



Orange Jackets Alumni News

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Margaret C. Berry Scholarship.....	2
Callboxes.....	2
Fall Benefit.....	3
Settlement Home.....	3
Mandatory.....	3
Week of Women.....	4
Alumni Events.....	4
Tappee Project.....	5
Website.....	5

"To be among this outstanding group of women is amazing. The women of Orange Jackets are such extraordinary and diverse women with incredible passions. I feel honored to have met them because I know that they are going to accomplish greatness and change the world some day in some way."

-Dera Barlow, Tappee '06



Orange Jackets on the field with President Powers and former President Faulkner

Alumni Association

Greetings from your newly-forming Alumni Association! I am Leslie Lace Wells, and served as Orange Jackets president in 1992-1993. After attending medical school in San Antonio and residency in Houston, I am happy to be back in Austin where I'm a pediatrician with Hill Country Pediatrics.

When Sharon Justice, Sherri Sanders, and the current OJ leadership approached me with the idea of starting an Orange Jackets Alumni Association, my burnt orange blood was pumping with excitement. We hope that by forming such an association we can reconnect old OJ friends, bring alumnae and actives together once or twice a year, and *hopefully* one day establish a place on campus where we can permanently display our history. We've got a great group of women on our Alumni Board thus far: Pam Britton, Clare Buie Chaney, Leila El-Hakam, Brooke Geren, Nikelle Meade, Ifeoma Odita, Jaclyn Roberson, Laura McAndrew Van Slyke, and Nikki Vaughn. We will spend the next few months getting ourselves organized, and hope to have our first alumni association meeting this fall – likely coinciding with a home football game and/or the unveiling of the latest Tappee class project.

Look for updates from us by either real mail or email in the coming months. And if you are interested in helping us get this off the ground by serving on the first Alumni Board, by all means we'd love to hear from you! If you have any questions or would like to get involved, feel free to contact me at leslielwells@att.net.

Hosting Update

Hosting uniquely characterizes Orange Jackets on campus and throughout the community. It is an honor, and traditionally has never been a requirement for members. This year is not different, and members are visible in their vests giving their time in service to help events run smoothly. The Fall kicked off football season where Orange Jackets and the Texas Blazers greeted donors at a Presidential Reception before each home game. Orange Jackets co-sponsored Einat Wilf, a speaker on "Women in Israeli Politics." Members also helped with the Hispanic Business Students' Association "Main Mall Madness" and a Big XII Athletics Conference.

In February, Orange Jackets co-sponsored "Get Real: Eating Disorder Awareness Week." Members advertised the event and hosted the opening performance by Cosy Sheridan. Additionally in February, Orange Jackets was a part of the Austin conference for Leadership Texas, a group of women leaders from across the state (including some former OJs!). The Austin Film Society has asked for members to be a part of several events throughout March and April, including their annual Film Awards. When Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein came to host a panel on Watergate through the Ransom Center, Orange Jackets was there to greet attendees. Even the newly built Blanton Museum of Art has enlisted the service of Orange Jackets in greeting their

guests for various events, including a dinner hosting Martha Stewart!

The role of the organization as the hosts of the University has remained constant since 1923. Hosting is a way to give back to the University and community as well as promote women's issues and school pride.

Margaret C. Berry Scholarship Update



Actives visiting with Dr. Berry

Orange Jackets is currently in the process of recruiting applicants for our 2007 Margaret C. Berry Scholarship Award. The Margaret C. Berry Award was originally established in 1978 by the Orange Jackets, Mortar Board, and the Texas Exes. It is presented annually to an outstanding sophomore woman who has contributed greatly to the University during her short time on campus. The award consists of a scholarship (\$875) from the Texas Exes as well as honorary memberships into both Orange Jackets (beginning in fall 2007) and Mortar Board (beginning in the winner's fourth and/or final year at UT).

All applicants for the Margaret C. Berry Award must meet the following criteria:

- **Scholarship:** a minimum 3.0 GPA, with no less than 30 hours and no more than 3 long semesters completed; must be a sophomore by years (i.e. must have enrolled in college beginning in summer or fall of 2005).
- **Leadership:** demonstration of leadership skills and responsibility
- **Service:** a commitment to campus and community affairs with a desire to help others and contribute to the University.

We are really looking forward to reading applications and interviewing for our newest Margaret C. Berry Scholarship recipient and look forward to welcoming her into Orange Jackets!

Callboxes in West Campus

Recently, Orange Jackets decided to confront the growing crime rates in the West Campus area and place emergency 911 callboxes in six locations in the student living area as last year's Tappee class project. In coordination with the City of Austin and partnership with AT&T, Orange Jackets raised \$35,000 dollars for the six callbox units and worked with the City of Austin to have them installed.

This was a unique project because it involved the City of Austin, University staff and administration, UT students, AT&T and numerous city agencies. The effort culminated in a press conference in September.

Since the callbox installation, Orange Jackets have participated in a City Safety & Security Council hosted by Council member Jennifer Kim. Also, in October we hosted a rally to hand out safety information and wallet-size safety call cards for students to use in case of an emergency. Since Sept. 20th the five callboxes that are currently placed in the West Campus area have received 15+ emergency calls that were successfully responded to by the Austin Police Department. Orange Jackets continue to work on issues facing the UT Austin community, and what we do here is changing Austin.

"These ladies were all Orange Jackets... just like you."

