

MICHIGAN STATE
U N I V E R S I T Y

December 7, 2011

MEMORANDUM

To: Trustee Policy Committee

From: Lou Anna K. Simon, President 

Subject: Naming Proposal: Pentecost Plaza

Recommendation

BE IT RESOLVED that the entrance plaza to Old College Field that will be named Pentecost Plaza.

Background

On September 15, 2011, MSU Athletics received a \$2 million pledge from the Joe D. Pentecost Foundation to fund a new entrance plaza that will be the capstone on the renovation of the Old College Field Complex. This gift will cover in excess of one half of the anticipated cost of the entrance plaza project.

The Old College Field area has been transformed over the course of the last several years. The site is one of the most pristine in all of college athletics, with three significant venues, including McLane Baseball Stadium, Secchia Softball Stadium and DeMartin Soccer Stadium, as well as the newly constructed hitting and pitching and concession and restroom facilities – all of which match the original architecture of the historic Jenison Field House.

The missing piece to the Old College Field project has been the plaza area. A red bricked walkway and archway will serve as the grand entrance to all three venues. The plaza will create a positive first impression for every fan, parent and student-athlete who enters Old College Field. It will serve as a concrete reflection of the University's commitment to provide the resources for all its student-athletes to achieve excellence on and off the field.

The Vice President for University Advancement supports the recommendation of the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics to name the entrance plaza to Old College Field



**OFFICE OF
THE PRESIDENT**

450 Hannah Administration
Building
East Lansing, MI 48824-1046

517-355-6560
Fax: 517-355-4670

Pentecost Plaza in recognition of this generous gift. The University Advisory Committee on the Naming of Buildings and Facilities endorsed this recommendation to the President for final approval by the Board of Trustees at the Committee's meeting on December 2, 2011.

A resolution authorizing the administration to proceed with the construction of the entrance plaza will be submitted to the Board of Trustees for its approval at its meeting on December 9, 2011 prior to action on this naming resolution.

Background on Joe D. Pentecost and the Pentecost Foundation

Joe D. Pentecost

Joe D. Pentecost was an entrepreneur, real estate developer, and long-time supporter of many Michigan State University programs. Joe was born in Dresden, Tennessee, and attended college at the University of Tennessee. After a tour in the National Guard, Mr. Pentecost joined Standard Oil Co. as a sales representative and soon became the Real Estate Manager for Standard Oil in the State of Michigan. In 1962, he left Standard Oil to pursue a career in commercial real estate development. Over the years, Mr. Pentecost was involved in over 2,000 real estate related transactions and played an integral part in the shaping of the Greater Lansing business landscape.

Since the early 1970's and until his unfortunate passing in 2002, Mr. Pentecost proudly and generously demonstrated his unwavering support of Spartan Athletics through his loyal attendance at athletic competitions and generous support of Spartan sports programs and student-athletes.

His business and social associations included: Owner and President of Better Properties Inc., Founding Director of Republic Bank, Chairman of the Board of Republic Bancorp Central, Director of First Union (Wachovia) National Bank of Florida, Founding Director of Mercantile Bank of Naples, Florida, Co-Founder of the National Association of Corporate Real Estate, Executives (NACORE), Member of Walnut Hills Country Club in East Lansing, Michigan, Member of Prestancia Country Club in Sarasota, Florida, Member of the Elks, Shriner of Elf Khurafeh Temple, Saginaw MI, and Life-time member Ashlar Masonic Lodge, #91, Detroit, MI.

His love and philanthropy for MSU was consistent and generous. It has affected many people over 35 years. Mr. Pentecost and the Pentecost Foundation have made major contributions for the Spartan Stadium Expansion Project/MSU Football Program,

Berkowitz Basketball Complex, Clara Bell Student-Athlete Academic Center, Animal Science Program, Wrestling Locker Room Renovations, MSU College of Human Medicine, Jack Breslin Professorship in Oncology, and Summer Jobs for Student Athletes Program.

Mr. Pentecost's affiliations with MSU included: Member of the Ralph Young Fund Scholarship Level, Member of the MSU Snyder Society, Life Member of the MSU Alumni Association, Honorary Member of the MSU Varsity Alumni "S" Club, and a Charter Member of the Langdon Legacy Society.

Joe D. Pentecost Foundation

Over the last several years, the Pentecost Foundation has continued to faithfully carry out Mr. Pentecost's passions and philanthropy by supporting a variety of critical needs and special projects, including the establishment of the Joe D. Pentecost Foundation Athletic Scholarship, the naming of the Joe D. Pentecost Foundation Football Team Meeting Room and several other special projects.

Members of the board of the Joe D. Pentecost Foundation include: Ms. Rita Stoskopf, President & Executive Director (Bath, MI); Mr. Calvin "Pete" Lutz (Kaleva, MI); and Mr. Robert Phipps (East Lansing, MI).