

THE UNIONTIMES

L I F E H A P P E N S A T T H E U N I O N

Late September 2015

Important Dates

HUMAN RESOURCE REMINDERS

Benefits Enrollment

Get your calendar out and pencil in the Annual Benefits Election Period this year from Oct. 1 to Oct. 16. All full-time employees must log in to Web for Employees at webemp.okstate.edu during this time to complete their benefit elections for 2016. The September 2015 issue of News You Can Use contains more detailed information about 2016 Annual Benefits. You can read more online at hr.okstate.edu/news_use.

Mandatory Leave Day

Student Union full-time staff members are required to take one mandatory leave day, Dec. 31, 2015. Please mark your calendars and please plan accordingly.

COWBOY FOOTBALL

The Student Union will play host to thousands of fans again this Saturday, Sept. 19 as the Cowboys take on the University of Texas at San Antonio Roadrunners at 2:30 p.m.

The building is sure to be busy with an abundance of activities. Seven of the dining options will be available as well as the University Store being open not only in our building, but also at three other campus locations. These three locations include the ConocoPhillips OSU Alumni Center, the south side of Boone Pickens Stadium and the new west endzone location.

For a complete list of operating hours, please visit union.okstate.edu.

BUILDING TRAFFIC ALERT

Oklahoma State University will host the Principal/Counselor Conference on campus Sept. 22. The Student Union, and its parking garage, is expected to be busier than usual. Please be prepared and welcome our guests in a true Cowboy fashion. The day begins at 8:30 a.m. and concludes around 2 p.m. with campus tours.

VISIT THE NEW UNIVERSITY STORE IN THE WEST ENDZONE.



HR Manager Caught in the Act

In our last issue of Union Times we explained the concept of tribal stories. A tribal story is simply a story or an account of something you experienced that supports the mission and/or brand promise of the Student Union. That brand promise includes: a warm, friendly and welcoming environment; clean and well-maintained facilities; knowledgeable, informative and well-trained staff; and service-oriented and responsive. We are pleased to have received our first tribal story submission. Keep the stories coming! They can be submitted to osuunion@okstate.edu.

The first few weeks of school are brutal for University Dining Services. Most employees are recently hired and being trained on the job as guests flock to the building in search of food service. Caribou Coffee, in particular, is extremely popular as guests look for their shot of

morning caffeine. Recently, Tonishia Van Pelt, Student Union human resources manager, was spotted doing her part to ensure our guests have a quality experience in the building. Two staff members witnessed Tonishia cleaning and refilling the coffee condiment-station as well as emptying the trash during a morning rush at Caribou Coffee.

Thank you, Tonishia, for doing your part in helping make things run smoothly that particular morning and helping improve the overall guest experience. Please know people took notice of your exemplary behavior.

The Union Times looks forward to sharing more of these type of tribal stories with you in upcoming issues.

Panhellenic Council Honored

Congratulations goes to Oklahoma State University's Panhellenic Council. The National Panhellenic Conference recently selected OSU's Panhellenic Council as a recipient of the National Panhellenic Conference College Panhellenic Achievement Award. The award recognizes the success in upholding the values and ideals of Panhellenic in areas such as academics, programming and community relations. This year only 43 out of 672 U.S. and Canadian colleges and universities received this distinction.

Like all college Panhellenics, Oklahoma State University's Panhellenic Council exists to develop and maintain sorority life and interfraternal relations, including programming efforts and leadership development. The council oversees 13 NPC groups represented on the OSU campus. To learn more about OSU's Panhellenic Council, visit gogreek.okstate.edu/panhellenic-council.



FOOTBALL FUN

COWBOYS WIN, YOU SCORE

The University Store is excited for football season and its Cowboys Win, You Score promotion. Every Monday after an away football game victory, all OSU spirit apparel in the University Store at the Student Union will be discounted based on how many points the Cowboys score. For example, if the Cowboys win 28-21 against the Longhorns on Sept. 26, you get 28% off your total spirit apparel purchase in the University Store on the following Monday (Sept. 28). Maximum discount is 40% off and discount applies to in-store, regularly priced spirit merchandise at the Student Union location only and may not be combined with any other offers.

For more information about this promotion, visit universitystore.okstate.edu.

GAMEDAY AT THE UNION

Don't forget about GameDay at the Union, which takes place each home football game on the SU Plaza three hours prior to kick off. This free family-friendly event includes pictures in the OSU themed photo booth, a bounce house, temporary OSU tattoos, a poster making station, tailgating games and other giveaways. This week's festivities begin at 11:30 a.m.

For more information about GameDay at the Union visit the Student Union's website at union.okstate.edu.

A Diverse Campus

INTERNATIONAL OLYMPICS

International Student Organization, the umbrella organization for international area clubs representing numerous cultures, hosts a variety of events throughout the year. One of these events is the International Olympics. This year's International Olympics will take place at the Colvin Recreation Center Sept. 19-20 and 25-27. During this event, international students from many different countries converge to compete in nine sports, including eight-ball pool, badminton, basketball, soccer, tug of war, volleyball, tennis, table tennis and swimming. After two weeks of competition medals and trophies will be presented to the first, second and third positions in all the areas. The competition's mission is to provide team building as well as cultural involvement. Be sure to check out all of the action. For more information about the ISO, visit orgs.okstate.edu/iso.

CHINA PARTNERSHIP

Oklahoma State University is composed of students not only from around the nation, but also from around the world. The number of students attending OSU from other countries is growing. One of the international programs showing attendance increase is the China program with about 426 students.

In 2014, OSU President Burns Hargis began the Agreement Advances Strategic Partnership with Southwest Jiaotong University in China. The program was created to assist with establishing several joint programs to advance faculty development and student exchanges, including enhancing a junior faculty training development center. As the program progresses, there continues to be opportunities for joint studies, degree programs and research collaboration. Since its inception, the program has assisted with the re-establishment of the Chinese language minor program. We look forward to learning about more progress of the program.

For more information about OSU's programs in China, please contact: Vivian Wang, manager of the Chinese Development International Students and Scholars Office, at (405) 744-4283 or email vivian.wang@okstate.edu.



LAS CAFETERAS TO PERFORM

This week, the community has the opportunity to enjoy Latin American music with a unique East L.A. sound and a community-focused political message. Las Cafeteras, a musically-talented Latino group, entertains with storytelling through poetry and song. This contemporary group performs Sept. 18, 2015 at 8 p.m. in the Seretean Center Concert Hall. Tickets can be purchased at tickets.okstate.edu. Tickets are \$22 for adults and \$10 for children 12 and under. Tickets can be purchased the night of the performance beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the Seretean Center box office. For more information call (405) 744-7509.



HEALTHY UNION

The Student Union created its Healthy Union program to create a healthy, inviting and enthusiastic work place. The program focuses on three components essential to an individual's well-being: healthy eating, work/life balance and physical activity.

The Healthy Union committee is making plans for the upcoming semester that support the initiative.

The first Healthy Union lunch will take place Sept. 18. The \$2 lunch will consist of grilled chicken breast, watermelon feta salad and grilled watermelon.



If you are interested in attending lunch, please email Billie Blackburn at billie.blackburn@okstate.edu by the end of the day on Wednesday, Sept. 16.

If you have any suggestions for upcoming programs or initiatives, please contact any Healthy Union committee member or email osuunion@okstate.edu.