

The Ohio Union at
The Ohio State University



Connection

Where memories are made and leaders emerge.

Students First: Dr. Gee Leads by Example

*Despite a busy schedule –
Dr. Gee finds time to connect with students*

As you would imagine from the university's 14th President, Dr. Gee has been a very busy man. He travelled to Washington D.C. where he spoke to the American Council on Education about the need to reinvent higher education. He also participated in an event sponsored by the Brookings Institution, which unveiled a major proposal aimed at transforming the nation's energy policy. Gee also spent considerable time in Florida and other states throughout the country visiting with alumni and donors.

Despite his travels off campus and out-of-state, Gee found time to spend with students--who remain a central priority in his schedule. Before he traveled to New York and Florida, Gee hosted events especially for current students who permanently reside in those states. During the events Gee was able to interact with the students and their

friends, learn about local favorite spots to visit during his travels, and gathered the phone numbers of parents to telephone them while he was in their state. Students loved the opportunity to meet Dr. Gee and share their favorite stories about home.

Students First: Students Now

Dr. Gee's commitment to students is also reflected in the "Students First, Students Now" initiative. This initiative is designed to help students and their families who face increased economic hardship as a result of the state of the national economy. Dr. Gee has modeled the way with a personal gift of \$1 million to fund student scholarships.

"Our profound commitment is to providing access to Ohio State's excellent educational opportunities. Now more than ever, we must assure that young people are able to pursue their dreams, earn a degree, and use their talents to enhance our economy, our state, and our world." -Dr. Gordon E. Gee

If you are interested in making a contribution to help a student in need, please contact Heather McGinnis Director of Development for Student Life at (614) 292-8216 or at mcginnis.1878@osu.edu.

PHOTO KEY

- 1 Dr. Adams-Gaston with Dr. Gee at a recent event with students.
- President Gee with:
- 2 students from New York City.
- 3 a graduate student and his family at the *Bolt* movie screening.
- 4 a graduate student and her family at the *Bolt* movie screening.
- 5 students from Florida at a recent event.
- 6 two members of The Ohio Union Activities Board (OUAB) at their exclusive Valentine's Day event.



Student Life Welcomes New Vice President Dr. Javaune Adams-Gaston

Javaune Adams-Gaston became Vice President for Student Life on January 2, 2009, succeeding Richard Hollingsworth, who retired after 33 years of university service. As vice president, Dr. Adams-Gaston oversees the operation of the Office of Student Life and its constituent departments. She has broad leadership responsibility for nearly all the operations affecting students outside the classroom. She represents Student Life in the university's senior administration and provides leadership on issues affecting students.

She came to Ohio State from the University of Maryland, where she had served in a variety of administrative and faculty positions since 1985. Those positions included executive director of the University of Maryland's Career Center and the President's Promise, associate dean of undergraduate studies, and assistant director of intercollegiate athletics. She also taught graduate courses in leadership and organizational change and counseling. Trained as a psychologist, Dr. Adams-Gaston holds a bachelor's degree in biology, psychology and general science from the University of Dubuque, a master's degree in applied psychology from Loras College, and a Ph.D. in psychology from Iowa State University.

Since coming to Ohio State, Dr. Adams-Gaston, or "Dr. J" as she is often called, has maintained a busy schedule, getting to know the students, staff and faculty of the university, and providing leadership for a number of new and ongoing initiatives to enhance the student experience. She outlined her vision for Student Life to the Board of Trustees in February, highlighting the role of the office in creating learning environments and learning experiences that partner with and complement the academic curricula, prepare students for civic leadership, embrace diversity, expand career development, and align with President Gee's goals for seamless and comprehensive collegiate experience. She is looking forward to the opening of the new Ohio Union next year. "The building is magnificent, with all kinds of resources for students and the entire university community. We will ensure that it is a welcoming place that nurtures learning, creativity, leadership, friendship, and creates lasting memories."



embracing the elements
of leadership

OHIO UNION
by the NUMBERS

\$81,506
RAISED
at the 2009 BuckeyeThon
to benefit Nationwide
Children's Hospital and the
Children's Miracle Network

