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December 2006

“How Firm Thy Friendship……”

You all know how powerful and how far reaching the association with our great university extends and I would like to thank all of you for continuing to support our efforts here in Southwest Virginia. Our club’s mission is to provide a means for alums and friends of the of the university to come together, to keep that friendship strong, have fun celebrating as Buckeyes and to “pay forward”, exposing and encouraging youth in our area to attend our alma mater. We’ve had a terrific fall season so far and 2006/2007 looks to be a very exciting and successful year for the Buckeyes !!

Our group started the football year off right with a loud and energized gathering at Awful Arthur’s in downtown Roanoke to watch the Bucks “lasso” the Texas Longhorns. It was our first “Number 1 vs. Number 2” game of the year and a terrific road victory. The following week…..a group of our very own “hit the road” with a trip to Columbus to see a match up between the Buckeyes and Cincinnati Bearcats. We started the weekend with a VIP tour of the Longaberger Alumni House, followed by dinner and entertainment at the Buckeye Hall of Fame Café on Friday night. It was a warm day in C-deck Saturday afternoon but we prevailed and cheered the Bucks onto their third victory of the season.

“THE GAME” TV watch ….our second “Number 1 vs Number 2” battle held at Club aka: at the Hotel Roanoke and Conference Center was another tremendous gathering and you brought home a victory putting the Bucks into the National Championship game ! You also raised a record level for our Scholarship Fund which is greatly appreciated. We’re planning a game watch on Monday, January 8, 2007, so plan on joining us for a great evening and a super Big Ten vs. SEC match-up!

With the end of football, your support is still important as the basketball Buckeyes (men & women) have very positive outlooks this year (Lucy and I were fortunate to see the Bucks play North Carolina….and while they came up short, wait until Mr. Oden starts playing !) , thus we may be doing a Final Four gathering and we hope to announce the date of our annual meeting soon.

Thank you again for being a part of our Southwest Virginia Buckeye Family.

“How Firm Thy Friendship…….O - HI - O !”

GO BUCKS !

Gary D. Walton  
President

Ohio State vs. Florida  
The Hotel Roanoke & Conference Center  
January 8, 2007, 7:00 P. M.
Bill Conley Speaks at Annual Meeting

Bill Conley, celebrated recruiter, respected coach and author was the featured speaker at our Annual Meeting held May 2, 2006 at The Hotel Roanoke & Conference Center. As always, the food was excellent and our speaker informative and entertaining. Signed copies of his book, *Buckeye Bumper Crops*, were given to all attendees.

Dr. Robert S. Lockridge, Jr. Announces SWVA Scholarship Fund

At our Annual Meeting, Dr. Robert S. Lockridge, Jr, announced the establishment of a $100,000 endowment at the University to be used only for OSU students from southwest Virginia. The scholarship fund was established in memory of his beloved wife & Buckeye, Marjorie Forrest Lockridge ’73 and daughter of Charter Member James Forrest ’48. With this generous gift and our continued efforts to build our scholarship fund, we will be able to support local “Buckeye” students for years to come. Southwest Virginia is extremely grateful to Dr. Lockridge for this wonderful tribute to his wife.

Would You Eat This Desert?

Bill Conley refused to eat this beautiful desert, citing he feared the wrath of Woody.

Our Second Scholarship Awarded

For the second consecutive year, Southwest Virginia awarded a $1500 scholarship to a deserving area student at our Annual Meeting. Stacy Woody, this year’s recipient, is a graduate of Martinsville High School where she achieved a grade point average of 4.2 and was sixth in a class of 175. Tracy played in the marching band and was active in her local community. She will major in Chemistry & minor in Forensic Science at OSU.

SWVA Golfers (PGA Caliber??) Beat All Challengers at Greater Richmond Golf Tournament

In the first Virginia Big Ten Golf Outing hosted by the Greater Richmond Alumni Club, a powerful foursome of Gary Walton, Bill Harlor, Ralph Brush and Randy McFarland were able to overcome stiff competition and win a close match. According to the Club President Gary, teams representing Indiana, Illinois, the team from “up North” and OSU(2) participated.

GO BUCKS!
Southwest Virginia Recognized as 2006 Outstanding Club

Southwest Virginia was recognized this year at the Alumni Leaders’ Conference held October 6, 2006 as one of thirty-five outstanding clubs. The award recognizes those clubs that meet all of the required criteria established by the Alumni Association. Congratulations are due to Gary Walton and all those officers and members who made this possible.

Do You Know Who This Is?
The yearbook is 1938. She is well known to many of us and is a charter member of our club.

Club Membership Growing
Our club membership now stands at 79 mailing units, 84 graduates and 8 loyal Buckeye fans and friends. But, do you know that within the area we serve, there are nearly 700 alumni? With a little bit of effort, we could be a much larger club. If you know an alum that is not a member of our club, why not ask him or her to join? We could be a club of 200 plus members. Let’s show southwest Virginia that there is a “scarlet & gray” presence here.

GO BUCKS!

Thirty Buckeye Fans Travel to Columbus for Cincinnati Game

Thirty club members, family and friends traveled to Columbus for the weekend of September 15-17, 2006 to attend the Cincinnati game. On Friday night, a number of us toured the Longaburger Alumni House after which we all gathered at the Buckeye Hall of Fame Café for good food, rousing Buckeye music and generally a good time by all.

On Saturday, most of us were in attendance in St. John’s Arena for another great Skull Session.

The football game was played in near perfect weather, albeit a bit warm during the first half. Former OSU defensive coordinator and now Bearcats Coach, Mark Dantonio played us tough for three quarters, but the Buckeyes prevailed and the rest is history. Several of us finished our Saturday with dinner at Schmidt’s Restaurant Und Sausage Haus in German Village.

Membership Dues

Included with this newsletter is your 2007 dues billing and an updated membership list. Please note that at our June 6, 2006 meeting of the Board, it was decided to set dues at $15.00 per member or family. It was also decided that members delinquent for three years would be dropped from our membership rolls.

Prompt submission of your dues would be greatly appreciated. Also, please remember to give us your correct addresses; postal and e-mail. We try to communicate using e-mail as much as possible.
Our Game Watches Were Led by Our Able Cheerleader, Randy McFarland!

Beginning with the Notre Dame game last January 2nd where we soundly trounced the Irish to the last game of the regular season where Troy Smith & company prevailed over “the team from up North,” our game watches were well attended and a fun time for all. Our largest game watch was held at The Hotel Roanoke’s Club aka: where over 80 crazy and loud Buckeyes gathered to watch “The Game of the Century.” As you can see in the pictures above, our club now has an official and able cheerleader.

The Ohio State University Alumni Club of Southwest Virginia

presents

OHIO STATE “BUCKEYES”

VS.

FLORIDA “GATORS”

BCS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP GAME WATCH

Monday January 8 – Hotel Roanoke & Conference Center Shenandoah Ballroom

$20.00 per person for a bountiful Southwestern Buffet Dinner plus cash bar.

Please RSVP Gary or Lucy Walton at 540-989-6624