

THE LONG WALK

The President's Corner

By *Jeff Fuscardo*

Time flies when you're having fun. Time slows when you are waiting on Terrelle Pryor to play a complete season as the Buckeyes starting QB. But things haven't slowed for the Board at the Alumni Club of Southwest Florida. We have a great season of activities ahead.

First let me reflect a bit. This year the Board said goodbye to longtime member, and former President Darryll Bauchert. A very special thanks to Darryll for his many years of commitment to the club and to our great University. I still expect Darryll's enthusiasm at Benchwarmers and his famous Calvin t-shirt at the Michigan game watch party. Ohio took back two of our Board members as Kurt Borstleman and Jake Perkins made their way back home to take new job opportunities. We have added Cathy Hamilton as Secretary and promoted Jami Atley to 1st VP. We are always looking for enthusiastic volunteers to help out the Board and share ideas. Let a Board member know if you are interested. Be sure to check out the Officers

page of the website to get to know your club's Board members.

What, you don't have www.swflbuckeyes.com bookmarked as one of your favorites? Check out the site weekly for updates on club activities and game watch parties. We have added a News page that contains news passed on from Columbus to the membership. Check it regularly for updates and new information. Besides the great weekly raffle, we are planning our annual golf tournament for October 3 at River Hall Country Club and our annual book fair will take place on October 24 at Barnes and Noble bookstores. Catch up with our scholarship recipients as well on the Scholarship page. For the second year in a row, the Alumni Club of Southwest Florida has awarded scholarships totaling \$10,000.

I was also doing a little reflecting on our past years game watch parties. I came across an old newsletter where we had 120 people for our Bowl watch party. Wow, what a difference a few years make. We now average over 125 fans per game. And our tailgate and game watch for the Michigan game has brought in close to 300

fans for the past few years. If you have not been to Benchwarmers lately, you are missing out. They have over 50 TV's and have a breakfast buffet on Saturday mornings from 8a-12 noon. It is quite a spread. The restaurant is much cleaner and brighter and the video games have been moved to the back away from the front door. We have many great new prizes this year and will also be auctioning several autographed items throughout the season.

The club is also football season ticket holders as a result of our annual contribution to the Buckeye Club. The Buckeye Club assists student athletes with their tuition at Ohio State. We have the Illinois game (Sept. 26) and the New Mexico State game (Oct. 31) available for sale. Please let me know if you would like to purchase a pair of tickets.

You remember that lucky Block O hat I had last year. Well, it wasn't so lucky. So I traded it in for a new one. And new karma. It all starts September 5th as the Buckeyes take on the Naval Academy at 12 noon in Columbus. That's when Pryor shows that QB from Florida how the game is really played. Go Bucks!

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MEMBERSHIP CORNER

by Jami Atley

Football season is upon us again, and I can feel it in the air! I know we all can't wait for that September 5th game to begin. The sights, the sounds, and that familiar camaraderie OSU fans everywhere have. Please come and join our group on game days at Benchwarmers. When you fill out and return your 2009 SWFL Alumni Membership Renewal card and pay your membership fee, I will have your name tags and food and drink discount cards ready for you to pick up on game day!

As a reminder, you can also download the membership form from the club website via the Membership page. Also, please have your OSUAA number with you when you renew so that we can keep that as part of our records (at the request of Columbus). GO BUCKEYES!

ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

Please see the enclosed flyer to sign-up for our annual golf tournament benefitting the Scholarship Fund. Tee-off Saturday Oct. 3 at Cypress Lake Country Club, Fort Myers. Please mail entry form or contact Bob Shope for more details. 239-848-7334

CLUB EMAIL LIST

If you are not receiving our email updates – weekly during football season – that means we do not have a correct email address for you. Therefore, to receive our eblasts, we need for you to make sure that you give us that address. A sign-up sheet will be available at each watch party for you to sign.

Please print legibly (your name as well as email address) so that you can begin receiving the news the coming week. If you are already receiving our eblasts, you do not need to sign the sheet. Please also notify us if your email address has changed. To sign up by email, send to deers56@ymail.com.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

by Mary Thomas

We had a very successful Community Service project last year and will be holding our 2nd annual Book Fair and Book Drive again this year on National Make a Difference Day, October 24. The Book Fair will kick off a week long Book Drive to benefit Barbara's Friends at The Children's Hospital of Southwest Florida. We will be striving to surpass last year's total of over 1000 books valued over \$5000.00, by again collecting books, videos, CD's, DVD's, and tapes. Cash donations are welcome as well to aid the music room and music therapy of the hospital.

