

THE VALLEY BUCKEYE

The Newsletter of the OSU Alumni Club of Sacramento Valley

Scholarship Recruitment

By Joe Cain, Scholarship Co-Chair

The Ohio State University will have three new students this fall from the Sacramento Valley Alumni Club area. They are Michal J. Hayne from Acampo, Fidan Manashirove from Elk Grove, and Andrew J. Butler from Sacramento. Our scholarship committee awarded a \$1000 scholarship to Michael J. Hayne. He plans to major in engineering. Manashirove is on a sports scholarship to play tennis for the Buckeyes and Butler enrolled this autumn quarter as well. We congratulate these newest Buckeyes and wish them much success in their collegiate careers.

As for recruitment, we held a meeting in April. Twenty-three club members attended and heard Jessica Martinez give an overview about recruitment and admissions. The University is wanting additional recruitment efforts in the Sacramento region. We pledged our support in this effort.

Upcoming is a college fair on October 7th at Rio Americano High School. Brian Strong and Greta Vohlers will attend this fair on our behalf. Also the University plans to give us a list of twenty high schools in the area to visit and present these schools with information about our great university. We will be contacting people to assist when this information is made available. Further, we will have freshmen applications at our game watch parties to give to anyone who may have a relative or friend interested in attending OSU. With a good strong effort, we can get more students to attend from our region.

On a personal note, I plan to step down as committee chair and leave the Board at the end of my term in December. I have been fortunate to see 17 students go to OSU during my 7 years on the Board and nearly ten thousand dollars given in scholarships.

Banquet coming soon!

The banquet is rapidly approaching- it's scheduled for Thurs., Oct. 15, just 2 weeks away! It's not too late to RSVP and we will be accepting attendees until Oct. 9.

We'll be dining on the 16th floor of the Holiday Inn Capitol Plaza. Beautiful views of Downtown Sacramento and the Sacramento River will offer a spectacular setting for socializing and hearing from our distinguished speaker, Distinguished University Professor at Ohio State, Dr. Lawrence Brown.

Dr. Brown, the former Chair of Geography at OSU, currently works with map-based technologies and how they can be used for studies on immigration, racial/ethnic intermixing in urban areas, particularly in housing; and housing market issues, including foreclosures.

To RSVP, contact Club VP Greta Vohlers gretavohlers@sbcglobal.net (916) 397-4113

Not a member of The Ohio State University Alumni Association? Join us!

Consider joining OSUAA if you are not already a member. As you can see in Archie's message on the next page, the OSUAA is making some strides and he has a great plan to continually improve the organization.

Visit the OSUAA website (ohiostatealumni.org) or call 1-800-762-JOIN (5646) or (614) 292-2281.

A MESSAGE FROM ARCHIE GRIFFIN - OSUAA PRESIDENT/CEO

Stepping up to the challenge of leadership

One of the best blessings of my life is the fact that I've encountered so many people who showed me what true leadership is all about.

From my youngest days until now I've come in contact with a number of role models who showed me the necessity of strong leadership. Some of those people would be familiar names to you (Woody Hayes immediately comes to mind) but others are not quite as well known.

Still, whether they were famous or not the best leaders I've met shared some very similar traits. All were good at setting goals but even better at crafting the plans that helped you achieve those goals. All understood the interpersonal dynamics that can make or break a project or team. And all had the consistent focus you need to stay the course even when things look bleak.

These elements are things I've put to use since I took over leadership of the Alumni Association. We set the ambitious goal of being the biggest and best alumni organization then put together a strategic plan to direct those efforts. And while I can't say that we have yet achieved the goal of being the biggest, I am confident in saying that we've moved much closer to being the best.

Today, we offer more programs and services than we did in the past. Our online capabilities have improved immensely and will continue to progress in the coming months. We truly feel that we are putting the pieces in place to make some major transformational jumps in the next few years. At the same time, we recognize that we can't be satisfied with progress. Satisfaction can lead to complacency, and we will never be a complacent organization under my watch.

So what does this mean to you?

I understand that guiding clubs and societies presents even more challenges from a leadership perspective. Our constituent groups are powered by the spirit of togetherness and volunteerism, but members are not being paid for their efforts. This presents a challenge to the leaders of these groups. How do you keep people engaged and

focused in efforts that may lack a tangible personal benefit?

First, I think that it is necessary to recognize the common bond that brings us all together. One thing all Buckeyes have in common is a great love of Ohio State. We all want to see our university grow and improve. Much like I have the goal of being the biggest and best alumni association, President Gee wants to see Ohio State rise to a position of eminence in the world of academia. We can all play a role in that effort and being organized makes that impact even more powerful.

I also think there's a great deal of importance in goal-setting. Your group should have a clear goal or goals that all members are working together to achieve. Whether it's to raise scholarship money, advocate for the university, or recognize tremendous faculty members, your group should have a clear goal in mind. Activity for activity's sake is great, but purposeful activity is more valuable.

