



# SENIOR CLASS COUNCIL

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Issue 2

## PANEL ELICITS BOBCAT PRIDE **By: Halle Wilson**

On Tuesday, Feb. 12, Ohio University's Senior Class Council featured six successful OU alumnae during the anticipated Bobcat-to-Bobcat Alumni Panel. Attendees had the opportunity to listen to and learn from the former Bobcats on the do's-and-don'ts of graduate schools, first years out of college, saving and spending money.

The six-speaker panel consisted of Ohio University graduates Kristen Koly-Heath, Mike Cady, Bryan O'Shea, Andrew Adams, Brittany Buxton, Dustin Starkey.

The alumnae spoke to more than 40 students during an informal question-and-answer panel regarding business and communications practices, graduate school and college student personnel options, health care and education. Students were given

the opportunity to ask questions, get advice, and make contacts in the professional world for their future endeavors.

The panelists encouraged students not to be so in tune to finding the perfect job right out of college. "My advice to you is to broaden your horizons," said Buxton.

All six panelists stressed the importance of professional mentors – career coaches, past and present employers, colleagues, family members, etc. Cady ensured students that there are countless benefits of having a mentor – including professional development, recommendation letters, career and life coaching as well as hiring opportunities.

In addition to stressing the importance of mentorships and networking, the former Bobcats

discussed 401K plans, pre-tax investments and employer benefit packages.

The wealth of knowledge and useful information for soon-to-be graduates was most appreciated the sincere devotion and loyalty that the alumnae expressed for Ohio University.

"I learned a lot [from the panel]," said senior business major Owen Donnelly. "But most importantly, I was able to connect with and relate to the panelists."

"Be ready to hit the ground running," said O'Shea, in his closing words. Students left the Panel inspired, informed, and one step closer to embracing life after Ohio University.

# SENIOR FARWELL

Are you ready for a new tradition on campus? What about a FREE Senior Gift or a toast with President McDavis? This year you have the opportunity to participate in the first ever "Senior Farewell Ceremony." The ceremony is only for seniors of the Class of 2008 at Ohio University. Senior Class Council wants to bring your college experience full circle and give you the opportunity to celebrate your college experience while welcoming you as an alumnus of this University.

On **June 6, 2008, from 5 pm- 7pm**, you are invited to come to College Green, for food, music, and fun. The night will begin with food and a networking, followed by a keynote speech by distinguished alum. Following that we will present our Senior Class gift to the University, a toast with President Roderick McDavis, and last but not least a walk through Alumni Gateway with the Marching 110.

There will be prizes, a senior gift, and a once in a lifetime experience. The class gift this year is a video time capsule and each of you will have the opportunity to contribute to it. Save the date and if you would like to get involved please contact me. Have a Safe and Fun Spring Break!

# GRADUATION FAIR

Have questions about graduation? We have you covered! Senior Class Council and Ohio University are sponsoring the first ever Graduation Fair on **April 16, 2008**. During this one day event you will be able to register for graduation, order your cap and gown, buy the official Class of '08 T-shirt, order and print invitations on site, and much more.

All of the questions you have about lodging, parking, ceremonies, etc. will all be answered. More importantly you will be able to talk with Ohio University Alumni Chapters and Societies. They can help you find a place to live in a new city, give you advice about geographic locations, or just answer your questions.

Be sure to take advantage of this opportunity, because if you do not know this already, a Bobcat will always help a fellow Bobcat! See you there!



**Don't forget to join the facebook group  
"OU SENIORS 08", to get up to date  
information on graduation, events, as  
well as T- Shirt sales**

*President: Lynn Walsh*  
*Vice President: Owen Donnolly*  
*Advisor: Amanda Smith*

*Treasurer: Kimberly Kanner*  
*Secretary: Mary Miller*  
*Website: <http://www.ohiou.edu/~senior>*

# BACKDROP BREAKS OUT

By: Courtney Cooper

If you haven't heard the buzz about Ohio University's first student-run print magazine, you will soon. Backdrop magazine is all over campus, and it definitely has students chatting.

The magazine originated as a class project in a magazine editing class, when a senior magazine journalism major, Ashley Luther, worked extensively to create a hypothetical publication. Working with a group of three other students including, Meredith Lockwood, Tara Melvin and Gina Beach, the potential to make this mock magazine a reality on OU's campus quickly became evident.

After a year of big ideas and far-off dreams for the publication, the group got down to business this fall. The magazine is the first of its kind, and the only student-run magazine on campus. Because it is not affiliated with the university, student writers can be as edgy and fresh as they want. Advertisers like Debunkify, Dell, OU's Army ROTC and local businesses all purchased space in the new magazine.

Starting a magazine from the ground up is a challenge most students would not undertake during senior year. "I found it hard to be a journalist, business person, manager, designer, photographer and students at once," Luther said. However, with a dedicated staff of eight to 10 contributing writers, a strong entrepreneurial sense and a drive to create a magazine students will appreciate, Luther has exceeded expectations.

Luther describes Backdrop's content as PG-13.

"It gives students the opportunity to send in drunk photos of their friends and get them printed. It makes it interactive with the students," Luther said.

Before starting the first student-run magazine on campus, Luther proved her professional skills in the magazine industry. Interning with InStlye magazine in New York during the winter break of her junior year and through the following summer prepared Luther to take on the task of developing her own magazine. An internship with such a prestigious magazine didn't just fall into Luther's lap. "I was annoying. I dug through e-mail addresses and stuff like that to get in touch with the right people for the internship," Luther said.

Luther advises students to take risks, even if that just means starting a blog or a Web site. "You need to do things outside of class to show you can be competent in this industry," Luther said.

Post-graduation, Luther plans to take a year off and travel. "I realized the lifestyle that comes with working for a huge consumer magazine, and there is very little personal time. It's very demanding and expensive," Luther said. She wants to put her journalism expertise to use doing travel journalism. Wherever she ends up, the field of magazine journalism will be enhanced with Luther's writing, innovativeness and passion for the industry.

# Save The Date!

## **Senior Farewell Ceremony**

**June 6, 2008**

**5pm-7pm**

**College Green**

**Come be a part of Ohio  
University's first ever  
Senior Farewell Ceremony.  
Eat free food, get a free  
Senior Gift, and march out  
the gate as an official alum  
of OU with all of your  
friends and classmates!**

### **Come Get**

- Free Food!**
- Free Gift!**
- Good-bye toast with  
President McDavis!**

Join the group "OU Seniors '08" on Facebook to get all the info you need before graduation.

Brought to you by Senior Class Council