

OKLAHOMA

PARENTS' NEWSLETTER

<http://parents.ou.edu/parentnews.html>

A Student Affairs Publication

Action Centers and Action Tutoring Make a Difference: A Student Perspective

The first two grades I received as a freshman were Cs—I was sure I was in over my head.

Now, I'm a year ahead in my studies (senior status), with two majors and a minor. I have a job as a tutor and I've managed to earn a pretty decent GPA.

My parents told me not to worry about those first two grades, but I did. They said I could still do well; nevertheless, I stewed over those Cs for weeks. Neither of my parents had graduated from college and I was at OU supporting myself. I was worried that if I didn't succeed, I would lose all of my financial assistance.

Throughout high school I was a successful student—I did well without having to try. College changed that. I learned that all students have to work to be successful, and that there is nothing wrong with a little struggle. At OU, your student can now utilize assistance, unavailable when I first started, which can ease that struggle and transition for both students and parents.

OU's University College offers Action Centers and Action Tutoring, a form of academic assistance that is available during evening hours. Action Tutoring is offered for many high-enrollment classes in which new students typically struggle. Action Tutoring is walk-in tutoring during evening hours, facilitated by trained, academically accomplished Peer Learning Assistants (tutors). These PLAs have taken the course and are available during scheduled hours to answer questions and review topics. Action Centers, on the other hand, are cooperative,



problem-based learning centers run by the instructors of the course with PLAs also available.

Best of all is that both Action Centers and Action Tutoring are free to students enrolled in offered courses.

From chemistry to calculus, Spanish to history, the Action program has helped students in more than 24 courses, and the program is not done there. Each semester the Action program is adding more classes and reaching more students. A schedule of offered courses, location and time for the Action Centers and Action Tutoring is posted on the Web site by the second week of classes. These sessions are located throughout the campus, including places like the library, Housing Learning Center (Adams Center), student union and other classrooms on campus. In late fall 2008, several of the Action Centers and Action Tutoring sessions will be housed in the brand new Lissa and Cy Wagner Student Academic Services Center, just north of the stadium.

During the 2007/2008 school year (the first year Action Centers and Tutoring



existed) over 1,100 individual students visited Action Centers and/or Action Tutoring. These students were helped for a combined time of more than 4,400 hours.

Of those students surveyed, 75 percent said that their grades improved in the courses for which they received assistance through the Action program. Ninety-four percent of those students surveyed said they were likely to or would utilize the services of the Action program in the future (many

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A letter to parents

Dear OU Parents,

In many ways, the past year must rank among the best in the university's history. Our student body was the highest ranked student body at a public university in the history of our state, and we expect to again hold that ranking this year. We led all public universities in the nation in National Merit Scholars enrolled per capita and we have an even greater number in this year's freshman class. Approximately 10% of our freshman class comes to OU with perfect 4.0 averages. After a record-breaking freshman class of more than 3,900 last year, applications were up again for this academic year by 1,400, though we have kept the size of our freshman class about the same so that we can continue to give individual attention to students and make further gains in student quality. In addition, our university graduation rate improved from 58% to 63% in just one year.

OU is among the top universities in the nation in Goldwater Scholarships awarded to our students in math and science, with 12 in the past four years. I am proud to say that several of our students in the 2007-08 academic year were awarded other prestigious national and international scholarships as well. One of our students, Katie Gunderson, was named a Gates Cambridge Scholar for 2008 – the first OU student to win the prestigious scholarship. In the 2006-07 school year, Katie Gunderson also won both the Goldwater and Udall scholarships, also another first for an OU student. A recent OU graduate, Jenna Morey, who graduated summa cum laude with a degree in political science, was one of only 18 nationwide to be named a 2008-2009 Luce Scholar, an especially remarkable achievement because it was OU's first time to compete in the program. Also last year, letters and international studies senior Andrea DenHoed became OU's 27th Rhodes Scholar.

Last spring, OU student teams, which exhibited outstanding entrepreneurship



David L. Boren

skills in creating businesses designed to grow the economy, won first place in the undergraduate and graduate divisions of the Donald W. Reynolds Governor's Cup Competition in Oklahoma and advanced to the Tri-State Business Competition in Las Vegas, again winning first place in both divisions. An OU student team from the Mewbourne College of Earth and Energy won first place in the international Imperial Barrel Competition sponsored by the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, and the OU Men's Gymnastics Team earned a historic fifth National Championship in seven years while maintaining a team grade-point average of more than a 3.00. This past April, the OU School of Drama's production of *Ernestine Shuswap Gets Her Trout* performed at the prestigious Kennedy Center American College Festival in Washington, D.C., a prestigious selection which confirms that OU has one of the top drama schools in the entire country.

