



## SLOCA RECEIVES \$800 AWARD FROM THE MISSOURI PAGEANT ALUMNAE CLUB!

On November 29, 2017, the Missouri Pageant Alumnae Club presented SLOCA with an \$800 donation! The Missouri Pageant Alumnae Club is a non-profit organization that sponsors an annual pageant for senior women which fosters their talent, charitable giving, community service and personal growth.



Their main purpose is to sponsor the senior women pageant (women over the age of 60) each July. Throughout the year, members of the club perform for seniors at senior residences, nursing homes, social organizations and other groups throughout the St. Louis area. These hour-long performances include singing and dancing. The money raised from these events supports the annual pageant and allows the club to make donations to local charities.

*Pictured above are Vicki Fenster, Susan Robben and Sharon Houston.*

## \$65,000 GRANT HELPS FUND OVARIAN CANCER RESEARCH!

A **\$65,000** grant funded by SLOCA has been awarded by the Foundation for Women's Cancer (FWC) to Anindya Dey, PhD, Research Assistant Professor at the University of Oklahoma Health Science Center, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

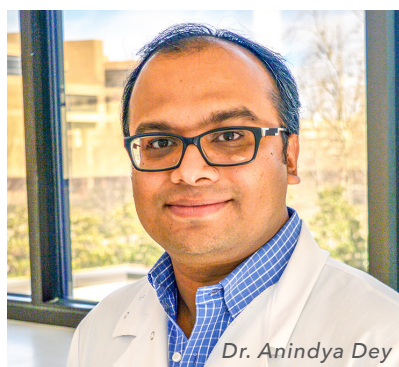
SLOCA has proudly funded FWC research grants since 2005, awarding over **\$364,000** to ten researchers with the goal of mentoring and accelerating the success of young investigative scientists.

The overall goal of Dr. Dey and his colleagues is to develop new therapeutic strategies to effectively treat advanced chemotherapy-resistant cancers, thereby making a difference in the lives of patients affected by

these incurable diseases. Dr. Dey's paper on this research was recently accepted in *Molecular Cancer Therapeutics*, a journal from the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR).

Dr. Dey had this to say, "I am extremely grateful to SLOCA

because they gave me the opportunity to continue to do hopefully life-saving research to fight many cancers, including ovarian and endometrial cancer."



*Dr. Anindya Dey*

Dr. Dey obtained his PhD in Biotechnology from the University of Calcutta, Calcutta, India and did a Postdoctoral Fellowship at the University of Florida, Gainesville, FL, and the University of Oklahoma Health Science Center, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.



# 11<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL FAMILIES RUN FOR OVARIAN CANCER HITS ALL TIME HIGH!

SLOCA proudly partnered with the Jorgensen family for this year's Annual Families Run for Ovarian Cancer race on October 8th in downtown St. Louis. This was the first year SLOCA managed the race, resulting in one of the largest crowds yet and over 1,500 participants. The 11th Annual Families Run for Ovarian Cancer ROC Star 5k and 1 mile walk/run **raised over \$100,000** - the largest amount ever! It was a day of celebrating life, love and the human spirit.

The Jorgensen family started the race in 2007 in honor of their wife and mother, Brenda, as she waged her personal fight against ovarian cancer. Brenda lost her fight with the disease in 2011; however, the race has continued each year in her memory, bringing family and friends together to rally around the women battling ovarian cancer and raising awareness of the early warning signs. All proceeds donated fund ovarian cancer research and support SLOCA's ongoing awareness programs.

Brenda's son, Eric, and daughter, Kristen had this to say about this year's race, "We were able to enjoy the race more than ever. SLOCA 'turned it teal' - it was extremely organized and well-coordinated yet kept the overall feel of honoring and remembering those who have passed from ovarian cancer and celebrating the survivors, their families and friends. Our family has never actually been able to run the race because we have always been coordinating it. But now with SLOCA managing the race, we hope to run next year. Most of all we want to give a huge thank you to SLOCA, the race committee, all the volunteers, the sponsors and all the teams, big and small, that make it such a great day!"



Some highlights of this year's event included the Survivor Ceremony where 70 survivors' names were announced and each received a long stem rose. Julie Tristan, host of Bill & Julie in the Morning on KLOU 103.3, was the Master of Ceremonies, School of Rock provided classic rock music from the main stage, Delta Phi Epsilon from Webster University provided over 25 volunteers and Donna Eversmann, Amy Cambron along with many others donated over 35 gift baskets for the raffle.



There are many teams that come together to run the race. One such team is "Team Jane" honoring Jane Lottes, who lost her battle with ovarian cancer on April 13, 2009. The team consists of Jane's family including husband, Lee Lottes, and her three children, Kristy Hettenhausen, Greg Lottes and Matt Lottes, as well as many more family members, classmates and amazing friends. "We give voice to Mom's story by going all out and making it a celebration of life, honoring all the women we know who have been touched by ovarian cancer," said Jane's daughter Kristy.

"Our team is approximately 100 members strong each year. We have Team Jane t-shirts, a tent, coffee, doughnuts, a catered lunch from Orlando's Catering, games and chalk drawings on the sidewalk for the kids. By participating in the race every year, and honoring our Mom, we are able to support increased awareness of the signs of ovarian cancer leading to earlier detection, increased funding for research and supporting survivors. We have taken an experience of great sadness and tried to turn it into something positive for others."

