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BGSU receives \$8 million, the largest gift in its nearly 100-year history

An \$8 million gift from a Wapakoneta family to the University will support several initiatives, including construction of a new convocation center on campus.

On March 1, Kermit F. and Mary Lu Stroh and their family announced the gift, which 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 for the already-established Stroh family endowed scholarship for students from Auglaize, Hardin, Logan, Mercer and Shelby counties.

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 sports teams for a Wapakoneta-area radio station. He was doing the job because he loved local high school sports, and the station provided publicity for his fledgling propane gas company.

Those early visits resulted in a half-century relationship with the institution that includes bachelor's degrees for daughters Tracey Wright and Melissa Wansker, son-in-law and Bowling Green native Van Wright and grandsons Cameron and Alex Wright; a nine-year tenure as a board of trustee member, and a reputation for being among BGSU's most loyal cheerleaders.

Stroh was a trustee from 1993-2002, including two terms as chair of the board. Following his service on the board, he received an honorary doctorate and was named an Honorary Alumnus.

He is co-chair of BGSU's Building Dreams Centennial Campaign, and he and Mary Lu are members of the Presidents Club and Falcon Club.

From the beginning, the people and programs at BGSU impressed Kermit and his family.

"Everyone I met on campus had a passion for BGSU and it showed," he recalled. "And it remains the same today. When you come to BG and you interact with people, whether they are working on the catering staff, a member of the classified or administrative staff or faculty, they care about what goes on here. That's a trademark of the University."

BGSU President Sidney A. Ribeau praised the Stroh family for its 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 for this important project that will impact the entire Bowling Green community," Ribeau said.

The Strohs have created "a transformational gift," according to J. Douglas Smith, vice president for University advancement. "Their generosity helps meet a significant need at the University as we prepare to embark on a second century."

The impact that the Stroh Center will have on programs such as men's and women's basket-

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ball and volleyball is significant also, said BGSU Athletics Director Greg Christopher. "As we work to advance our athletic programs, our facilities are key to recruiting and attendance. The Stroh Center will be a shining example of BGSU's commitment to quality."

"We hope the center will be much more than a basketball arena. We hope it will facilitate events, activities and opportunities for the BGSU and local communities," Stroh said.

"We want it to offer versatility for business gatherings, concerts, convocations, and many different events.

"This is important to us," he continued. "We've seen this University step forward and be innovative on many fronts. Other universities are trying to copy what we are doing. This will be another initiative that will put BGSU in the spotlight."

Trustees extend Ribeau's contract, raise price of meals, some rooms

At its Feb. 29 meeting, the University's Board of Trustees, following its recent evaluation of President Sidney Ribeau, expressed its strong approval of his performance and extended his contract an additional year, through June 30, 2011.

The board also decided that, while tuition and general fees will not rise next fall, inflation necessitates cost increases in room and board. For instance, the U.S. Department of Agriculture is predicting a food inflation rate of 4-4.5 percent, with the greatest increases in eggs and dairy products, said Sheri Stoll, vice president for finance and administration.

The trustees approved an average meal-plan rate increase of 4.73 percent for the 2008-09 academic year. The fee increase was required for University Dining Services to achieve a balanced budget as well as provide adequate funds for re-investment in dining facilities and equipment, according to campus officials.

Students will still be able to choose from several meal-plan options. The bronze meal plan, the most commonly used, is currently \$1,339 per semester. Next year the same plan will cost \$1,400 per semester. Less expensive and more costly plans will be available as well.

The proposals had been reviewed and approved by the University Dining Committee and student leadership groups such as the Resident Student Association, noted Dr. Edward Whipple, vice president for student affairs, at the Financial Affairs Committee meeting. "While certainly no one wants to see prices increase," he said, "students in leadership understand the need to reinvest in our facilities and to improve them in terms of recruitment."

Residence hall room rates will increase by an average of 2.83 percent effective fall semester. Rates approved by the trustees vary by the room option chosen; some rates are staying the same or decreasing slightly, while others will cost more.

Stoll said the University is attempting to keep costs to students down by utilizing differentiated rates for different categories of room types. She indicated the rate changes were designed to be responsive to differing student needs and demand for particular room types and amenities. Additional considerations included comparing the University's housing options and pricing to what is available at other public universities in Ohio.

