

Athlete, businessman Slaby Alumni of Year

By Lois Firestone

The difference between a winner and a loser is determination and desire, Alumni of the Year Lou Slaby told the Salem High School alumni and graduating seniors at the 119th annual reunion and banquet Saturday at the high school.

The former professional athlete and engineering consulting firm founder said that getting an education was always a top priority in his family because his father and mother were forced to quit school to earn livings.

"Our family had a premium on education," he said. Studying a chosen field extensively is part of gaining knowledge in preparation for a career, he said, and it's important to understand the world around a person and its importance.

But other traits and skills must be developed to succeed. Coaches look for determination and desire in a ballplayer, Slaby said, because those athletes will spend years in practicing their sport and getting their bodies in condition to play. People have to learn to recognize an opportunity that comes along; it may be masked in some way, but underneath it's discernible, he said. During the semi-humorous, semiserious talk, Slaby praised his Howard Pardee, his high school band director; and the coaches who had helped him in his career, beginning with his eighth grade coach, Joe Boone, and basketball coach John Cabas, football coach Earle Bruce and track coach Karl Zellers.

A graduate of the University of Pittsburgh with a bachelor of science degree in mechanical engineering and the Baruch Graduate School of Business in New York City with a master of business administration, Slaby founded Louis R. Slaby Engineering Associates Inc. in 1986 in Morris Plains, N. J. He is a licensed professional engineer in five states, and a licensed professional planner and certified municipal engineer in New Jersey.

The firm specializes in civil, mechanical and environmental engineering, land surveys, municipal planning, construction

inspection, and construction contract administration in New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania.

A guest lecturer at Columbia University, he has represented clients before planning boards and zoning boards in over 40 municipalities and is recognized as an expert in engineering and planning in legal cases before the New Jersey Superior Court.

Slaby has had over 30 years of experience in consultation, in design and contract administration of roads, highways, sewers, water distribution systems, water treatment plants, storm drainage facilities, water wells, pumping stations, HVAC systems, plumbing facilities, indoor and outdoor lighting in buildings, roofs, electrical facilities, asbestos abatement, athletic fields and recreational facilities, design of subdivisions, design of site plans including industrial, commercial and residential developments, environmental audits, site remediation and environmental impact studies.

At Salem High School, he was an outstanding student, academically and as an athlete as well as musically, performing with the high school band. Under coach John Cabas, Slaby's 1959 basketball team went on to the state finals. In 1958, the football team under coach Earle Bruce lost only one game. Cabas coached Slaby in football, too, as Bruce's assistant the first year he played.

After graduating from high school, Slaby went on to the college level to play basketball and to letter three years in football as fullback and linebacker at the University of Pittsburgh.

Drafted in the fifth round by the New York Giants, and in the fourth round by the Denver Broncos, he was a middle linebacker for the New York Giants and Detroit Lions. He was named New York Giants Rookie of the Year in 1964, and was placed on the National Football League's All Rookie Team roster. At that time, he received the B'nai B'rith Award for High Achievement and Principle.

Slaby's civic involvements include past president of Rotary Club, University

of Pittsburgh Alumni Association, Pitt Letter Club, National Football League Alumni Association, National Football League Retired Players Association, co-founder of the PAL Basketball league for youngsters in Denville, N. J.

An inductee in the Salem Hall of Fame, he is also listed in Who's Who in the East and Who's Who in Technology and Engineering as well as the Community Leaders of America.

His professional affiliations include the American Society of Civil Engineers, American Society of Mechanical Engineers, National Society of Professional Engineers, New Jersey Society of Professional Engineers, American Water Works Association, New Jersey Planning Officials, and New Jersey Society of Municipal Engineers.

Lou and Ginny Slaby have been married over 34 years and have two children. Richard, a former marine and graduate of the University of New Mexico, is an assistant vice president with Merrill Lynch. Laura Slaby, a East Carolina University graduate, is administrator of human resources with SG Cowan.

Association President Ken Kenst introduced the members of the Class of 1950, the 86th graduating class of the school. Elijah Alexander of Washington, D. C., vice president of the class, presented the association with a gift \$7,300. The Class of 1940 donated \$600 and the Class of 1945 gave \$1500.

Program participants included senior Tom Myers who led the national anthem and the school alma mater, accompanying by Mary Bauman; invocation by Rev. Brian Jensen; senior class response and plaque presentation, Aileen Vogel and Jaci Drake; scholarship procedures, Helen Potter Hayes; officer election, Melissa Moffett Costa; and scholarship presenters, Dr. Gail Herron, Cora Mae Stone, Bob Roberts, and Tom Jesko. Jeff Zimmerman was elected association president and other officers are Becky Berger Palmer, vice president; Grace Finch, secretary; and Susan Wolfgang, treasurer.

Commitment to students at Salem High

Providing the Salem High School Alumni Association with the funds necessary to award scholarships to our graduating seniors is an on-going project for all of us. Whether your gift takes the place of a memorial for a dear classmate or family member, a contribution to offset the continuous cost of contact with our grads, or treasures from earlier school years, it all furthers our scholarship commitment to our students in Salem.

With all the anticipation and excitement surrounding Y2K, you may be relieved to learn that when it comes to income and estate tax planning, this year it's business as usual. As of the year 2000, the federal gift and estate tax exemption equivalent grows to \$675,000. This means that estates, combined with prior taxable gifts, totaling \$675,000 or less are exempt from federal estate tax. And at the end of the year 2001, it is scheduled to increase to \$700,000. Although this may seem like a generous raise, the increases merely offset the effects of inflation. As the value of your estate grows, so does your need for proper estate planning to reduce potential taxation.

One way to reduce estate taxation during your lifetime is to take advantage of the annual gift tax exclusion of \$10,000. Gifts of this amount or less (up to \$20,000 for married couples who split the gift) can be made to anyone, including your children, grandchildren, and their spouses.

In addition, the government allows unlimited gifts to non-profit organizations such as The Salem High School Alumni Association. Gifts must be made by December 31 in the tax year for which you plan to take the deduction. As you reflect on your financial situation, remember that giving to others is more than a tax-saving strategy. It's a genuinely good way to help our graduating seniors while looking out for your own financial future.

2000 SALEM HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIPS

5,500	Mary Bauman, Christina Bennett, Jaclyn Drake, Erin McIlvaine, Katherine Myers, Katherine Ventresco, Daniel Williams,
4,125	Jason Roberts, Jason Weingart
4,850	Thomas Myers, Julia Navoyosky, Leigh Peterson, Allyson Shultz,
4,350	Jacob Bell, Kristin Elze, William Getzinger,
3,850	Amanda Baranovich, Jillian Bestic, Stephen Conrad, Caryn Conway, Sarah Dillon, Chad Hickman, John Keener, Brian Rea, Cassandra Sauerbrey
962.50	Joshua Barry
3,350	Ryan Goerig, Ryan Gross, Candace Stith,
2,850	Kimberly Apinis, Diana Gbur, Kristen Marroulis, Kevin Rohleder
2,350	Steven Chengelis, Sarah Loudon, Tasha Preisler, Katherine Welsh, Jacqueline Pusztay
2,100	Jocelyn Bezeredi, Renee Lewis

MAX FISHER ATHLETIC SCHOLARSHIPS

1,500	Bryan Cody, Gregory Davis, Jon Paul Fritz, Kellie Place, Ralph Smalley, Tracy Stapf, Maria Werner, Josh Wolf,
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VOCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS

1,250	Michael Douglass, Craig Readshaw
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J. ROBERT SEBO ACHIEVEMENT SCHOLARSHIPS

1,500	Caroline McDermott, Aileen Vogel, Abi Willeman
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TOTAL 2000 SCHOLARSHIPS: 171,212.50 - 53 STUDENTS

1908-2000	SHS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION	2,177,912.50	1044 STUDENTS
1973-2000	MAX FISHER AWARDS	166,500	164 STUDENTS
1987-2000	VOCATIONAL AWARDS	53,400	55 STUDENTS
1999-2000	J. ROBERT SEBO ACHIEVEMENT	6,500	5 STUDENTS
1993-2000	FOX AWARDS	73,000	51 STUDENTS

{includes '99 Fox Scholarships}

TOTAL \$ 2,477,312.50 1319 STUDENTS

More and more charitable gifts are made with non-cash assets, such as stocks of publicly traded companies or shares of mutual funds. This is due in part to the remarkable rise in stock prices over the past few years. Many donors find that the values of their stocks or mutual funds have risen to such a degree that they can make a donation and still be as well off as they

were a year earlier. In addition, the appreciated value of stocks that may be paying low dividends can be "unlocked" through the use of various charitable gift techniques. Remember that appreciated property such as stock or mutual fund shares makes an ideal way to fund the scholarship awards made by the Salem High School Alumni Association.

Vacar outstanding in aviation field

Fred Dawson of Houston dropped us a note last year about SHS alum Richard M. Vacar, who is deputy director at the Houston Department of Aviation. "A pretty big job in Houston," Fred writes.

He also enclosed a clipping about Rick Vacar from a Houston newspaper with some "insider tips" about new Mayor Lee Brown's administration who has succeeded the previous

mayor, Bob Lanier. An excerpt: "The Aviation Department is currently headed by an acting director, Rick Vacar who was brought in from Orlando to be groomed to succeed retiring director Paul Gaines. Vacar has gotten uniformly high marks from Lanier aides for his interim stint and is given a good chance to stay on as permanent director."