

The Ohio Union at  
The Ohio State University



# Connection

Fall 2009

*Where memories are made and leaders emerge.*

## One Million Dollar Gift to Support Conference Theater

U.S. Bank Provides Donation and Endowment for Ohio State



Positioned on the first floor, the U.S. Bank Conference Theater is over 2,500 square feet. With tiered seating and a subtle Buckeye décor, the theater seats up to 293 people.

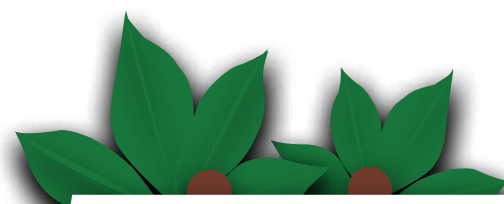
The Conference Theater offers the capacity to host lectures, movies, conferences, symposiums, society reunions, and much more.

U.S. Bank is the sixth largest commercial bank in the United States. The company provides a comprehensive line of banking, brokerage, insurance, investment, mortgage, trust, and payment services products to consumers, businesses, and institutions. The company has more than 3,000 banking offices and 5,000 ATMs. U.S. Bank will offer four ATM locations in the new Ohio Union. U.S. Bank has also created an endowment to benefit student organizations at Ohio State.

Donating to the new Ohio Union fit perfectly with the goals and priorities of U.S. Bank. Total charitable contributions from the U.S. Bancorp Foundation topped \$20.7 million in 2008, of which 23% went toward educational projects and initiatives.



As the result of a \$1,000,000 gift from U.S. Bank Corporation, the new Ohio Union will feature an exquisite Conference Theater to provide students with all sorts of entertainment.



### SAVE THE DATE

The new Ohio Union will Open in  
**Spring Quarter of 2010!**

Save these important dates:

**Spring Quarter**

*Grand Opening of the  
new Ohio Union, Noon*

**Saturday April 10, 2010**

*Grand Opening  
Celebration\*, 6 pm*

*Ohio Union Ballrooms*

*\*Event by invitation only*

*A complete Ohio Union Opening  
Events calendar will be available at*

**[www.ohiounion.osu.edu](http://www.ohiounion.osu.edu)**

*in Winter Quarter.*

## Ohio Union "Couples" Celebrate Their Time Together

The Ohio Union is a special place for many graduates of Ohio State. This connection is especially true for couples who met in the building.

Countless alumni met their significant other, went on a date, or even proposed within the walls of the Ohio Union.

To tell these special stories, custom railing panels will be displayed on the second floor of the new Ohio Union. These double-faced cast aluminum panels with Buckeye motif will be inscribed with each couple's names. The panels will be attached to the railing system surrounding the Great Hall located outside large meeting spaces such as the Grand Ballroom.

Many couples have already contributed to this special project. Panels are still available; couples are recognized for a \$2,500 donation.

If you are interested in being part of the couples' railing project, please contact Jennifer Geller, [geller.28@osu.edu](mailto:geller.28@osu.edu) or 614-247-2075.

Donor Name  
Placement

2'-6 1/8"

9"



#### PHOTO KEY

- 1 A rendering of the U.S. Bank Conference Theater in the new Ohio Union.
- 2 A rendering of the railing panels celebrating Ohio Union couples.
- 3 A rendering of the new Ohio Union viewed from High Street.



## OSU and USC Go Head-to-Head

*Buckeyes Raise \$20,000 for "Student First, Students Now" in Nike Human Race Challenge*

This season, Ohio State went head-to-head with the University of Southern California both in football and in another unique athletic challenge. The Nike Corporation challenged the two schools to a month-long competition as part of the second annual Nike Plus Human Race. Ohio State is one of only three U.S. race sites featured as part of Nike's global race effort. Nike's challenge entailed gathering the most participants and logging the most miles. Donning red head-to-toe body suits, on-campus

student coordinators recruited more than 3,500 runners to participate, pulling out a win for OSU with 21,277 miles tracked compared to USC's 8,907 miles.

Coinciding with Ohio State's Homecoming, the race was part of a fun-filled Buckeye weekend. Once the Homecoming Parade ended, the runners hit the road for a 5K or a 10K race option. The race course traveled through and around campus, starting near the new Ohio Union construction site and ending at the South Oval mall. President Gee kicked off the race with a traditional OH-IO cheer, and the race concluded with a pep rally and concert on the South Oval.