The last year was also highlighted by the continued record-breaking volunteer activities by our students. Almost 5,000 of our students, along with faculty and staff, participated in this year's Big Event, a volunteer effort to meet the needs of some 300 metropolitan organizations. OU students also were integral in the success of the university's Reforestation Campaign to restore the many trees lost in the December 2007 ice storm. The Class of 2008 selected Reforestation as a focus of their Senior Gift, and other students collected almost

\$11,000 for the campaign during men's and women's basketball games. In addition, thousands of OU students participated in "Rake It Up," a tree debris clean-up event in January, filling more than 10,000 bags with tree debris in the aftermath of the destructive ice storm which hit our campus. They also gave of their time to participate in tree-planting activities during March's Arbor Week, providing the labor-cost equivalent of \$200,000.

Our faculty continues to grow in excellence and size. Endowed faculty positions have increased from less than 100 to more than 540 in the last 13 years. We are pleased that the legislature this year approved a bond issue that will allow OU to match an additional \$47 million in private donations for faculty positions. In the last three years OU has also been able to improve the faculty-student ratio from 22 to 1 to 17.7 to 1. This improvement makes smaller classes available to our students.

To help alleviate the burden of tuition and fees, we again are allocating \$200,000 to the new textbook library established last year to buy more required books for more than 400 courses with the highest enrollments or comparatively high-cost textbooks. These textbooks are to be kept on reserve in the library, lowering textbook costs for students who can use the reserved books instead of purchasing their own. Before purchasing their textbooks, I encourage your student to check to see if their course's textbook is available by clicking on the "Resources" link at <http://libraries.ou.edu/>.

We are looking forward to the completion this fall of the renovations to Old Science Hall and the opening of the Lissa and Cy Wagner Student Academic Services Center, which will be the new home for student advising, tutoring and mentoring as well as the writing center.

Construction continues on the new Devon Energy Hall and the Lawrence G.

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Around campus

Campus Safety and Security Top of Mind

The University of Oklahoma is committed to providing a safe, healthy environment for students, faculty and staff to live, study and work. While the tragedy at Virginia Tech made campus safety headline news, it has long been a priority at OU. That tragedy impacted college and university campuses across the nation and prompted OU to even more closely examine both campus security and policy, especially as to how the university would handle a similar situation.

OU has an outstanding emergency notification system – a system that was purchased and undergoing testing when the incident at Virginia Tech occurred. Since then, the system has been frequently tested to make students, faculty and staff more aware of how the system works and what a potential warning may look like. Students, faculty and staff may update their contact information online from any computer connected to the Web (<http://account.ou.edu>).

Last fall, Gov. Brad Henry created a task force through the State Regents for Higher Education to review institutional emergency

response procedures across the state. OU was a key participant in the process, and used the opportunity to share with other institutions our policies and procedures as well as reviewing theirs.

One of the key contributions to the process was to share our Threat Assessment Review Committee (TARC), established by President Boren immediately following the Virginia Tech tragedy.

This committee is composed of presidential appointments, including the vice president for Student Affairs and dean of students, the associate vice president for Student Affairs and associate dean of students, the director of the counseling center, the director of housing, the director of human resources, the executive vice president and provost, the chief of campus police and the university's general counsel. TARC meets monthly to review any cases of concern and is on-call to meet whenever a situation arises necessitating action by the university. The president is updated on every meeting as to the status of a given situation as well as any committee recommendations.

Any threatening situation, group or individual reported to any university administrator is immediately forwarded to TARC for action. The composition of this group of university administrators positions the institution to take immediate action at any given time, all the while including the president in the decision-making process.

Of course, the Threat Assessment Review Committee is only a part of our institutional response. Late last spring, the university tested, and has subsequently tested, an emergency messaging system that simultaneously sends text and voice messages to student cell phones, e-mails, and other available media, informing



students of any pending emergency situation.

This fall, for the second time, the university will distribute 25,000 wallet-size emergency contact cards. These cards provide information on how to update emergency contact information, helpful telephone numbers related to safety and security, and instructions on how students, faculty and staff can help keep the campus safe. This includes information on how to report any activity that appears to be a threat or is simply of concern.

In addition to the emergency contact cards, the university regularly informs students, faculty and staff via e-mail and the newspaper, how to report any activity or person of concern.

An ongoing effort includes providing training to faculty and staff on issues of safety and security. OU's office of Human Resources, in coordination with the University of Oklahoma Police Department,



Career Services and YOU - the parent!

