



the union times

the newsletter of the oklahoma state university student union

april 2011

state of the union

by Mitch Kilcrease, Director



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Each year in April the Oklahoma State University campus is full of life. With the green grass and flowers in bloom comes one last burst of energy from the students and faculty. As the school year begins to draw to an end, it seems as if everything is moving at a million miles per hour trying to tie up loose ends. The conclusion of classes and activities has the campus abuzz, and the Student Union is no exception.

As you walk between the U¹⁰⁰ Student Union temporary facility and the Student Union, you can see the building taking shape. Many of the main architectural details are coming together. As you look around the Student Union and notice the changes taking place, you can see the building coming back to life, and the plans and drawings coming together to look like the finished product. Even though it is, at times, hard to imagine, the Student Union is making great strides of progress.

Typically this time of year the Student Union would be the main hub of activities, but this year due to the construction it has been quieter, figuratively. Many walls are being erected as we speak, and they are ready to be transformed into offices and meeting spaces. We are more than ready to, once again, house all of the student organizations and campus groups and have the excitement of the basement move up to the second floor. Luckily, when the students return in the fall they will be greeted by newly finished construction and better facilities. The second floor will be more of a hub than ever with the student organizations, small group meeting places and lounge areas. The basement will continue to be a flurry of activity as it will house lounges, a great programming area and some of our other services.

As we wrap up our spring events, the campus hurriedly prepares for final tests and commencement. Those graduating will hopefully come back and visit the campus with fond memories of the Student Union as it once was and an appreciation for the bright future of the building. Students leaving for the summer leave with a hope of finding a brand new place to study, dine, shop and hang out when they return. I can only imagine the excitement the Student Union will inspire in a new class of students.



This time next year, the second floor north side will be a flurry of Campus Life and student organization activities.

ECO-OSU wins Outstanding Organization of the Month

Story by "Daily O'Collegian" writer Geoff Goldsmith

As another month passes, so does another month of student-oriented dedication. This means the tradition that Campus Life began last month, awarding an Outstanding Student Organization of the Month Award, also carries on. This month's recipient is ECO-OSU. The group, as its name suggests, focuses their agenda on the environment.



Club president Brittney Melton is happy the group received this honor. "We're excited to receive this award and hope that it recognizes us for our actions as a group because that's what our main focus is," Melton said. "And every event that we coordinate, we try and make it something of value, not only for our members but also for our focus."

This intent, as shared by both Brian Lackman, graduate assistant, and Kent Sampson, director of Campus Life, was the goal from the beginning. Lackman, who came up with the original thought behind this new method, said this in a previous interview: "I think the initial purpose was really to help some of the organizations that aren't well recognized, that may not get a lot of attention. (Ones that) a lot of students just might not know that they even exist."

Recognizing a large number of student organizations, 458 to be exact, on a campus such as OSU seems like a daunting task. This is the leading factor in the decision to honor one group per month, he said. "It's a little more manageable, more reasonable and certainly easy to do with so many groups doing so many good things," said Sampson.

Many of the events that ECO-OSU conducts are either ongoing or annual. One of the most notable is Earth Fest, an annual festival recognizing Earth Day. It will be held this year on April 22 at Theta Pond. Another movement yet to begin is Tree Campus USA, which will include a technological study on tree locations for campus departments such as Physical Plant. Not only is it meant to assist many aspects of sustaining and caring for our campus, but it also is designed to "emphasize the importance of trees" on a wider scale, Melton said.

The complexity of these projects demonstrates how long and hard the students of this group work, which is one of the factors Campus Life takes into consideration when recognizing student groups. They will join the OSU chapter of the International Justice Mission, January's recipient, as honorees at this year's President's Leadership Banquet hosted by OSU President Burns Hargis. The banquet is designed to collectively honor these organizations and other individuals, whether it be faculty, student or staff. This year's event will be held on April 13 at the Noble Research Center Atrium.