44,595
Ohio Union
Activities Board
TICKETS
distributed through Ohio
Union's Information Desk
during 2008

34,267
CHAIRS
setup and torn down
by Ohio Union
Events to Go staff

1,200
STUDENTS
attended the Winter
Involvement Fair

937
Active Student
ORGANIZATIONS
registered with the Ohio
Union

20
Buck-I-Serv
ALTERNATIVE
BREAK TRIPS
taken by students during
spring break 2009



Center for Student Leadership and Service Hosts 2009 SAIL Conference
Students participate in day-long leadership conference

The 2009 SAIL (Students Active in Involvement and Leadership) Conference took place on February 21, 2009, at The Ohio State University Fawcett Center. The conference was hosted by the Center for Student Leadership and Service. The theme for the conference was "Embracing the Elements of Leadership" and focused on exploring key leadership concepts through a variety of informative, innovative, and interactive programs. Dr. Jeff King, Associate Professor in the College of Food Agriculture, and Environmental Science, served as the keynote speaker, sharing his personal credo and leadership philosophy with the more than 150 students in attendance.

With twenty-two possible workshop sessions led by presenters from offices and academic disciplines across the university, students were able to select sessions that they found most helpful. Session topics included effective communication, recruitment strategies for student organizations, resume, and interview tips, stress management, and a variety of other subjects related to leadership development and practice. All of the students at the conference assessed and addressed their personal leadership style as well as the strengths and weaknesses of their student organizations.

Chi Omega Gives Back to the Ohio Union
Sorority commissions artist for gift to the new Ohio Union

XIn celebration of their 90th anniversary on campus, the Zeta Alpha chapter of Chi Omega has raised over \$20,000 to commission artist Renate Fackler to create a one-of-a-kind work of art that will be donated to the Ohio Union. The sculpture is called "Greek Faces" and will depict twelve faces of current and recent student leaders within the Ohio State sorority and fraternity community. Students were chosen based on their character, leadership, self-discipline, and overall representation of the high standards of the Greek community. Clay molds were made of the students'

faces, which will become the bronze masks that compose the sculpture. Greek letters will be carved into the molds to represent the various sororities and fraternities on Ohio State's campus. The sculpture will be displayed at the entrance to the Center for Student Leadership and Service on the second floor of the new Ohio Union.



Historic 2008 Presidential Election

Ohio Union alum witnesses history first hand

By any measure, the recent presidential election was historic. Regardless of political affiliation, the election of an African American into the most important office in the world is a testament to the progress America has made in terms of racial equality. We interviewed a former student leader to share his perspective as he witnessed history being made first hand:

Tom Wheeler is 1968 Ohio State graduate and currently the Managing Director of Core Capital Partners, a venture capital firm in Washington D.C. He became involved with the Obama campaign at the very beginning as a member of the exploratory committee and National Finance Committee. Because he believed so passionately that then candidate Obama was a transformational leader, he and his wife moved from Washington D.C. to Iowa in November of 2007 and campaigned through the January 3 caucus. Tom also campaigned in Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Indiana. After the election, Tom was selected to lead the transition team's agency review of the science, technology, space, and arts agencies.

Tom credits the skills he acquired as a student leader as being important to his experience on the campaign trail. "The tools that I learned at Ohio State were seminal in so much of my life, and the campaign was no different. When you boil it down, it is all about working with people; and, student activities were where those lessons began."

There are many different perspectives on the election of Barack Obama, Tom reflects back on what he told people while campaigning in Iowa, "The day after Obama is inaugurated three things will be true: the world would look at America differently, America would look at itself differently, and a large segment of the American population would look at themselves differently." Tom believes all three have come to pass and "that is the beginning to a transformation."



Ohio State Sorority Membership Continues to Grow

Participation in formal recruitment greater than ever before

More than 400 women participated in formal sorority recruitment this past winter. Formal recruitment began in November with the Sorority Showcase, which was an opportunity for potential new members to hear presentations from each of the chapters about their new member program, philanthropic involvement, and financial obligations.

