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Alumni Green dedicated

BY NANCY HUTCHINSON

It wasn't a promising morning, as far as the weather was concerned, and an unpredictable drizzle had most of the gathered alumni toting umbrellas along with their program packets. But when the time came to move outside for the dedication of Alumni Green, Mother Nature smiled. Not a single drop of rain fell on any of the alumni, faculty, students and University officials who gathered in front of College Hall to mark the occasion.

Wayne DeFeo '80, who designed the plantings for Alumni Green, hadn't been worried anyway. "Rain is terrific for new trees," he said with characteristic optimism. "The weather couldn't have been better."

DeFeo, who donated his services, wasn't content simply to plan the installation, which when complete will include flowering trees, evergreens and extensive flower beds with a red and white color theme. He also traded his business suit for blue jeans to personally plant the trees in time for the arrival of his fellow alumni for Alumni Weekend.

Alumni Green, bounded by Sprague Library, College Hall and Morehead Hall (formerly College High), is a gift to the University funded in part by a generous bequest, along with other alumni donations. It will continue to grow as new plantings are added by Montclair State alumni and their friends, family and classmates.

At the dedication ceremonies, President Irvin D. Reid said that the location of Alumni Green was especially appropriate in view of its proximity to the amphitheater and Morehead Hall. Both, he said, held many memories for all MSU alumni and lay at the actual and symbolic heart of the campus. He also noted the presence of members from Sigma, Sigma, Sigma sorority, who remembered a sister who had died by dedicating a new tree on the Green.

Jim McGilvray, outgoing Association president, noted that Alumni Green will serve as a continual reminder of alumni and their role in the history and future of the University. Ron Naples, newly elected president of the MSUAA, presented bonsai trees to DeFeo, McGilvray and Reid in honor of the parts they played in bringing the project to fruition.

The same shovel that was used to break ground for College Hall in 1907 was used

by Reid to plant a tree in this latest addition to the campus.

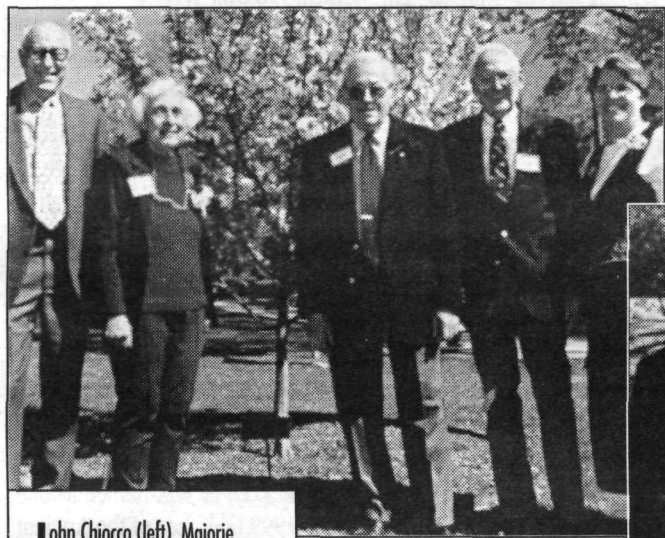
"This was a real group effort," said Alumni Director Hollie Stephens. "The alumni board began talking with facilities management about what alumni might do to beautify the campus more than a year and a half ago. Since then, the commit-

tee, the board, Dr. Gregory Waters, deputy provost and vice president for Institutional Advancement, Reid and DeFeo have been working together toward today." She looked at the sunshine that had broken through the clouds. "And I don't care what Wayne says...I'm glad it didn't rain."



President Irvin D. Reid (left) and outgoing MSUAA President Jim McGilvray plant a tree on Alumni Green.

Alumni Green continues to grow



John Chiocco (left), Majorie Burnell '47 M.A. and William Gelman, members of the class of '43, stand near their tree with Jim McGilvray '41 (second from right) and Margaret Hait '70, '76 M.A.

