

# Galetti Endowment Funds Four-year Scholarship for Kinesiology

By Alice Rhein

As first chairman of Kinesiology's Department of Sport Management and Communications, **Stephen Galetti** devoted more than 30 years to the University of Michigan and its students. When he retired in 1988, the Division established the **Stephen J. Galetti Award** given to an undergraduate student who shows exceptional industriousness and potential.

In July 2006, Galetti died from a series of strokes at the age of 76. His widow, Jeannine, wanted to honor his memory, and took the Award one step further by establishing the Stephen and Jeannine Galetti Endowment that will be matched dollar for dollar by President Mary Sue Coleman's need-based scholarship fund, making it a \$400,000 total endowment.

**Julie Simon** the Recruitment Coordinator for Kinesiology notes that, "Endowed scholarships like this are crucial to student recruitment and retention. As the cost of attending college continues to rise, the University of Michigan struggles to compete with better-funded institutions. This scholarship will help us to attract the most qualified students interested in studying Sport Management in the Division of Kinesiology."



Jeannine and Steve Galetti

The fact that Jeannine has decided to fully fund this four year recruiting scholarship is very appropriate, given Steve's commitment to his students over the years.

"He worked so long and was so dedicated to his students," says Jeannine, who met Steve at Bowling Green State University where he was on the basketball team and she was a cheerleader. Steve was selected to join the St. Louis Cardinals minor league team, but instead was drafted and spent

two years in the military Special Services. He and Jeannine completed their graduate degrees at University of Michigan, and Jeannine went on to teach dance at Eastern Michigan University, while Steve began his long and illustrious career in Kinesiology. They were married for 51 years and Jeannine continues to live in Ann Arbor.

"He would have felt a little embarrassed about all the attention," says Jeannine, who never discussed the possibility of an endowment with him. Nevertheless, Jeannine says she is so pleased that she could make this four-year scholarship possible for a Kinesiology student who demonstrates the need.

"(Steve) enjoyed teaching, and his life was here," says Jeannine, who served as the president of the National Dance Association and was chairperson of the Dance Division at EMU for several years.

Both she and Steve received the Michigan Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance Distinguished Service Award and Stephen was the president of the organization for a time.

Stephen Galetti was raised in New York City and attended BGSU on a basketball scholarship. After receiving his MS from U-M in 1956, he took positions as teacher, coach, and vice principal in Mahasset, NY, returning to U-M as Coordinator of Student Teaching and Director of the Summer Youth Fitness Program. For 10 years, he chaired the Michigan Council of Physical Fitness and Health by the Governor's appointment (1977-1985). Always an athlete, Stephen played fast pitch softball for years, and won six National Doubles Paddleball Championships with his friend and colleague Professor **Rod Grambeau**, who received the Kinesiology Lifetime Achievement Award in 2005.

Steve was also selected to be an honorary member of the "M" Club. In the mid '80s, he developed the Division's Sport Management and Communication program, which is now the Sport Management degree.

When Jeannine attended commencement this spring, she was amazed at the number of graduates receiving a Sport Management degree. "It's wonderful," she says. "These kids who love sports can go to work at front offices and do well because of having business and law courses as part of their degree."