-Dr. Margaret C. Berry, former Orange Jacket



Orange Jackets at the Push for Safety rally



West Campus callbox



Lindsey and Christine working the registration table

Fall Benefit

Every year, Orange Jackets puts on a Fall Benefit to raise money for our favorite philanthropy, The Settlement Home. This year was no different. Nearing the end of the first semester, Orange Jackets once again put on Capture the 40 Acres, a benefit capture the flag tournament involving students and groups from all across campus. The tournament, which was a Tappee project in the years past, has been put on as the Orange Jacket Fall Benefit for the past two years. This year, the Orange Jackets raised \$2000 dollars from Fall Benefit which was given to the girls at The Settlement Home.

Settlement Home



Cottages at The Settlement Home

Austin Settlement Home, the Orange Jackets' main philanthropy, is near and dear to our hearts. Throughout the year, Orange Jackets volunteer every Friday for an hour with the residents of Austin Settlement Home, a home for abused and neglected girls. Activities this year have included decorating t-shirts, making collages, painting flower pots, making bird feeders, and as always enjoying nice days with outdoor sports! Furthermore, Orange Jackets has donated \$2000 to Settlement Home, which is solely funded through private donations. The Settlement Home Volunteer Coordinator said this of Orange Jackets: "The Orange Jackets are a unique organization of young women that serve as role models to our children by participating in activities with them on a consistent basis throughout the school year."

If you would like to learn more about The Settlement Home for Children, you can visit their website at <http://www.settlementhome.org>.

Mandatory



Orange Jackets at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

Each semester, the Orange Jackets complete one project together as a large group. This past fall semester, the Orange Jackets worked at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center helping them prepare for their *Luminations: A Winter Celebration*. Orange Jackets helped with everything from digging trenches to bury electrical lines to setting up hundreds of luminarias, torches and lanterns all over the park for visitors to enjoy. As Lady Bird Johnson is a former Orange Jacket, this project was near and dear to our hearts.

This semester, we volunteered at the Ronald McDonald House (RMHC), which is a house for parents whose children are in intensive care units in Austin hospitals. The House offers a homey and comfortable place for families to live while they are dealing with a difficult time in their lives. The Orange Jackets helped the House assemble centerpieces for their annual fundraiser. The development director for RMHC said this of our organization following our service day: "You all are just a lovely group of women and it would be our pleasure to have you back to the House when ever you would like to come. I am very grateful for your support of the Ball and the decorations team."



Some OJs at last year's Week of Women event

Week of Women



Orange Jackets is continuing its seven-year tradition of informing, empowering, and celebrating women on campus and in the community. This year, Week of Women (which started out as a Tappee project) is celebrating bold women – women who take on impossible odds, make strides in non-traditional fields, and create a legacy for other women to follow. Our week will start with a kickoff rally on campus, where we will be handing out t-shirts and also honoring Barbara Jordan. We will also celebrate women in comedy by inviting local female comedians to the Union Theatre. Our week will round out with a discussion of women in politics, in which we have invited a panel of women in public service and professors that can speak to the issue. This year's Week of Women schedule is as follows:

Monday, April 16: Kickoff Rally, 10 a.m. -2 p.m., West Mall

Wednesday, April 18: Funny Girls: A Night of Women in Comedy, 7 p.m., Texas Union Theatre

Thursday, April 19: Women in Politics, 9 p.m., Tejas House

Friday, April 20: Fashion Heritage Project, 6 p.m., Frank Erwin Center

Alumni Events



Newly vested Actives at the 2006 Initiation

The Orange Jackets would like to invite you to our 2007 Initiation, to be held on **Saturday, April the 21st at 11am-1pm at Austin City Hall**. This is an exciting event for all of the Orange Jackets, and a wonderful opportunity for you as alumni to reconnect to the organization. We will be celebrating the Tappee project, honoring some Orange Jackets with special awards, and listening to the words of our speaker, former Orange Jacket Ms. Liz Carpenter. Cost of attendance is \$20 and will cover your brunch. Please **RSVP by April 14th to Taryn.Dusek@mail.utexas.edu**. Feel free to also contact her with any questions. Once your attendance is confirmed, you will receive further information. It would be a true honor to have your presence at Initiation this year, and we sincerely hope you will attend. Feel free to wear your vest!

Friday, April the 20th from 5-7pm we will be holding an **Alumni Happy Hour** at Scholz Beer Garten at 1607 San Jacinto Street. Following happy hour, we will head over to the Frank Erwin Center to support the Tappees in part of their Tappee project where they will be holding an informational booth at the Textiles and Apparel Senior Fashion Show and announcing their fundraising efforts for the endowment. If you are interested in attending, please **RSVP by April 14th to Taryn.Dusek@mail.utexas.edu**.

2006-2007 Tappee Project



The goal of this year's Tappee class project is to raise an endowment for the University of Texas Textiles and Apparel Department's Historical Collection. The funds generated from the endowment will go to support the collection's greatest needs, possibly including, but not limited to, garment preservation, awareness programs, and permanent display space.

The Tappees will raise money and awareness for the endowment by soliciting corporate and individual donations, displaying a selection of the garments in an exhibition on campus in the fall, hosting an opening night reception for the exhibit, and having a display booth announcing the fall exhibition at the TXA Department Senior Fashion Show on April 20th.

The Tappee class is excited to have already raised their first few thousand dollars, and hope that by fulfilling this goal they can encourage an interest in the fine arts, raise awareness for the Textiles and Apparel program, and show support for the university's educational resources.

Orange Jackets on the Web

The Orange Jackets are excited to have a wonderful new website this year! The web address is www.ojackets.org. Please check out the website, update your alumni contact information, learn about events and current members, and hopefully sometime soon re-connect with other alumni in our alumni section! If there is anything you'd like to see on our website that is not currently there, please feel free to send your suggestions to our webmaster, Christine Wang at c.wang@mail.utexas.edu.