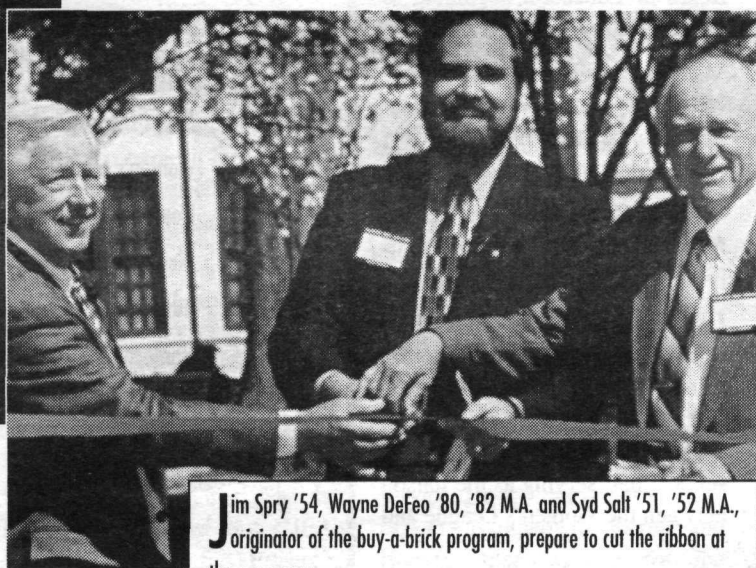
Roxy Akillian Polo '58 (left) and Alumni Relations assistant to the director Margot Horney take a rest on the bench dedicated by the class of 1958.



Marion Salvia (second from left) stands before the tree dedicated to her sister Rose Salvia Farrajota. Pictured with her (from left) are MSUAA past president Jim McGilvray '41, Miss Salvia's friend Gloria Salzarulo, MSUAA President Margaret Hait '70, '76 M.A. and MSUAA Executive Board member Jim Spry '54.



Margaret Hait '70, '76 M.A., Wayne DeFeo '80, '82 M.A. and Jim McGilvray '41 congratulate former Alumni Director Hollie Stephens (second from right) on the dedication of her tree.



Jim Spry '54, Wayne DeFeo '80, '82 M.A. and Syd Salt '51, '52 M.A., originator of the buy-a-brick program, prepare to cut the ribbon at the ceremony.

Alumni Weekend is always a time of reflection and ceremony, honoring special alumni and faculty, and marking new beginnings and some endings.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony celebrating the first installation of commemorative bricks was part of this year's Alumni Weekend. The bricks have a permanent, honored place within the tranquility and beauty of Alumni Green near Sprague Library.

The buy-a-brick program's purpose is twofold: first, to raise additional funds for the care and maintenance of the Green, and second, to afford all alumni the opportunity to have a permanent place among the trees and flowers. More than 130 alumni have purchased bricks that were in place in time for Alumni Weekend.

There is no limit to the number of bricks that can be incorporated into the Green and no limit to the imagination of those who have already purchased them. One alumnus of the class of 1961, a lawyer known for his keen sense of humor, inscribed his brick with a tribute to Montclair State: "Avoided ditch digging here." Another lawyer from the class of 1954 inscribed his brick with a tribute to his profession: "The law is sweet music." Some of the inscriptions are in honor of graduates' parents while others commemorate deceased friends, family or classmates. Some bricks mark the occasion of sweethearts meeting.

Kathleen O'Donnell '83 attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony. "It was delightful to visit again and reflect on the wonderful memories of years ago," she wrote in a letter to Wayne DeFeo '80, '81 M.A., chair of the Alumni Green Committee. "I had my brick inscribed 'My Best Years' and they were. I will never forget the wonderful people I met at Montclair State."

All the bricks surround one of the commemorative benches already on the Green. The benches as well as many of the trees on the Green continue to be generously donated by classes and individuals. The recent ceremony included the dedication of a bench that was made possible through the gifts of the class of 1958 during last year's Alumni Weekend. The inscription on the bench reads: "Class of 1958 remembers deceased classmates; 40th reunion."

Three trees also were dedicated. One, from the class of 1943, bears a plaque that reads: "In honor of the 55th reunion of the Class of 1943."

A second tree was sponsored by Miss Marion Salvia '50 "in loving memory of her sister, Rose Salvia Farrajota."

A third tree was dedicated by the Alumni Association Executive Board in honor of Hollie Stephens, who served as alumni director from 1992 to 1998, during the formative years of Alumni Green.

The Green continues to flourish, partially with the help gifts generated by various class reunions. The Class of 1949 sponsored the engraving of the capstones of the center wall. The stones will be engraved with "Alumni Green" and the University seal.

Anyone who recently celebrated a reunion and did not contribute to his or her class gift is encouraged to do so. It is never too late to be part of the special tribute that class gifts represent. ♦