

*The Dr. Dominic A.
and Helen M. Bitonte*

*College of
Health and Human Services*

Naming
CELEBRATION



February 26, 1999



YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

Dr. Dominic A. and Helen M. Bitonte

Dominic and Helen Bitonte were born in Youngstown and Campbell respectively and are lifelong residents of this area. Both were born of Italian immigrant parents, Anthony and Gemma Bitonte and Frank and Rose Fiorenza. In 1913 both of their fathers left their native land in search of a better life for their families. Once they established themselves in America, they sent for their wives and sons to join them. Helen's mother and brother arrived in America in 1920, and Dominic's mother and brother arrived in America in 1921. Even though their parents' backgrounds were very similar, the two families had not known each other until being introduced by their children.

Anthony and Gemma Bitonte always stressed to their three sons the importance of getting the best education possible. Through their parents' motivation and self sacrifice, the three sons—Joseph, Robert, and Dominic—attended and graduated from The Ohio State University. Joseph became a professor at Ohio State, while Robert and Dominic became dentists and practiced together in the same office in the Mahoning Bank Building for 33 years.

Dr. Bitonte is a life member of The Ohio State University Alumni Association and served two years as Mahoning County Alumni President. He has received awards for service to The Ohio State University Development Fund and is active in the Dental Alumni Association.

Dr. Bitonte enjoyed a distinguished dental career serving as president, secretary, and member of council of the Corydon Palmer Dental Society. He was appointed twice to the Ohio State Dental Board by two governors. He serves as a dental examiner for the Northeast Regional Board, which examines 75% of the U. S. dentists seeking licensure. In 1964 Dr. Bitonte was honored by becoming a Fellow in the International College of Dentists. He served as a delegate to the Ohio Dental Association, the American Dental Association, and was appointed by the American Association of Dental Examiners to study dental licensure agreements between the states.

Dr. Bitonte has served his community as a member of the Mahoning County Planning Commission for 21 years and was founder and first chairperson of the Youngstown/Mahoning County Convention and Visitors bureau. He was a board member of the Youngstown Symphony Society and director of Ballet Western Reserve. He is a member of the Chamber of Commerce, serving as chairperson of the Public Relations and the Public and Capital Improvements committees. He served on the Ursuline Sisters Financial Advisory Board as well as being a trustee and president of the Youngstown Club.

Dr. Bitonte was honored by the Board of Trustees of Boardman Township for his efforts in making the Boardman Township Government Center a reality. In 1981, he was honored as Veteran of the Year by Itam Post #3 and in 1984 he was honored by Boys and Girls Town of Italy as the Man of the Year. He has received a number of other civic awards.

Dr. Bitonte has served 21 years as a director of the Mahoning National Bank, 7 years as a director of the Mahoning National Bancorp, and presently as Director Emeritus. He is a Director of Entropy Systems, Inc., Torent, Inc. and five of its subsidiary companies. Dr. Bitonte served as a dental officer in the U. S. Navy during the Korean War, and also served in the U. S. Army during World War II.

Helen Bitonte has been involved in many professional, civic, and social organizations. She served as president of the Women's Auxiliary to the Corydon Palmer Dental Society and later as president of the Auxiliary to the Ohio Dental Association. She headed the Ohio delegation at the Women's Auxiliary meetings of the American Dental Association. She served two terms as president of the Ohio State Mother's Association. She also served as president of several other organizations including the Latin Culture Foundation. Helen served on many committees such as the Women's committee for Children's Concerts, the Youngstown Symphony Society and the Cancer Society.

Dr. Dominic and Helen Bitonte have three children: Dr. A. Gary Bitonte, a urological surgeon; Dr. David A. Bitonte, an anesthesiologist; and Dr. Dianne Bitonte Miladore, an emergency medicine specialist. The Bitontes have eight grandchildren



The Dominic A. and Helen M. Bitonte
College of Health & Human Services

Naming Ceremony

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Program

- Welcome* *Vern Snyder*
Vice President
Development & Community Affairs
- Remarks* *Leslie H. Cochran*
President
Youngstown State University
- Remarks* *Dr. Dominic A. Bitonte*
- Remarks* *C. Reid Schmutz*
President
YSU Foundation
- Remarks* *John J. Yemma*
Dean
Bitonte College of Health & Human Services
- Dinner* *DeBartolo Stadium Club*
Stambaugh Stadium

*The Dominic A. & Helen M. Bitonte
College of Health & Human Services*

The College of Health & Human Services at Youngstown State University was created on July 1, 1993, and currently houses the departments of Criminal Justice, Health Professions, Human Ecology, Human Performance and Exercise Science, Military Science, Nursing, Physical Therapy, and Social Work. Ten associate degrees, nineteen baccalaureate degrees, and three master's degrees are offered by the eight departments. Since its inception, the College continues to graduate the largest number of students on campus and consistently graduates most students at the baccalaureate degree level.

The College was created to recognize the common missions of programming in the health and human services industries, and to meet the need for highly educated professionals in those areas within northeastern Ohio. The College is committed to meeting national accreditation standards in each professional area and has demonstrated excellence in its graduates, as evidenced by high rates of licensure.

Following a restructuring of the twenty-five-year-old College of Applied Science & Technology, the departments of Allied Health, Criminal Justice, Nursing, and Human Ecology (formerly Home Economics) became the building blocks for the College of Health & Human Services. The creation of the College was the result of internal and external strategic planning processes. Two community/University task forces were instrumental in shaping the new College and directing new programming. Major successes that were recommended by the task forces and supported by the University include the B.S. in Physical Therapy, the Master of Science in Nursing, and the Master of Health & Human Services degrees.

During the past several years, the Department of Allied Health was renamed the Department of Health Professions and the Department of Military Science joined the College from the College of Arts & Sciences. The Department of Human Performance & Exercise Science and some programming in the health science area moved into the Department of Health Professions from the former Department of Health & Physical Education in the College of Arts & Sciences. The Department of Social Work was created from a restructuring of the Department of Sociology, Anthropology, & Social Work in the College of Arts & Sciences. The Department of Physical Therapy was created in 1996.

As the College plans for the future, initiatives have begun to implement a consortial Master of Public Health degree with NEOUCOM, Kent State University, the University of Akron, and Cleveland State University as well as a consortial Master of Social Work program with the University of Akron and Cleveland State University, and to move the bachelor's degree program in Physical Therapy to a master's degree.

Cushwa Hall, which houses The Dominic A. & Helen M. Bitonte College of Health & Human Services, was built in 1972 and named for Charles B. Cushwa, Jr., a local industrialist who was actively involved in education and civic affairs. The naming of the College is another benchmark in establishing Youngstown State University's College of Health & Human Services as the most important and largest institution in the northeast region of the state, preparing health and human service professionals for the 21st century.