
THE LATTI CONTRIBUTIONS

Many Maine alumni have contributed in various ways to support the University's athletic programs. Mike and Georgia Latti, 1956 and 1957 graduates, respectively, have been especially generous. In 1989, they were major donors to the establishment of the Latti Fitness Center, located adjacent to Wallace Pool on the east side of the Memorial Gymnasium Complex.

A 5,000 square foot facility, it houses 28 state-of-the-art cardiovascular machines and numerous selectorized machines that are available to supplement the conditioning and rehabilitation of student-athletes. The Center is open to all University students and employees which makes it one of the busiest facilities on campus.

In addition, the Lattis funded the establishment of the Sam and Ethel Sezak Academic Study Area and Computer Cluster in Memorial Gymnasium. This facility is used by student-athletes and is under the supervision of the Athletic Department's Academic Support Program. It includes a number of computers, including laptops which may be used by students on team trips. It should be noted that Maine was awarded the America East Academic Cup in 2004 in recognition of the 3.12 overall grade point average of all student-athletes. The University has placed among the top three in this annual competition for the past several years.

The Lattis were close personal friends of Sam and Ethel Sezak, two legendary figures in UM sports history. Mike Latti, who played varsity basketball for Maine in the mid-1950s, served a term on the UM Presidents' Council between 1990 and 1992. Georgia was a member of the General Alumni Association Board of Directors between 1991 and 1997 and on the UM Foundation Board between 2003 and 2004. The couple received the Black Bear Award from the GAA in 1999.



SAM AND ETHEL SEZAK ACADEMIC STUDY AREA



LATTI FITNESS CENTER



RUDY VALLEE

It wouldn't seem right to publish this book without including a photograph of Rudy Vallee. Mr. Vallee, one of the nation's most popular singers for several decades, is generally credited with making The Stein Song one of America's best known college songs. A native of Westbrook, he entered the University in 1921, later transferred to Yale, and subsequently went into show business. He hosted the Fleischman Radio Hour on NBC for 10 years, sang The Stein Song frequently, and first introduced such stars as Bob Hope and Kate Smith to his adoring audiences. Vallee returned to the campus in 1975 for the final time and was honored at Homecoming on October 11th before a packed house at Alumni Field. He passed away on July 3, 1986 and in 1989 was granted an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters by the University.

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