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**YSU NEWS**

YSU News

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**Media Contact:** Ron Cole, manager of news and information services, 330-941-3285 or [racole.01@ysu.edu](mailto:racole.01@ysu.edu).

**Tressels, Watsons donate \$250K to YSU campaign**

Two prominent Mahoning Valley families have teamed up to donate \$250,000 to the campaign to build a new \$12 million student recreation center at Youngstown State University.

Jim Tressel, head coach of the national champion Ohio State University football team, and his wife, Ellen, who is a YSU graduate, have given \$125,000 to the effort.

And Ellen Tressel's parents, Frank and Norma Watson of Canfield, also have provided \$125,000.

YSU honored the families today by naming a room in Kilcawley Center the Watson-Tressel Reading Lounge.

"This recreation center, along with the new student apartments under construction on campus, is a big plus to making YSU the more comprehensive campus we would like it to be," said Tressel, who won four NCAA Division I-AA national championships during a 15-year coaching career at YSU.

"Ellen and I just thought that we'll do whatever we can to help in the effort."

Frank Watson, a former YSU trustee who graduated from YSU in 1949, said the recreation center will help create an atmosphere that attracts more students to campus.

"Our community is only going to be as strong as our university, and this project certainly makes our university a much stronger institution," Watson said.

YSU President David C. Sweet said: "We talk a lot about all of the friends that this university has across the region, state and even the nation. We have no greater friends than the Watsons and Tressels. The depth of their commitment to YSU and the prominence they have brought to the university and the entire Mahoning Valley over so many years is unrivaled."

The campaign to raise funds for the new recreation center has now surpassed the \$9 million mark. The new 65,000-square-foot facility will be the first campus building constructed entirely with private funds since Ward Beecher Science Hall in 1967.

The center, which will feature a fitness center, climbing wall, weight room, jogging track, racquetball courts and a spiritual meditation room, will be attached to the west end of YSU's Kilcawley Center and is expected to open in fall 2005.

The John S. and Doris M. Andrews Trust, named after the late financier and his wife, has pledged \$2 million to the project. Other major contributions include \$1.5 million from John and Denise York, \$1 million from the Ward and Florence Simon Beecher Foundation, \$750,000 from Anthony and Mary Lariccia and \$500,000 from D.D. and Velma Davis.



**Dozens of university supporters packed the Ohio Room in Kilcawley Center on July 11 for the dedication of the Watson-Tressel Reading Lounge. From the left are YSU President David C. Sweet, Frank and Norma Watson and Ellen and Jim Tressel.**



**Jim Tressel, former YSU head football coach and current coach of the Ohio State University Buckeyes, meets with the Youngstown news media following the dedication of the Watson-Tressel Reading Lounge in Kilcawley Center.**

Jim Tressel became YSU's head football coach in 1985, leading the school to national championships in 1991, 1993, 1994 and 1997. In January 2001, he became the head football coach at Ohio State University, winning the national championship in 2002.

Ellen Tressel, a graduate of YSU, is the former vice president of trading for Butler Wick and Co. She currently serves on the boards of Ohio East Area United Methodist Foundation, American Federation of Aging Research, and the Mt. Carmel College of Nursing.

Ellen's parents, Frank and Norma Watson of Canfield, have been YSU supporters for more than 30 years. Frank, former president of Youngstown Welding and Engineering Co., led the campaign to raise \$16 million to build Stambaugh Stadium in the 1970s. He is a member of the board of the YSU Foundation and also has served as a director of the Dollar Savings and Trust, Ohio Bancorp and Ohio Edison; a trustee of the Youngtown Hospital Association; a member of the Canfield

Board of Education; and past president of the Youngstown Area Chamber of Commerce.

Mrs. Watson has served as a member of Federated Women's Clubs, chair of Mahoning County Residential Financial Cancer Campaign, and president of Canfield Methodist Women, as well as on the boards of the Friends of American Art, Fellows Riverside Gardens and the Youngstown Playhouse.

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