



Alumni Club of  
Southwest Florida

# THE LONGWALK

2011 EDITION

## The (Past) President's Corner

*By Jeff Fuscardo*

### **My Time is Up Here**

When I took over as club president in 2008, Terrelle Pryor had yet to ink his first tattoo and Jim Tressel was hailed as Senator Tressel. Next thing you know, my son has a deep voice and we are welcoming in Coach Fickell to lead our young Buckeyes and John Pilarski as the new club President.

I had 3 goals for my term as club President. I wanted to continue on the path of prosperity that I inherited from Past Presidents by continuing to build the club scholarship fund to assist local Ohio State bound students. I also wanted to modernize the club by moving online and away from paper. Lastly, I wanted to update our club Constitution that was originally written back in 1996 with a typewriter.

Over the past 3 years, our club has awarded over \$25,000.00 towards the education of Ohio State students. This has been in the form of our local club scholarship grants and our club contribution to the Buckeye Club. We have awarded \$7,500.00 to two outstanding students from Lee County (see the scholarship report for more details) for the coming year. As you know, this is the primary reason that our club raises money and it would not be possible without your contributions. For that, I thank you.

As soon as I began my term, we began work on our club website ([www.swflbuckeyes.com](http://www.swflbuckeyes.com)). It has progressed over the past 3 years and includes photos as well as news from Ohio State. In the future, we plan to add another page which will help document our club history. We have also expanded our outreach through Facebook and Twitter. Of course, we still, for now, have this paper newsletter for those of you who have yet to take the leap into the 21st century.

This past May, our amended constitution was approved by the Alumni Association and is now in effect. You can read this document on the website on the "About Our Club" page. We made changes to better reflect our club goals and agenda.

I will continue on the Board as Past President, assisting John with the transition. I will also manage the website, Facebook, and Twitter. If you have any suggestions on how to improve these, or how to better communicate with the club, please drop me an email with your ideas. So let's move on as we welcome John to lead our club and Luke (not John's son quite yet) to lead our football team.



<http://www.buffalowildwings.com>

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Fort Myers, FL 33905

## The (New) President's Corner

*By John L. Pilarski*

### **Time and Change Will Surely Show...**

Well, so far 2011 has provided the Buckeye World with plenty of new changes, both in Columbus and Southwest Florida. Let's focus on the positive. Our club has plenty of new changes to be excited about. We have a new constitution. Our game parties have a fantastic new home at BW3. We also have new Facebook and Twitter homes to accompany our home on the web. Jeff Fuscardo cannot be thanked enough for all of the above.

Lots of exciting changes are also coming our way on the gridiron. A great new coach, a new division to dominate, a new Big Ten Championship game to win, and lots of great new Buckeyes to help do it. Does anyone really believe that all of this yapping at our heels can drag down *The Ohio State University*?

Woody always said that you win with people. Our club can only grow and prosper with people, so get involved and get your Buckeye friends involved. Show the world and all the haters How Firm Thy Friendship...O-HI-O!

PS: The more things change the more they stay the same. For proof, join us for the Tailgate Party, November 26th at BW3 and enjoy the now traditional beat down game. (Coach Tressel cannot be thanked enough for that!)

# THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY ALUMNI CLUB OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA



## Top Ten Reasons to Meet With the SWFL Buckeye Club at B-Dubs!

BY JILL KLAUSING

This year's edition of the SWFL Buckeye Top Ten List is intended to lift our crazy nut spirits after a bit of a rough patch this year! Perhaps you have experienced "haters" attempting to squash your Buckeye allegiance with smack talk relating to football. Well here is to dotting the "I" in GRIN and partying like Lindsay Lohan on prison release, when the OSU Alumni Club of SWFL gathers for the first time at Buffalo Wild Wings!

With regards to David Letterman, we present to you the TOP TEN REASONS TO MEET WITH THE SWFL BUCKEYE CLUB AT B-DUBS!!!

10. You want to improve your diet. Two words—Buffalo Chips. Potatoes are a vegetable, and vegetables improve your health. Even better, add cheese and you will double your healthy intake by adding calcium.

9. You just had a make-over and need to get rid of those red, enormous, Sally Jesse Raphael style eyeglasses. Bring them to B-Dubs and donate them to the "Buck-eyes" box and receive three raffle tickets for the halftime prize drawing!

