The End of an Era

This is the last term that Mike Kourie will be maintaining his position as Club President. He has held the position since 2002 and with his hard work and leadership has helped make the Orange County/Inland Empire Club one of the elite clubs in the country, being recognized by the National Alumni Association as outstanding club for the last four years and receiving the associations’ highest honor in 2005 as one of the Top Ten clubs in the country. Mike has made the decision to end his tenure as President as he finds the time he dedicates to his family makes it more difficult to give time to the duties the position of president requires. The new President has a difficult task ahead, following behind his legacy.

After graduating from The Ohio State University, Mike found himself in Las Vegas, where his career with Wendy’s began, working in a store owned by his Uncle. He never looked back, and found himself in Florida, where he became a partner of a Wendy’s franchise and worked with the founders’ son. While in Florida, he met his soon to be wife, Kitty. They made their way out to Orange County, where Mike has become the owner of thirteen successful Wendy’s restaurants throughout Orange County and the Inland Empire. He has two sons, Mike Jr. and Joe. Mike Jr. is following in the family business and is working as a crew member at one of his father’s stores and when not working, is into paintball. Joe is actively involved in both Hockey and Baseball, and participates in traveling teams.

(Continued on page 2)
Mike has given not only his time, but opened his home and office to the club. Many events, including the annual Holiday party and many wonderful guest speakers have been held at the Kouries’ beautiful San Juan Capistrano home, and the officers and committee members meet at Mike’s corporate office in Irvine for quarterly meetings. His dedication to the Alumni association goes deeper than at the local level, as he has contributed to multiple committees for the national association. His dedication to the University is also reflected in the creation of multiple scholarships in different fields of study and of course the athletic department.

Behind every great man is a great woman, and Kitty is the perfect example of this statement. You would be hard pressed to find anyone with more energy or with a greater passion in everything she does. Everything from a Buckeye Cheering section at a football game watch to super-hostess at a club event at her home to being a supportive wife and mother, Kitty never does anything half way. Mike and Kitty are the perfect compliment to each other. I know it sounds cliché, but you will never find a nicer couple.

In his time as club president, the club has expanded to the largest it has been in its history. We have well over 200 paid memberships and offer more benefits as a club member than ever in our history, including the opportunity to win tickets in a raffle (every time we play them in the shoe) and our 50-50 raffles have never been so successful. He has been instrumental in the foundation of a Club that continues to be one the best in the country. Mike is not leaving, just stepping down, so when you see him at the next game watch, be sure to say “thanks” for everything he has accomplished as our President.

– Will Gronek
About Our Club

The Ohio State Alumni Club of Orange County/Inland Empire...

is one of over 200 geographically-based OSU alumni clubs located all over the world.

We have 280 family memberships with graduates and friends of the university, ranging from 20 years old to 92 years old, plus future Buckeyes as young as 1 year old. There are over 6,000 alumni living in the Orange County, Inland Empire area.

Club Mission

OSU OC/IE exists to promote The Ohio State University through communications and community relations, student recruitment, fellowship, and networking. Its goals are to accurately represent Ohio State in our local community, mobilize alumni to meet special needs of the university, recruit the best and brightest students, contribute new ideas about existing and/or possible university programs, and support university development and scholarship efforts.

Club History

Prior to 1959, Orange County was part of the OSU Alumni Club of Southern California Club. In 1959, Orange County became part of the OSU Alumni Club of Long Beach and remained so until 1974. To meet the growing needs of Orange County, the club was granted its charter by the Alumni Association, becoming the Ohio State University Alumni Club of Orange County, Long Beach.

In 1996 the club became what it is currently known as “The Orange County and Inland Empire Club.” The club now serves only Orange County and The Inland Empire. The Long Beach Club is now part of the Greater Los Angeles Club.

The Orange County/Inland Empire website has been updated and improved.

Check It Out at www.osuocie.org

Richard McIntosh, Editor    Susan Munthe, Assistant Editor    Bob Schmahl, Photographer

Now here is where the Ohio State connection began. After completing his service to his country, Bob and Joe-Ann moved to Columbus where Bob earned his engineering degree. The next stop was Fullerton, California where Bob went to work for Hughes Aircraft. Joe-Ann became an active volunteer with the Fullerton Founder’s Guild and as a fund raiser for the Child Abuse programs at The Guidance Center. She also performed clerical duties with Meals-On-Wheels and served on the Fullerton Farmer’s Market Board.

Joe-Ann was a life long avid supporter of the Ohio State Buckeyes. She especially loved the “Best Damn Band In The Land”. Joe-Ann was active in most aspects of the OSU Orange County/Inland Empire Alumni Chapter beginning in 1961 and continuing until her death. She was at every event and not just as a spectator. She worked the events from the planning secessions at Board Meetings, the event itself and the cleanup after the event was over.

