

The Commitment

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Sebo Athletic Center dedicated

A new campus home for training and treatment

Student-athletes at Bowling Green State University have a new campus home for training and treatment. The Sebo Athletic Center provides expanded facilities for both, along with meeting and office space for BGSU athletics. The north-end “front door” to Doyt L. Perry Stadium was dedicated on September 22, before the Falcons’ first home football game of the season, a noon kickoff with Temple. More than 400 guests attended the dedication ceremonies.

The 42,500-square-foot center is named for Bob Sebo, the 1958 BGSU graduate and current trustee who gave the lead gift of \$3.5 million for its construction.

BGSU Athletic Director Greg Christopher calls the first-floor strength and conditioning room and sports medicine facilities “the two key areas in the building.”

At about 9,400 square feet, the strength and conditioning room is nearly double the size of what has been the main training area, on the stadium’s west side, said James Elsasser, assistant athletic director for internal affairs. Among the room’s features are a floor made of recycled rubber tires and roughly \$150,000 worth of weight equipment.

Treatment and rehabilitation spaces in the sports medicine area include a hydrotherapy room with hot and cold tubs and an underwater treadmill in a whirlpool with resistant jets.

A men’s and a women’s locker room are also on the ground floor of the three-story building, whose corridor connects it with the home football locker room and offices on the east side of the stadium.

On the center’s second floor are conference rooms and athletic department administrative offices, while football coaches’ offices and the Wilcox Boardroom are on the top floor. The boardroom and the balcony outside it overlook the stadium’s new FieldTurf playing surface.

continued >

Bob Sebo, right, lead donor for the Sebo Athletic Center, receives an honorary BG Falcon-Sebo Athletic Center helmet from Athletic Director Greg Christopher, National Campaign Steering Committee Co-Chair Kerm Strohm, and President Sidney A. Ribeau during the dedication.





Dear alumni and friends



A Letter from Ron Whitehouse
Co-chair
Building Dreams Campaign

With 2007 nearing its end, we have now raised more than \$118.4 million towards the goal of \$120 million for the Building Dreams Centennial Campaign thanks to you and our other dedicated alumni and friends. This issue of the Commitment is packed with the generosity of BGSU supporters. Inspiring stories such as those of our 2007 Recent Graduate Award recipient, Derek Eiler, and of Joseph and Judith Conda's impact on Wood Lane Industries and BGSU are ones that we hope will inspire you as well. You will also read about Robert and Patricia Maurer with their support of the library, and of Robert Sebo who are helping to change the face of Bowling Green State University.

As the campaign approaches its final year, there are some key initiatives that continue to need your support. The Wolfe Center for the Arts has raised \$2.5 million towards its \$3 million goal. The plans are being drawn up for this exciting new facility and we look forward to your support to bring these plans into reality. Also, the Vision & Values initiative is \$3.5 million away from its \$6 million goal. This award-winning program is one that is putting BGSU on the map for student programs. To further show your support for the Building Dreams Centennial Campaign, please consider one of these causes.

As the holidays are upon us, please remember BGSU in your year-end giving plans. Have a happy fall and happy holiday season.

In Falcon Spirit,

Ron Whitehouse

EDHD advocate reconnects with college, BGSU

Reconnecting in a meaningful way to positively impact future generations.



Derek Eiler '93

After growing up as one of seven children in Ann Arbor, Michigan, Derek Eiler '93 attended BGSU and then headed to Atlanta for his first job. After 14 years with the same company, he is currently the chief operating officer of The Collegiate Licensing Company (CLC), the oldest and largest trademark-licensing agency in the collegiate marketplace.

Professionally, he says he is most proud of "building a successful

business that has positively impacted the lives of so many employees and their families."

Bonnie Berger, director of the School of Human Movement, Sport and Leisure Studies (HMSLS) said, "I have an enormous respect for Derek. He is a fine example of the kind of quality that has been attracted to our sport management program and the kind of success our students have when they leave here."

