



OSU GLBT *Alumni Society*

**THE GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER ALUMNI SOCIETY
OF THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**



More than 50 GLBT Alumni Society members cheer on the Buckeyes v. Northwestern in October.

OSU v. Northwestern

More than 50 GLBT alumni joined the Society on its second tour to the "city of broad shoulders." A weekend of activities were planned including shows, museums and shopping.

A welcome reception on Friday night at Hydrate, one of Chicago's hottest new bars on North Halstead, gave the alumni a chance to meet and socialize with each other and alumni from the Chicago area.

The big event for the weekend was of course the Ohio State vs. Northwestern game. Unfortunately, the Bucks were defeated by the Wildcats in their first loss of the season.

"Of course I was upset to see us lose," said alumni society member Ben Weiner. "But I must say--it didn't stop us from having a blow out in the Windy City!"

The Chicago trip is one of many Alumni tours planned by the Society. Log onto osuglbtalumni.org for a schedule of tours in the new year.

OSU To Continue Benefits for Gays

Despite the recent yes vote on anti-gay Issue 1, The Ohio State University will continue offering domestic partner benefits until court decisions suggest otherwise. With the passage of Issue 1, Ohio's constitution will be amended to prevent recognition of same-sex marriage.

At issue is the ambiguous language in the provision stating "Ohio and its political subdivisions shall not create or recognize a legal status for relationships of unmarried individuals that intends to approximate the design, qualities, significance or effect of marriage."

Before the election, University President Karen Holbrook joined with political leaders of both parties and businesses such as Nationwide and The Limited in denouncing the constitutional amendment as bad for OSU and all of Ohioans.

"Ohio State competes in a global marketplace for the best and brightest," Holbrook said in a statement on September 29. "These valued faculty, staff and students provide Ohio State with the rich, diverse, and productive environment that is required to make Ohio competitive and economically healthy."

Further, Holbrook said domestic partner benefits are necessary to remain competitive with other employers and institutions of higher education.

Ohio State's Board of Trustees approved domestic-partner benefits for University employees in July, shortly after similar measures by Miami University, Ohio University. According to University spokeswoman Elizabeth Conlisk, roughly 60 individuals have applied for the benefits, costing the University \$300,000 per year. However, no public money is used to fund the benefits, as they are supported through interest on a fund of unrestricted gifts.



Remembering the Neutron Man

Ohio State's biggest fan, nicknamed "Neutron Man" died recently at the age of 62. Orlas King, who also owned restaurants in the Columbus and Newark area, passed away while on vacation in Florida.

The Neutron Man has been a fixture at Ohio State games since the mid 1980's when the marching band began playing the hit popularized by Gay icons, the Pointer Sisters.

In 2003 as part of the Columbus Gay Pride Celebration, the GLBT Alumni Society arranged for King to meet his idols, June and Bonnie Pointer, formerly of the Pointer Sisters. At the time King commented "it was such an honor to meet them (the Pointer Sisters), I will be forever grateful for your group for setting this up."

"I remember Orlas being so very grateful and just like a kid when he met June and Bonnie. He was always so full of energy and brought a smile to my face every time I saw him," commented Society President Jack Miner who had arranged the meeting.

Through the years, King helped raise money for a number of alumni clubs and societies around the country performing at various events. Proceeds from the sale of plush "Neutron Man" dolls went to support OSU's marching band. The marching band is currently considering whether or not to retire the "Neutron Dance" from its line-up in honor of King.



Orlas King, better known as "Neutron Man," pictured here with June and Bonnie Pointer backstage at the 2003 Columbus Gay Pride Celebration.

Society Scores Top Awards

The GLBT Alumni Society took home two awards at the annual OSU Alumni Leadership Conference on October 29, 2004. The awards were part of the annual Alumni Society Awards presented by the Ohio State Alumni Association at the Fawcett Center.

