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## OSU president spends time at Kroger

BY LEEANN MOORE • STAFF WRITER • JUNE 21, 2008

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ZANESVILLE -The Ohio State University President E. Gordon Gee compared his visit to Kroger Friday to a game day.



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"This is great. I walk in and everybody has got scarlet and gray on. It's like a football Saturday," he said.

Dressed in khakis, a button-up shirt, a navy blue jacket and his traditional bow-tie, he greeted Kroger employees and eager fans with handshakes and autographs.

His visit to Kroger was specifically to visit the pharmacy, which is run by OSU graduate and Kroger's Pharmacy Manager Doug McCullough. Gee's visit was also centered around meeting pharmacist and former Kroger pharmacist Mindy Speeg, who flew up from Florida for the visit.

"I am excited," McCullough said. "He (Gee) was president when I went to school. I was always impressed with him when I was back in school. I'm very glad to see him come back."

Gee became the 14th president of the university last fall, after spending the past seven years as chancellor of Vanderbilt University. He served as OSU's president from 1990-1997.

McCullough graduated from OSU in 1992 with a bachelor's degree in pharmacy. He's been an employee of Kroger since 1985, when he started as a grocery bagger. Before becoming a manager, he was a cashier, stocked shelves, worked at the customer service desk, was an intern at a Kroger pharmacy and an assistant pharmacy manager. He's been a pharmacist for the past 16 years.

"Kroger has always been good to me. There's been no need for me to go looking anywhere else," he said.

Speeg was the first student to participate in the Partner for Promotion program through the university and the Zanesville Kroger. Speeg said she helped implement a disease management clinic within the pharmacy in 2005 and 2006.

McCullough said Speeg was also instrumental in the pharmacy's implementation of cholesterol testing, an immunization program that offers flu shots, a diabetic program and a program to offer help to those on Medicare.

"We're trying to do things above and beyond what you think a normal pharmacy does," McCullough said.

Like McCullough, Speeg had never met Gee.

"I've heard some good things about him," Speeg said.

She posed for a picture with Gee with her 9-month-old son, Bryden, in her arms.

The visit was part of Gee's summer plan to visit every county in Ohio, a plan he said should be complete by Aug. 5.

"The university is not limited to the Columbus campus. Our campus is the state," he said. "We want to get out there and see what opportunities we have everywhere."

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