“So when are you going to get a job?” is the question that most parents hope to avoid asking their graduating student. Many students have the misperception that job opportunities will come to them upon the completion of their degree. In fact, finding a career is a process that requires careful planning and action.

The University of Oklahoma sets aside important resources to ensure your student is well-prepared to make the transition to “professional” long before they ever hear Pomp and Circumstance at graduation. Registration for Career Services is free and available at www.hiresooner.com.

“I started using Career Services last year as a freshman,” says Kenneth Hines. “I met with a career adviser to nail down which major would best fit my interests, something that has helped me focus my involvement in university life. My mom is thrilled because



I’ve already lined up an internship!”

How can you help your student best prepare for the inevitable tomorrow?

* Encourage your student to take advantage of free registration with Career Services.

This opens doors to valuable information and an expert support system to assist with every aspect of the job and internship search.

* Have your student schedule a one-to-one with our career adviser to discuss choosing the right major, resume writing, and other key advice.

* Career Services on-campus interviewing program offers your student opportunities

to interview with a diverse cross-section of leading employers from across the state, region and nation.

* Encourage your student to take advantage of our resources to help secure an internship, which is a great way for your student to gain relevant work experience and often leads to job offers.

* Our “Lunch and Learn” workshop series is a place for your student to get free lunch and learn about career-related skills, such as dining etiquette, professional dress, how to work a career fair, networking, etc.

Family members play a key role in their student’s academic and career choices. Your support and involvement will guide your student throughout their college and job search process. Please feel free to contact our office if we can be of assistance, as we assist your student to ‘GET HIRED SOONER’!

The Laughing Tomato! A New Choice in Campus Dining

The Laughing Tomato restaurant, one of OU Housing and Food Services’ newest concepts for campus, will open in the Oklahoma Memorial Union food court this fall. Designed to be both good for you and good for the environment, the Laughing Tomato will focus on Food Services’ sustainable efforts and complement the environmentally conscious initiatives already in place within Housing and Food Services and the university as a whole. From the compostable serving packages to the use of green chemicals in the dish machines, the Laughing Tomato will help Housing and Food Services further develop a socially responsible program.

Many of the ingredients for the Laughing Tomato menu are locally grown or produced, including the tomatoes and cheeses. The restaurant will offer a varied menu of tasty and nutritious items,

including, but of course not limited to, wraps, soups, salads, and fresh

and dried fruits. If you’re looking for something savory and satisfying, and a little fun, ask for The Best Date Ever; a hearty wheat wrap filled with peanut butter, bananas, honey and dates!

All the menu selections for the Laughing Tomato were compiled through research and multiple taste tests. The Laughing Tomato will provide patrons with even more healthy and delicious menu selections when they choose to dine on campus. From surveys and focus groups, we know that our public recognizes that there are healthy and nutritious dining locations in the residence hall areas, specifically in Couch Restaurants. Those



the
laughing
tomato!

who participated in our surveys associate Couch Restaurants with the salad bar, which has 100 edible selections available daily, as well as the Vegetation Station, which always has vegetarian and vegan entrées, soups and desserts.

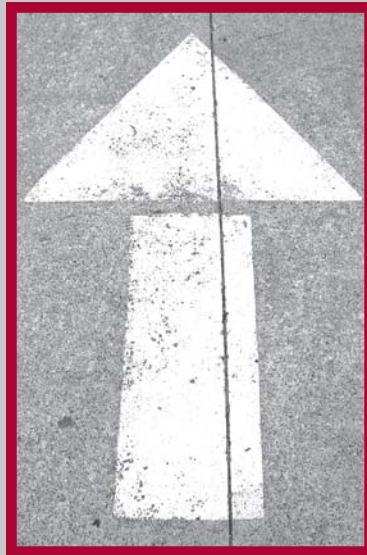
By placing the Laughing Tomato in the Oklahoma Memorial Union, students, staff and guests on North Campus will have even more healthy options from which to select. Housing and Food Services continually provides products and services that meet and exceed customer requests. For more details on this new restaurant, and all things Housing and Food Services related, please visit housing.ou.edu today.

Parent to Parent: The Art of Road Trips

My daughter soon starts her second year at the University of Oklahoma in Norman, which makes me an experienced father who has the university system figured out. And with a successful first year of college on her official transcripts, I don't worry about my daughter anymore. By the time my son attends college, all I'll need to do is mark my calendar for Parent's Weekends and reserve hotel rooms. The road to higher education just gets smoother for my family.

