Our Club

You are the Key

This newsletter is full of examples as to how our Orange County Alumni Club allows us to stay in touch with Ohio State and feel that special bond with the University we love. Your membership in the OSUOC club makes this possible. All too often we take things for granted. The game watches are great, the speaker from campus is interesting, etc. But these things are not automatic; they are made possible by dedicated volunteers and the operating funds the club has through your membership.

We all have our special memories of Ohio State, the Oval, Mirror Lake, Ohio Stadium or maybe the professor who almost stumbled out of an open third floor window in University Hall while lost in the complexity of Ancient Egyptian dynasties. OK, that last one is one of mine. Our club helps keep those memories alive. It provides opportunities for fellowship with Orange County Buckeye friends.

Your club membership is a potential source of tickets for the Rose Bowl and possibly other bowl games when the Buckeyes play in the post season. Tickets are distributed by lottery and your club membership gives you a chance in the drawing. Your continuing club membership gives you one additional chance per year, up to a maximum of five chances, in the drawing with five years of continuous membership.*

Membership continued on page 2

Coming Events

June 17, Wednesday

Costa Mesa Buckeye Dinner with Robert Smith

Enjoy an evening at Scott's Restaurant in Costa Mesa with your fellow Buckeyes and hear Robert Smith (former Buckeye tailback) discuss his experiences at Ohio State and in sports broadcasting. The event including dinner costs Club members $35 per person and the Reception begins at 5:30 PM.

June 20, Saturday

Irvine Walk the Farm 2015

Join your fellow Buckeyes for this walk through the Tanaka Farms in Irvine. You will be helping Japanese farmers still trying to recover from the 2011 earthquake/tsunami and also farmers in California's Central Valley suffering from the drought. Register to become a “walker” with your $25 donation (after June 1, $30)

September 7, Monday

Irvine Spectrum Game Watch: Ohio State vs Virginia Tech

Join your fellow Buckeyes for our game watch at Dave & Buster's in the Irvine Spectrum for the 2015 season opener. It is a primetime game back East but here it is a early evening game 5:00 pm. A great way to relax after your work day.

OSUOC Officers

President: Executive Committee
1st Vice President: Christie Brockage
2nd Vice President: Ron DeVore
Secretary: Casey Golovko
Treasurer: Connie Elliott
Scholarships: Susan Munthe

Some of our 2014 Farm Walkers, 2015 walk June 20
Financial Report

Another Banner Financial Year for OSUOC

Thanks to your generous financial contributions, 2014 was another “Buckeye Banner” year for our Orange County club! With our incredible end to the football season, there is no doubt the last four games really helped us to finish strong financially and attendance wise. We had nearly 400 in attendance for the Sugar Bowl and National Championship games and well over 200 for the Michigan and Big ten championship games. Let’s all keep this momentum going in the upcoming 2015-16 season. Many thanks to everyone who helped throughout the year in meeting our club’s primary goals -- scholarship funding and Buckeye fellowship! Here are the year-end financial highlights. It’s a pleasure being your Treasurer and fellow OC Buckeye. Please let me know if you have any questions. OMG – what an amazing year, thank you all so much!

Scholarship Goal --- We started out the season with a goal to collect $4000 for our scholarship fund through weekly 50/50 raffles, selling of football tickets, and various other raffles and silent auctions. We ended up at 166% of goal – or $6,635. This allowed us to contribute $7,000 to our Scholarship Endowment. Last year we collected $6,305, so we had a net gain of 5% in 2014.

Club Income – This year after covering all expenses, we had a net income of $7,964 in profit. Keep in mind we then gave $7,000 to our Scholarship Endowment as mentioned above. This allowed us to add nearly $1,000 into our operating fund for the club. Last year we made about $1700 more in income because we collected more membership dues and made more on T-shirt sales.

Memberships – We had 42 paid annual memberships in 2014, but this is down from the prior year’s 79 memberships when folks paid their dues at the last minute in hopes of being able to buy Rose Bowl tickets. In total we have 136 lifetime household members and 42 annuals for a combined total of 178 household members. We hope to do better in membership collection this Fall and can use your help in ensuring your dues are paid and inviting new Buckeye friends and family to our club events. Please remember the membership dues we collect are one of the few sources of income we use to fund club events like our student Send-off held each year in late summer, operating expenses for the Scholarship and Student recruiting efforts, game-watches, and OSU speaker events. The fact is, all of the money we collect in game-watch raffles goes directly to the scholarships we offer Orange County based Buckeyes. That’s why it is so important that everyone does their part by paying membership dues each year in order to ensure that we can continue as a viable organization and keep the Buckeye fun alive in OC! Thanks in advance for your support of the club through paying your membership fees for the year ahead – I have a feeling we are going to have another GREAT year and an exciting Buckeye Football season!

