Two New Major Gifts to Greatest Generation Fund

Two recent gifts to The Greatest Generation Fund for the Libraries have moved the Fund ever closer to its $200,000 goal. Additional support is anticipated, and a celebration is planned for May 2007.

Elizabeth McDowell Hancock ’47 left a gift of $25,000 by bequest, which was honored by her son, Lee Hancock. “Betty,” as she was known to her friends, also earned an MLS at Albany, and worked as a librarian for a number of years. “I am glad that some of my parents’ accumulated savings can go to help an institution that was of great help to my mother,” says Lee Hancock.

An anonymous donor from the Class of 1945 has donated $30,000 to the Fund, in appreciation of the University as well as in response to hearing of Betty McDowell Hancock’s gift.

Members of the Fund’s advisory committee look forward to a celebration in May. All members of the classes 1940-1949 will be invited to attend. Noted actor Harold Gould ’47 will be an honored guest at this celebration.

Class of ’35 Donates Bench to Hawley Reading Room

Class Councilors Edna Wright Smith and Dr. Zaven M. Mahdesian headed up the effort to choose the Class of 1935 gift. Shown here is Barbara Via, Assistant Director of University Libraries, Division of Graduate & Sciences Libraries, and Circulation Services, on the bench in the Hawley Reading Room. “We very much appreciate that the Class of 1935 chose to honor the Dewey Graduate Library with this beautiful class gift,” says Barbara Via. “The gift of this bench is a testament to their fond memories of the Library and the downtown campus.”
Louise Hall ’42 Leaves $400,000 Endowment to UAlbany Libraries

Louise DeAngelis Hall, one of the University’s most consistent major donors, has left a major endowment, in excess of $400,000, to Albany’s University Libraries.

The Louise DeAngelis Hall Library Endowment is “for the use of the head of University Libraries for resources, programs, and related educational expenses associated with library development,” and it is the culmination of Mrs. Hall’s generous gifts through the years to the Libraries.

Mrs. Hall graduated in 1942; her field was Business Education. She was an extraordinary woman who credited her education at New York State Teachers College as the foundation for her career in teaching and for the life she lived.

A lifelong reader, Mrs. Hall believed that at every educational institution, the library was the most vital resource. During her retirement, Mrs. Hall volunteered as a reference librarian in her local library in Sarasota, and she continued to help others. She became computer literate, and read New York newspapers online most every day until her death in March 2006.

According to Dr. Sorrell Chesin, UAlbany’s Director of Planned Giving and longtime friend, “Louise was especially interested in writing. Her book, Look at This Day, an engaging mystery that takes place in the Adirondacks, was a capstone for her.”

Louise Hall and her husband, Bert, directed the major portion of their estate to the University at Albany for the Libraries and for a scholarship fund for disadvantaged students. Both Funds are named in her honor, and the Louise DeAngelis Hall Lecture Center also recognizes her past support.

Class of ’57 Pledges $25,000 to Honoring Our Professors Fund

To mark its 50th anniversary, the Class of 1957 has chosen to support Honoring Our Professors Fund for the Libraries with a $25,000 gift. Members of the Class Reunion Committee will serve on the Honorary Committee for the Class of ’57 gift, in addition to class members Matt Ostoyich and David Hardy. Matt and Sandy MLS ’71 Ostoyich initiated the Fund in 2003. “Now is the time for all in the Class of ’57, and for all of the classes of the 50s, to help support the educational goals of those who follow in our footsteps,” says Matt Ostoyich.

A group portrait of Queen Marcia Lawrence Gauquie, New York State College for Teachers, Class of 1957, and her Court on Campus Day at the New York State College for Teachers. Archival photograph, Special Collections