## Welcome Week 2009 Tradition Welcomes Tomorrow

Full quarter at Ohio State sets the tone for the new academic year. There is no better way to kick off the new school year than with a jam-packed week full of events and activities. Students have the opportunity to experience and embrace the OSU Community and carry that excitement with them for the remainder of the year.

Each year Welcome Week aims to give new and returning students a balanced perspective of campus life at Ohio State. With more than 120 events, this year was no exception. From teaching traditions and embracing diversity on campus, to promoting service and involvement, there is something for every Buckeye to enjoy during Welcome Week.

The rainy weather on Monday, September 21 did not put a damper on this year's Involvement Fair. More than 10,000 students congregated on the Oval to explore many of the university's 950 student organizations. A Welcome Week tradition at Ohio State, the Involvement Fair is the

cornerstone event that engages students in activities and organizations across campus.

Welcome Week continued on Tuesday, as more than 20,000 students, faculty, and staff members attended the second annual Buck-i-Frenzy at the RPAC. Businesses from the Central Ohio area promoted their services and products, offered discounts, and provided giveaways to attendees. This year, the Ohio Union Activities Board teamed up with Buck-i-Frenzy to provide a free concert featuring the rock band Shiny Toy Guns.

Once again, Welcome Week coordinated Campus Locator Services during the first two days of classes. Two new stations were added this year to serve the agriculture campus as well as commuter students parking in the West Campus lots. This invaluable service assisted students in need of directions or help navigating the Campus Area Bus System.

### PHOTO KEY

- 1 Students dressed in red jumpsuits as part of OSU's Nike Human Race efforts.
- 2 Filming occurs on the RPAC lawn to increase participation in the Nike race.
- 3 Dr. Javaune Adams-Gaston talks with students at the Involvement Fair.
- 4 OUAB's concert during Buck-i-Frenzy.
- 5 Campus Locator Services helps a student find her class.
- 6 Students gather with President Gee during Homecoming float building.

- 7 Student Alumni Council students, Fahad Alharbi, Carla Chiaivacci, Sara Kolhoff, and Clayton Lehotan, walk in the Homecoming Parade.
- 8 The Ohio Union's Homecoming float.
- 9 Jaimie Horning and Peter Koltak enjoy the Homecoming Parade.
- 10 Fourth Year student Chakir Underdown constructs science kits.
- 11 Students gather for group photo at Community Commitment 2009.

## Better Programming and More Opportunities for All Students

### Student Activity Fee Increases

The Student Activity Fee (SAF) supports the out-of-classroom experience for all Ohio State students--undergraduate, graduate and professional. As originally conceived in 2003 by the three student governments, the SAF supports numerous programs including the Ohio Union Activities Board; Explore Columbus, the discount ticket program; Buck-i-Serv, the alternative breaks program; the nearly 1,000 student organizations; and the three student governments. The SAF provides free programming across campus through OUAB events and offers students the opportunity to experience educational, cultural, and developmental programs through the other areas the fee supports. The SAF changed Ohio State's campus culture, creating a more vibrant and engaging environment while encouraging students to engage with the Columbus and greater Ohio community.

The fee has not increased since its implementation, and due to inflationary erosion, the buying power of the SAF diminished significantly since being implemented in 2003. This was compounded by greater costs for many popular programs and events.

In summer quarter 2008, an Ad Hoc Committee was established by the Council on Student Affairs to address issues surrounding the distribution and amount of the Student Activity Fee. Ohio State alumna, Council of Graduate Students Officer, and Political Science Ph.D. student, Kerry Hodak, served as chair of the Ad Hoc Committee. After many hours of analysis, the Ad Hoc Committee voted to endorse an increase in the fee, and on September 18, 2009, they joined forces with the Council on Student Affairs and the student governments to present their case to the Board of Trustees. The Board approved an increase in

Additionally, a portion of all race registration fees went to the OSU initiative, "Students First, Students Now." The campaign was introduced by President Gee in 2008 and ensures students have access to education through scholarships, loans, and emergency funds. The race raised \$20,000 for this important program.