8. Tired of hearing about the debt ceiling? Bring yourself on over to Buffalo Wild Wings and we'll Neutron Dance on the same ceiling Lionel Richie was singing about!

## Membership corner

BY JAMI ATLEY

Hey there Buckeye fans! We are back and ready to begin another amazing year. However, I must say the off-season has been rather jaw-dropping. Regardless, just like our favorite football team, there are things we as Southwest Florida fans need to do to prepare for the season as well. Review the list that we have put together below to make sure you're ready and primed!

1. Send in your membership dues. They are \$15.00 for individuals and \$20.00 per family per year. When you send in your information, don't forget to include your email address so we can add you to our weekly eblast during season.
2. Pick up your name badge and lanyard from us at the game watch party at our new venue, Buffalo Wild Wings Bar and Grill. Just in case you can't make it to the game and you want us to put it in the mail, you need to let me know via email at [jatley5@gmail.com](mailto:jatley5@gmail.com) and we will put a stamp on it.
3. Have some fabulous wings while enjoying the game. Remember, it's 25% off your food bill with your membership lanyard.
4. Join in on the weekly raffle. We have ordered up our prizes and are ready to go. The profits go to our scholarship fund so local kids can see for their own eyes what it means to be a Buckeye!
5. Lastly, practice your O-H-I-O stance and hang on. I'm sure it will be an electrifying year!

7. "Across the Field" and Blazin' wings go together like peas and carrots.

6. Economy bringing you down? Even Suze Orman would approve of saving money by using the OSU Alumni Club Discount at BW3's on football Saturdays!

5. Bigger, better, MORE: HALFTIME PRIZES!!!!

4. Those little Buckeye rugrats we employ to select winning raffle tickets at halftime went through an intense, week-long training camp. The OSU Club ended up with only the finest, first round draft pick caliber kids.

## Community Service

BY CATHY HAMILTON

### GO BUCK-EYES

In 2010, we introduced our new Community Service project. The Board checked out ideas from several of our members. Recognizing that Buckeyes (OSU Alumni) can be found around the world, we decided to collect old eye glasses to distribute to needy organizations. Thanks to the great suggestion from Jeff's wife, Leah Fuscardo, we voted to name our project, "BUCK-EYES" Around the World.

It was a huge success! We were able to spread the BUCKEYE spirit by teaming up with several organizations in our area, to provide recycled eyewear, otherwise known as "BUCK-EYES" to benefit needy individuals around the world.

We offered incentives for everyone to collect recyclable eye glasses from family, friends, neighbors and co-workers to bring to our Gamewatch parties to support our 2010 Community Service Project.

We hope to continue the effort this year, so you are urged to start collecting now-and watch for future details. Thanks in advance for your huge support. GO BUCKS!!!!

We always considered other projects, so please don't hesitate to contribute your ideas.

Please contact me, Cathy Hamilton at 239-272-2897 if you have any questions or suggestions.

3. All the cool people will be there.

2. This one is for the ladies...Luke Fickell sure is a piece of eye candy...and there are lots of screens available to watch that handsome devil in action!

1. It's never too early to start scouting out your cornhole competition. November 26th is right around the corner, and our annual tailgate will take place in the Buffalo Wild Wings parking lot.



# THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY ALUMNI CLUB OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

## SCHOLARSHIP REPORT

BY CHAD GILLEN

We've done it again! Our club has awarded significant scholarships to two candidates for the 2011-2012 academic year. The club is proud to have awarded a \$5,000.00 scholarship to Lewis Fodor from Fort Myers High School and a \$2,500.00 scholarship to returning student, Chelsea Torres. You may remember Chelsea as our freshman scholarship recipient from last year. Chelsea has been an exceptional representative for Southwest Florida, not only as a student, but also as a member of the Student-Alumni council, an honor she received after a rigorous interview and selection process. Congratulations to both Lewis and Chelsea.

During this past school year, members of our board visited seventeen local public and private high schools to meet with guidance counselors and drop off literature about Ohio State. In addition, our club will send representatives on behalf of the University to two upcoming local college fairs. The fairs give high school students and their parents the opportunity to gather information on a number of colleges and universities. These are just a couple of the ways we promote our scholarship and the opportunities that await students at our great university.

