THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

BUT FOR
OHIO
STATE
ONCE A BUCKEYE, ALWAYS A BUCKEYE

What does it mean to be a Buckeye? Quite a bit, if you ask me. Above all, it means always being in good company. No matter where I travel, fellow Buckeyes wearing pins and hats or calling out “O-H-I-O” remind me I am part of the Ohio State family.

The Alumni Association gives our family a home—a means to stay connected with the University and each other, to continue learning and growing in step with Ohio State, to pay it forward and live out the values that characterize all Buckeyes: dedication, spirit, and good will. I am thankful to our alumni and this great institution for the opportunity to receive a world-class education and to now serve nearly 500,000 members of the Alumni Association around the world.

What are you thankful for? Perhaps Ohio State is where your interests became a professional pursuit and a successful career; where you met your spouse or best friend; or where you first heard TBDBITL practicing “Buckeye Battle Cry” and suddenly felt a sense of belonging, of having arrived at exactly the place you should be.

But for Ohio State, we would not be able to celebrate the moments and memories of our life as Buckeyes or give young people the opportunity to create and cherish their own. I know you share my love for Ohio State, and I hope you will express it through a gift to the Alumni Association in support of the But for Ohio State campaign. Your gift will benefit our growing alumni family, present and future.

Archie Griffin
Senior Vice President for Alumni Relations, The Ohio State University
President and CEO, The Ohio State University Alumni Association
WHEN OHIO STATE’S FIRST ALUMNI RETURNED TO CAMPUS IN 1879, THEY established an organization to foster an attachment among graduates and the University. For more than 130 years, The Ohio State University Alumni Association has continued the mission of bringing together alumni, students, and friends in lifelong support of Ohio State and each other.

Our graduates become, and forever remain, Buckeyes. That is the Ohio State experience: beyond a diploma, it is a lasting expression of who we are.

The Alumni Association hopes to nourish all Buckeyes through membership, programs, and services that connect alumni, support students, embrace the community, celebrate faculty, and engage leadership. With nearly 500,000 alumni worldwide, this is no easy feat, but our alumni make it both possible and worthwhile.
What does Ohio State mean to Dan and Kay Moore?

A DOCUMENTARY FILM OF DAN AND KAY MOORE’S LIFE TOGETHER COULD BE SET to the sounds of The Ohio State University’s alma mater, “Carmen Ohio;” performances by the Men’s Glee Club, which Dan belonged to; and Kay’s speeches to members of the Women’s Self-Government Association she led—including the one Dan says he will never forget, titled Ohio State Is a World’s Fair.

The couple met at Ohio State when both were summer orientation leaders in 1964, and to this day, the couple remains friends with the other members of that group. “It has been a grand group of friends that shares joys and sadness,” says Dan. As orientation leaders, he remembers, it was hard for him and Kay to date because 10,000 freshmen knew them and each outing would invariably end up a double date.

Both Dan and Kay agree that Ohio State is the anchor of their life together as a couple, as well as the start of their individual education and professional careers. Throughout the years, the Alumni Association has enabled them to continue and strengthen their ties to the University. “Everybody else connects you to a piece of the University, but the Alumni Association connects you to the University as a whole,” says Dan.

Kay is especially fond of the Longaberger House. She was chair of the board during the fundraising for and construction of the building in the 1990s and believes their work has paid off. “The Longaberger House is a home away from home for thousands and thousands of alumni any time of the year,” she says. Among many other areas of Ohio State, the couple has strongly supported the Association’s endowment to ensure funds are available in perpetuity. “We want it to welcome all Buckeye alumni,” says Dan.

The documentary of their life would indeed have it all—a love story, rich campus experiences, lifelong friendships, the joy of giving, and a consistent theme: a Buckeye life is better shared.
What does Ohio State mean to Thom Sneed?

FOR THOM SNEED, ATTENDING OHIO STATE WAS A GREAT PRIVILEGE. SO MUCH SO THAT it felt surreal to wake up an Ohio State student. “It took a while for the reality of it all to set in,” he says.