Berger applauds Eiler's dedication to remaining active with the program and values the time, energy and finances he so willingly shares. Whenever he is in town, he speaks to HMSLS classes, sharing inspiring stories with a real-world, business perspective that the students greatly appreciate. In 2002, BGSU honored Eiler as a BGSU Accomplished Graduate in the College of Education and Human Development (EDHD) and earlier this spring he received the 2007 Recent Graduate Award from the BGSU Alumni Association. The college is proud to have someone of his caliber and dedication serving on the Advocates Board.

"The College of Education and Human Development, and particularly HMSLS, will always hold an important place in my life for the four great years I spent on campus," said Eiler. "Serving as an advocate is a chance to reconnect in a meaningful way to positively impact future generations of BGSU students. I've enjoyed discussing key future strategic issues impacting EDHD and interacting with such a unique and talented group of peers."

Eiler resides in Atlanta with his wife Sarah, four-year-old son Ryan and two-year-old daughter Kelsey. His two favorite hobbies are cooking and fly fishing, although he is still trying to create enough time to someday achieve "expert" status in both disciplines.



Members of the HeeBeeBGs of the University Men's Chorus perform a special song created for the occasion.



Bob Sebo and other supporters of the Center enjoy the dedication ceremony.

"[The center is] a terrific addition to the Bowling Green campus, and its impact on our student-athletes is going to be tremendous," said Christopher. "This is a building that will help all 425 student-athletes and 18 teams."

"The building isn't just for football; it's a student-athlete center," agreed Elsasser, who called it "the cornerstone of athletic buildings" on campus.

"The opening of the Sebo Center is the beginning of an exciting new era for all Bowling Green student-athletes," added Stephanie Swiger, a Falcon volleyball player and president of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee on campus.

Also pointing to the new strength and conditioning equipment and availability of "state-of-the-art rehabilitation," the senior from Findlay said the center will "prove to be an important recruitment tool that will help BGSU attract top recruits.

"The addition of the Sebo Center has shown this University's commitment to its student-athletes, and we are all immensely grateful to have this new resource," Swiger said.

A committee helped to raise over \$7.4 million in private money for the project. In addition to the lead gift from Sebo, a \$550,000 donation came from Mike Weger, a BGSU football all-American who went on to a long NFL career in the 1960s and '70s. Giving \$250,000 or more were John Bureau of Perrysburg and his late wife, Marilyn; Kermit and Mary Lu Stroh of Wapakoneta, and Toledoans Jan and Michael Wilcox, for whom the boardroom is named.

"We had people chip in and accomplish something that was desperately needed," said Sebo, expressing his gratitude at seeing the building progress from conversations and a dream to reality. "We have just a great facility for our athletes to prepare themselves to compete in (NCAA) Division I, and if you don't have that, you can't compete."

Michael Wilcox, also a BGSU trustee and member of the fund-raising committee, recalled that discussions about a student-athlete center began shortly after then-head football coach Urban Meyer came to Bowling Green in 2001.

"We knew that state funds would not be available for such a building and also knew that we would need to have a 'lead donor' to make such a project a reality," he remembered.

"Bob Sebo has made a 'transformational gift' that will benefit our student-athletes and teams for years to come," said Wilcox, a former Falcon student-athlete. "As a trustee, and as donors, Jan and I are honored to be a part of it."

Ground was broken for the building in December 2005. It has been a featured project of Building Dreams: The Centennial Campaign for Bowling Green State University, which has now raised more than \$118.4 million toward a December 2008 goal of \$120 million. The campaign's focus is to increase scholarships, enhance faculty and leadership positions, strengthen programs, build for tomorrow and sustain the University.

"Bob (Sebo) stepped up in a major leadership role for this project and the Building Dreams campaign in general at a very critical time," noted Marcia Sloan Latta, senior associate vice president for University advancement and campaign director.

"His leadership has been exceptional, and others have followed suit," she continued. "Today we have the opportunity to witness the incredible impact a building like this makes in the lives of our student-athletes, thanks to private philanthropy."

Sebo, who lives in Salem, Ohio, also has made contributions to his alma mater for football and jazz studies scholarships, and for a lecture series in entrepreneurship in the College of Business Administration. He is a retired senior vice president at Paychex Inc., the Rochester, N.Y.-based payroll and human resource company.