"With these modest increases, the University will be able to meet mission-critical functions as well as continue ongoing efforts to address changing student needs," Stoll said.

A case in point is the current trend of more students choosing to attend summer school. In response to that trend, for the first time BGSU will offer 12-month room contracts in some residence halls. In addition to having the convenience of on-campus living, students won't be faced with the inconvenience of finding and moving into different accommodations just for

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the summer session.

Stoll added that the shorter-term improvements are “momentum maintainers.” She and her staff will be working on a 20-year master plan for capital improvements over the next 36 months, but “we can’t do nothing while we work on our plan,” she said. “We need to keep moving forward.”

Stoll also reported that the renovation and expansion of the Health Center is temporarily on hold while the University reassesses what programming it would like to see in the space. But the plan to replace the building’s aging chillers with one, central cooling unit is still in place as it is a stand-alone project.

Emeritus status granted

Dr. Leigh Chiarelott, School of Teaching and Learning, was granted emeritus status. A faculty member since 1978, he specialized in curriculum development both for K-12 classrooms and for higher education. He held numerous leadership positions during his tenure at BGSU, including, at various times, director of the School of Teaching and Learning and the School of Education and Intervention Services, and chair of the Division of Teaching and Learning and of the educational curriculum and instruction department. For 29 years, until his retirement last summer, he was a graduate program coordinator, first for elementary and secondary education and then for the program in curriculum and teaching.

Chiarelott also served two terms each as vice chair and chair of Faculty Senate, from 1990-92 and again from 1999-2001. He received several honors for his University service, including the Faculty Distinguished Service Award, in 1996.

Names approved

In recognition of significant gifts to the University, the board approved the naming of the Robert W. Maurer Family Endowed Professorship in Accounting (See www.bgsu.edu/offices/mc/monitor/02-18-08/page46221.html) along with names for several facilities, notably the new convocation center. The building will be called the Stroh Center in commemoration of the \$7.7 million pledge from former BGSU Trustee Kermit Stroh and his wife, Mary Lu.

The large theatre that will be part of the new Wolfe Center for the Arts will be named the Thomas B. and Kathleen M. Donnell Theatre, and the former lounge on the second floor of the Business Administration Building will be known as the David J. Joseph Co. Business Hub. In addition, a number of rooms in the Sebo Center were named for donors.

J. Douglas Smith, vice president for University advancement, praised the efforts of several people in helping to shepherd the gifts over several years. Named were Marcia Sloan Latta, senior associate vice president and director of alumni and development, and Dr. Rodney Rogers, dean of the College of Business Administration, for their leadership in projects that “enhance students’ learning and life at BGSU.”

Catastrophic leave bank

Stephen Kendall, chair of Administrative Staff Council, reported that a proposal for a catastrophic leave bank is “on the verge of being ready to present to the board.” Kendall predicted the proposal, made possible by the recent passage of House Bill 187, would be ready by the next board meeting, in May.

The leave bank would enable employees to donate sick leave hours for use by those who have depleted their own.

Undergraduate Student Government

USG President Johnnie Lewis, in his update to the board, reported that USG will send a “happy birthday” email to students on their 21st birthday, encouraging them to have a safe celebration and providing contact information for campus safety and wellness resources. Lewis expressed disapproval of the increasing cost of meal plans and the planned discontinuation of the “rollover” of unused funds from semester to semester.

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Graduate Student Senate

April will be Graduate Student Month, announced GSS President Jeannie Sabaroff, with a variety of events and activities. April 17 is Graduate Assistant Appreciation Day, a university-wide celebration of graduate students. Watch Monitor for more information.

WBGU-TV advisory committee

The trustees also approved the appointment of members of the WBGU-TV Public Advisory Council for Television. Jan Osborne of Lima was appointed for a second, three- year term ending in May 2010, while approved for first, three-year terms were Pat Good and Jeffrey Kirkman, Lima; Sarah Krupp, Fostoria, and Martin White, Archbold.

On cusp of centennial, BGSU begins planning celebration

BGSU has come a long way from its beginnings as a state normal school in 1910, when livestock judging was going on in the basement of what is now Moseley Hall. To mark its 100th birthday in 2010, plans are under way for a yearlong, campuswide celebration with the theme "A Legacy of Excellence, a Future without Limits."