After the event, student coordinator Brandon Smith stated, "It was an amazing success. From what I hear, it was the biggest running event OSU has ever done. I can remember standing at the starting line and seeing a sea of red shirts and knowing the hard work had paid off for a great cause...we are doing this as a school; we became united as a school."

## Greek Community Launches Alumni Newsletter

Sorority and Fraternity Life at Ohio State is excited to announce the launching of Greek Encore, a quarterly newsletter dedicated to keeping sorority and fraternity alumni connected with the events and activities in the Sorority and Fraternity Community. Ohio State's Greek community includes 65 sororities and fraternities across four governing councils, Interfraternity Council, Multicultural Greek Council, National Pan-Hellenic Council, and Panhellenic Association. In Spring 2009, membership in the sorority and fraternity community rose to 3,000 students, the largest group in ten years. The increase in sorority and fraternity membership has correlated with tremendous success in the community. For 20 successive quarters, the all-Greek grade point average has exceeded the all-University grade point average. Additionally, in 2008-2009, members have donated over 31,000 hours of community service time and raised over \$50,000 for charitable organizations.

This past summer, Ohio State's sorority and fraternity community hosted a session of the Undergraduate Inter-Fraternity Institute, a nationally recognized leadership program aimed at tackling tough issues within the sorority and fraternity community and developing action plans to improve individual chapters and the broader community. Over 60 students attended this memorable experience with one Greek student saying, "UIFI was an incredible, inspiring experience. It gave me insight on issues I had been blind to before, but since I went through the Institute with 60 other Ohio State Greeks, I now have a support system."

If you are interested in receiving the Greek Encore or for more information about how to stay connected with sorority and fraternity life at Ohio State, please contact Sharrell Hassell-Goodman at [Hassell-goodman.1@osu.edu](mailto:Hassell-goodman.1@osu.edu) or 614-247-8609. To download the first issue of Greek Encore, go to <http://sororityandfraternitylife.osu.edu/posts/newsletter/GreekLifeNLFIN09.pdf>.

the Student Activity Fee from \$15 per quarter to \$25 per quarter for all enrolled students, effective Winter Quarter 2010.

Kerry explained, "During Winter and Spring quarters of 2010, students will find greater ticket availability through Explore Columbus, more OUAB programs, more graduate and professional programming, and more opportunities through the alternative breaks program. Students will receive greater benefits from the Center for Leadership and Service through the SOURCE. Student organizations will have computers and printers in their offices in the new Ohio Union or be able to check out computers for use in the Ohio Union. In fall of 2010, the Signature Events program will kick off with the SAF funding as support, attracting more students and enhancing the quality and reach of their programs."



## 2009 HOMECOMING PARADE

*A State of Pride*

This year's Homecoming Parade theme expanded beyond school pride to encompass the pride we have for our state. The theme encouraged groups to get creative in their float designs and to think past the traditional Scarlet and Gray by embracing other unique attributes of our state.

Sponsored by Taco Bell, the parade marched through campus on Friday, October 23. Forty-four student organizations and four residence halls participated in the parade by crafting elaborate floats, decorating cars, or carrying banners through the streets of campus. Four Ohio State Varsity sports teams, the Columbus Blue Jackets and their mascot, Stinger, the Columbus Crew, and the Columbus Chiller Ice Rink also got in on the parade action. President Gee, Vice President of Student Life, Dr. Javaune Adams-Gaston, Miss Ohio, the 2008 Homecoming King and Queen, and the 2009 Homecoming Court were among some of the distinguished guests.

Along the parade route were three grandstand announcement areas to entertain the crowd and recognize participants. A long-standing Homecoming supporter, CD101 radio, was set up on Woodruff Avenue. The Scarlet and Gray Radio station, run by Ohio State students, was stationed on High Street in front of the Arps Parking Garage. As the parade route reached the home stretch, the Buckeye Ag Radio Network was stationed at the corner of High Street and 15th Avenue at the final grandstand location.

This year various stations were also positioned to enhance the parade viewing experience for spectators. Snacks, Homecoming t-shirts, rally towels, pom-poms, and Mardi Gras beads were given away to students, faculty, and visitors who came out to support Ohio State's longest-standing tradition.

