

May 11, 2007

GIVING BACK

By SALLY BEATTY

Gift of the Week / Beer Chairman's Toast



Patrick Stokes

Who gave it: Patrick Stokes, chairman of Anheuser-Busch Cos., and his wife, Anna-Kristina Stokes

How much: \$13.5 million

Who Got It: Boston College

By request: The funds will help pay for a new student and faculty commons, including dining hall and meeting spaces.

How it happened: The son of an FBI man assigned to track subversive activities in the 1950s and '60s, Mr. Stokes graduated *magna cum laude* from Boston College in 1964 with a degree in math, got a master's of business administration in 1966 from Columbia University and served two years in the Army. When he got out in 1969, "I had virtually no money," he recalls. "But it never bothered me, because I had an education." He joined Anheuser a week later as a corporate planner. Late last year, Mr. Stokes, 64 years old, gave up his post as chief executive of the giant St. Louis beer company.

All three of Mr. Stokes's sons graduated from Boston College, where he has served as a trustee for 11 years, currently as chairman. Last winter, he was approached about a planned capital campaign by President William P. Leahy.

"He said, 'If you would consider a gift at this level, it would get us off to a good start.'" The gift will help replace outdated facilities as part of a campus renovation. "To be honest, it was pretty easy for me to call him the next day and say, 'Let's do it.' It feels good."