

The Commitment

- > Strohs give \$8 million gift
- > BizX gets high marks
- > Maurers \$1 million gift creates endowed professorship
- > Rediscover BGSU... without the tests

BGSU receives \$8 million

Kermit F. and Mary Lu Stroh give largest gift in BGSU's nearly 100-year history.



Kermit F. '02 and Mary Lu Stroh

An \$8 million gift from Kermit F. (honorary '02) and Mary Lu Stroh and their family to Bowling Green State University will support several initiatives including construction of a new convocation center on campus. This is the largest single private gift in BGSU's nearly 100-year history.

In addition to providing \$7.7 million for the convocation center—to be called the Stroh Center—the donation includes \$200,000 for intercollegiate athletics and \$100,000 to be added to the already-established Stroh family endowed scholarship.

The convocation center is an important project for the Strohs, who have spent a lot of hours at BGSU events in the current facility.

“Anderson Arena is a great venue with wonderful memories, but now is the time for the University to move ahead,” Stroh said. “Our family decided we'd like to lead the charge in creating a new convocation center for the University.”

The family's connection to BGSU started approximately 45 years ago when Stroh first visited the campus as a play-by-play announcer covering local high school teams for a Wapakoneta-area radio station. Those early visits resulted in a half-century relationship with the institution that includes bachelor's degrees for two daughters, a son-in-law and two grandsons; a nine-year tenure as a board of trustee member, and a reputation for being among BGSU's most loyal cheerleaders.

Stroh served on the BGSU Board of Trustees from 1993 through 2002. Following his service on the board, he received an honorary doctoral degree and was named an Honorary Alumnus. He also is co-chair of BGSU's *Building Dreams Centennial Campaign*. He and Mary Lu are members of Presidents Club and Falcon Club.

BGSU President Sidney A. Ribeau praised the Stroh family for their initiative to help make the convocation center project a priority. “For many years, Kerm, Mary Lu and the entire Stroh family have been true friends to BGSU. We are very fortunate to have their enthusiastic leadership,” Ribeau said.

“We hope the center will be much more than a basketball arena. We hope it will facilitate events, activities and opportunities for BGSU and the local community,” Stroh said. “We want it to offer versatility for business gatherings, concerts, convocations, and many different events.

If you would like to help support the Stroh Center and BGSU, please contact the Office of Alumni & Development at 888.839.2586 or develop@bgsu.edu.



Dear alumni and friends



A Letter from Ron Whitehouse
Co-chair
Building Dreams Campaign

Dear Friends,

There are so many great things happening at BGSU. This issue is packed with stories about alumni and friends of the University who feel a passion for what is going on here and have a strong desire to make a difference. Coupled with the great students, and the programs from which they are benefiting, BGSU is moving toward its goal faster than ever to be one of the premier institutions in the nation.

The campaign is still moving along strong with more than \$130 million raised! We are still looking to reach our goals in areas such as the Wolfe Center for the Arts, Vision & Values and Entrepreneurship programs. With your help and support, I am confident we will surpass these goals soon.

As the students on campus are eagerly awaiting the spring weather, we are already looking forward to the summer and fall. The Alumni Association is planning an exciting weekend of activities in June for Alumni & Friends Weekend, and Homecoming is set for October 4.

Thank you all for your support and enthusiasm over the past years of the campaign. We're in the home stretch now with less than nine months left to go, and we plan a strong and exciting finish!

Sincerely,


RON WHITEHOUSE

BGSU visits Florida for annual events

Florida alumni and friends gather to relive BGSU memories.

Friends of BGSU, George and Linda Rahdert, hosted an event in their St. Pete Beach, Florida, home in February for area alumni and friends. More than 30 people gathered at the Rahdert home to relive BGSU memories, hear energetic remarks from a bright and active scholarship student, and receive an update on the University and the *Building Dreams Centennial Campaign* from President Ribeau.

Also in February, nearly 70 alumni and friends gathered in Naples, Florida, for a luncheon hosted by National Campaign Steering Committee members, Jim '67 and Judy Bailey and Ed '59, '60 and Jeanne '60 Ferkany. Prior to lunch, attendees enjoyed fascinating presentations on Shakespeare and film and on marriage and co-habitation trends by BGSU professors Dr. Simon Morgan-Russell and Dr. Wendy Manning.