Earth Day Highlights UDS Offerings in April

- Roots, in the North Classroom Building, and Newton's, in the new Henry Bellmon Research Center, will feature Made in Oklahoma products and vendors throughout the month of April. They will have free samples of local foods. UDS is also encouraging eco-friendly practices and making a conscious effort to select organic foods whenever possible. Look for signs or check out the UDS Facebook page for more information.
- In celebration of Earth Day later this month, the Adam's Market will feature local, fresh foods at its Sustainable Supper on Thursday, April 21 from 5-7 p.m. The dinner will include tips such as encouraging students and faculty to recycle, reduce their carbon footprint and support trayless dining.
- Don't forget to look for weekly value combos and discounted products at Twenty Something as part of its Value Campaign.
- UDS and the Student Union will sponsor a water table at the Remember the Ten Run. We would love to have volunteers to help at the table. If you're interested please visit remembertheten.com and click on the "Support RT10" link. Be sure to enter Student Union table in the comment section. The Remember the Ten Run is Saturday, April 16.
- If you haven't already "liked" Oklahoma State University Dining Services on Facebook, you should. It's a great way to stay up-to-date on happenings in dining services, or get coupons, deals and Frugal Friday promotions. To join, search for "Oklahoma State University Dining Services."



Wellness is a Priority for the Student Union

The OSU Seretean Wellness Center has been spreading its knowledge and programs to encourage cowboys and cowgirls to lead a more healthful life throughout the OSU community for more than 20 years. The Certified Healthy Department program is another way the Seretean Wellness Center



CERTIFIED HEALTHY DEPARTMENT

OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY
Striving to be America's HEALTHIEST Campus

is setting a new standard of wellness. The goal of the program is to promote wellness in every department on campus; it will recognize departments that already have health-related policies and those who implement new policies. Some of the criteria include encouraging employees to compete health screenings, giving flexible schedules to allow for exercise, weight loss events or smoking

cessation classes, and even bringing healthful snacks to department meetings.

We are pleased to announce that the Student Union/University Dining Services is one of the first departments to receive the new certification. Congratulations to all Student Union departments for making this possible. Without your dedication and participation, the Student Union would not have received this honor.

"Being healthy does not mean you have to give up everything you love, and it does not mean you have to make major changes. This program encourages subtle changes in the office and provides avenues for employees to make healthier choices," said Ann Hargis, OSU's First Cowgirl.

For additional information, please contact Mary Talley at (405) 744-9355 or mary.talley@okstate.edu.

Spring into Action

The Healthy Union committee is proud to announce the expansion of exercise programs available to all Student Union and University Dining Service staff members.

- **Yoga** – Can accommodate beginners and avid "yogis" in a workout that will improve your strength, flexibility and balance. Tyler will teach classes Monday and Friday from 12:10-12:50 p.m. and Carol will teach a multi-level yoga class Wednesdays from 12:10-12:50 p.m.
- **Boot Camp** – A great total body workout. While the name sounds intimidating, it can be adapted to all exercise levels. Boot Camp is Wednesdays and Thursdays at 4:30 p.m. with Molly instructing.
- **Strength and Stretch** – A new class that complements yoga or cardio exercise with an emphasis on "core" muscles. Jenny will teach Strength and Stretch classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12:10-12:50 p.m.



If you're interested, please register through Tracie Brown at tracie.brown@okstate.edu. This includes existing participants as well.

Volunteer in April

The month of April is filled with numerous volunteer opportunities. Below is only a selection of the offerings available through the OSU Service Learning Volunteer Center. For more details regarding these events and how to volunteer, please visit volunteer.okstate.edu.



