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Monitor

BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY

Giving back to their roots

\$3 million gift from Hamilton, Dallas helps students become entrepreneurs

"The entrepreneur is one who embraces change, and change creates opportunities that must be seized, sometimes at the risk of loss."

Brent Nicholson

Bowling Green celebrated the establishment April 29 of a new center designed to serve as an "incubator" for fledgling entrepreneurs. With \$3 million in support from friends of the University, the William and Beverly Dallas and Scott and Tracie Hamilton Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership will help students learn the skills needed to succeed in the fast-changing world of business.

Scott Hamilton, an Olympic gold-medal skater and Bowling Green native, and William Dallas, a BGSU alumnus and successful California businessman, presented the joint gift to the College of Business Administration at the conclusion of "Turning Passion into Enterprise: A Seminar for

Scott Hamilton: Turning challenges into gold

Many people can identify a turning point in their lives, but for Scott Hamilton, the twists and turns have been nearly as numerous as the ones he perfected on ice skates to become an Olympic gold medalist. More importantly, they taught him about not giving up and "playing the hand you're dealt" without looking back.

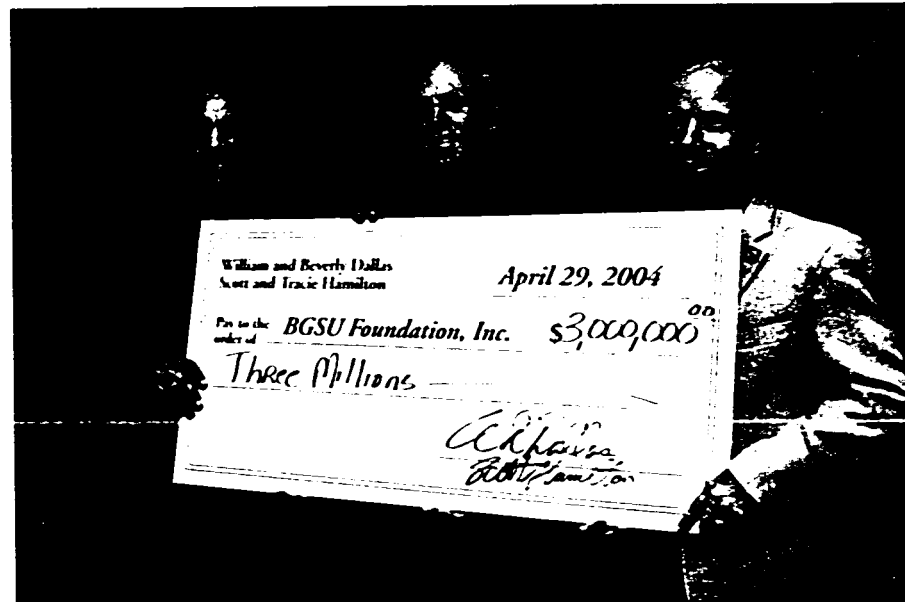
Since his amateur skating career ended in 1984, he has turned setbacks into successes that have qualified him as an entrepreneur—the topic that brought Hamilton back to his hometown April 29.

He was the afternoon speaker at "Turning Passion into Enterprise," a seminar for entrepreneurs in the Bowen-Thompson Student Union. The event ended with the presentation of a \$3 million gift from Hamilton and BGSU alumnus William Dallas to create an entrepreneurial leadership center on campus.

Hamilton's challenges began with his birth in Toledo as the child from an "unwanted pregnancy," he said. He was wanted, however, by "two wonderful people"—Ernest and Dorothy Hamilton, BGSU faculty members who brought him into their Bowling Green home as their adopted son.

A childhood illness sent him from hospital to hospital and stunted his

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Entrepreneurs," the first event in the Bob and Karen Sebo Lecture Series.

Dallas said that he and Hamilton met when they became neighbors in California and discovered they both shared "a passion for helping people figure out what it is they want to do," as well as a connection to BGSU.

President Sidney Ribeau noted that the center "will advance entrepreneurship not only as a goal but as a way of thinking and living." He described Dallas and Hamilton's gift as an example of "how entrepreneurs actually live their beliefs" and of one of the University's core values: creative imaginings. "It's seeking possibilities and then moving in the direction your beliefs take you.

"A great university is not built in a day or a year, but by everyone who came before us," he added.

