

## **Dennis Marx '68 Special Service Award**

Dennis Marx had never seen the University of Dayton before his parents dropped him off on campus at the start of his freshman year.

It was a life-changing decision. He earned a bachelor's degree in accounting in 1968, and his sister, Christine, would graduate from UD five years later. Marx's three children all graduated from UD, as did two of their spouses.

His time at UD also helped him cultivate a spirit of servant leadership, inspiring him to give back to the university and his community. He's a member of the board of trustees and a former president of the Alumni Association board. He also worked on Reunion Weekend committees, joined the advisory council for the School of Business Administration, and hosted alumni and new student programming in Chicago, where he lives now. He also serves on the board of Catholic Charities of Chicago.

A family connection also led Marx to create an international collaboration for UD. Marx's father was a member of the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division, the American military unit that liberated the Dutch city of Nijmegen during World War II. The unit also helped rebuild Radboud University Nijmegen, a Catholic university, after Nazi troops destroyed the campus and sent professors and students to concentration camps for refusing to pledge allegiance to the regime.

Marx contacted leaders at Radboud, saying he was the son of a soldier and wanted to see where his father once served. That led to a partnership between the schools, and close to 30 Dutch students have visited UD to participate in conferences, classes and semester-long study. UD students will study at Radboud this fall.

"I've earned psychic income from my involvement with UD," Marx said. "UD has given me so much, I can't put it all into words."