Once again, we are partnering with Barnes & Noble, as well as the Lee Memorial Health System. Vouchers to be used at the Book Fair will be available on line on our website and may be used at any Barnes & Noble bookstore in the United States and abroad on October 24. Please check our website often for updates and listen for announcements at each watch party.

We really want to make a difference in the community. A picture of last year's presentation appeared in the May/June Alumni Magazine.

Volunteers are needed to help with publicity and to man an information table at each hospital the two weeks prior to the Book Fair. For further information about our project, please contact Mary Thomas at marymthomas@embarqmail.com or Cathy Hamilton at cahamilton14@aol.com.

Also, looking ahead to a Bowl Game, at the watch party, we will be collecting cans and boxes of food and cash donations to help supply the Harry Chapin Food Bank. We will be joining our Buckeye brothers and sisters around the country for a massive food drive to aid local food banks. This will be after the holidays and food banks are annually nearly cleaned out at this time of year.

Please help The Ohio State University Alumni of Southwest Florida make a difference and a better community.

GO BUCKS!

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

by Chad Gillen

The time has come again to begin the academic year and our club is proud to award scholarships to three students from Southwest Florida. The recipients are two incoming freshman and Mark Price a sophomore returning from a successful and fun first year at Ohio State. You may remember Mark as one of our scholarship students from last year.

Our freshman recipients are Taylor Mandel and Samantha Lehmann. Taylor is a graduate of Canterbury School whose achievements include honor roll, involvement in several school organizations and hundreds of volunteer hours in a number of community service programs. Taylor plans to major in business while she continues a long family tradition of attending Ohio State dating back to her great-great aunt who graduated from Ohio State in 1923.

Samantha is a graduate of Gulf Coast High School and started at Ohio State this summer. While at Gulf Coast, Samantha excelled in sports and cheerleading while still finding time for Medical Academy and getting involved in many community service projects. She plans to major in Sport Medicine. Samantha started early in Columbus since she tried out and made The Ohio State Cheerleading Squad.

Congratulations to Taylor, Samantha and Mark! Make sure to stop by the front table at the game watch parties to see their pictures.

Members of our alumni club will serve as representatives for the University at 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. The Bishop Verot College Day will be on Wednesday, September 23rd from 9:00 to 10:30 am at Bishop Verot High School. Lee County Schools will also hold its College Night on Wednesday, September 23rd from 7:00 to 9:00 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 become Buckeyes. Remember you can go on-line 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.

CLUB ITEMS FOR SALE

We have an assortment of club shirts for sale. Knit polo shirts in Sm, Med, Lg, XLg, and XXLg in white, red and black. XXLg is \$38.00 and all other sizes are \$35.00.

The book, Buckeye Madness is a good read and is \$10.00. Items may be purchased at the watch parties. Please see Mary Thomas at Benchwarmers to purchase these great items.

Benchwarmers
Family Restaurant & Sports Bar
 16440 S. Tamiami Trail
 Forest Plaza
 Fort Myers, FL 33908
 239-466-8326

Sept. 5	Navy	12:00pm
Sept. 12	USC	8:00pm
Sept. 19	Toledo	12:00pm
Sept. 26	Illinois	TBA
Oct. 3	@Indiana	7:00pm
Oct. 10	Wisconsin	TBA
Oct. 17	@Purdue	TBA
Oct. 24	Minnesota	12:00pm
Oct. 31	New Mexico St.	TBA
Nov. 7	@ Penn State	TBA
Nov. 14	Iowa	TBA
Nov. 21	@ Michigan	TBA

2009 SWFL Alumni Club Membership Renewal


It's time to renew your membership! (Renewals run on a calendar year).

_____ \$15 Individual membership

_____ \$Donation to the Scholarship Fund

_____ \$20 Family membership

OSU Alumni Club of SWFL

Please complete this card and return with payment to: 

P.O. Box 61381

Ft. Myers, FL 33906-1381

Name Printed Clearly:

Update Address/Phone /email (CHANGES ONLY) :

New Info Requested! Please complete for each renewing club member:

First Name:

Hometown City/ST:

OSUAA#

OSU Class of:

1. _____

2. _____

OSU Alumni Club of SWFL

P.O.Box 61381

Fort Myers, FL 33906-1381