Experiences and memories inspire Jen (Roberts) ’95 and Kyle ’96 Betty to be active volunteers for Gettysburg College, but both are also quite conscious of the bottom line. “I look at our diplomas as an investment that I want to continue to grow in value through Gettysburg’s growing national reputation,” Kyle said.

The Gettysburg Fund supplies crucial support to all aspects of the College. To students, it is largely an invisible thread that weaves a seamless Gettysburg experience. Kyle and Jen took full advantage of all that the College had to offer, and they now show their appreciation both as Gettysburg Fund donors and as committed volunteers — Jen is a class agent, and Kyle works with the Young Alumni Program, attends Boston Alumni Club events, and was co-chair of his 10th reunion committee. They are appreciative and know the Gettysburg Fund supports extraordinary experiences.

“Probably the most influential experiences of my College years were on three service learning trips sponsored by the Center for Public Service,” Jen said. “Teaching elementary school in Jamaica, preparing and serving meals to people with AIDS in San Francisco, and working in women’s shelters in Washington, D.C. left lasting impressions on me. I want these experiences to continue to be available to anyone.”

Kyle added, “I have a tremendous amount of pride in Gettysburg. I was the beneficiary of a partial, need-based grant that made Gettysburg affordable for me and my family, and I want other kids to have that same opportunity.”

The Bettys believe it is within everyone’s reach and best interest to give. “People often feel reluctant to give small amounts because they feel their contribution won’t make a difference, but I disagree,” Jen said. “Every contribution does make a difference.”

“I look at other liberal arts schools that I respect, like Williams and Amherst — what sets them apart is their strong network and loyal support for their alma mater,” Kyle said. “I hope our support helps the College continue to attract students who could not otherwise afford a private college education and continue to make strides towards a more diverse student body.”

Homecoming Weekend

In addition to the usual festivities, the weekend will include several special features:
- A special reunion for alumni from the Classes of 1990 to 1999.
- A spotlight on the political science department, with a panel discussion on the upcoming presidential election — just six weeks away by Homecoming.
- A Friday night pep rally for Saturday’s game.

Make your plans now to join us!

Revitalizing GALA
More than a decade ago GALA (Gay and Lesbian Alumni) was formed on campus. Now, with the 25th anniversary of the student group Allies — for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered students and employees — approaching in 2010, we are looking to revitalize GALA.

If you would like to be included in the GLBT alumni group for networking opportunities, events, updates, and potential involvement with the current Allies group, please contact the alumni office at alumni@gettysburg.edu or 717-337-6518. You may also contact the faculty advisor to Allies, Prof. Michael Wedlock at macedon@gettysburg.edu or 717-337-6254.

A 25th anniversary celebration of Allies is tentatively set for the fall of 2009.
Connect through the O&G

The Advisory Council for the Orange & Blue Club is currently developing plans to bring together alumni, parents, and student-athletes through its three newly formed committees: Development, Events, and Mentoring. If you are interested in learning more about the council and making an individual connection with current student-athletes and alumni, contact Amy Hunt, director, Orange & Blue Club, at ahunt@gettysburg.edu.

Send-Offs in summer 2008

As offers of admission to the Class of 2012 hit the mail, planning is underway for more than 20 Send-Offs for first-year students in locations around the country. One of Gettysburg’s enduring traditions, Send-Offs invite alumni, current students, and parents to help welcome the newest members of the Gettysburg community.

The events are held in July and August and all are welcome. More details to follow. Check the College’s website, www.gettysburg.edu, or contact Allison Singleton, associate director of Alumni & Parent Relations at asinglet@gettysburg.edu or 717-337-6540.

College Garners CASE Silver

The Student Alumni Heritage Society (SAHS) project earned Gettysburg College a prestigious Silver Award from the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education in the District II Accolades recognition program. The work competed in the Alumni Relations Programming category.

Student Alumni are current students who see themselves as links between the College’s past and future. Heritage Society members graduated from the College more than 50 years ago. A program connecting these two groups garnered the award.

Twice a year, Student Alumni make small gifts — cookies and ornaments in winter and potted plants in spring — and visit more than 70 Heritage Society alumni in and around Gettysburg. But the real gift, which extends both ways, is the visit — a few minutes spent exchanging stories about history, traditions, and the College today.

The judge’s notes sum it up: “This program touched my heart. It’s a great example of going back to basics and how little things can make the biggest impact. The program results in an exceptional experience for current alumni and future alumni.”

Kudos to Jennifer Brennan ’01, assistant director of alumni relations, for leading this initiative.

Help us meet the challenge

If you find yourself thinking about Gettysburg professors who showed an interest in you, who inspired and challenged you to try harder and be better, you are far from alone. Gettysburg students and alumni know the College faculty as dedicated and talented professors who make a difference. They’ve set the standards and the tone for a campus that is vibrant and engaging, placing Gettysburg among the leading liberal arts colleges in the nation.

The best colleges have the resources to support faculty development — including research that keeps ideas fresh and knowledge current, opportunities for intellectual and scholarly interaction outside the College with colleagues in their fields, and participation in conferences and workshops. Currently, Gettysburg College has no endowed fund to support the ongoing process of faculty development throughout their career cycle.

To support an endowed faculty development fund, the prestigious Andrew W. Mellon Foundation has awarded the College a Challenge Grant that will match individual gifts dollar-for-dollar (up to $135,000 over three years). The Gettysburg College experience relies upon our ability to attract and retain outstanding faculty members who, in turn, draw gifted students. Helping to match the challenge is one way donors can have a lasting impact on the College’s educational environment for generations.

For additional information, please contact Ashlyn Sowell at asowell@gettysburg.edu or 717-337-6533.