Born and raised in Ohio, Thom heard about Ohio State from the time he was a kid. In 1981, he graduated with a bachelor’s degree in computer science, and today, at age 53, he is vice president and chief information officer for Marathon Oil Corporation in Houston, Texas.

“When some of the best times of my life were days I spent at Ohio State,” says Thom. When he gets together with lifelong friends he made at Ohio State, he is amazed that they remember specific games of Risk they stayed up all night playing—“games we played 30 years ago,” recalls Thom. “Thirty years ago!”

Thom’s fondest recollection of his time at Ohio State is walking across the Oval with his high school sweetheart Phyllis, who would later become his wife. All these years later, when Thom sits by Mirror Lake as they used to, he feels the way he did then.

When Thom and Phyllis became empty nesters after raising two kids, they discussed what to do next. Phyllis insisted on one condition: “Whatever we do, we have to make a difference.” They agreed that setting up a scholarship fund was an investment that would pay dividends for years to come, in the form of lives changed by education.

Thom’s memories of the life he built with Phyllis before, at, and after Ohio State are both happy and nostalgic. He catches himself using the term “we” and apologizes. Phyllis has not been gone for long, and his life remains a life of “we.”

Thom knows those who benefit from the Sneed Family Alumni Association Scholarship Endowment will be here long after he is gone, and he looks forward to letters from future recipients. That is the only thing Thom and Phyllis decided to require of students awarded their scholarship: that they write to them and share their goals and dreams—dreams Thom hopes he and Phyllis will help come true.
What does Ohio State mean to future alumni?

While her connection to Ohio State extends across time and landscape, the common denominator in Susan Munthe’s 25 years of alumni volunteer service has been the Alumni Association. Wherever she is, her Ohio State experience comes to her in a new way every day; a Buckeye license plate or Block O necklace is all it takes to get a conversation, and likely also a friendship, started. “Every day brings something special from the Buckeye nation into my life,” she says.

Susan is one of approximately 3,000 alumni living in the area covered by the Orange County / Inland Empire Alumni Club (OCIE) in southern California, an area the size of the State of Ohio. Catering to the club’s more than 200 dues-paying families takes a lot of effort, says Susan, who has held various officer and board positions. Members gather often to participate in the club’s varied activities. On any given week the club may have four official events: a college fair on Wednesday, a “Young Bucks” networking event on Thursday, a game watch on Saturday, and a student recruitment event on Sunday night.

While socializing and networking strengthen the connection of alumni with the University, Susan says the primary focus of the club is philanthropy. “Number one, hands down, that is the reason we are here,” she says. And it shows: The OCIE Alumni Club has one of the largest endowed scholarship funds outside of Ohio and regularly supports students through all four years of study. This year, the fund is supporting 13 students, the largest number ever.

“We are all highly committed to giving students from California an opportunity to go to the Midwest,” says Susan. The club’s commitment was recently recognized when it was once again named an Outstanding Alumni Club. The greatest reward for members, however, is meeting and sharing the experience of each student they enable to attend Ohio State while reliving their own Buckeye memories.
OHIO STATE IS ENORMOUSLY PROUD OF THE ACCOMPLISHED MEN AND WOMEN OUR students become, and humbled to be part of their journey. As the representative voice of Ohio State alumni everywhere, the Alumni Association reflects our members’ varied backgrounds and perspectives. And varied they are. Our Alumni Association members have organized clubs and societies to gather, share, and give back in more than 200 locations around the world, as far as China, Cyprus, and Argentina. Our alumni hail from all continents; they live and work in cities such as Bangkok and Dubai, and countries including Kenya and India.

Regardless of origin or destination, alumni share a love for Ohio State that motivates us to reciprocate the feeling. Through meaningful programming and events, we keep alumni closely connected while continuing and enhancing their Buckeye experience long after graduation.

A key element of this experience is our alumni’s dedication to serving as stewards to each new generation. Alumni Club members awarded scholarships to more than 300 students in the last academic year alone. Our alumni’s eagerness to make a difference in the lives of others extends beyond campus, too. Alumni support their communities through countless service projects, from food and clothing drives to fundraising walks and races; they even set sail on the Buckeye Cruise for Cancer to raise funds for research.

