



Curtis Tillett acts as Denim and Diamonds auctioneer.



Mickey and Brian Lauer, Stout & Lauer Jewelers, (foreground) visit with Nadine and Michael Neumeister, M.D.

Denim and Diamonds Returns

Whether dressed in easy-going denim wear or more formal attire, everyone had a great time at the second annual Denim and Diamonds gala, which raised \$28,000 for breast cancer research.

The event, held Oct. 21 at Isringhausen Imports in Springfield, was organized by the SIU Foundation. This year's contributions exceeded last year's total of \$25,000. Event sponsors, in addition to the SIU Foundation, included Isringhausen Imports; Rita Victor; Curtis Tillett; National City Bank; and Stout and Lauer, exclusive jeweler for the event.

"It was another tremendous success," says Gary Dunnington, M.D., chairman of surgery at SIU School of Medicine and director of The Breast Center. "The enthusiastic response from the community sponsors highlighted a great effort from a large number of dedicated participants. The proceeds will be used to enhance the quality of breast cancer care in this region through research trials

underway in the Breast Center and others to be initiated as a result of this generosity."

All proceeds will benefit the Center, which has assisted more than 1,000 women with screenings and treatment for breast cancer over the past two years.

"I really enjoyed serving on the committee both last year and this," says breast cancer survivor Bonnie Camille. "It's been an opportunity for me to 'give back' to the Breast Center, an organization I hold very near and dear to my heart. They helped me through some very tough times."

Both live and silent auctions helped raise the money, with travel-related items, artwork and jewelry up for the highest bid. Guests enjoyed a buffet, dessert bar and live music from the musical group, Footprints, and from local disc jockey Sound By Design.

"Women throughout central and southern Illinois are turning to the Breast Center at SIU when facing a possible breast cancer diagnosis



Jill Hardy gets a helping hand from Rick Brandt during the auction.

because of the expertise of the team as well as the caring, compassion and convenience offered by this approach," says Dr. Dunnington.

SIU Foundation acting director Sandy Jennings reports that the Foundation definitely plans to host a third Denim and Diamonds evening during breast cancer awareness month next October at Isringhausen Imports. Rita Victor and Sue Isringhausen will be honorary co-chairs of the event. ■

A Brief Life Makes a Big Difference

Though he lived less than one day, Paul Crampon is making a difference — nearly 20 years after his death.

On August 12, 1982, Paul Jacques Crampon was born to Bill Crampon, Ph.D., and his wife, Jean, of Springfield, Illinois. He was nearly four months premature. Weighing just over one pound, Paul was so small that he could fit in the palm of his father's hand. Seventeen hours and 35 minutes later, he lost his battle for life, taken from the parents who loved him so much.

"Though Paul was with us only a short time, we still bonded with him, but then we had to let him go," says Jean, who then worked as a librarian at SIU School of Medicine.

But the Crampons wouldn't let the memory of their son disappear. Bill, then a professor in business administration at Sangamon State University, and Jean began donating money to SIU School of Medicine as a memorial to their son. But the SIU Foundation led them to a better way to keep Paul's memory alive.

The Crampons established the Paul Jacques Crampon Endowment in 1984 through SIU School of Medicine. They regularly donate \$1,055 to the endowment — one dollar for each minute Paul lived.

"An endowment was the only way for us to pull all of our goals together: to help high-risk expectant mothers and premature babies, and encourage research," says Bill, who now runs his own management consulting firm in Lakewood, California. They chose SIU because of the support they received from their physicians and friends at the School of Medicine.

The couple considered an endowment based on the suggestion of James Radford, former development director of the SIU Foundation. "I thought endowments required much

more money to start up," says Bill. "But it was a very workable number." Currently, the minimum amount to establish an endowment at the School of Medicine is \$25,000 over a five-year period.

In addition, Bill says setting up the endowment was easy. "It only took about 20 minutes to fill out the paperwork."

Here's how endowments work: The principal of the fund is maintained and invested to produce income that is expended or added to the principal. The funds are used in ways directed by the donor, including scholarships, research or equipment.

Today, Paul's endowment is worth more than \$50,000, and, per the Crampons' instructions, the money it generates is used for neo-natal research, maternal and fetal medicine research and books in the SIU School of Medicine library regarding these subjects. "We consider the endowment a contract until the problems are solved," says Jean, now a science librarian at USC.

In 1982, despite physicians' best efforts, little Paul could not be saved. "Today, though, there's so much more that doctors can do," says Jean. "Babies like Paul are surviving now, and fewer parents have to go through what we went through." Bill and Jean can share in that accomplishment with their son, Michael, who is a junior at the California Academy of Math and Science.

Paul is still very much a part of the family: His picture is among the other family photos; the Crampons visited Springfield last summer to show Michael where he and his brother were born. And of course, the family continues to donate to Paul's endowment, which helps them remember that Paul did not die in vain. Says his father, "We're doing something for

him on a regular basis."

Currently, 44 endowments exist at SIU School of Medicine in the names of professors, physicians, loved ones, and even donors themselves. Income generated from these funds plays an important role in supporting scholarships, research and other essential programs at the School.

If you would like more information about establishing an endowment, or about contributing to an existing endowment, contact the SIU Foundation office, 217-782-2955. ■

Hertweck Fund Established

The Virginia J. Hertweck Memorial Endowed Scholarship Fund is the newest endowment established at the SIU School of Medicine.

Hertweck, from Rushville, Ill., passed away Dec. 18, 2000. She was a clinical instructor in the School's Department of Family and Community Medicine for six years and also worked as a certified family nurse practitioner and physician's assistant throughout central Illinois.

This fund reflects Hertweck's dedication to health care and lifelong learning. Her family has requested the scholarship benefit students entering the primary care field and be given to students from Schuyler, Cass or Brown counties, or other rural areas in honor of Hertweck's many years of work at rural-area hospitals and health clinics.

Contributions to the fund may be sent to: SIU Foundation, P.O. Box 19666, Springfield, IL 62794-9666.