A Centennial Commission of 45 University and city representatives on seven committees is already at work, reported Kim McBroom, associate vice president for marketing and communications. She and Larry Weiss, former alumni director and retired associate vice president for University relations and governmental affairs, are co-chairs of the commission. "We have a really broad cross-section of people for input from all areas," McBroom said. Anyone interested in participating, or who has an idea for an event or activity, is invited to contact the committee chairs.

The academic celebration of the centennial will be held on the actual anniversary, Nov. 10, 2010, while a larger celebration will take place at Homecoming. That date has not been determined, but the University has asked the Mid-American Conference to name a date for a home game so it can begin planning, McBroom said.

Two logos have been developed and will be used beginning next year, she added.

Kent State University will also be celebrating its centennial in 2010, and some joint activities are being planned. Former administrator Dick Edwards is the liaison with Kent.

Centennial Commission subcommittees and chairs

- Academic: Drs. Rachel Vannatta and Judy Jackson May, both College of Education and Human Development, co-chairs
- Alumni/Donor: Marcia Sloan Latta, senior associate vice president and director of alumni and development, chair
- Athletics: Jane Myers, assistant director of the Falcon Club, and Jim Lessig, former athletics director, co-chairs
- Community and Business: Dr. James Smith, vice president for economic development and regional growth, chair
- Marketing/Public Relations: Dr. Terry Rentner, School of Communication Studies, chair
- Student Events: Jill Carr, assistant vice president for student affairs and dean of students, chair
- University Events: Linda Dobb, executive vice president, chair

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RIPE project picked for more grant funding

An elementary science education project will continue at BGSU with a second infusion of grant funding.

Research-based Inquiry Physics Experiences (RIPE) II is among 24 science and mathematics education projects statewide receiving funding through the federal Improving Teaching Quality Program. The Ohio Board of Regents has released more than \$3.2 million for the projects, including \$136,679 for RIPE II.

The project will continue work started last year, when RIPE received \$133,549 for professional development with teachers of preschool through third grade. About 40 teachers from 14 school districts in five northwest Ohio counties came to campus last June for an institute where they learned different classroom approaches to physics and how best to address state standards. The project also offered materials for the teachers to take back to their schools, opportunity for graduate credit and follow-up during the school year.

Project director Dr. Tracy Huziak-Clark, School of Teaching and Learning, said that she and her collaborator, Dr. Stephen Van Hook, formerly of Bowling Green and now at Penn State University, have researched the youngest students' understanding of scientific concepts, based on hands-on learning, conceptual hooks such as songs and phrases, and movements and physical activities.

In RIPE II, they are sharing information about content as well as what they've learned about teaching. Physics content in Ohio's state standards for early childhood education focuses on sound and light, forces and motion, magnetism, astronomy and energy, Huziak-Clark noted.

The teachers at last summer's institute learned not only physical science content, but also how to teach it in an age-appropriate manner. They have since taught similar lessons in their classrooms, and six of them will co-teach and share their experiences with the RIPE II group.

"The response from the teachers and their students was so positive we just had to do this again," said Huziak-Clark. "One participant said, 'I can't believe how much I learned and how interesting physical science can be to learn and teach!'"

"One of the most important findings from RIPE I," the director added, "was the enthusiasm and interest of the K-3 students for learning more about the way things worked in their physical world."

Participants in this summer's institute will again receive a \$600 kit of materials—including magnets, ramps and springs—to take back to their classrooms. All of the teachers must then develop and implement a weeklong unit based on what they learn. That will be among the topics of discussion at three follow-up meetings in the fall.

The project is part of BGSU's ongoing efforts to improve education in the so-called STEM disciplines—science, technology, engineering and math.

Be prepared for emergency communications test

The campus is gearing up for the test of emergency communication methods on March 12.

In addition to campuswide emails from the BGSU Police and text messages from AlertBG, a number of other means will be tested, including something new. The University now can change the background of the PCs in the computer labs to display the emergency message.

All the March 12 messages will state that it is only a test, not a real emergency.

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This will not be a test of the campus's actual emergency preparedness but only of our ability to communicate, the crisis committee emphasizes. The committee will send out a survey afterward to help determine how effective and timely each method was.