George and Linda Rahdert with President Sydney and Dr. Paula Ribeau

SAVE THE DATE!
BGSU HOMECOMING

OCTOBER 4

\$1 million gift creates endowed professorship

This professorship will allow us to significantly enhance a current position so that we can recruit or retain a top accounting professor at BGSU

A Bowling Green couple has made a \$1 million gift to BGSU to benefit accounting and business students. The million-dollar donation from Robert '65 and Patricia Maurer will fund the Robert W. and Patricia A. Maurer Family Endowed Professor of Accounting within the College of Business Administration.

The Maurers, who both attended the University as accounting majors, want their gift to reflect their belief in the importance of a strong accounting background and to demonstrate their support of the University.

"We know first-hand how important accounting is to help run a business," said Patricia Maurer, who operates and manages Greenbriar Inc., the family-owned real estate property management and development company. "A foundation in accounting provides the nuts and bolts of a business," she added, which is why the Maurers encouraged their own children to study accounting. In fact, she said, four of their five children have degrees in accounting.

They also agreed that by establishing a fund to support a professor position, their gift would touch more lives. BGSU's College of Business Administration Dean Rodney Rogers said, "As we know, great faculty are the key for a great academic program, and the accounting program at BGSU has a long tradition of excellence. This generous gift will allow us to propel the program to a new level of distinction by retaining and recruiting the very best faculty in the country."

"This professorship will allow us to significantly enhance a current position so that we can recruit or retain a top accounting professor at BGSU," Rogers continued.

The endowed professorship is the most recent gift in a long list of donations from the Maurers to BGSU. Most recently, they made a \$200,000 gift to establish the Maurer Library Endowment Fund to support priority library projects at the University. In addition to being strong supporters of the University Libraries, they have donated to the Falcon Club, Presidents Club, the President's Leadership Academy and WBGU-PBS.



Robert and Patricia Maurer

"We know first-hand how important accounting is to help run a business."

"We hold BGSU in high esteem," said Bob Maurer, who practices law in the firm Maurer, Newlove & Bakies LLC. "BGSU is a huge benefit to the whole community."

"We both have fond memories of our time at BGSU and because a lot of our business is with college students, we thought now was a good time to give back," he explained.

"Bowling Green State University and the Bowling Green community are fortunate to have Bob and Pat Maurer as friends," said BGSU President Sidney A. Ribeau. "They are very generous in their support of important initiatives, both on and off campus, and I am very grateful."

BizX hones entrepreneurial talents of BGSU business students

The program is working to develop the talents of its first 27 freshman enrollees through a combination of the classroom, co-curricular activities and mentorship.

It didn't take long for Stephanie Kuharik, a freshman with an interest in event planning, to be paired with a mentor who's "arguably the premier event planner in Washington, D.C."

That assessment of Bowling Green graduate David Hainline is by Dr. Brent Nicholson, director of BizX, the new program that brought Hainline and Kuharik together.

BizX is a BGSU College of Business Administration initiative to foster entrepreneurial thinking and leadership in students. The program is working to develop the talents of its first 27 freshman enrollees through a combination of the classroom, co-curricular activities and mentorship.

Each of the students has been assigned a mentor, most of whom are Bowling Green alumni, noted Nicholson. "They've all got that link to someone who's out in the business world" and will communicate with their mentor throughout their college careers, he added.

Hainline said he was pleased to be asked to be a mentor. "I love helping students," and those in BizX are "the brightest of the brightest," said the 1983 BGSU graduate and current president of CSI-Capitol Services Inc.

"It's ended up being absolutely amazing," according to Kuharik. Having a personal relationship with someone in business represents "a great networking opportunity." The opportunity also extends to getting Hainline's input on what classes to take and having the chance to meet Dr. Rodney Rogers, the college dean, on her first weekend as a BGSU freshman. "That's pretty cool," she said.

"We're dealing with real, live business issues," said Milt Baker, director of the Dallas-Hamilton Center. "We believe this is a leading-edge concept for experiential entrepreneurial learning. Coupled with the BizX program, the students receive an outstanding balance of both academic and practical education in entrepreneurship."