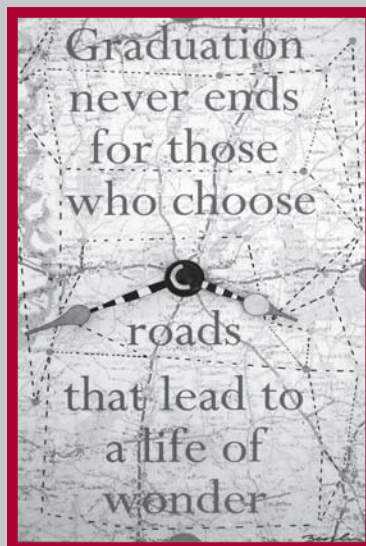
Now, you do not need to know me to realize that most of the first paragraph is fictional. Even though the first year of college is over for my daughter, I'm still amazed about it. For my family, the past year was one of rapid transitions as well as slow, uncertain steps. I think I took most of the slow steps while my daughter moved into the accelerated pace of student life. My wife and I are proud of her and what she accomplished during her freshman year at OU. Even so, I still feel a touch of anxiety as year two approaches.

I was a pleased dad when it was time to bring my daughter home following her first year at OU. It took five hours to drive to Norman, Okla., from our home, so I used that time as a type of rolling spiritual retreat. By the time I arrived I was ready to hug her, meet her friends, walk around campus and eventually load the van (with more stuff from her first year away than what I hauled to college in all four of my years). The five-hour drive back



(photo by Gregory Zeorlin)

home was one of talking, listening to her great music, and making long and short-range plans. The most pleasurable thing about the drive was hearing her enthusiasm. She sounds happy. She is challenged in her studies and talks about the future in bright and hopeful ways. I see her looking forward and I am excited as she continues to grow into



(photo by Gregory Zeorlin)

a productive, community oriented, and independent adult.

This summer she started her first "W-2 job" and acquired first-hand experience in public relations. She's a barista pulling espresso shots for people on the run and specialty coffee drinks for those who linger. For some reason this summer I've noticed a craving for a cup of coffee even when it's 95 degrees outside. I've stepped into her cafe to pretend I'm another customer who enjoyed the smile on her face as she waited for my order. It's the typical game between a playful dad and his college kid, although such moments are infrequent and fleeting.

For now on, my daughter is only home a few months out of each year, and those times will just get shorter. For the next few years I'll be making five-hour driving retreats to OU followed by enthusiastic five-hour talks while bringing her home to visit. I cannot predict the roads my daughter will travel in the future, but I hope to be available as her van driver and traffic conditions adviser.

As an artist, much of my art is the result of noticing the seconds that sparkle during the tasks of daily life. The sparkle I see in my daughter, son and wife's eyes eventually appears in my art and poetry. These are moments when daily living transforms into family and community rituals. High school graduations were happening across the country during the time I drove to pick up my daughter following her first year of college. At times I wish the roads after any graduation were clearly marked, although most are just paths leading into patches of fog. We head somewhere but sometimes move without being sure of when we will arrive.

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A Sooner Story

Taking Flight

Aviation students learn the ins and outs of flight with the help of their instructors.

By Maggie Tarwater
For Sooner 2008

Flight instructor Jignesh Patel walks up to a small plane, one of many sitting in a row at OU's Westheimer Airport. He removes a cap on the wing and looks inside. He moves to the hood to check the oil pressure. On the other side, he does the same. He checks the rudder and the flaps on the wings and determines, despite the overcast sky and the relentless wind, that the plane is "ready to go."

The plane, no bigger than a full-size suburban, looks as if it might be blown away without the ropes securing it to the ground. Inside, there is room for only four: the pilot, a front passenger and two in the back. With the flip of a switch and some resistant sputtering, the propeller is in full swing. Instructor Patel opens a tiny window and calls, "All clear!" The plane takes off down the runway.

On any given time of day, aviation students and instructors complete this process and take to the sky. Some are interested in flying as a hobby or to gain knowledge of the aviation industry. Many, however, are training to become professional pilots.

Aviation senior Brian Royal entered the program with that goal.

"I had always been interested in flying and aviation, and that's what I wanted to pursue," Royal said. "It was kind of a lifelong interest."

Royal, whose uncle was a private pilot and whose dad also possessed an interest in airplanes, had no previous experience flying before joining the program. He said he chose OU mainly because of the brand-new equipment recently provided.

"What really makes it nice are the new planes that have GPS systems," Royal said. "It makes situational awareness a lot easier, especially when you're beginning to learn how to fly."

Students also are required to learn how to

fly without GPS systems, as not all planes provide them.

