P&amp;G Gives $1 Million for New Childhood Center

The P&amp;G Fund, the foundation of Cincinnati-based Procter &amp; Gamble, has given the university a gift of $1 million to support construction of the College of Human Ecology’s new early childhood development center in Columbus’ Weiland Park neighborhood. The center—the first university-based early childhood laboratory school built in a low-income neighborhood—will offer interdisciplinary research, teaching, and services targeted to the neighborhood’s most pressing need.

Groundbreaking for the center will take place in 2005, with the opening planned for autumn 2006.

“The College of Human Ecology has a unique vision for improving the lives of underserved children,” said Charlotte Otta president and trustee of the P&amp;G Fund. “We at P&amp;G share this vision. The college’s early childhood development center fits with our corporate initiative of focusing on improving the lives of children ages 13 and younger.”

Dean David W. Andrews conceived the idea of building a new early childhood development center and targeted the Weiland Park community because of the college’s extensive involvement in the area as well as recognition of the poverty, unemployment, and educational problems of its residents. Situated to the east of Ohio State’s main campus, Weiland Park is a neighborhood of documented need. According to the 2002 U.S. Census Report:

- Income levels average $15,252 for homeowners and renters, and only $4,000 for those residing in government housing.
- Only 30 percent of area residents over the age of 25 have high school degrees or the equivalent.
- More than half of the total 1,044 neighborhood families are female-headed with children under age 18.

“We thank the P&amp;G Fund for joining our first major donor, Betty Schoenbaum, as a partner in this effort. The P&amp;G Fund has become a vital part of our approach to solving the challenges facing families like those living in Weiland Park,” said Andrews, who expects a portion of the enrolled children to receive subsidized scholarships. “The P&amp;G University model partnership will help us move forward in our work, which includes collaboration with Columbus Public Schools and the Weiland Park community,” he said.

“Many will benefit from a nationally recognized center where scholars and students can conduct cutting-edge research. We expect our discoveries to improve the lives of young children and their families worldwide.”

As evidence, during 2004:

- Barbara R. Snyder was selected as the university’s executive vice president and provost. This is the first time Ohio State has had both a female president and provost.
- Three African-Americans were appointed to senior positions: Melvin Shipp as dean of Optometry, John Roberts as dean of Humanities, and Jacqueline Jones Ryster as interim associate dean of the College of the Arts and Sciences.
- The university’s Board of Trustees approved a plan to provide access to healthcare benefits to a broader range of dependents, including eligible domestic partners.
- Black Enterprise Magazine again named Ohio State one of the 50 best colleges in the nation for African-American students.

These are just a few of some of our most significant achievements. There were countless others that did not create the same ripples, but which, when combined, demonstrate the university’s steadfast commitment to diversity.

For example:

- The colleges of Education and Social Work both offered new courses focusing on diversity, including Needs and Social Conditions of Latinos/as and Sexualities in Education.
- The university began producing and airing radio spots aimed at encouraging African-American youth to attend college.
- Ohio State’s web accessibility policies to aid the disabled were nationally recognized.
- Ohio State’s American Indian Council (AIC) hosted its first student-initiated and student-run powwow.

I hope you’ll agree that it has been a year of momentum. Please take time now to review additional highlights from autumn quarter.

Sincerely,

Mac A. Stewart
Vice Provost
They expect this to be the inaugural project of their proposed OSU Newark initiative for the Study of Native American Earthworks, History, and Culture. Dr. Mac Stewart was one of five Columbus community leaders recognized by the Phi Beta Sigma fraternity and Leadership In Its Best, an organization that focuses on motivating young black males to stay in school and complete college through college. Stewart, along with the Reverend Dr. Charles Booth, Columbus City Councilman Kevin Boyle, C. Sunny Martin, and Ohio Representative Joyce Beatty, were honored at a November reception as leaders who serve as inspiration to others.