For those who have registered for AlertBG text messages on their cell phones, the test will be an opportunity to see what an emergency message looks like and from what number it is sent.

As of last Tuesday (Feb. 26), an additional 180 people had signed up for AlertBG service since Feb. 15, following the incident at Northern Illinois University. The total number of enrollees as of Feb. 26 was 3,943.

To sign up, log in to MyBGSU on the home page and then click on the AlertBG tab, to the right of the Welcome tab at the top of the page. Be sure to validate when you receive the confirmation email or text message from e2Campus, the service provider, in order to complete the process. The Technology Support Center, 2-0999, can assist with signing up.

Ongoing efforts

In addition to testing emergency communications, the campus continues to undergo crisis preparedness training. A number of offices have viewed the training video "Shots Fired," designed by the Center for Personal Protection and Safety, according to Rebecca Ferguson, assistant vice president for human resources. Faculty and staff interested in the training should contact the Office of Human Resources, 2-8421.

The crisis committee also meets regularly and collaborates with city fire and police officials.

Library staff honors dean with refurbished indoor garden

Nature and literature meet at the newly renovated garden on the first floor of Jerome Library.

The design captures the spirit of the library by blending botanical plantings with materials that incorporate elements of the library's murals, created by artist Donald Drumm.

The attractive garden space was made possible through generous gifts from members of the University Libraries staff to honor Dean Thomas Atwood. A nature enthusiast, Atwood has advocated for improving the appearance of the library, and redesigning the garden has brought his vision to life. The idea originated with staff member Dave Swartz, and the design was created and implemented by members of the library's Facilities and Security Committee in consultation with Klotz Floral and Garden Center and Bostdorff Greenhouse.

The garden offers a serene vista to visitors who enter the building or students who study and relax in the comfortable new furniture nearby. It not only serves as a visual focal point, but also as a sign of things to come. This spring, the Friends of the University Libraries will sponsor the redesign of the north and south light courts in the library.

Young chess players to compete in state championships on campus

Sixty-four squares per board, 150 boards and about 300 intently focused elementary students will fill the union's Lenhart Grand Ballroom during the 2008 Ohio Elementary Chess Championships on Saturday (March 8). This is the first time the tournament will be held in northwest Ohio.

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The tournament is one of two annual events sanctioned by the United States Chess Federation (USCF) in which Ohio chess titles are awarded for elementary students. Almost 1,000 participants and family members are expected to attend.

"I believe chess is a very good educational tool for developing young minds," said Beth Yingling, president of Bowling Green's Montessori Chess Booster Club, which is organizing the event.

In addition to state titles, a scholarship will be awarded to the individual student champion in each of the five playing sections.

Students in kindergarten through sixth grade from around the state will be competing in five rounds of play. Participants may compete individually or as part of a team.

Yingling said it is amazing to see young children have such strong concentration. She described the atmosphere as quiet, intense and fun. "It's not whether you win or lose, it's really about learning good sportsmanship, working hard and knowing that you did your best," she said.

According to the Bowling Green Montessori School chess coach, Jim Van Vorhis, chess at the elementary level is a new phenomenon. He said that while high school chess has been around for 50 years, elementary-level chess has only peaked in popularity within the last decade.

Van Vorhis went on to say many people underestimate children in this age group and think only high school and junior high students are able to play chess.

To keep the environment conducive to the necessary concentration, family members will not be allowed in the ballroom during the tournament. After completing a round, students will exit the ballroom and spend time with their families in 208 Union, the event headquarters and family waiting room.

Elementary students interested in entering the tournament must register before Thursday (March 6). Current USCF membership is required for sections other than novice. The tournament flier and registration form are available at www.chessrocks.org, or by contacting Yingling at 419-350-3918.

The primary tournament sponsors are BGSU's Office of Student Affairs and the Sky Insurance Co.

IN BRIEF**Africana Studies marks 10th anniversary of colloquium**

Religion and culture among African people will be the topic of the 10th annual Africana Studies Research Colloquium on March 14.

Papers on historical, cultural and intellectual issues of people of African descent will be presented from 9:30-11:45 a.m., with guest panelists speaking from 10:30-11:45. The guests include Drs. Zachary Williams, Akron University; Robert Smith, University of North Carolina; Babacar M'Baye, Kent State, and Seneca Vaught, Niagara University.