Go Bucks!
Connie Elliott, OSU OC Alumni Club Treasurer

Membership from page 1

Your club needs your support. As you read this newsletter, consider how satisfying it would be to become involved as a volunteer and help make one of the activities happen. If you have a new great idea for the club, bring it forward. Become a member in good standing, re-new or join now and get active. Become part of our Buckeye team! Remember, the club does good work. This year 88% of our net revenue went to our Scholarship fund that provided awards to eight Orange County OSU students for the coming school year.

Ron DeVore, 2nd Vice President - Membership

*To receive tickets through the club membership in the OSU Alumni Association is required, because that is our source for the tickets.

Connie and Todd Elliott were recognized for their outstanding volunteer service with an All-Star Award by the OSU Alumni Association in September.
Our 2014-2015 OSUOC Alumni Club year is coming to an end, as the OSU Alumni Association years runs from July 1 to June 30. Before we review what we accomplished the past year, we have two exciting events coming up in June.

**Wednesday, June 17** at Scott's Restaurant in Costa Mesa, you will have an opportunity to meet Robert Smith, who played tailback for the Buckeyes in the 1990s and went on to a career with the Minnesota Vikings in the NFL. Robert, our sponsored speaker from campus this year, is now a TV sports analyst and commentator. Join us for this exciting evening for fellowship with your local Orange County Buckeyes. Register for the dinner by sending a check for $35 per person (members and their guests) made out to “OSU Alumni Club of OC” to be received by noon on Friday, June 12th to: Christie Brockhage, 1053 Dover Drive, Newport Beach, CA 92660.

**Saturday June 20** is the date for our third annual Walk the Farm at the Tanaka Farms in Irvine. Wear your Buckeye gear and join other Ohio State supporters for a pleasant walk around an operating farm right here in Orange County. Register at www.WalkTheFarm.com. Your $30 registration fee goes to help farmers in Japan still struggling to recover from the 2011 earthquake/tsunami and farmers in California's central valley suffering from the current drought. Our OSU group plans to meet at the registration area at 9:00 am to walk together. During the walk, tasting stations offer the chance to taste local farm products. The looping course, which takes about an hour, ends at a farmer's market where you can buy fresh fruits and vegetables for your own table.

**August 7-9, 2015.** is the fourth year of Pelatonia. The club strongly encourages you to support this worthy cause. You can find information at http://pelatonia.org/.

Our 2014-15 year began with an eye-opening view of the dynamic Medical Center at The Ohio State University. Dr. Steven Gabbe, Senior Vice President for Health Sciences for The Ohio State University and Chief Executive Officer of The Ohio State University’s Wexner Medical Center, was our guest speaker who spoke of the challenge of building a medical center to meet the future needs of society.

Dr. Gabbe is guiding Ohio State’s Wexner Medical Center Expansion, the largest construction project in University history, which includes a new James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute, as well as a state-of-the-art critical care center. The dinner event was at Scott's Restaurant in Costa Mesa on July 24.

The end of Summer saw our annual **Student Send Off** event in Lake Forest. The club board hosts a get-together that allows new entering OSU students and their parents along with some upperclassmen to meet and get acquainted before they have to cope with the shock of being a college student 2,500 miles from home. Keri Hellinga, our long serving Student Recruitment Chair, and her family have been the key to the success of this event for the past many years.

The 2014 **Alumni Club & Society Symposium** was held on campus September 26 and was attended by our club representatives Connie and Todd Elliott. This informative session is hosted by the Alumni Association each year to provide valuable information, direction and support to alumni volunteers. Our club sends representatives each year which allows us to continue to serve and meet the needs of our membership through programming as well as assisting Admissions with student recruitment support and supporting local students with scholarships. Connie and Todd were recognized with an All-Star Award for their volunteer work and the Orange County club received The Outstanding Club Award.

**TEAM BUCKEYE - ORANGE COUNTY, CA ALUMNI CLUB** participated as Virtual Riders in Pelatonia14. The Pelotonia, which took place August 8-10, is staged to raise funds for cancer research. The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center - Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital and the Richard J. Solove Research Institute received 100% of the funds raised by the Pelotonia.
At the end of September, Team Brutus again participated in the 5K run/walk event of the Susan G Komen Race for the Cure at Fashion Island. The goal is a world without Breast Cancer. Our Team Brutus motto is "Warriors for the Cure! Brave and Bold!" This is a truly rewarding experience and you know you are helping a good and important cause. You can register for the 2015 run at http://komenoc.org/. Sign up to be part of Team Brutus today. Thank you Christie for all you do for this!

OSUOC VP Christie Brockage (left) and other Team Brutus members at the Race for the Cure.