- The Richmond Parent Teacher Organization needs 75-80 volunteers to help set up and operate games for the Richmond Spring Carnival on Saturday, April 3. Contact Amy Gazaway at (405) 614-0612 or amy.gazaway@okstate.edu to volunteer.
- OSU's Relay for Life is Thursday, April 8 and Friday, April 9 from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. For more information about getting involved with Relay For Life, please contact Leah McDonald at leah.mcdonald@okstate.edu.
- The American Heart Association Heart Walk is Saturday, April 9. For more information, please visit paynecountyheartwalk.blogspot.com or search Payne County Heart Walk on Facebook.
- Elks BBQ Blazathon benefiting the Judith Karman Hospice is Saturday, April 9. Contact Valerie Zayat-Bloodgood, volunteer coordinator for the Judith Karman Hospice, at (405) 377-8012 to help.
- The Big Event, sponsored by Student Government Association, will be held community-wide Saturday, April 16. Visit SGA website at osusga.com for more information.
- Skyline Elementary Carnival will be held Saturday, April 16. Volunteers are needed! Please contact the SLVC for more information.

Book Buybacks Around the Corner

It's almost the end of another semester and time for students to think about what they'll do with their textbooks. Unfortunately, some students might be unhappy to learn that the value of their textbook has depreciated significantly during the semester, or is not eligible for buyback. The National Association of College Stores offers some answers to students' most frequently asked questions about textbook buyback:

Why are some books worth more?

The value of a used book depends on whether or not that particular book has been assigned by a professor for the next semester. If the Bookstore has received a textbook adoption form from the department/professor for the book, the Bookstore will generally buy back used copies in good condition for about 50 percent of the retail price. If the book has not been assigned on campus for the next term, the Bookstore will check with wholesale companies to determine the national market value – often a smaller percentage of the original retail price.

Why did my friend get more than I did for the same book?

Timing plays a huge role in students getting the best prices during buyback. A late book order from an instructor can negatively impact the value of a book. Also, the national market value for a particular book fluctuates based on the changing supply and demand for that book nationwide.

Why won't the store buy back my books?

Stores and wholesalers typically don't buy back books once their quota is reached. But there are other reasons why your book may not be bought back as well: it's possible your textbook is not being used anywhere next semester, particularly if it is highly specialized or customized; the publisher may be replacing the book with a new, updated edition next term; the book may be part of a required package of items that cannot be sold separately; or, your copy may not be salable due to its poor condition.

Why don't I get more for my books?

College stores provide used books as a less expensive alternative for students, generally pricing them 25 percent less than new books. Because providing used books is a labor intensive process that creates additional costs for stores, paying more for them at buyback would raise the retail price of the book when it is resold.

Why don't stores sell used books for the same price they were bought back?

Stores must add an amount to the price of all merchandise, including used books, to help cover normal operating expenses. These include: staff wages and benefits; mortgage or rent payments; utilities; insurance and taxes; checkout systems; shelving; security; cleaning and repairs; supplies; and other expenses.

Did You Know?

The Student Union Bookstore generates \$15 million of the Student Union's \$19 million budget?

For more information about the Bookstore, visit bookstore.okstate.edu.

Panhellenic Extension

The Office of Fraternity and Sorority Affairs is excited to announce the Oklahoma State University Panhellenic Council is open for the extension of a new sorority chapter. What does this mean? Before spring break the Panhellenic Council voted to begin the process of adding another sorority to campus. This addition would bring the number of Panhellenic sororities to 12. At this point the Panhellenic Council is open to accept proposals from sororities who are not currently a part of OSU's Greek system, but would like to join. The addition of a new sorority will not be immediate, but based on a time line written by the Panhellenic Council. A new sorority can be expected to begin recruiting members in the fall of 2011. Please visit gogreek.okstate.edu for more information.

CORD Apps Due

Creating Opportunities for Responsible Development (CORD) applications are due Tuesday, April 22 at 4 p.m. CORD provides recognition for outstanding student service commitment. An orange honor cord is given to students who have performed 400 hours of service during their undergraduate years at OSU. Graduates with 300 hours of service at OSU are also eligible. Applications are available online at www.campuslink.okstate.edu or at the Campus Life kiosk in 006 Classroom Building.

For more information, please call the Service Learning Volunteer Center (405)744-5145 or visit volunteer.okstate.edu.



