

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Jane Zimmerman finds inspiration in the people she works with as well as those touched by Penn State Outreach

WHETHER SHE'S COLLECTING ITEMS from well-placed friends for an auction or criss-crossing the Commonwealth building relationships for Penn State Outreach, Jane Zimmerman

is driven by an unshakeable commitment to serve the organization and her community.

"If you have a chance to give back to your community, I believe you should," Zimmerman said. Zimmerman has been named the Fundraising Volunteer of the Year—an award given this September at the Penn State Development and Alumni Relations' "For the Future Volunteer Summit."

"Jane is simply the best. She has done so much for so

many units within Outreach, and she has set the standard for what a volunteer can do to help advance a fundraising campaign," said Dr. Craig Weidemann, vice president for Outreach. "It's exciting that she is being recognized."

Zimmerman, who serves as Outreach's Volunteer Development Chair and as an Outreach Advisory Board member, has also been the unofficial backbone of Outreach's relationship-building efforts.

As chair, Zimmerman helped create new fundraising boards and committees for different Outreach units and programs. Her other roles include serving on Penn State Public Broadcasting's Board of Representatives, Auction Committee and Connoisseur's Dinner Committee. "Jane's dedication to Connoisseur's Dinner and Auction is extraordinary," noted Sue Bryant, WPSU senior promotions associate. "She is involved from beginning to end with the selection of the guest chef and menu to the final gavel of the live auction."

Zimmerman also led the Digital Conversion Campaign for WPSU in 2002 and was named an honorary alumna that same year. In 2005 she received the Development and Alumni Relations' Charles Lupton Volunteer of the Year award.

"Because of Jane's dedicated leadership, Outreach has exceeded its annual fundraising goal for the last four years," noted Spencer Lewis, head development officer for Outreach. "Jane has played an unbelievable role in supporting our work and ability to raise more than \$6.5 million this past year."



When not volunteering for Outreach, Jane Zimmerman can be seen on the waters of Edgartown, Mass.



Jane Zimmerman's late husband Bob Zimmerman had first encouraged her to volunteer for Penn State.

Going the Extra Mile

Melinda Stearns, senior director of Client Development for Outreach, said that in addition to Zimmerman's official roles,

By Matt Swayne



her contributions behind the scenes are invaluable. For example, “Jane has opened her home to Outreach board members and friends of Outreach on many occasions, helping to create a warm and inviting environment,” Stearns said.

Of this year’s award, Zimmerman said: “I was truly shocked. I know some of the people who have been named fundraiser volunteer of the year, and I’m very honored to be the latest addition to that list.”

Zimmerman said her late husband, Bob Zimmerman—businessman, educator and Penn State devotee—had first encouraged her to volunteer for Penn State and Outreach. She continues to be inspired by the people she serves with and the people who have been touched by Outreach. “I have the pleasure to meet tremendous people from all over Pennsylvania—people working with 4-H, Extension, Continuing Education, Public Broadcasting and the World Campus,” Zimmerman said. “I really believe in the mission and am out every day at the Outreach building or on the road doing what I can to support it.”

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Penn State Outreach Marketing
and Communications
The Pennsylvania State University
301 Outreach Building
University Park, PA 16802
Phone: 814-865-7600
Fax: 814-865-3343
E-mail: outreachnews@outreach.psu.edu
Web site: <http://live.psu.edu/outreach>

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LETTERS *to the* EDITOR

THANK YOU so much for the great article and photos [“Fighting Cancer at the Grassroots,” Spring 2008]. I have had people call me to say: “Let’s get together because I want to tell you what I do and see if we can work together.” It is amazing!

Gene Lengerich
*Professor, Department of
Public Health Sciences
Penn State College of Medicine*

[Lengerich was the recipient of the Faculty Outreach Award in 2008 for his work leading the Northern Appalachia Cancer Network.]

I just wanted to drop a note to tell you how much I enjoy reading the Penn State Outreach magazine. I always learn something new and I always get a renewed sense of pride in what Penn State does for people in the Commonwealth. Thanks for putting it together.

Dr. Sharon E. Christ
*Director, Student &
Enrollment Services
Penn State York*

Please send letters to:
outreachnews@outreach.psu.edu.

GIVE US YOUR OPINION

We would love your opinion on the fall issue of the Penn State Outreach magazine. Please go to <http://www.outreach.psu.edu/magazine/survey> to take our survey or fill out the enclosed card and drop it in the mail. It will only take a few minutes to complete, and it will help shape future issues of the magazine. Thank you!