

AU dedicates Galanis Family Arena

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Alfred University publicly thanked the Galanis Family Tuesday evening for a generous gift that allowed the University to make significant renovations to the McLane Center gymnasium.

The Terry S. Galanis Family Arena was dedicated during a ceremony between the AU women's and men's basketball games. Several members of the Galanis family including 1940 Alfred University graduate Terry S. Galanis Sr. and AU Board of Trustee member Terry S. Galanis Jr. were on hand for the dedication.

"I didn't expect anything like this. I'm dumfounded," said Galanis Sr. in comments made before a large crowd of spectators that packed the student section of bleachers. He and several family members were joined on the court with members of the AU women's volleyball and men's and women's basketball teams, which play their home games in the arena. Galanis Sr. has often expressed his fondness for his alma mater and did so Tuesday night.

"I came to this University in 1935," he said. "I've gotten as much out of this University as we've put into this building. This (Alfred University) is a great place to come. I love it here."

Galanis Jr. has been a member of the Board of Trustees at AU 15 years. He is the president of Sealing Devices, a Lancaster, NY, firm that manufactures and distributes o-rings, gaskets, adhesives, tapes, vents, sponge and sealing products. The company was founded by his father in 1963 and is now a third generation family business. Galanis Jr. expressed gratitude for the opportunity to give to AU.

"It's an honor to be here and do something great for this University," he said. "I came here as a trustee 15 years ago and have met the nicest people: the students, the faculty, the staff. We're so proud of what we've got here. Thank you so much."

The Galanis Family has been instrumental in efforts to promote family business initiatives at Alfred University and also to support the University's intercollegiate athletics program. They fund the annual Galanis Awards for Excellence in Family Business, which recognizes family enterprise in Western New York. And in 2006, the Galanises funded a full-time junior varsity coach's position for the Saxon football team that remains in place today.

The family's most recent gift makes Alfred University home to one of the area's premier Division III indoor athletics facilities. It funded renovations to the gymnasium in the 43-year-old McLane Center, home to the Saxons' men's and women's basketball and women's volleyball teams. A new court surface, embossed with the new AU athletics logos, new bleachers, and a new public address system were all part of the project, which began during the spring and was completed in September.

"Two years ago, (the Galanises) suggested we renovate this arena, which hosts more events than any other facility on campus," said Dr. Charles M. Edmondson, Alfred University president. In addition to the many intercollegiate and intramural athletics contests, the gym also hosts, among other events, commencement, opening convocation and honors convocation. "Those of you who saw the inside of this arena a year ago know just how special this is."

[Paul Vecchio](#), AU director of athletics, expressed his gratitude to the Galanis Family. "On behalf of an incredibly grateful Division of Athletics, I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for this transformative gift," he said.

Vecchio said when he was appointed director of athletics two years ago, he compiled a list of facilities needs and a renovated McLane Center gymnasium stood atop the list. He thanked the Galanises for taking care of that need, and noted their generosity will benefit the entire AU community, not just student-athletes. "This is truly incredible," he said.

The renovations are but the latest in a series of projects that have provided a significant facelift to Alfred University's facilities that serve its intercollegiate athletics program or provide health and wellness opportunities to the AU and local communities.

In 2010, renovations to Merrill Field (renamed Yunevich Stadium) -- which included a new FieldTurf surface, grandstand bleachers and a pressbox -- were unveiled. Two years later, the Connors Family Pavilion, funded by a gift from AU alumni Greg and Jeni Connors, opened on the south end of the stadium grounds. In the spring of 2013, the University opened Harrington Park, its new softball field. And last spring, the Health and Wellness Center, opened. Annexed to the McLane Center, the 33,000-square-foot facility contains an all-purpose court, elevated indoor track, locker rooms, restroom facilities, and a multi-purpose room.