



DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARDS

Bill Jaffe '60

To Bill Jaffe for his longtime active involvement in the Penn State community and as a civic leader.

Bill Jaffe is the kind of person who becomes actively involved when he believes in a cause, whether it's starting a community bank, conserving outdoor space, or supporting his alma mater.

Throughout his distinguished career, Jaffe has given his time to Penn State, no matter where he has lived. He was an active member of the Alumni Association's Greater Cleveland Chapter and served as a board member for the Metro Washington, D.C. Chapter. He is a past president of the College of Communications Alumni Society, a founding board member of the College of the Liberal Arts Alumni Society, and past president of the Lion's Paw Alumni Association. In 2000, the Alumni Association—where he served for 15 years on the Council—named him its Volunteer of the Year, and he is a 1996 Alumni Fellow. He was a recipient of the Lion's Paw Medal in 2007.

"It's giving back for what I thought was a very good education and a tremendous experience," he said. "If you want to get

involved with Penn State, there are lots of ways to do it."

Jaffe's involvement with his alma mater began more than 50 years ago, when he studied journalism with the help of a scholarship. He was managing editor of *The Daily Collegian*, served on the Liberal Arts College Student Council, and chaired Encampment, the traditional weekend-long retreat between student and University leaders.

After graduating in 1960 with a bachelor's degree in journalism, Jaffe earned a master's degree in management from the University of Illinois. Eventually, he settled in Washington, D.C., specializing in human resources for what is now Towers Watson, a global professional services company, and then for Alexander & Alexander (now Aon), a major insurance brokerage. In 1995, he "retired," moved back to State College, and opened his own human resources consulting firm, The Jaffe Group.

It wasn't long before he was involved in another business venture, the founding of State College-based Nittany Bank in 1998, at a time when large banks were acquiring small local banks across the country. "It was really a community bank, with the

philosophy of getting its people involved in the community," Jaffe said. Although National Penn Bancshares bought the local bank in 2006, it continued to operate as Nittany Bank until early this year.

In the local community, Jaffe also served as an executive committee board member of the Chamber of Business & Industry of Centre County, Centre County United Way, and Centre Foundation. He also was president of the Mount Nittany Conservancy, where he is a director emeritus, and of Penn State Centre Stage. In 2008, he and his wife received the Distinguished Service Award from the Center for the Performing Arts.

Jaffe made his first gift to Penn State in 1961, the year after he graduated. Today, he chairs the annual giving campaign for the President's Club and is co-chair of the All-Sports Museum Advisory Board, a board member for the Renaissance Scholarship Fund, and Executive Committee member of *For the Future: The Campaign for Penn State Students*. He is a past chair of the Penn State Hillel Foundation and the Penn State Parents Advisory Board. In 2011, the University honored him as its Fundraising Volunteer of the Year.

A Philipsburg, Pa., native, Jaffe is part of a three-generation Penn State family. His father, the late Reuben Jaffe, was a 1921 graduate, and the family has honored him with the Reuben Jaffe Memorial Journalism Scholarship. Bill's daughter, Robin, is a 1995 graduate, and his son, Matthew, attended Penn State for three years. His wife, Honey, is a 2009 Honorary Alumna. The couple has three grandsons.

The Jaffes are life members of the Penn State Alumni Association.