While formal recruitment is the primary time period for new members to join, sororities also hold informal recruitment activities throughout the year. Students planning to participate in formal sorority recruitment were required to register in advance and were given a recruitment guide to lead them through the process. During recruitment there were four rounds involving initial introductions to the fourteen participating sororities, several visits to chapter houses, and overviews given of their philanthropies. Selections were made by each of the potential new members and the sororities after each round. This made the process fair and equal for each party involved as both the sorority women and the potential new members select each other to continually narrow down the field to bid day.

Bid Day is the final event of formal sorority recruitment during which invitations for membership are given out to final matches. This year, 316 of the 326 women were matched to their first choice, and everyone who came to bid day accepted their bid. Loud cheers could be heard from blocks away as the sororities welcomed their new members and walked them to the chapter houses at the end of the day.

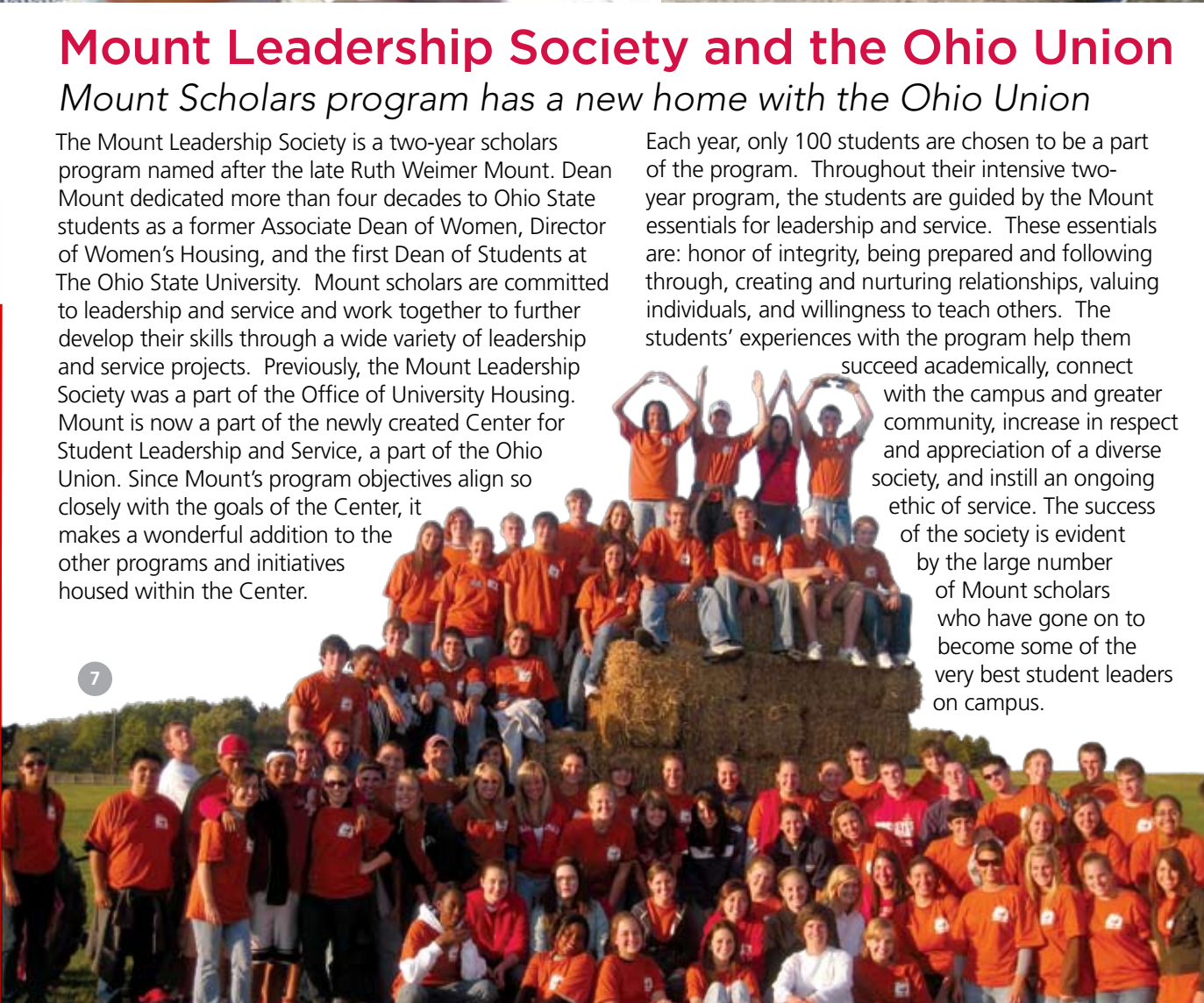
The Greek Community at Ohio State is the largest it has been in years, with membership in fraternities and sororities nearing 3,000. More chapters are at their university-set membership capacity than ever before, and the all-Greek grade point average is 3.19, higher than the all-undergraduate grade point average of 3.08.