The Alumni Association exists to provide alumni meaningful opportunities to enjoy being part of the Ohio State family, whether by cheering as one or by sharing their time, treasure, and talent through their volunteer and advocacy work, their fundraising efforts, and their philanthropy.
Graduating seniors at the Roman coliseum during the 2010 Essential Europe trip organized by the Association
CELEBRATING ALUMNI
$7,500,000
The Alumni Association must remain relevant to our growing and changing membership and respond to our members’ varying needs through member and club programming, events, and services. Therefore, we seek $7.5 million in support: $6.5 million to bolster the association’s endowment and $1 million in annual fund contributions.

Private support will enrich existing programs and allow us to develop new initiatives, such as coordinating a centralized alumni career management program to help our graduates as they move along their career paths. These funds will also help alumni feel at home and engaged in events and programs held at Longaberger Alumni House.

Gifts to the Alumni Association’s endowment, currently valued at more than $4 million, will also support operations, maintenance, and utilities costs, which have increased significantly since the Alumni House was dedicated in 1999. Growing the endowment to $10 million will provide stable funding in perpetuity to support current and projected infrastructure needs.

THE NEXT GENERATION
$1,000,000
In order to help the next generation begin their Buckeye experience, we seek to raise $1 million to support endowed and immediately available scholarships.

Combined, the endowment and club scholarships make the dream of an Ohio State education a reality for students with superior academic performance and financial need. Currently, the endowment funds six students with partial scholarships, while alumni clubs raise more than $400,000 to support more than 300 students annually.

Private support for the Alumni Association’s scholarship endowment will enable us to increase the size of scholarships and the number of students they benefit, as well as focus on enhancing diversity and reaching underrepresented groups.

CAMPAIGN PRIORITIES

- Celebrating Alumni: $7,500,000
- The Next Generation: $1,000,000

Total: $8,500,000
AS A PARTIALLY SELF-FUNDED ORGANIZATION, THE ASSOCIATION IS NOT only for alumni, it is also by alumni. Your gift to The Ohio State University Alumni Association will make an impact that transcends geographic boundaries, enriches generations across time, and perpetuates Buckeye traditions and values.

Imagine our award-winning Ohio State Alumni Magazine being delivered to the lone Buckeye living in Rwanda. Picture the first-generation college student from rural Ashland County, Ohio, throwing her cap in the air at graduation while her parents beam with pride. Consider the achievements of the late Zheng Li, China’s pioneer in nutritional science and an Ohio State alumnus, throughout his 111-year life.

Now imagine how many lives each changed, and how many more they will inspire. How many will you?
WILL WE FIND CURES FOR THE WORLD’S DEVASTATING DISEASES? | IS THERE A WAY TO MAKE OUR FOOD SUPPLY ABUNDANT AND SAFE? | CAN WE PRODUCE THE NEXT GENERATION OF SUSTAINABLE ENERGY?

THE EXTRAORDINARY PEOPLE AT THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY BELIEVE THE ANSWERS to these and other monumental questions will ultimately be “yes.” But for Ohio State’s immense breadth and depth of academic programs, outstanding students, world-class scholars, and extensive research capabilities, some of today’s most brilliant interdisciplinary teams would not be closer than ever to finding meaningful solutions for people in Ohio and far, far beyond.

Instead, because of the talent, intellect, and ambition at Ohio State, one of the most comprehensive universities in the nation, significant progress is possible on nearly every front. Founded because Abraham Lincoln believed education could lead the nation out of its darkest days, Ohio State now provides a powerful platform, unparalleled in scope and opportunity, from which leaders emerge and change the world.

The But for Ohio State campaign is a $2.5 billion fundraising endeavor that invites those who believe in Ohio State to invest in our students, our faculty, and our potential. By supporting Ohio’s land-grant institution, alumni, friends, parents, and partners can help us secure educational opportunities for future generations of students and meet the enormous challenges we face as a society. Together, we will sustain an enduring tradition of scholarship, service, and pride.

But for Ohio State … How would you answer? What does Ohio State mean to you?
What does it mean to you?

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