Keynote speaker for the day

President Sidney Ribeau accepts a "\$3 million check" from William Dallas (center) and Scott Hamilton.

was B. Thomas Golisano, the 2004 International Philanthropist of the Year. Golisano, founder of Paychex, Inc., is also the owner of the Buffalo Sabres, a National Hockey League team.

Golisano told the audience that though starting one's own business is risky, there are also risks inherent in working for a company in this era of outsourcing and corporate takeovers. He encouraged prospective entrepreneurs to act on their ideas.

More than 500 people were present for the daylong event, which included panel discussions with local entrepreneurs and BGSU faculty.

The Dallas and Hamilton Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership will ultimately include University aca-

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The seminar included a panel discussion on "Keeping the E-Spirit Alive." Panel members included entrepreneurs (from left) William Dallas, Joan Bayer of Concept Rehab, Ronald Whitehouse, formerly of HG Chicago, and Elizabeth Brady of Plastic Technologies.

Entrepreneurial center gift

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demographic programs, community entrepreneurial leadership programs and education outreach programs to the general community. The center will sponsor forums on entrepreneurship, serve as the incubator for new ideas and be a site for internships, said Brent Nicholson, director of entrepreneurship programs in the College of Business Administration.

Since the inception of the undergraduate minor in fall 2003, the entrepreneurship program has grown quickly and has just graduated its first six students. Business Dean Robert Edmister predicted that the center will be a valuable recruiting tool for BGSU, based on the high demand for entrepreneurship classes in the college.

Developing students' ability to see new opportunities, assess risks, make decisions and take action is a goal of the entrepreneurship training, Edmister said. These skills are applicable not only to new enterprises but to existing businesses as well, he added.

The expansion of the program to include an undergraduate minor was made possible by a \$50,000 award from the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation of Kansas City, Mo., in 2003. The entrepreneurship minor is not reserved for business students but open to all majors.

The program had already received more than \$800,000 in support from alumni this year, with gifts from Patrick and Debra Ryan, both 1974 BGSU graduates,

and Ronald Whitehouse, a 1967 alumnus, and his wife, Sue, who attended BGSU. Patrick Ryan and Ronald Whitehouse also participated in the seminar.

Rick Acker, one of the first students to be graduating with the entrepreneurship minor, said that the program "gave me both the knowledge to make my ideas tangible and the confidence to do so."

Hamilton, who learned to skate at the Ice Arena, enrolled in classes at BGSU in 1976 and was named an honorary alumnus in 1985. He received an honorary doctor of performing arts degree in 1994.

A 1977 magna cum laude graduate of BGSU, Dallas began to make a name for himself as an entrepreneur almost as soon as he graduated. A Certified Mortgage Banker, he co-founded and served as chairman and CEO of First Franklin Financial Corp. and co-founded Heritage Bank of Commerce, both in California. Today, Dallas is chairman and CEO of Ownit Mortgage Solutions, an industry leader in nonagency residential lending specializing in 100 percent purchase programs.

The entrepreneur earned a juris doctorate from the University of Santa Clara in 1987. In 2002, Dallas received a BGSU Accomplished Graduate Award. He recently retired as chairman of California Lutheran University.

In 2001, Dallas and his partner, Bill Freeman, co-founded B&B Restaurant Ventures with Fox Sports. The New York-based television network launched Fox Sports Grill in Scottsdale, Ariz., with a nationwide rollout planned for later this year and into 2005.

Scott Hamilton

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growth, but his life was changed forever with the help of Samuel Cooper, longtime BGSU health and physical education faculty member and "a great man," Hamilton said. Cooper pushed for construction of the BGSU Ice Arena, where Hamilton began skating at age 9.

"The day I started skating, I started growing," he recalled. "It was a miracle."

But with a feeding tube in his nose, figure skating didn't immediately come easy. Periods of a little success were followed by a lot of failure, including injuries that had to be overcome to keep moving to the next level, he said.

When he reached his senior year in high school in 1976, his parents told him it would be his last year of competitive skating because they could no longer pay for his training. He enrolled at BGSU but never attended classes—he won the U.S. junior title, and his mother, who by then had been diagnosed with cancer, met a sponsor for him on her way to the national championships.