Both college fairs will be held on Wednesday, September 21st. The Bishop Verot College Day will be from 9:00 to 10:30 AM at Bishop Verot High School; and Lee County Schools College Night is from 6:00 to 8:00 PM at Harborside Event Center.

If you know anyone considering undergraduate studies at Ohio State University, please contact me at 810-4231 for scholarship information. Thank you to our members who support the scholarship program that allows local students to become Buckeyes. Remember, you can go online to check out information about the Southwest Florida Scholarship Fund and see your contribution dollars at work. Please take a moment to visit the scholarship page at [www.swflbuckeyes.com](http://www.swflbuckeyes.com).

## Follow the SWFL Buckeyes on Facebook and Twitter

The club continues to advance our communication network as we have recently added Facebook and Twitter pages. This will allow you to better keep up with the activities of the SWFL Alumni Club while you are on the go. Search the Ohio State Alumni Club of Southwest Florida on Facebook, or simply hit the link on the website to "Like" our page. You can also follow us on Twitter—@swflbuckeyes, online at <http://www.twitter.com/swflbuckeyes> or by the link on the website.

facebook



## 2011 Buckeye Football Schedule

SEPT 3	AKRON	12:00PM
SEPT 10	TOLEDO	12:00PM
SEPT 17	@ MIAMI, FL	7:30 PM
SEPT 24	COLORADO	TBA
OCT 1	MICHIGAN STATE	TBA
OCT 8	@ NEBRASKA	8:00 PM
OCT 15	@ ILLINOIS	TBA
OCT 29	WISCONSIN	8:00 PM
NOV 5	INDIANA	TBA
NOV 12	@ PURDUE	TBA
NOV 19	PENN STATE	TBA
NOV 26	@ MICHIGAN	TBA
DEC 3	BIG TEN CHAMPIONSHIP	TBA

## 2011 Club Officers

Find Bios & Contact info at  
[www.SWFLBUCKEYES.com](http://www.SWFLBUCKEYES.com)

### President

John Pilarski  
[jpgilarski@earthlink.net](mailto:jpgilarski@earthlink.net)

### Past President

Jeff Fuscardo  
[fuscardo@ipapilot.org](mailto:fuscardo@ipapilot.org)

### Vice President

Jami Atley  
[jatley5@gmail.com](mailto:jatley5@gmail.com)

### Directors

Jill Klausing  
[klausingrentals@embarqmail.com](mailto:klausingrentals@embarqmail.com)

### Secretary

Cathy Hamilton  
[cahamilton14@aol.com](mailto:cahamilton14@aol.com)

Chad Gillen  
[cg0976@comcast.net](mailto:cg0976@comcast.net)

### Treasurer

Dana Vidussi  
[danav@dvcpa.com](mailto:danav@dvcpa.com)

Bob Shope  
[nosno200@aol.com](mailto:nosno200@aol.com)

Mary Thomas  
[deer56@ymail.com](mailto:deer56@ymail.com)

## FOR SALE

Look sharp, sport the colors & support your club!  
We have knit polo shirts in white, red or black with our club's logo [S, M, L, XL \$35; XXL \$38]  
We also have the must read *BUCKEYE MADNESS* for only \$5.

*Find Bob Shope at the game watch parties to get yours!*

## 2011 Club Membership Renewal Form

PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR CLUB BY RENEWING YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY

**\*\*\* ALL MEMBERSHIPS NOW RUN JULY 1 TO JUNE 30 \*\*\***

PLEASE COMPLETE  
THIS FORM & RETURN  
WITH PAYMENT TO:

OSU Alumni Club of SWFL  
PO Box 61381  
Fort Myers, FL 33906-1381



\_\_\_\_\_ INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP [\$15] \_\_\_\_\_ FAMILY MEMBERSHIP [\$20]  
+ \$\_\_\_\_\_ VOLUNTARY SCHOLARSHIP FUND DONATION

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ New Members

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_ or Updates Only

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

	<u>First Name</u>	<u>Hometown</u>	<u>OSUAA#</u>	<u>OSU Class</u>
1	_____	_____	_____	_____
2	_____	_____	_____	_____

***ALL BUCKEYES WELCOME!***

The only requirement for club membership is a love for the Buckeyes. Ohio State degree and membership in the national alumni association are not required.



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