For a second time since the GLBT Society's organization in 2002, the group was awarded an *Outstanding Alumni Society Award* for exemplary efforts to promote the University through community relations, student programming, fellowship and networking efforts. These four areas are the foundation to the mission of the Alumni Association.

"We're honored to again be awarded for our dedication to the University, Alumni Association and students," said Jack Miner, president of the Society. "The fact that we're winning this again is speaks to the strengths of our young Society."

In addition, the GLBT Society was presented with the *Alumni Society Newsletter Award* for its quarterly *Scarlet & Gay* publication. Criteria for consideration included regular alumni news and feature stories, meeting announcements and reviews of previous special events.

Looking for a leadership opportunity where you can use your skills to plan events and programming?

We're looking for you.

The Programming Chair for The Ohio State University Alumni Society is currently available. Interested candidates should contact Jack Miner at miner.10@osu.edu



THE BEST FANS IN THE LAND!

Town Hall on Marriage Equality Draws from Across Ohio

Community members from around the state came to Columbus on September 28th, to attend a Town Hall on marriage rights sponsored by the GLBT Alumni Society. The forum, held at the Longaberger Alumni House, focused on educating the public on state Issue 1 that could not only ban gay marriage but may also take away contract and property rights as well as eliminating many employer's domestic partner benefits programs.

The forum featured Chad Foust, Board Chairman of Ohioans for Growth and Equality, the statewide GLBT advocacy organization and Dr. Herb Asher, professor emeritus of political science at Ohio State. The forum provided an opportunity for concerned community members to get questions answered and to bring attention to how important it is for our community to not only vote but also to inform their friends and families of the effect of Issue 1 on our lives.

A fiery Chad Foust noted "This is too much and should not happen in our state. It's mean spirited, hateful and discriminatory"

The amendment goes further than others in the country and had been criticized by many newspapers and political leaders in the state—both Democrats and Republicans. On the day of the town hall, Jim Petro, attorney general of Ohio, issued a statement calling the language "vague and confusing" and criticizing the amendment as unnecessary.

While the Society served as the lead sponsor of the event, other sponsors were invited to co-sponsor as an opportunity to increase voter turnout and participation.

"We saw this as the most effective community service event we could do for the GLBT community. Our hope was not only to educate but also to get more GLBT community members involved in the process," said Jack Miner, Alumni Society President.

Other sponsors included Stonewall CAN, Stonewall Democrats, Log Cabin Republicans, HRC – Columbus Steering Committee, Ohioans for Growth and Equality, and BRAVO.

For more information please visit www.opcpac.com.



TOP: Chad Foust and Herb Asher (left to right) take comments and questions from the crowd at the town hall meeting on marriage rights.

BOTTOM: A standing room only crowd listens as the speakers share information about the effects of issue 1 on our community.



GLBT Alumni Society Board of Directors

President	Jack Miner
Vice President	Deb Ballam
Secretary	Chad McCoury
Treasurer	Ben Drake

Committee Chairs

Advocacy	Matt Hamparian
Awards	Vacant
Communications	Nathan Kraft
Fundraising	Benjamin Weiner
Mentoring	John Cramton
Membership	Tim Leonard
Programming	Robin Strohman
Scholarship	Erica Claman



GLBT Alumni Society Celebrates at Annual Tailgate

The GLBT Alumni Society's annual tailgate party was before the OSU v. Marshall football game on September 11, 2004. The group enjoyed food from Downtown Cajun, plenty of ice cold beverages and a last minute overtime victory by the Buckeyes.

Several hundred alumni and friends were in attendance, breaking records for the largest GLBT Alumni Society tailgate party to date.

"It's great to see the crowd continue to grow," said Jack Miner, president of the Society. "Crowds rivaled other alumni groups far more established than our 3-year-old organization."



TOP and BOTTOM: The Capital City Pride Band delighted the crowd with their own versions of Buckeye classics. Hang on, Sloopy!