Students are provided with detailed maps that show towns, power lines, major roads and country roads, so they are able to identify where they are without a GPS system.

But the instructors seem to be another reason OU is thought to have one of the leading programs in the nation. Aviation senior Eli Hatch says it is the instructor's connection to the students and the camaraderie within the department that make the difference for him.

"It's more like learning from a friend rather than a professor," Hatch said. "It's heightened the learning experience because they relate to us. And if you're having problems, there's always someone who will help you."

Hatch, who has gotten lost in the air before, said it was the instructors who were there to guide him through the uncharted skies.

"I was about to freak out," Hatch said. "Then over the radio, one of the flight instructors called out my tail number and walked me through it. I really felt like I wasn't alone, even though I was."

Flight instructor Johnathan Scoggin also believes that the staff sets the program apart from others.

"Everybody that works there has a passion to fly; we're all on the same page with the same goal," Scoggin said. "Everyone enjoys what they're doing."

While all of the instructors have a great passion to fly, Scoggin says working with



Top: On the tarmac OU's Department of Aviation uses the Piper PA-28-161 as its workhorse. The department replaced their fleet with these planes in 2005.

Middle: Flight check Jignesh Patel, assistant chief flight instructor, adjusts instrumentation on one of OU's single-engine airplanes. Patel has been instructing at the OU Aviation Department since 2001.

(photo by Michael S. Mitra)

Bottom: Sooner Fleet - OU's Department of Aviation has six different types of planes for training. Students usually start with a single-engine plane and move up to larger planes as they gain experience.

(photo by Michael S. Mitra)

OU Alumni Association Connecting With Families

As it says on the plaque outside their offices on the fourth floor of Oklahoma Memorial Union, the OU Alumni Association is “An organization of Alumni and Friends.” Making students feel connected to the tradition of excellence that OU has is a big part of their mission, says Associate Vice President for Alumni Affairs and Executive Director of the OU Alumni Association Rennie Cook. “Alumni of the university share the unique experiences that come from being a student at OU. Our alma mater has a rich history and tradition that we all celebrate and a reputation for excellence that makes us all proud to be Sooners.”

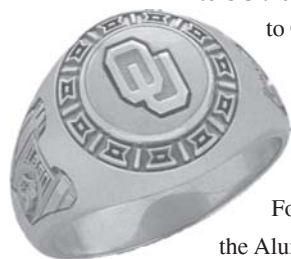


The Alumni Association has several programs that directly cater to the needs of students. “There is sometimes a perception that we are just going to wait until graduation before we’re a part of a Sooner’s experience. Fortunately, we have the charge to be involved with student life from the beginning.”

The OU Ring, the Class Gift and the Sower’s Club are all part of the Student Alumni Association, or SAA. Through SAA, the Alumni Association provides more than \$40,000 per year for sponsorship of other student activities like Homecoming, Stompdown and Family Weekend, where this year they will be hosting a special reception for alumni parents with students at OU.

Parents can benefit from Alumni Association programs as well. “Parents have always been a part of the “and Friends” in our mission statement,” says Cook. “Our alumni clubs around the country welcome the participation of parents of current students whether or not they went to OU themselves.” The Association currently has more than 100 alumni clubs and societies that both serve as a connection to OU for alumni and friends and support current students as well. Nearly all Alumni Clubs and Societies provide scholarships for students. Last year alone, Alumni Clubs were responsible for nearly \$300,000 in scholarships awarded to students. “We encourage parents to become involved in the local alumni club in their area and we encourage students to be involved as well, either as a committee member on SAA or as a member of the Sower’s Club. The Alumni Association is dedicated to making the student experience as great as possible.”

For more information on the Alumni Association, SAA or the Alumni Club in your area, visit alumni.ou.edu or call the Alumni Association at (405) 325-1710.



Fall Family Weekend Oct. 31-Nov. 1, 2008

Family Weekend is a time for families to celebrate in Norman and be a part of the University of Oklahoma family, celebrating the rich tradition, culture, academic excellence and, of course, football season. This weekend will offer a glimpse into your student’s life and the exciting Sooner Family!

Come to Norman and join us for exciting events, including: a game-day tailgate and watch-party, a “Night at the Arts” hosted at the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art with free food and entertainment, an International Bazaar hosted with International Advisory Committee, a golf tournament, and lots more. We hope to see you there!