Joe-Ann, you were loved by all of us and we will miss you.

– Richard McIntosh
A fter four years of hard work, I have finally graduated with a degree from The Ohio State University. This marks the culmination of what has been the most incredible period of my life. For the past few years I have had the privilege of taking part in many exciting and rewarding opportunities thanks to Ohio State. I truly believe if I had attended any other university in the country, I would not have had such an amazing college experience.

As I look back on the past four years I remember how nervous I was as a freshman. I had never been to Ohio and knew no one attending the university. By the end of my freshman year, I was actively involved in the John Glenn Institute for Public Service and Public Policy where I was eventually hired as an aide in the office where Senator John Glenn himself worked. Through the Living Learning Program and my job with the Senator I was able to meet extraordinary individuals such as Tom Brokaw and travel throughout the country to cities such as Washington, DC and Boston. My freshman year also ended with my being elected to serve as an officer in Block “O.” Not only had I overcome my fear of living in Ohio while not knowing anyone, I embraced it by becoming a leader in the largest student organization on campus.

My sophomore year was spent learning all about Ohio State and the many traditions that accompanied being part of such an amazing school. Through my work with Block “O” I was able to travel to multiple Big 10 universities where I proudly represented the Buckeyes. I even made multiple trips to “that school up north” and even though not all those trips ended positively for our Buckeyes, it was always fun to cheer on our school in such a hostile environment. I also participated in many intramural sports which is something I never saw myself doing. I played softball, basketball, and even attempted ice hockey, something my brother who attended San Diego State was very jealous of considering it was not a sport his Southern California school offered.

During the summer following my sophomore year, I was able to take part in the most amazing adventure. I was selected to study Marketing and Economics for the summer at the Audencia Ecole de Management in Nantes, France. Here I was able to travel throughout Europe to countries such as Italy, England, and Switzerland. I studied the European Union in Belgium and attended classes in France taught by professors from Germany, France, and the UK. It was one of those experiences that will remain with me forever.

Throughout my junior year I spent a great deal of my time working with horses. I have had a love for these animals since I was young, but it wasn’t until I came to Ohio that I got involved with horseback riding. Ohio State actually offers horseback riding as a class which I took numerous times until the administration said I was no longer allowed to take the course. After that I began working with my own horse where I eventually spent the summer competing in various horse shows. This is something I have always dreamed of doing and is yet another example of one of the many gifts Ohio State was able to offer.

My final year at Ohio State was spent working, studying, and preparing for my future career in business. When my final grades were posted and I learned that I was definitely graduating, I can’t describe how excited I was. Graduation came and went quickly. The ceremony which included a former U.S. President as the commencement speaker and where all 7,500 graduates received their actual diplomas is yet another example of Ohio State’s uniqueness. Before I knew it I was saying goodbye to my many friends and boarding a plane for California because my years as an Ohio State student were now over.

Whenever people ask me why I chose to leave California and attend Ohio State I list a variety of reasons, but one that remains constant on my list is the help I received from the Orange County/Inland Empire Alumni Association. Not only was I honored to receive a scholarship from the organization, but my decision about where to attend was made easy once I had the opportunity to meet OSU alumni and get a glimpse of what Ohio State life might be like and the wonderful people I would meet.

At the beginning as a freshman I knew no one, but I met many wonderful people and now have friends I keep in touch with all over the country. I have had many amazing experiences and I can’t thank my local alumni group enough for their help in leading me to what turned out to be some of the greatest years of my life. Thanks so much to everyone who helped and talked with me and for those that also kept in touch with my parents and encouraged them to attend game watch parties while I was away at school. You all truly made my family and I feel like a part of your family. I greatly appreciate everyone’s generosity and only hope I am able to become as wonderful a Buckeye Alumni as you have all proven to be.

– Hillary LeBail
Buckeye Night
Our Buckeye Night with Jack Park on June 20th

The OSU Alumni Club of Orange County/Inland Empire had a wonderful night full of Buckeye football trivia and memories and key networking with our guest speaker, Jack Park.

Park is widely known for his 27 years as an Ohio State football commentator on WBNS Radio in Columbus and throughout Ohio on the Ohio State Football Radio Network. In addition to his radio career, he writes a weekly football column each autumn, he authored *Ohio State Football – The Great Tradition* and *The Ohio State Football Encyclopedia*. Park is also a respected national public speaker, business consultant and owner of a financial consulting firm, Financial Insights.

