

Cox's Gift Names Dean's Suite

Robert Cox ('62 Industrial Administration) is a passionate—and vocal—supporter of Iowa State

University. He has long-standing relationships with the College of Business, the ISU Foundation, and the Athletics Department.

Members of each of these groups know that Cox is not shy about sharing whatever is on his mind, even leveling criticism when he feels it is warranted. But no one can doubt that his passion is rooted in a fierce dedication to Iowa State and the power it has to shape people's lives.

So it was especially meaningful when Cox made what he describes as a "down payment" on his existing estate gift to the College of Business as a reflection of his confidence and satisfaction with the college's leadership. Cox's gift will rename the dean's office at 2200 Gerdin Business Building as the Robert H. Cox Dean's Suite.

"Iowa State is very fortunate to have someone so dedicated giving back to the university," said Iowa State University President Gregory Geoffroy. "Bob's contributions go beyond the financial. He has a wealth of business experience that is valuable to us as administrators."

"Bob is one of the College of Business' most successful graduates," said Dean Labh Hira. "He has been incredibly supportive of our programs, and it is most fitting that the Dean's Office now bears his name."

For Cox, the decision was simple. "I'm just repaying a debt," said Cox. "I would not have been a success without an Iowa State education."

Cox resides in Ft. Myers, Florida. He retired as the senior vice president of operations for Norwest Financial, just prior to its purchase of Wells Fargo Corporation. He enjoyed a long, successful career there.



Cox is a native Iowan. His father died before he was a freshman at Iowa State, and he nearly quit school as a result. Dr. Charles Handy, then an accounting professor, talked Cox into staying in school, and Cox feels a great sense of indebtedness to Handy

for the boost he gave to his career.

"Without Chuck pushing me, I would not have completed my education and been as successful as I was," said Cox.

Cox was the first member of his family to graduate from college. He is especially proud of how hard he worked while he was in school. He worked full time while at Iowa State, getting married prior to his junior year and becoming a father five months before he graduated. Eventually, his sister Marilyn Philipp ('65 Growth and Development—Children) and brother Larry ('68 Economics) also graduated from Iowa State.

He had a number of job offers when he graduated, and he credited his accounting skills and well-rounded education. "I hated speech class," he said, "but it taught me how to speak in front of people, and as an executive you do that all the time."

The funds from Cox's gift will be used toward the Cox Family Scholarship fund, which had already been established in the College of Business. Cox said the scholarship is meaningful to him because it supports ordinary families who want a college education for their children but struggle to afford it.

Cox is a member of the Order of the Knoll President's Circle. ■

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—ROBERT COX