Training Corner

OSU Human Resources offers development programs throughout the year to staff and faculty. Following is a listing of upcoming training opportunities. Participating will help you in becoming more productive, improve your interpersonal skills and provide you with new ideas you can apply to your job. For more information about these programs, including applicable fees, times and locations, please hr.okstate.edu/hr/training/training.htm.

April

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| 5 ** Socially Orange: An Introduction into the World of Social Media | 20 ** ✨ Stop Lying to Employees on Performance Reviews |
| 6 + At Your Service! | 20 \$\$ Assignment Checks |
| 7 ** New Employee Orientation | 20 ++\$ Sustainability in the Workplace |
| 7 \$ Purchasing Policies and Procedures | 21 \$ Purchasing Card Training |
| 12 * Change Management | 21 \$ Information Security Awareness Training |
| 12 * Communication Skills | 21 ++** ✨ Sexual Harassment Policy Training |
| 13 ++** ✨ Disability: Issues and Paradigms | 27 ++** The Business Professional - |
| 13 ** ✨ Sustainable Leadership | 27 ++** The Power of Management Skills--Even If You're Not the Boss- |
| 14 ✨ Payroll Processing | 28 ✨ Payroll Accounting |
| 14 What is Affirmative Action? | 28 \$\$ Bad Debt Assessment |
| 18 FOCUS Computer Language (Day 1) | 28 \$ Bursar Processes |
| 19 FOCUS Computer Language (Day 2) | |

* = Required Leadership Development Program
 ** = Elective Leadership Development Program
 + = Required Ambassador Program
 @ = HRStar Program
 [= Research Administration Program
 ++ = Elective Ambassador Program

^ = Advanced Leadership Program
 \$ = Fiscally Fit Program
 \$\$ = Strength Training for Fiscally Fit Program
 ✨ = HRStar Program
 ▲ = Advanced Leadership Program

Dealing with Grief

If you have ever lost a loved one, you know how hard it can be to work through your grief and return to your life. Grief can affect anyone, so it is important to have a support system to help you through the difficult times.

A grief support group is held each Monday through May 2 at the Judith United Way Volunteer Center on 109 E. 9th. The support groups meets from noon to 1:30 p.m. and participants can bring a brown bag lunch to eat while the group meets.

"If you are experiencing grief from the loss of someone important, whether weeks ago or years ago, we hope you'll consider attending. The support group is a way to receive support of others who are grieving. You can come to share or just listen," says Lea Clougherty, Judith Karman Hospice bereavement coordinator.

Drinks and desserts will be provided by Judith Karman Hospice. Judith Karman Hospice is sponsoring the lunchtime grief support group as a public service. For more information, call (405) 377-8012.

Credit Card Safety

Jump\$tart Your Money Week is April 18-22. It focuses on personal financial literacy. Stop by the Service Learning Volunteer Center in Classroom Building room 008 and pick up your copy of the ABCs of credit card abuse. Host a financial literacy workshop for your student organization, or give us a call and we will send a representative from the SLVC.

April SUAB Activities

- 8 Cash-Out Casino
8 p.m., SU Atrium
- 8 Reel Film Festival
7 p.m., Starlight Terrace
- 13 Dragonfly
8 p.m., Wes Watkins Center
- 16 OSU Motorcycle Show
TBA, Lot 74 (Behind Iba Hall)
- 22 Music Fest
5 p.m., Library Lawn
- 23 Easter Egg Festival
TBA, SU Atrium
- 28 Movie: "No Strings Attached"
7 & 9 p.m., Starlight Terrace
- 29 Movie: "No Strings Attached"
7 & 9 p.m., Starlight Terrace
- 29 Undead Bingo
8 p.m., SU Ballroom

For more information about Student Union Activities Board (SUAB), visit suab.okstate.edu.

The Union Times is published by the Student Union Marketing Department. Its purpose is to tie the Union staff together through news, entertainment and features.

The Union Times staff want to hear from you! All comments, ideas and suggestions are welcome. Please bear with us as we try new things and omit others. If you notice a mistake, please contact us so we can correct it. Tell us what you would like to see - we're listening! Thank you for your support.

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