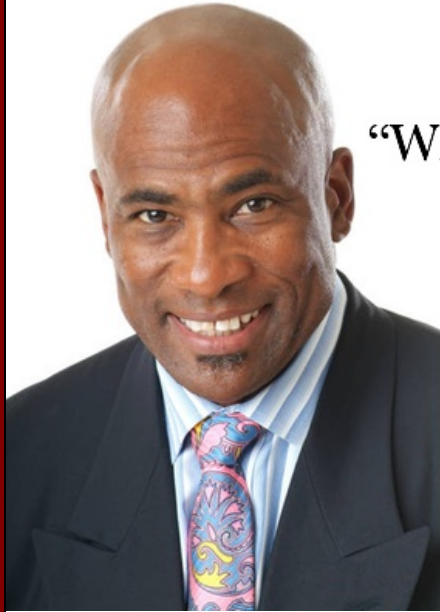


JayMac

Gaylord College of Journalism and Mass Communication Alumni Association



GAYLORD ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

“Whether it is meeting and associating with people in different situations to public speaking, I use skills I learned in college every day.”

JOE WASHINGTON

Executive Director of the Varsity O Association and Special Assistant to the Athletics Director, University of Oklahoma Norman, OK

Sooner legend. Super Bowl champion. Gaylord College alum. Joe Washington first made a name for himself on Owen Field. Now, he continues to give back to his alma mater as Executive Director of the Varsity O Association and Special Assistant to the Athletics Director. We talked to "Silver Shoes" about his time in OU's journalism program and life after the NFL. **To hear more from Joe, along with Barry Switzer and Berry Tramel, join us for our Sooner Chat event on November 8 (details below).**

What is your favorite memory from your time in the OU journalism & mass communication program?

I had a photojournalism class where we learned all about photography, lighting and how to develop photos. We got an assignment to shoot at a wild animal safari park and had permission to roll down our windows so we could shoot some pictures. Well, while my window was rolled

How has your journalism education affected your life and career?

My degree in public relations has served me every day. Whether it is meeting and associating with people in different situations to public speaking, I use skills I learned in college every day.

Tell us about your current role at OU.

I'm the Executive Director of the Varsity "O" Association and Special Assistant to the Director of Athletics. In these roles, I help provide an atmosphere at the university that encourages former athletes to come back to campus and participate. We offer scholarships to athletes who might need some assistance completing their undergraduate degrees or who might be pursuing a graduate degree. We also plan reunions and recognize anniversaries of championship seasons. We also participate in the annual Spring Game activities.

down, I reached out and patted a rhinoceros on the behind! Probably not the smartest thing I ever did!

Do you have a favorite faculty/staff member at Gaylord College?

Ned Hockman

Your football career is the stuff of legend. Where did your career lead you after your time in the NFL?

After I retired from the NFL, I was hired by the makers of Gortex to help introduce their foul weather gear to OU, the University of Delaware, the Washington Redskins, and NFL Films. While I was doing PR and marketing for Gortex, we put on a show for the company's Trek to the South Pole line. We produced a concert in Vegas during the annual apparel show, and I got Grover Washington to play the show.

What advice would you give to current students aspiring to a career in journalism or mass communication?

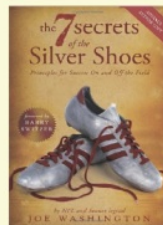
Don't just go to class. Get involved in other avenues. Whether it's a group on campus or a community organization, get out and experience it.

What do you do for fun outside of work?

I 'play at golf.' I listen to music and enjoy attending concerts. My mom took my siblings and me to see Johnny Mathis when we were kids, and that had a great effect on me. My favorite band is Chicago although my first album was by Santana. I enjoy all genres of music and am currently learning to play the bass.



A Sooner Chat
BERRY TRAMEL TALKS FOOTBALL
with
COACH BARRY SWITZER
and
JOE "SILVER SHOES" WASHINGTON
NOVEMBER 8 | 5:30-8 P.M.



The Mercury
426 East Main Street
Norman, OK 73071

RSVP to chelseykraft@ou.edu.
Space is limited to the first 125 RSVPs.





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Stay connected:

