From the Editor

Lynn University is thrilled to start the new year with three gifts totaling $5 million, naming two new donors to the E.M. Lynn Society – Holli Rockwell and Robert Sheetz – and acknowledging Benjamin Olewine III who has been a member of this distinguished group of benefactors for more than a decade.

The E.M. Lynn Society recognizes donors who have made cumulative gifts totaling $1 million or more.

Holli Rockwell established The Herbert and Holli Rockwell Endowed Scholarship with a planned gift. Bob Sheetz pledged to fund the renovation and upgrades of the university’s main entrance on Military Trail, and Ben Olewine has pledged to underwrite the cost of a new back entrance on Potomac Road and a perimeter road that will include the relocation of the existing nature preserve.

The two significant campus enhancements are in keeping with the university’s strategic plan, Lynn 2020, and also will be a great help in preparing to host the final presidential debate next October.

We remain ever grateful to those donors who, despite these difficult economic times, help us to grow our endowment. From 2000 to June 2011, the university’s endowment grew from $4,180,000 to $21,131,000. The 2010-2011 fiscal year (July 1-June 30) ended with more than $4.6 million raised in total.

IF WALLS COULD TALK . . . The E. M. Lynn Society donor wall would express the university’s deep appreciation for the generous contributions of the patrons whose names are listed. The wall, proudly exhibited in the lobby of the Charles E. and Dorothy F. Schmidt Building, is viewed by more than 5,000 visitors who come through the offices of the president, admission, development and alumni affairs each year.

The next time you are on our beautiful campus, please stop by and visit the wall that displays the generosity of our donors.
When I heard about this particular need of the university, I wanted to help.

Benjamin Olewine III

LONGTIME FRIEND OF LYNN UNIVERSITY, BENJAMIN OLEWINE III of Harrisburg, Pa., and Boca Raton, Fla., has pledged $1 million to create a new entrance to the university on Potomac Road and a back perimeter road that will include the relocation of the existing nature preserve to the western edge of campus.

When the university showed me a need to construct a new back entrance to campus and also to relocate the preserve, I was happy to be the major donor.

Although 90-year-old Olewine sold the family wholesale food business to Sysco Corporation in 1988, he still goes into the office every day to oversee the company’s daily activities.

When I heard about this particular need of the university, I wanted to help.

Bob founded Sheetz Corporation in Altoona, Pa., when he was 18 years old. Over the past 60 years, the company has grown into a fast food and fuel business operating in six states in the Northeast. Although he is now retired, Bob serves on the company’s board of directors and is a member of its planning team.

When asked why he chose to sponsor this project, Bob responded, “Our company now operates more than 400 stores. At many locations we are required to build turning lanes, plus install our own traffic lights. When I heard about this particular need of the university, I wanted to help.”

“This will be the first impression that potential students and their families have of our campus,” says President Kevin M. Ross. “Lynn’s very pretty, but there are some teeth missing in the smile.’’ Well, we are filling in those gaps, and today we are smiling brighter than ever.”

Bob Sheetz

SHEETZ GIVES FRONT ENTRANCE A NEW LOOK

The newly-named Benjamin Olewine III Preserve, home to Florida scrub—the oldest plant community in Florida—will provide a living laboratory for the study of this ecosystem (considered an imperiled plant community by the Florida Natural Areas Inventory) including seven animal species and 40 plants listed as rare, threatened or endangered.

Ben and his family have been ardent supporters of wildlife preservation throughout the world, establishing sanctuaries and habitats in North and South America. He is the creator of, and the major donor to, the Benjamin Olewine III Nature Center in Harrisburg.

The Olewine family’s interest in conservation and birding is worldwide through Birdlife International, a global partnership of conservation organizations that strives to conserve birds, their habitats and global biodiversity. The organization has offices in 117 different countries. Ben’s son, Benjamin Olewine IV, is a board member and also is active in the Audubon Society in Connecticut and Pennsylvania.

“We’ve been underwriters for the Palm Beach Zoo’s Bald Eagle Exhibit, and the new interactive show, ‘Wings Over Water.’” We’ve also joined in the zoo’s preservation of the tiger,” he says.
In the 2009-10 academic year, 1,260 students received scholarships. Of those scholarships awarded, 81 were endowed.

- A bequest provision in a will
- A charitable gift annuity
- A charitable remainder trust
- A charitable lead trust

Leaving a legacy is personally satisfying. Through a simple estate gift in your will, or through life income vehicles, your planned gift will make a difference.

