

2003-07-01

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

### Yorks give \$1.5 million to YSU

*Money will be used for new student recreation center*

John and Denise York of Canfield have donated \$1.5 million to help construct a student recreation and wellness center at Youngstown State University.

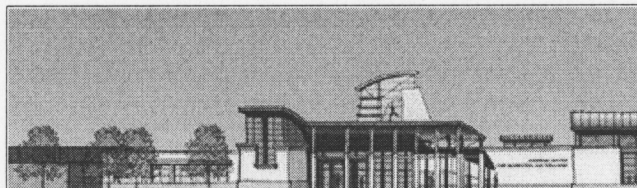
With the gift, which is one of the largest single donations in YSU's history, the \$12 million fund-raising campaign for the new recreation center has surpassed \$9 million, YSU President David C. Sweet said.

"The entire YSU community is certainly thankful for this wonderful gesture from this leading Mahoning Valley family," Sweet said. "A gift of this magnitude reflects a strong commitment to the future of this region and this university."

"We believe in YSU, the new recreation center and Dr. Sweet's vision for the university," said John York, president of The DeBartolo Corp., headquartered in Boardman.

Denise DeBartolo York, a graduate of Cardinal Mooney High School and St. Mary's College at Notre Dame, is chairman of the company, which was founded in 1944 by her late father, Edward J. DeBartolo.

The new 65,000-square-foot recreation 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.



John and Denise York have contributed \$1.5 million to help construct a \$12 million student recreation center on the YSU campus. Above is a preliminary architect's drawing of the new center, which will be built onto the west side of Kilcawley Center. The facility should be open by August 2005.

The center's multi-purpose sports forum will be named after John and Denise York.

Construction of the center will be fully funded through private donations. It will be the first campus building constructed entirely with private funds since Ward Beecher Science Hall in 1967.

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 a \$1 million pledge from the Ward and Florence Simon Beecher Foundation, \$750,000 from Anthony and Mary Lariccia and \$500,000 from D.D. and Velma Davis.

The recreation and wellness center gift is the largest in a series of donations made by the York family to YSU over the past several years. The family's devotion and assistance has made the DeBartolo Stadium Club at YSU's Stambaugh Stadium and the YSU women's athletics programs possible.

Keeping with their strong history of support, the Yorks also have provided in-kind donations to establish the YSU Metro College at Southwoods Commons in Boardman and were significant contributors for a new drug-testing program for YSU student-athletes and for student scholarships.

Headed by Denise and John York, The DeBartolo Corp. is a professional sports/entertainment and investment business. The corporation owns the National Football League's San Francisco 49ers franchise.

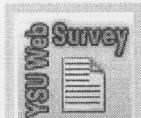
The corporation also maintains an interest in several other companies, a computer software development systems organization in Nashville, Tenn., and several other ventures in the healthcare-related field located in Oklahoma and Pennsylvania.

Architects for the recreation center project are Hanahan-Strollo and Assoc. and Ellerbe Becket, which has offices around the world. For more information on the project, visit [http://cc.yzu.edu/student-services/kilcawley/rec\\_center/index.htm](http://cc.yzu.edu/student-services/kilcawley/rec_center/index.htm).

-30-

[Back](#)

[Top](#)



Copyright ©2001-2005 ■ Youngstown State University, One University Plaza, Youngstown, Ohio, 44555

1-877-GO-TO-YSU

Contact the [Web Site Manager](#) for questions, comments, or suggestions regarding the YSU Web Site.

SITE BEST VIEWED WITH