Twenty five of our alumni and friends gathered that evening at a private room at Zmario Restaurant in Irvine for a delicious dinner and night of great Buckeye trivia…starting all the way back from the 60s to the present year! Jack Park walked us through Buckeye football history…with facts and figures and trivia that even our very best local trivia experts did not know. We learned and laughed a lot. It was great to hear more about the inside stories to our Buckeyes through the many years of Jack’s excellent reporting. It was a great night and primer to our fall football season. **GO BUCKEYES!**

– Christie Brockhage
Buckeye Football 2007

Hopefully enough time has passed that we can get past the National Championship Game loss to Florida. It is time to look forward and get behind the team for yet another exciting season. As I write this article, we are ranked 11th in the nation. I’m good with this. I don’t even mind that the “team up north” is ranked higher than us. It will make it even sweeter when we beat them in Ann Arbor this year. I hope both teams are undefeated going into the game. We can’t look too far ahead though. Wisconsin will be tough. Penn State is never easy. They will probably do a “white out Ohio State” thing again at College Station, Pennsylvania. That did not work out so well for us the last time they did that. And I have a feeling Illinois could be a problem. It’s Big Ten Football. **GO BUCKS!**

– Richard McIntosh

### Fall 2007 Football Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Opponent</th>
<th>Time (Pacific)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 1</td>
<td>Youngstown State @ Home</td>
<td>9:00am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 8</td>
<td>Akron @ Home</td>
<td>9:00am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 15</td>
<td>Washington @ Seattle, WA</td>
<td>12:30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 22</td>
<td>Northwestern @ Home</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 29</td>
<td>Minnesota @ Minneapolis, MN</td>
<td>5:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 6</td>
<td>Purdue @ West Lafayette, IN</td>
<td>5:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 13</td>
<td>Kent State @ Home</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 20</td>
<td>Michigan State <em>(Homecoming)</em> @ Home</td>
<td>12:30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 27</td>
<td>Penn State @ College Station, PA</td>
<td>5:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 3</td>
<td>Wisconsin @ Home</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 10</td>
<td>Illinois @ Home</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 17</td>
<td>Michigan @ Ann Arbor</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Catch all the Ohio State Buckeye Football Action

**at**

**DAVE AND BUSTERS**

*in the Irvine Spectrum*

[Map of Dave and Busters]

**DAVE AND BUSTERS**

71 Fortune Drive, Irvine, CA 92618

*(where the 5 and 405 freeways meet in Irvine)*

(949) 727-0555
There is no lack of enthusiasm from Ohio State boosters when it comes to supporting Buckeye athletics. The Alumni Association and the University’s Athletic Compliance Office want to ensure that this passion stays within the boundaries established by the NCAA. While the rules are complex, there are guidelines that all Buckeye boosters should take to heart.

Once an individual is identified as a booster, he/she retains that identity indefinitely.

You are considered a booster if you:
- have ever been a member of a booster organization that supports Ohio State Athletics;
- have made any financial contributions to any area of The Ohio State University;
- have made any membership commitment to a booster organization (this includes the Alumni Association);
- are or ever have been involved with the recruitment of a prospect;
- have provided or are providing benefits to an enrolled student-athlete or their relatives or friends;
- have otherwise been involved in promoting The Ohio State University’s athletic program (e.g., alumni and friends);
- provide or have helped to arrange employment for student-athletes;
- are the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of an enrolled student-athlete; or
- are or ever have been a season ticket holder.

Boosters are allowed to:
- provide an occasional home meal on infrequent and special occasions to a student-athlete or team.
- arrange academic year or summer employment for current student-athletes. All student-athletes must be paid the going rate for work actually performed.
- arrange summer employment for prospects provided they do not begin work until after graduation. Treat ALL high schoolers as prospects!
- notify OSU coaches of prospects whom you think would be a strong addition to the athletic program.

Boosters are NOT allowed to:
- call, write or email a prospective student-athlete or the prospect’s parents, legal guardians, relatives, coaches or counselors for purposes of athletic recruitment.
- have any on or off-campus contact with the prospect for the purpose of athletic recruitment.
- attend a prospect’s competition for evaluation purposes as request by OSU coaching staff members.
- provide the prospect or the prospect’s relatives or friends with “extra benefits.”

What is an “extra benefit”? Extra benefits are special arrangements by an Ohio State employee or booster to provide a prospect or enrolled student-athlete or the individuals’ relatives or friends benefits not expressly authorized by the NCAA.

Examples include:
- cash or any type gifts.
- vehicle or the use of a vehicle.
- concert or sporting event tickets.
- free or reduced cost goods or services (clothing, electronics, dry cleaning, cell phones...).
- free or reduced cost housing.
- loans or cosigned loans.
- payment for or arrangement of transportation costs for student-athletes’ relatives or friends.

The basic information presented in this article is just a starting point. Not every possible situation or example has been covered. Specific questions regarding involvement with prospects, contact with student-athletes or other NCAA rules should be directed to The Ohio State University Athletic Compliance Office. Heather Lyke, Associate Athletic Director for Compliance, can be reached by phone (614) 292-2681 or email lyke.2@osu.edu. Information provided by Heather Lyke and the Athletic Compliance Office.