Couple rewards working students

The new Joseph and Judith Conda Scholarship offers assistance to Intervention Services students who also work for the Wood County Board of MR/DD.



Joseph and Judith Conda

BGSU students know how important education is for their future. They log hours inside classrooms, labs and lecture halls preparing for careers after graduation. But not all lessons can be taught inside a classroom. Sometimes, a little real-world experience is necessary for success.

Joseph and Judith Conda recognize how valuable practical experience is for

students. In fact, they've decided to reward students who take advantage of working outside the classroom with financial support. The new Joseph and Judith Conda Scholarship offers assistance to Intervention Services students who also work for the Wood County Board of MR/DD.

Starting in the spring of 2008, eligible students can apply for the \$1,000 scholarship. The award will be granted through the College of Education and Human Development and preference will be given to students who work at Wood Lane Residential Services in Bowling Green, Ohio.

The Joseph and Judith Conda Scholarship is in honor of Judith's sister, Patty Shisler. Since 1991, Patty has been a beneficiary of Wood Lane Industries and their Residential Services.

"Having had the privilege to be involved with Woodlane's administration and staff for the past 14 years, we have observed that the majority of these individuals were or are being educated at BGSU. We decided that it was important for us to perpetuate and foster the BGSU/Woodlane connection by providing financial assistance to Woodlane employees through scholarship. Any BGSU student who is involved with Woodlane will attest to the personal growth derived from working with the 'differently able,'" said the Condas.

Joseph is a retired Owens-Illinois senior executive and corporate officer. He retired in 2007 as the President of Health Care Packaging after a long career with Owens-Illinois. Joe serves on the Board of the University of Toledo's College of Pharmacy, as well as the Board for Xavier University's College of Pharmacy in New Orleans, LA. Until her retirement in 2003, Judith worked as a special educator and behavior consultant.

**Sometimes, a little
real-world experience
is necessary for
success.**

Joseph and Judith's generous endowment is another example of how scholarship donations support students. If you would like more information on starting a scholarship of your own, please call the Office of Alumni and Development at 419.372.2424.

Couple continues long-time support of libraries

The Maurers have once again shown their support with a gift to establish the Maurer Library Endowment Fund.

For Robert and Patricia Maurer, Bowling Green State University has long been an important part of life. One important area in particular is the University Library. The Maurers have once again shown their support with a gift to establish the Maurer Library Endowment Fund. This gift of \$200,000 will support library priority projects at BGSU.

Bob and Pat Maurer have been active participants in the Bowling Green State University community for many years. Their commitment is shown through their long-time membership in the Bowling Green State University Presidents Club, Varsity Club, Falcon Club, the BGSU Library Advocates Board, the BGSU Marketing Advocates; Bowling Green Public District Library Foundation, and other Falcon activities.

The Maurers both attended Bowling Green State University as undergraduates, each majoring in accounting, and share the belief that a fine library is the basis of any good education.

“The Maurers are pillars in our community. They believe in the power of education and have assisted in assuring the best resources for educating the next generation of Falcon leaders will continue to be available,” said Jim Beaverson, BGSU Office of Alumni and Development.

The Maurers have five children all of whom have been born and raised in the Bowling Green community. Bob has practiced law in Bowling Green since 1968 at Maurer, Newlove & Bakies, LLC and with his wife, Pat, has operated and managed Greenbriar, Inc., a real estate property management and development company.

The entire Maurer Family feels strongly that everyone in the community can and will benefit from the resources of excellent libraries. The latest gift allows them to continue their deep rooted involvement in the Bowling Green community.



**New website
designed to provide
information to alumni
and friends of BGSU**

Check it out at:
www.bgsu.edu/offices/alumni/



New Presidents Club Members

Jodi Lambdin Devine '01
Joseph & Judith Conda
David D. Anderson '51
Vicki Henderson Schooler '72
Rodney K. Rogers '81 & Sandra B. Earle
Allen & Joyce '85 Kepke
David Hyslop
Rob '91 & Sarah Schwind

Online giving

Save a check. Give online!
Make your gift to BGSU online at
giving.bgsu.edu



Year-End Giving

2007 is drawing to a close.
Please remember BGSU in your year-end giving plans.

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