<http://cac.ou.edu/familyweekend.html>

**MAKE YOUR
PLANS NOW
TO VISIT CAMPUS!**



Student Life: Growing Leaders

Each August as students once again flood the streets of Norman, the office of Student Life eagerly prepares to welcome them back to campus. With programs ranging from Sooner Orientation Weekend to fraternity and sorority recruitment, staff members spend a great deal of energy making sure that students find something to help connect them to the OU experience. Supporting the academic mission of the institution, advisers guide students to tutoring and mentoring opportunities as well as events, speakers and programs that will bridge in-class and out-of-class experiences. This is the ultimate goal of Student Life: to develop scholars, leaders and community servants who see the pursuit of self-awareness as a critical and lifelong journey.

To achieve this goal, Student Life relies on several leadership development trends that urge students to become more aware of their personal strengths and talents. "Now, Discover Your Strengths" (2001) by Don Clifton and Marcus Buckingham is standard recommended reading by the new director, Kristen Partridge. "This book gives students a picture of just how brightly they shine in five top strength areas. They learn to speak about these talents and use them to make choices about possible career options and interests. They develop the skills of identifying and articulating ways they can succeed both at OU and in life beyond college."

Another text, "The Leadership Challenge" (2005) by Kouzes and Posner, provides a short list of the best practices and habits students can develop through extracurricular involvement. Student leaders in multicultural groups, campus activities, orientation, and fraternity and sorority life participate in training that provides them a 360-degree view of their own leadership styles. Having a common

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their stories. their year. their book

College is all about the moments. From meeting a freshman roommate to standing proudly in cap and gown (and every football game, study break and notable personality in between), Sooner yearbook has captured them for a century.



Sooner 2009, a hardbound coffee-table book, will contain 400 pages covering your student's college days in award-winning photos, stories and design, including portraits of the incoming and graduating classes. From the professors they'll want to remember to the trends they'll try to forget, we won't miss an OU memory. Your shelves won't be complete without the 100th edition of this keepsake yearbook.



See the moments you missed or save them for your student.

100th edition of tradition: don't miss yours

PLEASE SEND ORDER TO:

SOONER 2008
860 Van Vleet Oval, Room 149A
Norman, OK 73019-2052

YOU CAN ALSO:

Call (405) 325-2521.
Visit us online at
studentmedia.ou.edu

student[media]

Student Media is a department in OU's
Division of Student Affairs.

SOONER 2009

STUDENT'S NAME		ID NUMBER
MAILING/PERMANENT ADDRESS		
CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE
E-MAIL ADDRESS		PHONE
<input type="checkbox"/> TO BE MAILED IN OKLAHOMA SOONER 2008 yearbook \$65.00 U.S. shipping and handling 4.60 Oklahoma sales tax 4.90 Purchase total \$74.50		<input type="checkbox"/> TO BE MAILED TO ANY OTHER U.S. STATE SOONER 2008 yearbook \$65.00 U.S. shipping and handling 4.60 Purchase total \$69.60

PAYMENT OPTIONS

- credit card # _____ expiration date _____
 name on card _____
 credit card billing address _____
 > signature _____
 check # _____ cash/money order

DEADLINE: All order forms must be received by May 15, 2009. DISTRIBUTION: Sooner 2009 will mail in late July 2009.

Book giveaway!

Win a copy of ...

The Die-Hard Fan's Guide to Sooner Football
by Jim Fletcher
Publisher: Regnery Publishing, 2008.

It's as easy as 1-2-3!

1. Send an e-mail to reed@ou.edu
2. Put "Book Giveaway" in the subject line.
3. Send it by Wednesday, Oct.1.
We will conduct a random drawing and notify the winner via e-mail.

Enhance your family ties to OU; join the Parents' Association TODAY!

parents.ou.edu
Your source for parent information.

As this publication is labeled a "parent newsletter," we would like to include the information you feel would be most beneficial for parents. If you have a concern you would like addressed or want to know something about a specific service or program on OU's campus, please send suggestions, ideas, questions or comments to: Parents' Association, Division of Student Affairs, Suite 265, 900 Asp Ave., Oklahoma Memorial Union, Norman, OK 73109-4054 or to Becky Barker, Editor, reed@ou.edu.

We hope to publish a parent newsletter at the beginning of the fall and spring semesters of each academic year. Thank you for taking time to let us know what you consider important. We'll do our best to include your ideas.

Parents' Association Membership has Numerous Benefits

Following are many benefits linked to membership in the OU Parents' Association:

- > Monthly member-only e-mails and electronic newsletters highlighting current student topics and issues!
- > Early notification of Family Weekend and Parent Weekend dates!
- > Access to purchase football tickets for football game on Family Weekend
(NOTE: This year we did not receive a ticket allotment for the OU-Nebraska game).
- > Scholarships available for students of OUPA members only!
- > Receive a 10 percent discount on all clothing items at the University Bookstore!
- > Volunteer as an area vice president on the Parents' Association Executive Committee!

