

# Peri L. Snyderman '80

## Outstanding Service Award



Peri Snyderman knows how to bring people together. Over the years, she has fine-tuned the art of celebrating Reunion. A businesswoman with a keen eye for logistics, Peri and a small team of Reunion volunteers have kept the activity-packed weekends running smoothly for decades. Each one, she says, is a source of pride and a new highlight in her long tenure as an alumna volunteer. “When everyone gathers on Case Green on Saturday morning for the Parade of Classes, I look around and think, ‘Wow, we did it again!’ It’s a victory for the team — and a huge win when we hear first-time attendees wondering why it took them so long to come back!” Mini-reunions held at venues like Saratoga Race Course keep the momentum going. Large or small, she says, “They result in big fun and more connections.”

Skidmore has been a presence in Peri’s life for as long as she can remember. As a child, she helped her mother, New York City Alumni Club officer **Pat Snyderman '54**, deliver gift wrap and other items to members for fundraising drives. (Pat was recognized with an Outstanding Service Award in 2004.) Peri grew up with a large architectural map of the “new campus” hanging in the den of her family’s Mamaroneck, New York, home.

She applied to a number of colleges, but when an acceptance letter from Skidmore arrived, “there was no question where I was going. I couldn’t wait to get there.” A poetry course with Laurence Josephs left an indelible impression. Shortly before the winter holidays, he hosted the entire class for lunch at his historic farmhouse. By the time students arrived, it was blanketed in fresh snow. “It was so beautiful and the effort that Professor Josephs made went so far above and beyond,” she recalls. “Many of my high school friends were attending large, impersonal SUNY schools where the professors didn’t even know their names.” The experience solidified Peri’s belief that “Skidmore was a very different and special place.” An English major, she thrived academically and socially; at the end of Peri’s senior year, she wasn’t sure she wanted to leave.

She went on to build a career in the automotive industry and complete a master’s in communications from the New York Institute of Technology. She is currently Manheim Northeast Region Ambassador for Cox Automotive in Newburgh, New York.

But she never left her Skidmore connections behind. Peri stayed in touch with Professor Josephs until his death in 2002 and remains friends with Terry Diggory, her senior writing project advisor, and his wife Anne. Peri’s bonds with classmates are many and strong. A stalwart volunteer, she has served as an admissions contact, class agent, Reunion volunteer and historian. She is celebrating her 40th year as class president and veteran class correspondent. She has used the latter role to help classmates reconnect with one another through her column in Scope magazine. Peri also recognizes their milestones, joys and losses. Her nomination contributed to **Katherine Coulter Steeger’s** selection for an Outstanding Service Award in 2000. For her 35th Reunion, Peri helped lead the effort to dedicate a memorial garden to **Rhonda Sligar Shipley**. Her Skidmore network has expanded to include friendships with classmates she got to know through Reunion planning.

Back home in Chester, Peri is passionate about giving her time to animal rescue organizations and other community service efforts.

Despite the uncertainty and disruption wrought by the pandemic, Peri never seems to skip a beat. Last May, she offered this advice to the Class of 2020 on social media: “Congratulations! Now is when you will start making newer, closer and long-term Skidmore friends. Network and connect. Get involved and stay involved. I promise you will never regret it!”

Her own involvement with Skidmore is motivated by a desire to stay connected. Somewhat surprised when informed that she would receive an Outstanding Service Award, Peri anticipated that her mother would be delighted and impressed. “Then I found out she knew before I did!” She adds, “I am truly honored.”