China Galland, acclaimed author and professor-in-residence at the Center for the Arts, Religion and Education at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, Calif., will give the keynote address at the colloquium luncheon.

Her free, 12:15 p.m. talk, "The Black Madonna in Europe," will be held in 228 Bowen-Thompson Student Union. The East Texas native, author of *Love Cemetery* and other books,

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teaches, lectures and leads retreats nationally and internationally on religion, race and reconciliation.

The cost of the 11:45 a.m. Greek-cuisine luncheon is \$8.75 or \$7.65 for the vegetarian option. R.S.V.P. by Monday, March 10, to Mary Wrighten at 2-7897 or mwright@bgsu.edu. (Note: The deadline has been extended from that originally announced.)

Dianne Reeves to sing in Festival Series appearance

Jazz vocalist Dianne Reeves will perform at 8 p.m. March 14 in Kobacker Hall at the Moore Musical Arts Center.

The performance is part of the College of Musical Arts' 2007-08 Festival Series and is supported in part by University President Sidney A. Ribeau.

Reeves' virtuosity, improvisational prowess and unique jazz styling have made her one of the most sought-after jazz artists today. She was awarded a Grammy for "Best Jazz Vocal Performance" for each of her last three recordings.

Her singing draws upon a world of influences and, like Billie Holiday, Reeves is tied to a powerful storytelling instinct. She is known for her beautiful voice and mastery of jazz timing, inflection and interpretation.

Reeves has captured a large following and high critical acclaim throughout the world since signing with Blue Note/ EMI label. She has recorded with Daniel Barenboim and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, and been a featured soloist with Sir Simon Rattle and the Berlin Philharmonic.

Appointed creative chair of jazz for the Los Angeles Philharmonic, she has also made her mark in Hollywood by appearing in George Clooney's "Good Night and Good Luck" and on "Sex and the City."

Assisting Reeves in her performance will be pianist Geoffrey Keezer, guitarist Romero Lubambo, bassist Reuben Rogers and drummer Gregory Hutchinson.

Advance tickets are \$30, \$25 and \$18. Tickets can be purchased on the day of the concert for \$33, \$28 and \$21. For more information, call the box office weekdays from noon-6 p.m. at 2-8171.

CALENDAR

Thursday, March 6

Administrative Staff Council, 1:30-3 p.m., 207 Bowen-Thompson Student Union.

Monday, March 10

Guest Artist, saxophonist Joseph Murphy, 6 p.m., Organ Studio, Moore Musical Arts Center.

Continuing Events March 3-7

Spring Break. No classes, offices open.

Through March 8

Art Exhibition, "Circumstance: The Intersection Between Choice and Chance," student art, Union Art Galleries. Hours are 8 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Thursday.

Through April 2

Art Exhibition, box assemblages by Becki Smith, Little Gallery, BGSU Firelands. Gallery hours are 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday.

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FACULTY

History. Instructor (Early America). Call Scott Martin, 2-2030. Deadline: March 15.

Sociology. Instructor (Demography/Methodology). Call Gary Lee, 2-2292. Deadline: March 15.

Arts Village. Instructor (Theatre or Film). Call Gordon Ricketts, 2-4587. Deadline: March 22.

Theatre and Film. Two Instructor positions (Theatre Studies and Performance Studies). Call Ron Shields, 2-2222. Deadline: March 28.

Labor Postings

<http://international.bgsu.edu/index.php?x=facinfohires>

Contact the Office of Human Resources at 419-372-8421 for information regarding classified and administrative positions.

Position vacancy announcements may be viewed by visiting the HR Web site at www.bgsu.edu/offices/ohr/.

Employees wishing to apply for these positions must sign a "Request for Transfer" form and attach an updated resume or data sheet. This information must be turned in to Human Resources by the job deadline.

CLASSIFIED

On-campus classified:

www.bgsu.edu/offices/ohr/employment/BGSU_only/page11151.html

Off-campus classified:

www.bgsu.edu/offices/ohr/employment/cl_staff/page11145.html

ADMINISTRATIVE

www.bgsu.edu/offices/ohr/employment/adm_staff/page11137.html

OBITUARY

There were no obituaries this week.