

Don O'Brien '49 was presented with the G. Atwood Manley Society Achievement Award at Reunion in June 2009 for his demonstration of loyalty and commitment to St. Lawrence through his participation in the Manley Society. Below is his acceptance speech from the award ceremony in Gunnison Chapel.

“The Family of St. Lawrence” is an expression frequently used to describe that remarkable bond of affection and common experience that exists between our University and its more than 24,000 alumni throughout the world.

In countless ways not possible in larger public-supported institutions, people whose lives have been touched in some way by this place – whether they be graduates, teachers, parents, or friends – can retain and strengthen this bond, long after their more formal relationships to St. Lawrence may have ended.

We may choose to serve as Alumni Events Volunteers, or as Laurentian Admissions Associates; as Agents or Reporters for our classes; or through membership in our Alumni Executive Council. Or by simply showing our own colors for SLU by participation in Alumni events, both on and off campus. And one of us, a member of the Class of 1965, was able to return not long ago to serve his Alma Mater as its 17th president!

A gift of personal involvement in the exciting and challenging work-in-progress that is our St. Lawrence today is a gift that rewards the giver as much as it does the receiver. Our College should expect no less of a caring and concerned family.