

Reunion Giving Successful



Class of 1983 Giving Chair **Steve Gilmartin '83** presents a check for \$50,000 to President Deborah F. Stanley during Reunion 2008. This year's Reunion Weekend is June 4 through 7.

Reunion is a special time for remembering and also for giving back to your alma mater, and for the 2009 Reunion classes, it has been a banner year.

The Class of 1959's five active Reunion giving volunteers personally reached out to 88 of their 229 classmates. As of March 1, they had raised \$9,685, which is 65 percent of their \$15,000 goal.

"Most of my emphasis is just on reconnecting, and getting people to come back," said **Tess Poliotti Burke '59**. Burke's personal outreach to one alumna, who had not given in more than 20 years, resulted in her making a gift of \$250.

Volunteering can be rewarding, says Burke, who shared a lot of memories through her phone calls.

She is motivated to give back because of what Oswego means to her. "I had a fabulous career in education and that was the beginning of that for me, going to Oswego. It opened a lot of doors for me after that," she said.

She has a more personal reason to celebrate her Oswego memories, too. "I met husband, **Ron Burke '57**, at Rudy's; Brennan's is where we got engaged. Last year we celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary."

The 1959 committee is chaired by **Carol Barbatsuly Efthimiou '59** and **Bill Bacon '59**. It includes **Burke, Jerry "Jeep" Passer '59** and **Shirley Uplinger '59**.

The goal is in sight for the Class of 1984's eight active volunteers, who raised a total of \$25,656 or 26 percent of their \$100,000 goal by March 1 by personally reaching out to 93 of their 1,233 fellow classmates.

Under the leadership of **Lori Golden Kiewe '84**, **Suzanne Castrigno-Sack '84** and **Bill Spinelli '84**, the 1984 committee includes **Tony '84** and **Brenda Corlis Ferlenda '84**, **Beth Gura '84**, **Roberta Grode Berkowitz '84** and **Deb Belli Orminski '84**.

The 10-year class Reunion gift is a new phenomenon, pioneered by the class of 1998. With Reunion giving chairs **Scott Wiley '99** and **Dan Hilton '99** at the helm, and committee members **Dana Segall Murphy '99** and **Jason Wertheimer '99** hard at work, the 1999 class is well on their way to a \$10,000 goal, with 57 percent, or \$5,700, collected as of March 1, thanks to the efforts of a dedicated band of volunteers. The 1999 giving volunteers reached out to 113 of their 1,394 classmates.

Recently joining the Reunion giving effort, the Class of 1954 raised \$2,300 during the month of February toward its goal of \$25,000 to endow a scholarship. The class that set a record for attendance with 40 percent participation and raised \$35,000 at their 50th in 2004, is once again stepping up to the challenge, under the leadership of **Stan Levenson '54**.

For more information about Reunion giving, visit www.oswego.edu/giving/reunion/ or contact **Jamie Stack Leszczynski '04**, associate director of annual giving, at 315-312-3003 or by e-mail at leszczyn@oswego.edu. ●

— Michele Reed

Salisbury Supports Scholarship



Nancy Smith Salisbury '93

AS A BUSINESS STUDENT ENROLLED in the demanding accounting major and a field hockey player for four years at Oswego, **Nancy Smith Salisbury '93** knows how difficult it can be for a student involved in athletics

to find time to make ends meet through a part-time job.

So she has established the Salisbury Scholarship Fund. It will offer annual scholarships to a student in need, with a preference to a female School of Business student involved in sports.

"Two or three times a week, I would be gone from campus, from 10 in the morning to 8 or 10 o'clock at night," the partner at Ernst & Young in Baltimore remembers. "A lot of students need those jobs to pay for books or for spending money."

A regular donor to *The Fund for Oswego*, Salisbury had the intention to

help a student through a scholarship for some time, but finally got to the point in her life where it was financially possible.

She will endow the scholarship with a personal gift of \$25,000 plus an equal match from her employer, Ernst & Young.

"The match significantly increases the impact my scholarship can have," Salisbury says.

As the endowment grows, Salisbury says, she hopes to be able to help additional students.

She shared her positive Oswego experience with her twin sister, **Margo Smith Martin '93**, who was a political science major.

"I loved Oswego — other than the winter," Salisbury says with a laugh. "The School of Business was great."

Salisbury calls the professors in the School of Business "perfect."

"They really prepared me for my job," she says.

Among her influences were Professors Bill Lundy and Joan Carroll, who encouraged her to go into public accounting. Carroll also encouraged

Salisbury to take internships with the American Red Cross during her junior and senior years.

Salisbury was also a resident assistant in Oneida and Onondaga Halls.

More than just a practical way to help pay for school, the experience provided Salisbury with some of the best friends she made at Oswego, both in her fellow RAs and in her students.

Salisbury worked in Ernst & Young's Syracuse office for three years and then moved to the Maryland branch. She now lives in Maryland with her husband, Kurt, and sons, Jackson, 7; Joshua, 5; and Maxwell, 2.

In 2004, Salisbury took a fellowship with the Securities and Exchange Commission in Washington, D.C. When she returned to Ernst & Young, she became a partner.

One of the newest members on the Oswego Alumni Association Board of Directors, Salisbury is looking forward to reconnecting with fellow alumni in a meaningful way. ●

— Michele Reed

Students Raise 'Green' for Green Endowment



JIM RUSSELL '83

Latasha Jackson '09 is senior class gift coordinator.

The Class of 2009 has an ambitious — and timely — goal for its senior class gift. Class members will strive to raise \$10,000 to endow an Eco-Fund. They would be the first senior class to create an endowment.

Proceeds from the endowed fund will be used to support students' innovative "green" initiatives and environmental projects on campus. Projects may include initiating campus use of renewable resources, improving recycling efforts, funding conferences on sustainability for students, and supporting student and faculty research, according to **Michelle Tackett-Spinner '98**, associate director of alumni relations and senior class adviser.

More than 250 students voted on the options for the senior gift.

The fact that there is a lot of interest in preserving the environment was a big reason behind the success of the Eco-Fund idea, said **Latasha Jackson '09**, senior class gift coordinator.

"You can see how by altering one part of your life you are saving the planet, saving energy and saving money, too," said Jackson.

Before putting the ideas up for a vote, Jackson and **Jamie Burgess '09**, senior class coordinator, sought feedback from classmates, as well as faculty and staff.

The goal is a nearly 50 percent increase over the \$7,000 raised by the Class of 2008. "This will be a stretch goal for them," Tackett-Spinner said of the class.

But Jackson said the class is confident they will succeed. Their innovative methods include having the Telefund callers reach out to students and parents, and using Facebook to get students excited about the fund. The sale of class T-shirts and a booth in the Campus Center will raise awareness and funds, Jackson added.

Anyone interested in contributing to the fund can do so at www.oswego.edu/alumni/seniors/gift. ●

— Michele Reed