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DUKE'S NEW WEST CAMPUS RECREATION CENTER TO BE DEDICATED FRIDAY

DURHAM, N.C. -- Duke University's new West Campus student recreational and fitness facility, named for Northwest Airlines co-chairman Gary L. Wilson, will be dedicated Friday as part of the university's annual donor recognition weekend.

Wilson and his wife, Barbera Thornhill, donated \$5 million to begin construction of the \$20 million, 99,000-square-foot facility that nearly doubles the amount of recreational and fitness space for Duke students. The project is part of the current fund-raising Campaign for Duke and several areas in the Wilson Center bear the names of donors whose generosity helped build it.

"We salute Gary and Barbera and all our other friends who made this magnificent facility a reality," said Duke President Nannerl O. Keohane. "Student recreation and fitness are an important component of the Duke experience and the Wilson Center, along with the new Brodie Recreational Center on East Campus, give our students wonderful opportunities to relax and stay fit. It took real teamwork from a lot of people to make these facilities possible."

In addition to the gift from Wilson, former Duke varsity swimmer Lawrence B. Taishoff gave \$2.5 million to refurbish the indoor pool and make additional improvements to the aquatics area. Chairman of Duke's Board of Trustees Randall L. Tobias and his family contributed another \$1 million to name the Tobias Tower and Track. Former board chair John Koskinen and his wife, Pat, committed \$1 million to the facility for maintenance.

Seventeen areas were named for or by other donors, including:

- The Stephens Family Fitness area, located on the mezzanine level of the center adjacent to the expansive weight training room, which is the result of \$1 million from Paul and Elle Stephens, parents of William Bradford Stephens, a 1998 graduate.

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■ The Thomas Blair Hines Jr. and Robert Craven Hines Hall, a multi-purpose fitness room on the center's main level, which is named as a result of a \$500,000 gift from Isobel Craven Drill, a 1937 Duke graduate, trustee emerita and great-granddaughter of Trinity's first president. Drill has been a longtime supporter of Duke and its athletics programs. Her gift to enhance student life through recreational facilities honors her grandsons.

■ Bostock Family Hall, a multipurpose area on the center's main level, was named with the \$500,000 gift of trustee Roy Bostock and Merilee Huser Bostock, both members of the Class of 1962, and parents of Victoria Bostock Waters of the Class of 1985, Matthew Bostock of the Class of 1991 and Kate Bostock of the Class of 1994.

Duke also had support from the Kresge Foundation of Flint, Mich., in the form of a challenge grant of \$750,000 that was awarded when the university met its \$5.2 million fundraising obligation last February.

The dedication ceremony was scheduled as part of Founders' Day weekend and Donor Recognition Weekend, which honors James B. Duke Society members whose cumulative giving to the university is \$100,000 or more; and Founders Society members, who have established permanent endowment funds. A luncheon for those who have created undergraduate scholarship endowments or graduate fellowship endowments and the student recipients is also held.

Wilson, a member of the board of trustees and a Duke parent, attended Duke on an athletic scholarship. He played two sports, track and football, and was a member of Duke's 1961 Cotton Bowl championship team. Active in Duke affairs since graduation, Wilson said he wanted to help future generations have the positive experience he had as a student.

"Duke is rare among the nation's leading universities in its balance between excellence in academic programs and intercollegiate athletics for both men and women. Barbera and I have been encouraged by President Keohane's interest in enhancing recreational opportunities for students, and we are pleased that so many others have joined us in supporting this important component of student life at Duke," he said.

The first stage of the university's effort to improve recreation and fitness facilities was completed in 1996 with the dedication of the \$5 million Brodie Recreational Center that added 50,000 square feet of recreational and fitness space to East Campus. On West Campus, the Intramural Building was modernized with a \$500,000 overhaul. And now nearing completion is the \$12.5 million Schwartz-Butters Building adjacent to Cameron Indoor Stadium to house an academic center for student-athletes, men's and women's basketball offices and facilities and a new sports Hall of Fame. Also under construction nearby is a \$4.4 million indoor tennis center named for alumnus Karl Sheffield and his wife, Alice, of Atlanta.

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