

Whitehouse gift to benefit BGSU students

A \$1 million gift will provide Bowling Green State University with private support for entrepreneurial studies, the inter-collegiate golf program and an initiative to make values exploration part of every student's experience.

Longtime supporters of the University, Ronald R. Whitehouse, a 1967 graduate, and his wife, Carol Sue (Lee) Whitehouse, who also attended BGSU, have designated that the funds support programs in keeping with what has played important roles in their own lives.

"The education and values developed during our BGSU undergraduate experience were major contributors to our entrepreneurial business success," Ron Whitehouse says. "We are extremely pleased that this gift will assist in providing even more opportunities for today's BGSU student."

The gift will be divided three ways. The largest portion, \$500,000, will be used to create the Ron & Sue Whitehouse Entrepreneurial Fund to support educational offerings related to entrepreneurship in the College of Business Administration.

A special feature of the college's new minor degree program in entrepreneurship is that it is open to business and non-business majors alike. "This magnificent gift will provide opportunities for many of our students to turn passion into entrepreneurship," according to Dr. Robert Edmister, dean of the college.

A second portion of the gift, \$350,000, will support the Creason-Piper Endowed Scholarship in Golf and the intercollegiate golf program, the sport in which Ron Whitehouse participated as an undergraduate.

Thanking the couple for their continuing support, BGSU Athletic Director Paul Krebs said, "This is a huge benefit for the men's golf program. While it is always meaningful to receive this kind of support for our athletic programs, it is particularly meaningful when that support is from former student athletes."

The remaining \$150,000 will create the Ron & Sue Whitehouse BGeXperience Fund to support the University's values initiative. The initiative is designed to make critical thinking about values central to the undergraduate experience at BGSU, according to College of Arts and Sciences Dean Donald Nieman, who has been involved in the program since its inception. "Ron and Sue Whitehouse's gift will enable us to significantly

enhance this exciting new program that has enormous potential to promote student success,” the dean notes.

“We are thrilled by the leadership support Ron and Sue are making to enhance these programs,” echoes BGSU President Sidney Ribeau. “The support is indicative of the values Ron and Sue hold.”

Ron Whitehouse has a bachelor’s degree in economics from BGSU and an MBA from the University of Toledo. A former president and CEO of HQ Chicago Inc. and chairman of the board of HQ Network Systems Inc., a San Francisco-based nationwide developer of executive business centers, he has been retired since 1998.

The Whitehouses have three grown children are known for their generosity. Ron Whitehouse is a past trustee for the Grand Haven Area Community Foundation in Michigan. He also is co-chair of the BGSU National Campaign Steering Committee along with former trustee Kermit Stroh.

BGSU Magazine, Summer 2004