Advancing to the senior level the following year, he finished ninth at nationals. It was the last time his mother saw him perform before losing her battle with cancer, an emotional Hamilton said, adding that "she sacrificed everything she could for me to stay in skating."

Resolving not to lose again, he began a steady climb to the top of the skating world. In 1980, after three consecutive top-four finishes at nationals, he placed fifth at the Olympics in Lake Placid, N.Y. He was also chosen to carry the American flag in the opening ceremony, an honor he was able to experience, he said, because he had not quit during frustrating times.

In the next four years, Hamilton won every U.S. and world title, capping his streak in Sarajevo with the gold medal won not only for his country but also "for Bowling Green and Ohio," he said.

Turning pro later that year, he signed with the Ice Capades. After two years, however, he learned that the touring show wasn't picking up his option because the new owner didn't think men generated ticket sales. He quickly went on to help create Stars on Ice, which just completed its 18th season.

"I learned that you must take the hand and play it the best you can," said Hamilton about the experience.

He applied the same lesson to a much greater challenge—a bout with testicular cancer during his 10th Stars on Ice season. It began with difficulty standing up straight and then, following the diagnosis, a few months of chemotherapy. But six months after the diagnosis, he was able to step onto the ice at the Los Angeles Forum and tell the crowd, "I win. Cancer loses."

That test, he said, has allowed him to make a difference in a new place, the cancer community. He has built a program to match patients with "coaches" who have been through the same types of cancer and treatment, and started a Web site, Chemocare.com, to provide the latest information about chemotherapy to patients and their families.

Unlike his mother, Hamilton was given a "second life" in which his efforts to be a more significant person have led him to entrepreneurship.

"The most successful people I've ever known have started from scratch," he said. And the building is better than the results, he continued, noting that BGSU's entrepreneurship program will be able "to teach these students that the opportunity to give back is greater than the opportunity to receive."

While crediting Dallas with the idea, Hamilton said his gift to the University is really from Helen McLoraine—his skating sponsor—through him to honor his late parents. A portion of it will fund the Ernest and Dorothy Hamilton Professorship.

"I couldn't be more proud of this University," Hamilton said, adding that he's thrilled to be part of its future "in a big way."

Digital database ARTstor opens door to world of **art**

Art history teachers everywhere received a shock last September when they learned that the prime tool of their trade would no longer be manufactured. Kodak announced that this June it will stop producing the slide projector, used in innumerable classrooms. Fortunately for Bowling Green, the University had already begun digitizing its art slides for use in an online database and in classes, thanks to the efforts of Andrew Hershberger, Rebecca Green and Marce Dupay, in the art history division in the School of Art. The three received a grant in 2002 to create a database of their art slides, including Green's extensive collection of African art

Now, in part because of Hershberger's expertise in online art databases and teaching with digital technology, BGSU has become a test site for a new venture that will eventually comprise millions of images. ARTstor, founded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, already contains 300,000 digital images of paintings, sculptures and architectural sites.

"It's a great thing for Bowling Green to have access to ARTstor because it's the biggest database of art in the world," said Hershberger. "We are now on the cutting edge of using digital images in the classroom."

ARTstor's nearly 40 members include such venerable institutions as the Art Institute of Chicago, Columbia University, the Getty Research Institute, Harvard and Princeton universities, the National Gallery of Art and the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Ohio State University is the only other university in Ohio to be a member so far.

"We're in good company," Hershberger said. "I'm delighted to see BGSU on this list."

"What a wonderful opportunity this is to give students access to something quite phenomenal," said Katerina Ray, director of the School of Art. "I think of ARTstor as similar to the Smithsonian or the New York Public Library in the breadth of what it will comprise for digital images."

Major advantages

Connecting through the ARTstor Web site, BGSU students and faculty can search the system by artist name, movement or subject, and can zoom in on a specific work using the program's TrueSpectra software. This is the same program Hershberger and Green were already using, advised by the faculty in the digital arts division, for their smaller project.

The digital system's major benefits are the quality, quantity and flexibility it offers, Hershberger says. As an example, he demonstrated a simultaneous display of Michelangelo's statue of David next to two much smaller pieces. "On slides, these would appear to be all the same size. With this, you get a sense of scale," he said.