The 2014-15 Football Game Watches at Dave and Busters were a hit with local Buckeyes the entire season. The final four games - Michigan, Wisconsin, Alabama, and Oregon - brought massive turnouts of Buckeye fans. During the season our raffle prize giveaways and the 50/50 raffles earned almost $5,500 for our Orange County Club's Scholarship Fund. Thank you to Will Gronek for another great year and to everyone who works to make Saturdays so special in the fall. We will be at Dave and Busters for the 2015-16 season. Don't miss the season opener September 6, Monday, with kickoff at 5:00 pm PCT.

On November 12, Arts & Sciences hosted an event at The Winery in Newport Beach that was open to all our club members. The event was well attended, with an update provided by Dean Manderscheid. A special thanks to Christie Brockhage and Dave Tax for coordinating this event with A&S in Columbus and to Susan Munthe who serves on the A&S Society Board.

The annual Holiday Party on December 14 provided a spirited wrap-up to 2014. Our Buckeye Holiday Party Brunch gave us an opportunity to hear from past students Lauren Piz and Nick Elliott, Ohio State Orange County students who were back for the Holiday break. We continued our support of the Bring A Smile Foundation through members' contributions of toys or gift cards. Bring A Smile goal delivers some joy to the lives of kids whose holiday prospects are dim without your contributions. Scott's Restaurant in Costa Mesa provided the excellent meal and service Many thanks to Mike D. and his connection to OSU.

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OSUOC Scholarships

Outstanding Students Recognized

The club's participation in the Alumni Scholars Program has now been completed for scholarships given for the 2015-16 school year. The committee, Connie and Todd Elliott and Susan Munthe, interviewed eight students for the scholarships and was able to award two new scholarships to entering freshmen who have paid their fees. The club is pleased to be able to help support eight students on campus this year. We hope our club members will have an opportunity to meet these remarkable students at some of our upcoming events. Many of you had the pleasure of meeting Sarah Barker in the past who just graduated.

SENIORS:  Krissy Mather, Alyx Reedy
JUNIOR:  Sarah McKinnel
SOPHOMORES:  Taylor Sirset, Billy Haines
Duncan Hume
FRESHMAN:  Samantha Ludes, Joseph Towbin

Leadership

Co-Presidents Susan Munthe and Will Gronek (right) display the OSUOC Outstanding Club Award for 2014. Bob Schmahl (left) past club president and Board Member joined them in the celebration

OSUOC has thrived the past two years under the unique co-presidency of Susan Munthe and Will Gronek. Both leaders have worked tirelessly on the many projects undertaken by our club.

Susan's dedication to Ohio State knows no limit and she has been especially active in the student recruitment area, with our scholarship program, and in maintaining contact with our Orange County students before they depart for campus and after they are on campus. She also serves on the Board of the OSU Arts and Sciences Society and as Co-Chair for the Alumni Associations part of the Capital Campaign.

Will is best known for the great job he does MCing our game watches at Dave & Buster's. That is just the tip of the iceberg. How does Dave & Buster's know about the needs of the OSUOC group, how are the rooms set up to have that special Buckeye feel? Will! He has also spent countless hours coordinating and building our alumni community. In his spare time he wrote the blast emails during football season.

We owe a special thanks to Will and Susan for their dedication and accomplishments during the last two years. Thankfully they are not going away, they are just no longer co-presidents.

Volunteers Welcome. The club is actively seeking volunteers to help out with the many events and projects that we undertake each year. If you are interested in getting involved please contact any of the board members at any time!
The design of the Wexner Center for the Arts pays homage to the OSU Armory which was destroyed by fire in 1958. How many members had a class in the Armory?

OSUOC Website

New Web Address!

The OSU Alumni Association has established a policy that it will host the websites of Alumni Clubs. Our club is one of the first to adopt the OSUAA's club website template. Our new web address is:

http://orangecounty.alumni.osu.edu/

The template is a work in progress. At this point it is not as flexible as our former home based site. Improvements are underway and during the coming year significant changes are promised. On the current site, click on the sub headings to get to our local club information. It will be there; just look around a bit.

Scholarship Fund

Help Orange County Students Attend Ohio State

You can contribute to The Ohio State University and at the same time help secure the future of an Orange County student attending Ohio State.

To give to our club endowment online go to this link:

https://www.osu.edu/giving/areas-to-support/units/alumni-association.html

In the search box, type in our endowment account number of 605513. Hit return and the Orange County Club options will come up. Then click on ‘Give Now’. The Giving page opens; complete the fields and make selections and click ‘Give now’. The process should only take about two minutes to complete.

You can also provide a check directly to our club – made payable to ‘The Ohio State University Foundation’ and put the endowment number (605513) in the memo line of the check. Our club offices will send the check to the Alumni Association. Once received, OSUAA will process it and thank the donor for their contribution. For both giving options, the donor will receive the tax benefit, not the club.

2015 Games Watches begin Monday September 6. Check the Club website for information and be sure we have your email address so that you receive weekly updates.