The College of Dentistry is embarking on an ambitious campaign to support the construction of a transformative new facility that will set a standard for other dental schools across the nation and around the world. The Building on Strong Foundations campaign presents an opportunity to accelerate the college’s excellence and to do so in partnership with alumni and friends.
College of Dentistry alumnus Dr. Dominic Bitonte earned his DDS degree in 1947, after which he entered dental practice with his brother Robert, also a College of Dentistry alumnus from the Class of 1944. The Bitontes maintained a 30-year practice that included Dominic’s wife Helen, who supported the dental office and team. When their sons Gary Bitonte, ’73 MD, and David Bitonte, DO, speak about their late parents, they talk about the fact that Dominic and Helen placed a high value on learning and they had a profound commitment to “giving back.”

“Our parents valued education, and our father had a deep sense of gratitude to Ohio State for his long, rewarding career,” the brothers said. “When our father passed away in 2014, and then our mother in 2015, they had already started the process of making a significant gift to the college. They were grateful for all they had and they believed it was their responsibility to pass that along to others.”

The Dominic and Helen Bitonte Foundation’s gift of $2 million to the college set the stage for a campaign to raise funds for a new facility. To honor that gift, the college created the Bitonte Society to recognize those who give $100,000 or more to support the building campaign. Bitonte Society members will be acknowledged on a plaque in the lobby of the new facility, alongside bronze busts of Dominic and Helen. Society members will also be included in the college’s executive-level events.

College of Dentistry Dean Patrick M. Lloyd said, “Without the Bitonte family’s remarkable gift, we simply could not achieve our goal of building a new facility. Dominic and Helen Bitonte — along with their sons Gary and David — have set a standard for giving, and we are confident that our other grateful and loyal alumni will also be inspired to support our Building on Strong Foundations campaign. There will likely never be a better time to leave a legacy, help your alma mater to lead the profession forward, and inspire others to give.”

**Partnerships for a New Era**

With the $25 million Building on Strong Foundations campaign, the College of Dentistry seeks private resources to support the construction of:

- Three high-tech, spacious classrooms
- Pre-clinical simulation and technique labs
- Eight small group-practice student clinics
- Four ambulatory surgery clinics
- An expanded, state-of-the-art radiology center
- A new student and faculty commons with café
- An upgraded sterilization facility for new clinics
- Improved public access and greater campus visibility

**Investing in Our Future**

With the construction of our new facility, we have an opportunity to partner with others who believe, as we do, that our College of Dentistry can be even greater tomorrow than it is today. We are poised to strengthen our position as a leader in dental education, research, and patient care, and we are ready to embrace the unprecedented future that lies ahead. We invite you to join us.