- PHOTO KEY**
- 1 Students working with each other during a breakout session at the SAIL Conference.
 - 2 Tom Wheeler with President Barack Obama.
 - 3 Two sorority women at an event this fall.
 - 4 Example of one of the masks that will be included in the "Greek Faces" sculpture.
 - 5 Two Mount Scholars making bowls for through their fundraiser to fight hunger.
 - 6 A group of Mount scholars posing after recently improving a playground.
 - 7 First year Mount Scholars posing together after volunteering at the Fall Harvest Jamboree sponsored by the Columbus Recreation and Parks Department.

Mount Leadership Society and the Ohio Union
Mount Scholars program has a new home with the Ohio Union

The Mount Leadership Society is a two-year scholars program named after the late Ruth Weimer Mount. Dean Mount dedicated more than four decades to Ohio State students as a former Associate Dean of Women, Director of Women's Housing, and the first Dean of Students at The Ohio State University. Mount scholars are committed to leadership and service and work together to further develop their skills through a wide variety of leadership and service projects. Previously, the Mount Leadership Society was a part of the Office of University Housing. Mount is now a part of the newly created Center for Student Leadership and Service, a part of the Ohio Union. Since Mount's program objectives align so closely with the goals of the Center, it makes a wonderful addition to the other programs and initiatives housed within the Center.

Each year, only 100 students are chosen to be a part of the program. Throughout their intensive two-year program, the students are guided by the Mount essentials for leadership and service. These essentials are: honor of integrity, being prepared and following through, creating and nurturing relationships, valuing individuals, and willingness to teach others. The students' experiences with the program help them succeed academically, connect with the campus and greater community, increase in respect and appreciation of a diverse society, and instill an ongoing ethic of service. The success of the society is evident by the large number of Mount scholars who have gone on to become some of the very best student leaders on campus.



Create New Memories at Ohio State:
Host Your Event in THE NEW OHIO UNION

THE OPENING OF THE NEW OHIO UNION IS LESS THAN A YEAR AWAY.

The Ohio Union has started taking space reservations for Spring 2010 & beyond. Plans are already underway to host exciting events, activities, and programs that will engage students, faculty, staff, and the community.

If you are looking for an event space that inspires attendees to be creative and collaborative, the Ohio Union is a great fit. Each room is decorated in full Buckeye spirit, from a customized room that features Ohio State's cartoon library and works by Milton Caniff to rooms that celebrate the history of student leadership on campus. Our unique meeting and event spaces feature state-of-the-art technology, and many have breath-taking views of the South Oval.

Our spaces can host events for 12 to 1,200 and our amazing ballroom is the second largest event space in central Ohio. To round out the experience, our in-house catering and event planning team take care of all the details, so you can concentrate on enjoying your event!

As you plan your next alumni reunion, business meeting, retirement party, conference, wedding reception, holiday party, tailgate, graduation party, baby shower, or birthday party, consider hosting it in true Buckeye style - join us at the new Ohio Union!

