



**BUCKEYE CRUISE FOR CANCER** notables include alumni band members, cheerleaders and Brutus.

**THE E. GORDON GEE SPIRIT OF OHIO STATE AWARD** recognizes people and programs that best exemplify the spirit of Ohio State.

which began in Key West, Florida, and included a stop in Labadee, Haiti — sold out with 2,300 aboard.

Joining fellow Buckeyes each year on the ship decked from stem to stern in Buckeye gear (including an Ohio State flag flying from the mast) are athletic department staffers such as Mark Pantoni and Stan Jefferson of the football team and Scoonie Penn '01 of the basketball team. More than 30 former athletes mingle with fellow cruisers, including former football players A.J. Hawk '06 and Cardale Jones '17. And what Buckeye extravaganza would be complete without the cheerleaders, Brutus and members of the Ohio State Alumni Band?

Onboard events range from “Buckeye Blingo” to cornhole tournaments, but no one forgets the main reason they’re there: to beat a terrible disease by supporting the Urban and Shelley Meyer Fund for Cancer Research.

For the past seven years, the cruise has included a “Fund a Need” project, through which travelers can contribute to the cost of a piece of equipment, such as a mass spectrometer or microscope system. Later, they’re invited to see the technology in action. Bob Mathews equates witnessing researchers with the equipment to watching children in a toy store.

Even after so many years aboard, Mathews is awed by the entire cruise experience, including the energy and emotion evident throughout the trip. So is Anthony Schlegel '06, '15 MBA, a former Buckeye linebacker who has traveled with the group for the past 10 years.

“When it comes to the Buckeye Cruise, the entire ship has something in common besides Ohio State,” Schlegel says, “and that’s fighting cancer.” ★

**DON'T MISS THE BOAT** Learn more about the Buckeye Cruise for Cancer. [www.buckeyecruise.com](http://www.buckeyecruise.com)

#### E. GORDON GEE SPIRIT OF OHIO STATE AWARD



## Buckeye Cruise for Cancer

**T**HE BUCKEYE CRUISE FOR CANCER hasn't set sail without alumni Bob and Joy Mathews for eight-straight years, and they wouldn't have it any other way. This fundraiser jam-packed with members of the Ohio State family — including athletes, coaches and more than 300 cancer survivors— is camaraderie for an awesome cause: fighting cancer.

“It’s a cruise with 3,000 of your best friends,” says Bob Mathews '71. “If you want to experience greatness in the fight against cancer, there is nothing better than this.” Joy Mathews '70 loves it so much

that she’s ready to go again as soon as they return to port.

Since its inaugural voyage in 2008, the Buckeye Cruise for Cancer has raised nearly \$14 million for research at The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center – Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital and Richard J. Solove Research Institute. The annual cruise was created by Lisa Cisco and Chris Quinn of Travel Partners in Dublin, Ohio, who continue to coordinate the five-day excursions.

Last year, a record 3,800 cruisers hopped aboard to celebrate the fundraiser’s 10th anniversary. This February’s journey —