Membership In Parents' Association:

- \$35 Annual Family Membership (year extends from time dues are processed)
- \$100 Four-Year Sustaining Membership
- \$250 Scholarship/Life Membership
- \$_____ Additional Donation for Scholarship Fund

Enclosed is a check in the amount of \$ _____

Please make check payable to:
OU FOUNDATION
Return to: OU Parents' Association,
900 Asp Ave., Suite 265, OMU,
Norman, OK 73019-4054

Name _____
(Please list both names for a joint membership)

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone Number (_____) _____

E-Mail address _____

Student(s) name _____

Relationship to student:

- parents guardian grandparents other

Please check if you are an OU Alumni - Graduation Year: _____

Action Tutoring cont'd from page 1

that weren't graduating).

There are many new and exciting experiences waiting for students in college—new friends, new classes and new opportunities. The learning experience in the classroom no longer has to be a hurdle for students to enjoy the scholarly aspect of college. Free and convenient academic assistance is now available, and not just for students who are having difficulty and can afford the help. The Action program supports all types of students, from those who make As to those who are looking for the help they need to pass the course. It can be difficult for any student (even me) to admit they need help in a subject, and it can be especially hard to tell parents. That is why it is crucial for students to be honest with themselves and their families. Parents can encourage students to do their very best and take advantage of available services and programs that offer academic assistance. Using these services is part of being successful at OU.

As a Peer Learning Assistant, I have experienced both ends of the academic assistance spectrum. My training as a PLA not only has taught me how to learn better but also how to work with the learning styles of others, to help them learn better. I remember a girl who struggled in economics and had no idea what a Keynesian Cross was, and an hour later she could describe the relationship between output gaps, unemployment and inflation. I've also seen students grasp some intricacies of trigonometry in just hours. The Action program focuses on the student's learning style and assisting them in understanding and mastering the material in the best way possible.

There are other academic assistance programs on campus too. Many offer services throughout the week, mostly during daytime hours. For example, the Writing Center offers free assistance with essays, research papers, lab reports, or resumes and cover letters. The Math Help Lab is

available through the Mathematics Department, and graduate students have scheduled times during the day to help. In addition, professors and graduate teaching assistants have scheduled office hours to assist students, and several departments offer a list of tutors-for-hire. The University of Oklahoma Student Association even keeps a database of for-hire tutors in any subject at <http://tutoring.ou.edu>.

But thanks to this new University College program, students can conveniently access evening assistance through Action Centers and Action Tutoring absolutely free. Parents should remind their students that these options are part of what can make their university experience an academically sound and successful one.

For more information, parents and students can visit <http://uc.ou.edu/action>.

Boren cont'd from page 2

Rawl ExxonMobil Engineering Practice Facility for our College of Engineering as well as the final phase of Gaylord Hall for our journalism and mass communication programs. We broke ground last fall on the Stephenson Life Sciences Research Center, the newest addition to OU's rapidly growing research campus. The center will literally help transform Oklahoma's economy and lead to the creation of new jobs within the state for succeeding generations of Oklahoma students. It will include space for joint projects with industry, core research support facilities to serve the entire campus, and the infrastructure to foster more collaboration with the OU Health Sciences Center.

Above all, the source of our greatest pride is our students. I want to thank you again for sending your daughters and sons to be part of our OU family. I feel privileged to work with them not only as President, but also as a faculty member for

Campus Safety cont'd from page 3

have prepared a training session for faculty and staff that better prepares them to address threats or incidents of concern.

OU students have two additional resources available to them: SafeRide and SafeWalk.

SafeRide provides a safe taxi ride home from within the Norman city limits on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 10 p.m. until 3 a.m. Students who do not feel comfortable walking alone may call SafeWalk and request an escort from 8 p.m. to 2 a.m., seven days a week. Escorts carry and display an identification card with their likeness, name and SafeWalk name and year of service to verify their identity. OU provides blue, emergency phones throughout the campus area. These specially installed telephones at various outdoor locations in academic and housing areas on

the past 28 straight semesters. Being able to interact with our students in the classroom gives me a chance to truly sense their values and assess their abilities. It has only deepened my respect and admiration for them.

In partnership with you, we are truly making OU a center of excellence and source of pride for our students and parents.

