thank you to the following people for showing your OSU spirit by attending a College Fair: Mike Barnhart, Tammy Berry, Leo Brennan, Christie Brockhage, Kevin Burke, Don Girard, Ken Golovko, Will Gronen, Heather Guarnera, Mike Kourie, Jim Majewski, Mary Majewski, Casey Miller, Susan Munthe, Annie Ploszaj, Bob Schmahl and Kern Vogel. Believe it or not, you are the reason why many California kids choose to become a Buckeye!

If you’d like to volunteer to help at a College Fair Night next year, please email: keri.tabar@cox.net.

– Keri Tabar
Ever Thought About Joining the President’s Club at your Alma Mater?

You can become a member of The Ohio State President’s Club for an annual donation of $2,500 per year. Among many other benefits, this will give you the right to purchase two season tickets for that year’s home football season. You can donate to any college, department or fund that you wish. You could even donate to our local scholarship fund that is controlled by the university. Donations are tax deductible.

You can get more information by calling the Office of University Development, (614) 292-9550.

If you care to make any donation to our scholarship fund please direct it toward:

The Orange County California Scholarship Fund Acct. #605513.