It's also the kind of experience that BizX planners hope will make it "a magnet program for good, motivated, entrepreneur-oriented students," Nicholson said. They hope, too, that team teaching and potential linkages between business and general education courses will make BizX "an incubator for curricular innovation" in the business college, he said.

The BizX program, and funds raised to support it, is part of the University's *Building Dreams Centennial Campaign*. The campaign has surpassed its goal of \$120 million, but is still seeking funding to reach goals in Entrepreneurial Programs and the Bowling Green Experience/Vision & Values program.

"We believe this is a leading-edge concept for experiential entrepreneurial learning."

Rediscover everything you loved about BGSU...without the tests.

2008 ALUMNI & FRIENDS WEEKEND

Alumni and Friends Weekend, June 20-22, is the perfect time to return to BGSU. The campus will come alive as alumni, friends, and families return to celebrate everything they loved about Bowling Green. When you return you can reconnect with old friends, professors and staff, see what's new on campus, and become a student again by attending a variety of "Classes without Quizzes." The weekend's celebration of BGSU's past, present and future will include the "Taste of BG" alumni luncheon, specialty in-depth tours of BGSU facilities/programs, Saturday evening alumni parking lot party, Men's Alumni Chorus Concert and other exciting alumni activities!

Return to education with "Classes Without Quizzes"

"Classes Without Quizzes" give you the opportunity to get back in the classroom and reignite your educational passion. The weekend offers several chances to attend class sessions taught by a number of your favorite professors. The following is a sample of some of the classes that may be offered:

Discover Your Hidden Creative Abilities

Dr. Gene Poor, Hamilton Professor of Entrepreneurship

Is This Any Way To Elect A President?

Jeffrey S. Peake, associate professor, political science

The Reality in T.V. Reality Shows!

Angela M. Spence Nelson, chair, popular culture

Camp BG*: programs for mini-Falcons

Families with children (ages 6-12) are encouraged to attend the weekend together so you can connect your whole family to the BGSU tradition. Kids will be invited to have a wonderful time participating in age-appropriate activities, including these and much more:

- See and learn about reptile and marine life at BGSU's herpetology and marine laboratories
- A variety of fun, interactive games
- Swimming at the Student Recreation Center

**Camp BG is limited to the first 30 children registered.*

To request your Alumni & Friends Guide with further details about the weekend, please contact us at alumni@bgsu.edu or call 888.839.2586 with any questions you might have. We hope to see you there!

The Wolfe Center for the Arts will serve as home to BGSU's nationally recognized Department of Theatre and Film. Additionally, the building will support teaching and creation of collaborative art in the areas of digital art and animation, musical theater and opera, and performance art and electronic composition.

Wolfe Center for the Arts

As more research emerges about the link between economic revitalization and a climate of creativity, it's clear that our communities need a creative and educated population that is technically savvy. With the well-designed physical space and latest technological advances, the Wolfe Center for the Arts offers enormous potential for interdisciplinary art forms across many majors and departments including the critical component of integrating art and new technologies.

Your gift to the Wolfe Center for the Arts can:

- Offer opportunities to take the arts into the community and to attract the community to the arts.
- Provide theatre seating for three distinct theatres.
- Equip the digital arts wing with state-of-the-art systems.
- Create educational space for choral rehearsals, theater and film classes.

Contact the Office of Alumni & Development at 888.839.2586 to learn more about how you can support the Wolfe Center for the Arts.

Nationally recognized Department of Theatre and Film



New Presidents Club Members

Thomas L. Bennett
Blakely Care Center
Rep. Doug Blakely '84 &
Tom Blakely '83
David '49, '53 &
Mary Jane Elsass

Darrell W. & Sally M. Foell
Kenneth H.* '41 & Fern B. Harger
Marc '96 & Alisa '92, '98 Suetzer
*deceased

Online giving

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

Building Dreams Campaign – Be a part of it today!

There are only
eight months left to go.



NON-PROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 1
BOWLING GREEN, OHIO

Office of Alumni and Development
Millet Alumni Center
Bowling Green, Ohio 43403-0054
giving.bgsu.edu
develop@bgsu.edu

The **Commitment**