Hershberger wrote the original grant that allowed the University to become a test site for the non-profit digital art library. As such, the service is free to BGSU during the test period. He connected with ARTstor administrators last October when he delivered an invited lecture on "How Digital Image Databases Can Enhance Teaching and Research" at the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation in New York. Hershberger, who specializes in the history of photography, has been interested in online art databases for some time and has lectured and published on the subject. He was recently interviewed by the New York Times about such technologies.



"We are now on the cutting edge of using digital images in the classroom."

Andrew Hershberger

ARTstor administrators' interest in Bowling Green was piqued in particular by Green's African art collection, which contains 3,000-5,000 images. While the ARTstor database is rich in Western art, the organizers are looking to expand to other parts of the globe, Hershberger said. The Mellon foundation has funded the digitizing of other collections it desired, including OSU's Huntington collection of Asian art.

"We're hoping to not only accept information from ARTstor but to send information to ARTstor as a contributor," Hershberger said. In addition to his and Green's images, for example, Ray has a large collection of slides of Czech modernist architecture that could be added.

Campuswide benefit

Beyond the art history benefit, Ray sees numerous possibilities and benefits for BGSU arising from belonging to ARTstor and from the technology infrastructure it employs. "It can and should support many other areas across the University that use images in

their teaching. And students are using images in their work all the time now."

The College of Technology, the departments of theatre and film, architecture, interior design, apparel merchandising and popular culture are only a few areas that could take advantage of the rich resource of images available, she said. Ethnic and international studies students could call up art and architecture images from other cultures.

"We live in an increasingly image-saturated society," Ray said. "With the focus on the arts and new media and emerging technologies in BGSU's Academic Plan, ARTstor makes a lot of sense. This is a very significant and important initiative."

BGSU study shows Toledo Zoo's positive economic impact



Michael Carroll (center) joins zoo officials in presenting survey results.

A study conducted by BGSU's Center for Policy Analysis and Public Service (CPAPS) for the Toledo Zoo yielded positive results that far surpassed the predictions of zoo officials.

The Toledo Zoo commissioned BGSU to assess the economic impact of the zoo on the Toledo area, and the study showed that the levy support Lucas County taxpayers have given the zoo has generated a substantial return on investment for the local economy.

According to Michael Carroll, economics and CPAPS faculty member, the research team employed a model closely related to methodology designed by the Bureau of Economic Analysis. "Using specific multiplier data along with BGSU Geographic Information Systems location methodology yielded a level of accuracy that was unobtainable even a few years ago," said Carroll. The research team used a very conservative multiplier in calculating the economic impact of the Toledo Zoo and is confident that the analysis results are reliable. Data from the zoo's audited financial statements and various secondary industry, demographic and economic data sources were studied.

"Our analysis concluded that the zoo makes a nearly \$70 million annual economic impact on the local economy, and for each dollar the zoo receives in tax levy funds, it generates \$7.90 in local economic activity," Carroll explained.

"Our study also concluded that the Toledo Zoo is a major driver of employment, annually creating almost 1,400 full-time-equivalent jobs in the local economy through its direct and indirect impacts."

By examining revenues and attendance research, the BGSU economists also learned that visitors to the Toledo Zoo come from a broader range than originally thought. Gate records showed that 18 percent of zoo visitors live outside the 24-county area that is the zoo's primary market.

"Our research team was pleased to deliver its findings to Toledo Zoo officials who, in turn, were able to spread their good news out into the local community," said Carroll.

Festival Series to celebrate silver anniversary season

Tenor Hugh Smith, a BGSU alumnus, will be among the artists and ensembles performing during the 25th season of BGSU's Festival Series beginning in September. Renowned flutist Sir James Galway will be a featured performer in the series that will also mark the Moore Musical Arts Center's 25th anniversary with guest artists, faculty and students.

Smith, who will appear with the Bowling Green Philharmonia, is regarded as one of the most important tenors to emerge in recent years. He will perform a program of operatic favorites, as well as collaborations with BGSU voice faculty members. A winner of the Mario Lanza Competition, the Placido Domingo Fellowship Award, the Metropolitan Opera National Auditions and the Luciano Pavarotti International Competition, he made his professional debut in 1996 in the role of Pinkerton in "Madama Butterfly" at the Teatro San Carlo in Naples.

Smith earned bachelor's and master's degrees in music from the University in 1991 and 1994, respectively.

Festival Series tickets can be ordered by calling the Moore Musical Arts Center box office at 2-8171.



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