

Sibyl Waterman Haley '71

Jacqueline M. Jung '61 Lifetime Service Award



For over 40 years, Sibyl Waterman Haley has helped shape Skidmore's evolution from regional gem to premier national liberal arts college. She has served multiple terms as an alumna trustee and Alumni Association president; was a key member of the Friends of the Presidents and several campaign executive committees; and played a role in bringing President Marc C. Conner to campus. As former assistant director of Admissions at Skidmore, Sibyl brings a deep knowledge of institutional history to her myriad roles. A longtime admissions contact, she celebrates her 50th as a member of the Reunion Planning Committee and as Presidents Society chair.

This prolific alumna volunteer will not hesitate to tell you why her alma mater has remained an integral part of her life. "Skidmore's influence has affected and extended beyond career experiences and into my life as a whole," she reflects. "I learned new and more versatile ways to think and was presented with the freedom to be adventurous and creative in doing so. I developed critical-thinking skills. Doors were opened that lured me into new worlds. It was exhilarating."

English Department faculty, she recalls, "set the bar tantalizingly high." For Sibyl, the ability to write well has proven essential to her careers in editing and admissions — as well as to decades of volunteer service.

As a freshman, the Iowa native was initially intimidated by students who seemed at ease with challenging professors inside and outside of the classroom. But she soon found the courage to use her voice, and it has served her well. Sibyl became adept at public speaking in her tenure as a College employee and grew into an insightful, confident leader as she took on senior-level volunteer roles.

As a two-term president of the Alumni Association (2014-2020), she oversaw the work of its board of directors. Their initiatives focused on areas vital to alumni and tied to the College's strategic goals, including diversity and inclusion, young alumni engagement and career development. As a trustee, Sibyl was an important voice on the Strategic Planning, Academic Affairs, Student Life and other committees. She functioned as a vital conduit between both advisory bodies — in essence, serving as the voice of the alumni community. In no small measure, Sibyl helped guide the College during one of its most dynamic periods of growth.

One of her favorite duties as Alumni Association president was shaking the hands of over 600 newly minted Skidmore graduates at Commencement. Sibyl's warm and welcoming voice was among the first to remind them to stay in touch. She invariably added this sage advice: "Savor this moment. Look back. Then come back. And give back. Let's keep Skidmore strong."

This longtime class volunteer and career advisor has served with distinction on the Alumni Nominating and Awards committees, the Presidents Society Executive Committee and the Reunion Gift Planning Advisory Committee. It was her dear friend **Jacki Jung '61** who recruited Sibyl to join REGPAC decades ago, and she hasn't left the volunteer fold since. Currently, Sibyl is a member of the Executive Committee for the Creating Our Future campaign. Her many contributions were recognized with an Outstanding Service Award in 2006.

A veteran of countless College events across the country, Sibyl continues to be one of Skidmore's most engaging and enthusiastic ambassadors.