RIGHT TOP: GLBT fans were decked out in all the necessary accessories.

RIGHT CENTER: Ahh, the beauty of securing an on-campus alcohol permit with University approval. Fun even for those who aren't football fans.



Annual Meeting Kicks Off 2004 Pride Weekend

As part of Pride 2004, the GLBT Alumni Society once again held its annual meeting. The annual meeting is a chance for the society to report to the membership on the activities of the year and to give members a chance to vote on board members. The annual meeting, required by the University's Alumni Association is given a special twist by our society and is annually held as a cocktail reception during Pride Weekend. This year the meeting and reception were held at the Crowne Plaza on Friday evening of Pride Weekend.

At this year's event we honored board members whose term ended including Rob Berger, Andy Kool-Tucker, and Jim Ford. Jack Miner renewed his board term and three new members were elected including Chad McCoury, John Cramton and Ben Weiner.

A special addition this year was the OSU's GLBT Alumni Society holding of a half-day conference for other GLBT societies in the state. Board members from Ohio University and Miami University met with Ohio State officers to share ideas and experiences and develop strategies to work together. We plan for this to be an annual meeting and hope that other schools are able to join us in the coming year.



University Notes

OSU Recruits Brightest Freshman Class...

For the 10th consecutive year, OSU welcomes its best academically prepared freshman class.

In a trend that began ten years ago, first-year students have continuously improved in measures of academic quality.

First-year students this year have entered Ohio State with higher than ever average ACT and SAT scores, while more are in the top 10 percent and top 25 percent of their high school class. The university also has more University Scholars, who are students in the top 3 percent of their graduating classes and achieve an ACT composite score of 29 or above or a combined SAT score of 1300 or above.

Research Budget Tops \$500 Million...

For the first time in the institution's history, Ohio State University researchers have received more than a half-billion dollars in research funding during the last year. The funding total is a milestone reached by only a select few national research universities. Total research awards for the 2004 fiscal year reached \$528,157,120 – a 13.9 percent increase over the previous year.

Ohio State One of Best Nationally for African American Students

Black Enterprise magazine has again ranked The Ohio State University as one of the 50 best colleges nationally for African American students. Ohio State ranks No. 44 in the October 2004 issue, up from 45th last year.

Ohio State's ability to remain competitive with the nation's top private institutions, including some of the historically Black colleges and universities, indicates that the university's diversity strategies are working.



New Recreation Center Among Nation's Largest

Each quarter we try to use the back page of our newsletter to highlight changes on campus or in the Columbus area. Our hope is to try to give those that have moved out of the area a chance to reminisce about the area and to give those who have stayed in Columbus more information about the changing landscape of campus.

One of the most ambitious projects taken on by the university over the past few years is the Recreational and Physical Activity Center (RPAC). The New facility, being built in phases, will replace Larkins Hall, that has been considered out of date and run down for a number of years. The facility will be over 600,000 square feet of space.

RPAC will offer 25,000 square feet of fitness space with state of the art cardio and weight equipment, 10 racquetball courts, 12 basketball courts, a 4 lane jogging track, and aerobic rooms.

As part of the new facility, the Adventure Recreation Center opened this fall. The Adventure Center is in an entirely new facility at the corner of Woody Hayes Drive and Kenny Road. The facility specializes in what would normally be outdoor activities including a 4,000 square feet climbing wall, indoor turf fields, basketball and volleyball courts and the a trip-planning resource center.

RPAC will also concentrate on wellness as well as fitness. The center will feature the Mary A. Daniels Student Wellness Center. Mary, a long time administrator with the university served as chair of the university's student insurance committee. Prior to her retirement, she oversaw the portion of student affairs that includes the Department of Recreation and Intramural Sports. Mary was also a long time friend of the GLBT community and championed domestic partner benefits for students for a number of years.

In addition to a fee-based membership for faculty, staff and students, paid OSU Alumni Association members may join.