## Homecoming Court 2009 Two Members Active at the Ohio Union



Twenty-two students were selected to be members of the 2009 Homecoming Court. This distinguished group of students is now part of a rich tradition at Ohio State. These individuals were selected by an application and interview process, and then a popular vote helped to determine the King and Queen. The court members were among the top 10% of applicants and were chosen based on their ability to exemplify the qualities of leadership, spirit, integrity, and achievement through their involvement at The Ohio State University.

Two members of the Homecoming Court are actively involved at the Ohio Union. Jaimie Horning, a senior studying Speech and Hearing Science, is from Chillicothe, Ohio. She has worked as a Development Intern at the Ohio Union and currently chairs the Ohio Union Council. She is also President of Ohio Staters,

Inc. and involved with SPHINX Senior Class Honorary, Beanie Drake Student Leader Scholarship Board, and First Year Leadership Collaborative. When asked what it means to be a Buckeye, Jaimie said, "Being a Buckeye is not something that can be encapsulated in a set of adjectives, a certain event, or even an experience. Being a Buckeye is a way of life."

Peter Koltak, a senior majoring in Journalism and International Studies, says, "The Union has been like a second home for me at Ohio State." Peter has been actively involved in College Democrats, Block O, and ALD/PES Honorary. He also has worked closely with Undergraduate Student Government serving as President during the 2008-2009 academic year, and he is currently the fundraising director for BuckeyeThon. Peter said, "Ohio State can be summarized in one word: opportunity. Buckeyes have an incredible chance to explore the world around them, to push themselves to new heights, and to make their mark upon the world."

Homecoming week was full of events and activities for the Homecoming Court. Both Jaimie and Peter agreed that spending time with family, friends, and court members was a highlight of their week. The Homecoming Court members were on the field during pre-game events Saturday, October 24, and stood in the center of 105,000 Buckeye fans. Jaimie described it as a "rush of emotions." The 2009 Homecoming King, Robert Bonacci, and 2009 Homecoming Queen, D'Andrea Kinley, were crowned during the festivities.



## Another Successful Community Commitment in the Books

More than 1,700 students were hard at work in Columbus before classes even started. During Welcome Week, on Tuesday, September 22, the 14th annual Community Commitment took place. With record-setting participation, this event continues to be largest single day of community service on any college campus. The event was coordinated by the Ohio Union's SERVTeam, and student co-chairs Udit Sekhri and Courtney Abel.

Volunteers traveled to more than 120 project sites around Columbus. They tackled projects that included tutoring school-age children, cleaning and painting, general office work for non-profit agencies, and visiting with elderly residents at assisted living facilities. There was also an involvement fair for students to explore other community service opportunities.

For the second year the program partnered with the "Know How 2 Go" campaign. Community Commitment participants listened to inspiring messages delivered by four keynote speakers. These speakers emphasized the



importance of serving our communities and the critical role undergraduate students play when it comes to access to higher education.

For the first time, a partnership between Community Commitment and the Buckeye Book Community was forged. The Buckeye Book Community is a program from the Office of First Year Experience, in which first year students collectively read a book; this year's selection was Three Cups of Tea.

The Central Ohio community was truly grateful for the efforts put forth by Ohio State students through this unique service opportunity. Chris Wittkop of the Columbus Recreation and Parks Department says the individual acts of volunteerism add up. "The projects Ohio State students do during Community Commitment saves us three months of work."

## OHIO UNION

by the NUMBERS

**63,217**  
STUDENTS  
on all Ohio State campuses, a record breaking enrollment record for The Ohio State University.

**31,000**  
HOURS  
of hands-on community service performed by the Ohio State sorority and fraternity community during the 2009-2009 academic year.

**1,443**  
CRYSTAL STRANDS  
featured in the Block "O" chandeliers in the new Ohio Union ballroom.

**791**  
DOORS  
in the new Ohio Union.

**35**  
PIZZAS  
can fit in the pizza oven in Woody's Tavern in the new Ohio Union.

**14**  
HOURS  
Time danced during BuckeyeThon, a student philanthropy aimed at raising funds for Nationwide Children's Hospital and the Children's Miracle Network.