A planned gift or provision for a future gift to Lynn University may be accomplished through:

- CHARITABLE IRA LEGISLATION IS BACK.
  For 2010 and 2011, donors 70 years of age and older are eligible to transfer up to $100,000 of their IRAs directly to Lynn University without having to pay income taxes on the money. Consult your tax attorney for more information.

Holli Rockwell of Boca Raton, Fla., established a planned gift of $3 million to create the Herbert and Holli Rockwell Endowed Scholarship.

Holli will fund the scholarship that bears her and her late husband’s name throughout her lifetime so she can enjoy seeing students benefit from it. Upon her passing, the unfunded amount will be left in her will.

“My husband loved to learn and be a student. I am creating this endowed scholarship to honor his memory.” She continues, “In his estate plan, my husband specifically stated that he wanted to provide for scholarships. I know that he would be very pleased to help students at Lynn University who need financial support.”

Herbert attended college full-time for one year. When war ensued, he enlisted in the military. For the remainder of his life, he took classes at various colleges when his business schedule would allow. In later years, he became a licensed stock broker and real estate agent—just for his own knowledge and use.

Holli has been a neighbor of Lynn University since the 1980s when it was known as the College of Boca Raton. “I used to join a group of women who would hand-address invitations to the school’s ball.” When she toured the university a couple of years ago while the Keith C. and Elaine Johnson Wold Performing Arts Center was being built, she knew she wanted to be a part of it. “I’m a friend of the arts, especially in my community. This is my home since 1983, and I like to keep things in the neighborhood. And, another way to honor my husband was to name the terrace garden at this beautiful new center.”

Holli commends President Kevin M. Ross for his vision. “He’s taking the university to a different level now and is helping it blossom into a world-wide recognized institution. And, with the final presidential debate coming here next year, Lynn is really being put on the map. My husband would have been so thrilled to hear that the university has been selected for the debate site.”

A bequest such as Holli’s is a clever way to establish an endowed scholarship by funding part of it while she is still able to witness and enjoy the impact of her gift on students. It creates a lasting expression of her personal legacy and allows the endowed fund to grow after her passing.

“With this continued growth of endowments from student scholarships, we will be able to welcome even more deserving students to our campus who otherwise might not have been able to attend Lynn,” says President Ross.

If Lynn University is in your estate plan, please let us know so that we may have the privilege of thanking you and welcoming you to our Legacy Society. For more information on how you can leave a legacy through your estate plan, please call Lisa Miller, director of annual programs, at 561-237-7745.
Campus master plan

The City of Boca Raton recently approved the university campus master plan, paving the way for a campus build-out to accommodate 3,000 students. Under the master plan, the university hopes to eventually add a new university center, four new classroom buildings, six residence halls and four lighted athletic fields.

Goldsteins champion Lynn’s arts programs

Sanford and Marion Goldstein of Delray Beach, Fla., are enthusiastic supporters of the performing arts at Lynn University.

They are the exclusive sponsors for the Conservatory of Music’s annual community outreach concert, to be held at the Mizner Park Amphitheater on April 28; and also were the exclusive sponsors for this season’s Live at Lynn’s sold-out production of Capital Steps.

Former New York City residents, the Goldsteins came to Florida 18 years ago. Sanford is a retired CPA and Marion directed the New York City Board of Education’s breakfast and lunch programs for 1,200 schools.

Where does their passion for performing arts come from? “In my CPA practice, I had many clients in the entertainment industry and we’ve been to many Broadway and off-Broadway productions,” says Sanford. “When Marion and I attended a few of the conservatory and theatre performances at Lynn, we were impressed. We think you have a vibrant arts program here and we wanted to support it.”

Fundraising continues for the construction of the Remembrance Plaza, which will honor those students and faculty who were lost in the devastating earthquake in Haiti in 2010. To be a part of this special memorial, please contact Judi Nelson, vice president for development and alumni affairs, at 561-237-7467, jnelson@lynn.edu; or give online at our.lynn.edu/giveremembranceplaza.

The Lynn University Philharmonia honors its patrons with a free outdoor concert sponsored exclusively by Sanford and Marion Goldstein.

SAVE THE DATE

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http://give.lynn.edu

Next fall, Lynn students will be part of living history.
The final 2012 presidential debate on Oct. 22, 2012
will be held right here at Lynn University.