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Above: Dean Linda Rosenstock visits with donor Arthur Alper and Dean's Advisory Board member Michele DiLorenzo at a dinner held at the dean's home on May 15, 2003.

Right: Dean's Advisory Board members Robert Gillespie and Monica Salinas have an opportunity to visit at the same dinner.
AS AVRAM KAPLAN (M.P.H. ‘72) explains it, he and his classmates concluded it was time to be more proactive in honoring the faculty and school that had helped them achieve career success.

Many of the graduates of the UCLA School of Public Health’s Class of ’72 had reunited at the memorial services for two beloved faculty members, Drs. Milton Roemer and Carl Hopkins. At the second service, they began discussing the idea of a 30th reunion to relive fond memories and honor their mentors. And, going a step further, they decided to establish a Class of ’72 Gift Fund for student support.

The reunion, held last October, drew approximately 50 alumni, friends, and faculty – including all four living deans – to Maggiano’s Little Italy Restaurant in Los Angeles. “It was a great evening,” says Kaplan, who chaired a reunion committee that also included Daniel Ershoff (M.P.H. ‘72, Dr.P.H. ‘79), Ruth Gomez (M.P.H. ’72, Dr.P.H. ’78), Raymond Goodman (M.D., M.P.H. ’72), and Frank Matricardi (M.P.H. ’72, Dr.P.H. ’82). “It was so rewarding to be able to honor our deans and professors, to say the things we wanted to tell them. Everyone felt full of pride and thanks.”

In establishing the gift fund, the committee set a five-year goal of raising $25,000 toward an endowment for student support based on need. Students from all of the school’s programs who graduated in 1972 have been invited to contribute. “We always felt the Class of 1972 was special,” says Kaplan, executive director in charge of physician services at Saddleback Memorial Medical Center in Laguna Hills, Calif. “There was an energy, a camaraderie. We hope all of our classmates will get together to create this fund as a testimony to our class and as a way to help current and future students.”

For more information on the Class of ’72 Gift Fund, contact the school’s Office of Development and Alumni Relations at (310) 825-6464.