**7**  
FEET  
Height of the bronze cast sculpture of Brutus Buckeye in the new Ohio Union.

**1**  
QUARTER  
until the grand opening of the new Ohio Union.



## First Football Game against Navy Brings Ohio Union Alumni Together

On Saturday September 5, 2009, the Ohio Union and Student Activities Alumni Society and Ohio Staters, Inc. Alumni Society paired up to show their Buckeye spirit for the first home football game. Over 150 alumni attended the joint tailgate held on the Danny Price Terrace of the Recreation and Physical Activity Center (RPAC). With a spectacular view of the Stadium and perfect weather, alumni were able to celebrate the start of the football season and gather with friends.

Special guests included Brutus Buckeye, the OSU Cheerleaders, and former Ohio Union Director Wendell Ellenwood. Mr. Ellenwood led the alumni in the singing in "Carmen Ohio" with Beanie Drake's infamous baton before fans headed to the Stadium to watch Ohio State take on Navy.

Inside the 'Shoe, a special ceremony, organized by Buckeye fans themselves, took place to display appreciation for Navy players, service men and women, and their commitment to our country. Fans stood to their feet and cheered when the Navy players entered the field. This fan-led ceremony was the result of a student-made video which spread rapidly among the Ohio State community and nationwide.



Commenting on the day, alumna, Melanie Powderly (BS '90), said,

*"Between the cheerleaders, Brutus, the yummy catered food, the beautiful location and great company, we could not drag ourselves away! We will be there with bells on next year!"*



## Ohio Union & Student Activity Alumni Society Reorganization

### Restructuring Better Reflects Alumni Constituency

Over the summer 2009, the Ohio Union Alumni Society was restructured to more accurately reflect its alumni constituents and more effectively meet the needs of Ohio Union alumni.

Based on alumni surveys and feedback, the Society's Board of Governors was expanded to include both executive officers (President, Vice-President, Secretary, Communications Director and Past President) along with an executive committee (one recent graduate representative, two former Ohio Union employees representatives, two student organization representatives, two OUAB representatives, and one current undergraduate student representative).

**The Society has also implemented a donation-based membership, with a minimum annual contribution of \$20.00 per member.** Funds can be allocated to one of several specified funds that are related to the Ohio Union and its programs and scholarships. Donations are fully tax deductible since they are made to the Ohio State Foundation.



**With the opening of the new Ohio Union in March 2010, the Alumni Society plans to host a special opening event for dues-paying members.** Please watch for more information about becoming a formal member and the Alumni Society's upcoming opening event.

## Ohio State Alumna Launches Collegiate Series Basket Collection

*Portion of Proceeds Support Students and Parents*



The exclusive Longaberger Collegiate Series allows Ohio State fans to don their favorite Buckeye colors while toting the well-known Longaberger baskets, made right in the heart of Ohio. Perfect for tailgates, picnics, and other

gatherings, the Collegiate Series is going faster than you can say "Go Bucks!" Launched in August 2009, the collection began with five university logos and colors in an array of Longaberger basket styles. As of December 2009, more than 40 university licenses are available – and the number is continuing to climb. Through the success of the Collegiate Series, Longaberger has also launched the official NFL Lineup with all 32 National Football League team logos now available.

Longaberger CEO and Chair Tami Longaberger's many connections to Ohio State fueled her desire to develop the collegiate baskets. As an Ohio State alumna, parent, and former Board of Trustee member and chair, Tami believed the handmade baskets provide an exciting way for alumni to share their many sports interests as well as their collegiate loyalty. In connection with this special basket

collection, Tami has generously committed to give back to Ohio State. Specifically,

**25% of all Ohio State Collegiate Series proceeds sold by the sponsoring organization, the Ohio Union Alumni Society, will benefit students, parents and families of Ohio State.** During Parent & Family Weekend alone, the Ohio Union sold over \$8,400 in Collegiate baskets!

To learn more about the Collegiate Series and to place your order, visit

[www.longaberger.com/ohiounionalumnisociety](http://www.longaberger.com/ohiounionalumnisociety)

#### PHOTO KEY

- 1 Alumni Barbie (BS '65, MA '68) and Jim (BA '65, MA '67, PhD '72) Tootle pose with Brutus.
- 2 Wendell Ellenwood converses with an Ohio State alumna.
- 3 Genevieve Powderly, daughter of Melanie Powderly (BS '90) and Meghan Watters, daughter of Elizabeth Watters (BA '87, JD '90), pose for a picture.
- 4 Longaberger Collegiate Collection in Ohio State Scarlet and Gray colors.