Lastly, I think that there must always be focus on growth that starts from leadership. All of our constituent groups have Ohio State alumni audiences they've yet to reach. It is up to you to help find these people and get them engaged. No Buckeye should even be able to say that no one has reached out to them. That would be an opportunity missed.

The challenge of leadership is clearly not an easy one to meet. Nothing worth anything is. At the same time, our university has given you the tools to lead effectively. I know you can do it. The number of lottery tickets will now be known to the membership. The policy clarifies and simplifies what events are considered part of the ticket lottery.

The revised policy rewards those that attend major club events and donate their time to the board or money to the scholarship fund. But the most important aspect of the ticket policy is that the club is continuing to ensure that tickets are fairly distributed and that members have a clear, concise, and accessible policy. We hope to use this policy in the near future!

MESSAGE FROM THE SAC VALLEY CLUB PRESIDENT

2009 has been exciting for the club as we continue to build a solid foundation for club growth. The year had the normal activities- Big Ten Picnic, game watches, or philanthropic activities like attending the Rivercats game or the Walk in the Vineyard in Napa. But what is exciting for me, and probably not seen by the membership, are the ideas being implemented by board members that are not yet ready to be seen by the club.

Gary Penwell has been working on making PayPal a reality for club payments which is much more difficult than just wishing it into existence. Disa Johnson has been putting together a membership packet to go to all members. Greta has been the person driving the banquet and also helping with the scholarship and recruitment activities.

Trad Raper has been coordinating the game watches and Brian Strong has been helping to chair the scholarship committee as well as looking into other club-branded items for sale. Joe Cain has continued to lead the scholarship committee in growing our presence locally and

nationally with Ohio State. Ramona Moenter graciously hosted our Kickoff Party and has provided excellent leadership in our club decisions. Jennifer Still has maintained our club finances and tries to help keep me sane.

The work this board has done may not be as obvious for a couple years as they are helping to build a strong foundation for the future of the club. But a successful organization needs people to help in the short term as well as to develop long term goals.

As we begin to think about 2010, please consider Archie's words from the previous page. He discusses the importance of good leadership and, ultimately, the value it means to our club. From his message, it appears that those that are involved in club leadership will be recognized more in the future! That means it is a great time to get involved in the club activities!

Shannon Still

President

OSU Alumni Club Sacramento Valley
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Kickoff Party a Success - a quick post by VP Greta Vohlers

On August 29, over 30 Buckeye fans gathered at the home of Barry & Ramona Moenter to celebrate the beginning of the upcoming Buckeye Football Season. Attendees discussed the upcoming season while enjoying bratwurst from Carle's Bratwurst, all the way from Bucyrus, Ohio. Club member Mary Yaussy personally delivered the brats and prepared them in a bath of beer prior to grilling. Grill master and Club President, Shannon Still, helped prepare the delicious brats while other club members, like David Bryant helped set-up. Many tasty side dishes were provided by attendees. Those with a taste for something sweet had a chocolate fountain, a football-shaped cupcake cake and buckeye confections to enjoy. Guests gathered around the food, in the family room and by the pool. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed visiting the Moenter's beautiful home, which was full of scarlet and gray and bursting with Buckeye Pride. The event was a great way to kick-off the season. Go Buckeyes!



COLLEGE TRADITIONS PURCHASES BENEFIT OUR CLUB

Buying Buckeye gear this fall? Or any other time?

If you purchase items from College Traditions in Columbus, the club receives 10% of all sales. You need to use our club code: **AL9563**

www.collegetraditions.com (800) 628-4678

2009 GAME WATCH PARTIES

The 2009 Ohio State football game watch parties are again being held at MVPs Sports Grille in Sacramento. Join us every week for fun and revelry as the Buckeyes march through their season. All games and times are posted on the website as they become available.

Bring canned-goods for donation to a local food bank. We will accept cans every week of the season.

HOLIDAY RECEPTION DEC. 10

Save the date for the 2009 Holiday reception - Dec. 10, 2009. The event will include the annual club elections and, more importantly, the always fun Silent Auction!

If you have items for the silent auction, please contact one of the board members. We would like to repeat our 2008 success!

Club Vital Signs

Membership

The club has 75 paid memberships for 2009. Join us! If you haven't joined or renewed for 2009, do so soon or you will miss out on the possibility of bowl tickets!

Operating Fund

The treasury is in fair shape but we'd always like to be doing better. We currently have just over \$2,200 in the general fund. We would like to increase this to \$10,000 so that we have more flexibility. Let us know of any ideas to raise money for the general fund.

Scholarship Fund

The scholarship fund is at the highest point this November that any current board can remember. The fund currently has over \$8,000. The goal is to raise \$50,000 in the next several years in order to start an endowed scholarship through OSUAA. Every bit helps and we thank you for all of your donations the past several years.



Address Corrections Requested

GO BUCKEYES!

www.sacvalleybuckeyes.com