Sincerely,



David L. Boren
President

Campus Safety cont'd

campus are connected directly to the OU police - no money - no dialing. These phones can be located by a blue light and a blue sign with the word: "EMERGENCY". Users simply open the blue cabinet and lift the handset to talk to the police dispatcher. While institutions of higher learning are not immune from future threats to students, faculty, staff and property, the University of Oklahoma has taken proactive strides they will hopefully minimize the possibility of such.

For more information or to express any concerns, contact Clarke Stroud (cstroud@ou.edu), university vice president for Student Affairs and dean of students, or Susan Sasso (susan@ou.edu), associate vice president for Student Affairs and associate dean of students at (405) 325-3161.

Parent cont'd from page 5

While driving to the university I started wondering where else I will drive as the dynamics of my family change. My road pondering resulted in a piece titled "Graduation Map" that I invite you to view on my Web site (www.zeorlinart.com). My site also includes poems about stages of family life and you might enjoy a poem titled "After Summer Camp." This poem was written while we were buying all the things needed for someone to move away from home the first time. While some of my art and poetry is sentimental, other works counter the sweet with a touch of playfully sour sarcasm, and then a few pieces are just hard to explain. Not everything we see or do has to be completely understood and I try to remember this while listening to my daughter and son talk about various career options and dreams.

After an end of summer family vacation it will be time to drive our daughter back to Norman, OK. The sun umbrellas and obligatory beach toys will be jettisoned

A Sooner Story cont'd from page 6

students that share that passion is what makes his job enjoyable.

"I like to train people that have a real passion for flying," Scoggin said. "It's a lot of fun because I really have a passion for it, and I like to develop it in others as best I can."

Instructors who are passionate about flying are able to pass on their knowledge and skills to those wanting to gain similar experiences.

With the exclusive training that OU's aviation program offers, Hatch said he has gained a unique experience that most students are unable to find.

"When I'm flying, I feel a departure from everything that is on the ground," Hatch said. "When you get that hour and a half flight time, it's like a little vacation. It's a completely different world. It's exhilarating."

from the van and replaced with the necessities of college life. Then in an instant, I'll be heading home after completing another drive to OU. The van will be empty and I predict sensing a slight sentimental twinge that lasts approximately 5 hours. After a good sleep I'll resume being the experienced father who at least has the drive to the University of Oklahoma figured out.

I was delighted to be invited to write about my experiences of being a dad with a daughter attending the University of Oklahoma. I'm sure every parent has a story to tell about having a child leave home for college. I'm interested in receiving your comments (sweet, sour, or melancholy) by e-mail on what I've written as they might inspire my art and poetry.

Thank you,
Gregory Zeorlin
www.zeorlinart.com
Zeorlinart1@juno.com

Flight Lingo:

Cross country: A reference to a requirement for students after receiving their private pilot's license to fly somewhere across the country. Students choose where they want to fly. Most choose places in a neighboring state like Texas, Kansas or Arkansas.

Solo flight: After receiving their private pilot's license, students are approved by an instructor to fly by themselves. The rest of the semester is split between time as a solo pilot and time with an instructor.

The leans: This effect causes a pilot to physically lean over due to fluid in the inner ear, which turns with the plane at the same speed the airplane is turning. This causes the brain to think it's still turning when it's actually level, causing the body to lean unnecessarily.

Sooner, OU's senior yearbook, is a publication of OU Student Media, a department in the Division of Student Affairs. To purchase a copy for you or your student, return the order form on page 8 or call (405) 325-3668.

Student Life cont'd from page 8

leadership language allows these students and the Student Life staff to better gauge development over time. We also can celebrate the fundamental victories that translate beyond student organizations and activities to the career fields these students enter after graduation.

Students learn so much from their out-of-classroom experiences, and the Student Life office believes it is critical to be there for the "aha moments" that so often come from planning an event or leading a group of peers through a challenging situation. To this end, we are thrilled to begin another academic year of these moments with your students.

The University of Oklahoma

STUDENTaffairs

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OKLAHOMA

FALL SEMESTER

Aug. 25	Classes Begin
Sept. 1	Labor Day Holiday
Nov. 3	Advance Registration for Next Term Begins
Nov. 26-30	Thanksgiving Vacation
Dec. 12	Final Day of Classes
Dec. 15-19	Final Examinations
Dec. 22-Jan. 16	Intersession

Academic calendar
http://www.ou.edu/admissions/home/academic_calendar/Fall_2008.html

SPRING SEMESTER

March 14-22	Spring Break
April 6	Advance Registration for Next Term Begins
May 2	Final Day of Classes
May 11-15	Final Examinations
May 15-16	Commencement
May 18-June 6	Intersession

Academic calendar
http://www.ou.edu/admissions/home/academic_calendar/Spring_2009.html

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