Access for the Disabled

In conjunction with the U.S. Department of Labor, the Medical Center joined the Mid-Ohio Board for Independent Living Environment and Columbus City Schools to offer internships at the Medical Center for Columbus high school students with disabilities exploring careers in science, math, engineering and technology. Titled the High School/High Tech Program, the initiative is sponsored by the federal Office of Disability Employment Policy.

L. Scott Lissner, the university's ADA Coordinator, was appointed to the City of Columbus Advisory Committee on Disability Issues. The committee meets monthly to advise the mayor and City Council on disability related complaint resolution, issues and trends affecting the city.

Awareness

Vincent Verduz, associate professor of law, kicked off the President and Provost’s Diversity Lecture and Cultural Arts Series for 2004-05 with “The Significance of Brown v. Topeka.” Other autumn quarter events included: Linda Greene, associate vice chancellor for faculty and staff programs, and Jayne-Bascos, professor of law at University of Wisconsin-Madison, who delivered “Strategic Priorities, Strategic Fund- ing,” a lecture by Carlos Cortes, professor emeritus of history at the University of California, Riverside, who spoke on “How the Media Teach About Diversity.” Debra Rallison, professor of chemistry at the University of Utah and a member of the Naval Research Laboratory, whose lecture was titled, “Can Title IX Do for Women in Science and Engineering What It has Done for Women in Sports.” Myra Gordon, associate provost for diversity at Kansass State, who delivered “Climate-Induced Failure to Thrive: A Sometimes Unintended Result of Faculty Diversification;” and finally, “An Evening with Maxine Hong Kingston,” who is a senior lecturer of creative writing at the University of California, Berkeley, and an author whose novels detail experiences of first-generation Chinese Americans.

A symposium titled, “Moving Forward—Taking an Assertive Approach to Eliminating HIV in the African-American Community,” assembled health experts, educators, and activists from around the country. Hosted by the King Arts Complex in Columbus, the participants discussed the prevalence of HIV in the African-American community and how best to stop the spread of the disease. President Holbrooke and Drs. Fred Sandalippo and Michael Piza opened the session with remarks and support from the university. Sponsors of the symposium included the Ohio State Medical Center AIDS Clinical Trials Unit.

Ohio State’s GLBT Student Services marked Transgender Days of Remembrance and Action on November 20 to commemorate the lives of individuals who were murdered during the year because of their gender identity or expression. Began in 1999, the Transgender Day of Remembrance is an international event held every year in November to seek to educate people about transgender issues and help them become better advocates for the transgender community. This year’s activities included a conference, films, an open house, as well as the annual vigil.

Sheryl D. Cashin, professor of law at Georgetown University and author of “The Failure of Integration: How Race and Class Are Undermining the American Dream,” delivered a lecture on this topic that was sponsored by the Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity, the College of Humanities, and the Moritz College of Law.

In an effort to balance the rights of all students and following an extensive review, Ohio State revised its policies governing student organizations to allow those groups formed to foster or affirm sincerely held religious beliefs to adopt a nondiscrimination statement consistent with those beliefs. William H. Hall, vice president for student affairs, said the revised guidelines, which also deal with establishing student organizations and the criteria for awarding them funding and other benefits, were developed in large part by the Committee on Student Organization Classification and Resource Eligibility, an ad-hoc committee of the Council on Student Affairs. Students, faculty and other concerned individuals provided input through several avenues, including participation in open forums last spring.

Outreach Activities

The University Medical Center is behind an effort at the Columbus Africentric School to promote better exercise and eating habits among children as part of a national competition designed to help schools teach positive behaviors in nutrition and fitness. The Africentric School is one of five schools across the country selected to compete in the Cardinal Health Challenge, developed by VHA Health Foundation and underwritten by Dublin-based Cardinal Health Foundation. At the end of the fall semester, the school with the highest scores in fitness and nutrition progress will win $1,000 in new physical activity equipment beyond the equipment provided for the competition itself. Each school has received state-of-the-art fitness equipment addressing deficit areas where children typically fail fitness tests, as well as a complete fitness and nutrition curriculum and teacher training.