

Gifts at Work

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"Front Porch" Renamed

Proud parents give generously to support athletics

ON A DAY when the sun fought to shine through cloudy skies, the threat of rain held off long enough to honor the generosity of Douglas and Elizabeth Manchester at the August 28, 2002, dedication ceremony of the Wake Forest athletic center that now bears their name. Gratitude for the Manchesters' recent gift of \$1 million was expressed by President Thomas K. Hearn, Jr., who presided over the ceremony, and Wake Forest athletic director Ron Wellman.

Doug Manchester is the founder, president, and CEO of Manchester Resorts, based in San Diego. The company's most recent project is the Manchester Grand Hyatt, the largest and tallest waterfront hotel on the West Coast, located in the Seaport Village area of San Diego Bay. Betsy Manchester is as active in her volunteer efforts as Doug is in his business ventures. She also keeps busy with a large family of five children and eight grandchildren.

Residents of La Jolla, California, Betsy and Doug Manchester are the proud parents of Annie ('03), a communications major and Spanish minor, and Douglas ('05), leaning toward political science and communications. Both speak glowingly of their experiences here as students and have no regrets about trading palm trees for magnolias and leaving the Pacific coast sunshine for a Southern university like Wake Forest. While neither has taken to grits or mastered a true Southern "y'all," they both think of Winston-Salem as their home away from home.

According to Minta McNally ('74), assistant vice president and director of alumni activities and annual support, "Ever since Annie received her acceptance letter to attend Wake Forest, Betsy and Doug Manchester have shown tremendous support of the University. Their pride only increased when Douglas received his own letter of acceptance and was invited to be a member of the men's golf team." McNally added that the Manchesters have helped spread the message of Wake Forest's success,

particularly in the San Diego area and throughout southern California by hosting events as part of "The Campaign for Wake Forest", for which they serve as vice chairs. As well, they are active on the Parents' Council and are charter members of the Society of 1834, the University's highest-level gift club.

In his own remarks during the ceremony, Doug Manchester reflected on how impressed his family is with Wake Forest's high standards of excellence in academics and athletics. All national barometers bear this point out. Only five other private universities — Stanford, Princeton, Notre Dame, Duke, and USC — enjoy greater success than Wake Forest in a composite comparison of academic and athletic performance.

Ron Wellman emphasized how the athletic programs "strive to reflect Wake Forest's overall standards of excellence," since those unfamiliar with Wake Forest's academic reputation may view it initially from its athletic prowess. Wellman, the senior athletic director in the ACC, made this point by noting how Wake Forest teams consistently rank among the best in the NCAA.

If Wake Forest athletics function as the "front porch" for the University, Wellman made clear that the Manchester Athletic Center now serves that same role for Wake Forest's athletic department.

Built in 1977, this building has been at the heart of Wake Forest athletics. It originally housed both the Deacon Club and ticket offices and served as an indoor practice facility for baseball, football, and track. A racquetball court was also part of the building's earlier incarnation. After the most recent renovation, in 1995, the building also became home to the majority of Wake Forest coaches. As such, Wellman described the Manchester Athletic Center as "the pulse of the athletic department, where student-athletes meet with coaches, and visitors and recruits are first introduced to the athletic programs."

Wellman told the crowd of students, faculty, and staff that business associates all describe Doug as driven, full of high expectations, dedicated and committed, and always able to find ways to overcome obstacles. "Those are the exact qualities and characteristics for which we strive in our department," Wellman reflected. "Because the name 'Manchester' has always stood for excellence," Wellman added, "it is only appropriate that the Manchester name now identifies this athletic building."

President Hearn expressed his appreciation by reference to the biblical precept, to whom much is given much is expected. "Doug and Betsy Manchester, in every aspect of their daily lives, have heeded this message," Dr. Hearn explained. "Their generosity knows few bounds, and it is with gratitude that we thank them for their kindness. If it is more rewarding to give than it is to receive, then today marks a rewarding moment both for us and for them."

At the conclusion of the ceremony, President Hearn presented Doug and Betsy with an artist's rendering of the Manchester Athletic Center.

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