RESERVE YOUR SPACE TODAY

Contact Hannah Merrill at 614-247-1856 or hmerrill@studentlife.osu.edu.



22-hour location that will serve diner favorites

PHOTO KEY

1 & 2 Computer renderings of the interior of Sloop's Diner.
3 & 4 Computer renderings of the interior of Woody's Tavern.



will have a stage and a DJ booth



THE OHIO UNION
MARKETPLACE
or simply the "The U," will have four food stations. All the food in these stations will be fresh and made to order.

ACROSS THE FIELD
SALAD STATION

DOUGH HI-O
DELI/BAKERY

FIRED UP
GRILL STATION

BUCKEYE PASSPORTS
INTERNATIONAL STATION

New Ohio Union to Offer Unique Food Options

Diverse food and dining experiences included in new Ohio Union

Gone are the days of traditional cafeteria dining at Ohio State. The new Union will have several fresh and delightful options for students and guests to enjoy. The Union Marketplace, or simply "The U," will have four food stations. There will be a salad station called "Across the Field," a deli/bakery called "Dough-hio," a grill station called "Fired Up," and an international station called "Buckeye Passports." All of the food will be fresh and made-to-order.

The Union will also be home to Sloop's Diner, a 22-hour location that will serve diner favorites. Sloop's will be decorated like a traditional diner with vinyl high back booths and checked floors. This location will be operated in conjunction with the Hospitality Management Program in the College of Education and Human Ecology. Students working in the facility will learn first-hand how to run and operate a restaurant and get valuable, real-life customer service experience. Located within Sloop's will be a private dining room which will be a great space for small meetings and private events.

Woody's Tavern will be another dining option in the Ohio Union. The specialty at the tavern will be large pan pizzas as well as a wide variety of Ohio beer and wine. The space will tell the story of Woody Hayes and will be a popular late night event space. There will be a stage and DJ booth allowing many different types of events to occur. Student groups will be able to order pizzas from Woody's and have them delivered to their meetings in the Union.

Campus Dining Services and the Ohio Union are also proud of our "Buy Local, Eat Global" initiative to reach local farmers and vendors. This initiative aims to use as much food as possible that is grown or raised in Ohio. Not only will this program boost Ohio's economy, but it also shows the commitment of the university to the greater State of Ohio. The food used in the building will literally be able to be traced back to the exact farm where the produce was grown or the livestock was raised. Staff from Campus Dining Services recently attended the Ohio Produce and Grower's Marketing Association Conference to further expand and strengthen their network within Ohio.



2009-2010 Executive Board Selected for the Ohio Union Activities Board

New officers chosen to lead organization into the new Ohio Union

The 2009-2010 Executive Board has just been chosen for the Ohio Union Activities Board (OUAB).

The newly-elected officers are:

- President - Kayln Eyer
- Vice President - Ted Bross
- Director of Operations - Laura Johns
- Dates & Data - Shari Lee
- Co-Directors of Marketing - Allie Feinstein and Garren Cabral
- Collaborative Events - Nichole Renner
- Comedy - Liz Tripp
- Concerts - Sarah Downs
- Lectures - Stephen Humphries
- Special Events - Will Burnard
- Visual & Fine Arts - Damien Miran

OUAB's new president, Kayln Eyer, has been involved in OUAB since her first year at Ohio State. Initially hearing about the organization during Summer Orientation, she explained, "OUAB seemed like a great student organization to join because they impacted student life on campus but they also looked like they were a big group of friends." Kayln served on the Collaborative Events Committee her first two years in the organization, chairing the committee her junior year.

The leadership of the 2009-2010 Executive Board for OUAB will be crucial as the organization makes the transition to the new Ohio Union. In the next year, OUAB will not only have the task of moving into a brand new office but will also be challenged with endless possibilities of new programming space. As Kayln, explained, "I am so excited for the new Union to open! I took a building tour recently, and I was able to see all of the amazing spaces that OUAB will be able to utilize for events. It is going to make OUAB's programs even better!"