Thank you to all our sponsors: UMB, ROC for Aunt Debbie, Tesaro, Team Jane, Myriad, American Family Insurance, Lopata, Flegel & Company, Express Scripts, Clovis Oncology, St. Anthony's Mercy, LHM, Edward Jones and St. Luke's Hospital. In-kind sponsors included: Krispy Crème (donuts), KLOU 103.3, Butler's Pantry (tables-tents), Walgreens (water), Urban Chestnut Brewing Co (beer), Sam's (gift cards) and Ken & Jill Hastey (Dad's Cookies-popcorn).

Save the date for this year's race on October 14, 2018 at Soldier's Memorial. It's an event you don't want to miss!



# MARK YOUR CALENDAR! LIVING OUT LOUD GALA & AUCTION APRIL 21ST

**SLOCA's annual Living Out Loud Gala & Auction** will take place on Saturday, April 21<sup>st</sup> in the Grand Lobby of the William D. Purser Center on the campus of Logan University at 1815 Schoettler Road in Chesterfield.

The merrymaking begins at 5:30 p.m. with cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and a silent auction. The dinner chime sounds at 7:00 p.m. followed by the live auction. Live auction items include a "Cavapoo" puppy, throw out the first pitch at a Cardinal game and tickets for "Watch What Happens Live with Andy Cohen" just to name a few! Again this year we will have the Kendra Scott jewelry pulls. This year's Master of Ceremonies and auctioneer for the evening will be Rene Knott, morning anchor at KSDK TV. The entertainment for the evening is a very special surprise - you won't want to miss it!



Cindy Becker and Lisa Cannon Bearden

A big thank you to this year's planning committee and co-chairs, Cindy Becker and Lisa Cannon Bearden. Both Cindy and Lisa lost their mothers to ovarian cancer.

You can help make it possible for us to positively impact ovarian cancer survivorship in St. Louis!

Tickets are \$150 each or \$1,500 for a table of ten. You can reserve your tickets online at [www.sloca.org/gala](http://www.sloca.org/gala) or call the SLOCA office at 314-966-7562.

We are still accepting items and services for both the silent and live auctions such as: electronics, event tickets, jewelry, sports memorabilia, restaurant or spa gift certificates, etc. All items are tax deductible and greatly appreciated. For details visit [www.sloca.org/auction](http://www.sloca.org/auction).

Sponsorships are available: Teal Sponsor \$10,000, Gold Sponsor \$5,000, Silver Sponsor \$3,000, Bronze Sponsor \$1,500. Please contact Susan Robben, Executive Director at **314-966-7562 for sponsorship benefits and details or visit [www.sloca.org/gala](http://www.sloca.org/gala)**.

Last year's event raised more than \$185,000. With your help we hope to be even more successful this year so we can spread our message and save more lives!



## ERIN SULLIVAN

**Erin Sullivan** is this year's Teal Spirit award recipient for her work organizing "Teal Toes" for the past five years. A "Teal Toe" day begins with a pedicure and also includes delicious food and beverages, silent auction and raffle. Proceeds benefit SLOCA and ovarian cancer research.



## JOANNE HENDERSON

**Joanne Henderson**, an 11 year ovarian cancer survivor, will receive the Volunteer Impact award for her leadership as a past SLOCA board member, countless hours of volunteer work for SLOCA and her volunteer work as a SLOCA Ambassador for Dr. Kevin Easley and Dr. Karuna Murray.



## RANDALYNN VASEL

**Randalynn Vasel** is this year's survivor speaker. She will tell her compelling story of survival; diagnosed at age 36, this single mother of two has a passion for creating awareness about this silent killer by selling "Teal Ribbon Hats" - which can be purchased at [www.kickovariancancer.com](http://www.kickovariancancer.com). Funds raised from hat sales benefit ovarian cancer research, education and care packages for survivors like her.





# A LIFELONG DREAM COME TRUE

Throwing out the first pitch at a St. Louis Cardinals baseball game was a lifelong dream for Roger Bearden. During the Live Auction at last year's Living Out Loud Gala & Auction, Roger's wife, Lisa Cannon Bearden, surprised him when she made the winning bid to throw out the first pitch at the September 8th Cardinals vs Pirates game.

With sixty of their friends and family members in the stands, Roger walked onto the field alongside his wife, Lisa, and delivered the first pitch! Pictured on Lisa's Cardinals T-shirt was her mother, Claudette Petrofsky, who had bravely battled ovarian cancer and passed away October of 2016.

To be able to honor Claudette in this special way meant a lot to the Bearden family. Lisa said, "This was a win-win situation for all - by taking part in the live auction we were able to support SLOCA's mission, honor my Mom and make one of my husband's dreams come true!"



Susan Robben, Lisa Cannon Bearden, Roger Bearden, Harper Brandt & Chelsea Allen

This year's gala on April 21 in the Grand Lobby of the William D. Purser Center at Logan University will again offer "throwing out the first pitch" as one of the live auction items. Don't miss your chance at throwing out the first pitch September 14 when SLOCA turns the ballpark teal for the Cards against the Dodgers!



Roger Bearden  
Busch Stadium First Pitch



## SLOCA WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBER **DIANA BRADY SPELLMAN**

Diana Brady Spellman has joined the SLOCA board. She is President and Co-founder of Spellman Brady & Company and a 33-year veteran of the Interior Planning Industry. Diana has authored professional articles and been featured in numerous industry publications. In addition, she has served on boards and volunteered with many organizations.

Diana is both an ovarian cancer and breast cancer survivor. She is optimistic and has a never-give-up attitude. She is a strong believer that "it is not just the cancer patient that suffers - it's the entire family." One of her goals as a board member is to spread the news about the early signs and symptoms of ovarian cancer to women and the medical community.



“It is not just the cancer patient that suffers - it's the entire family.”

- Diana Brady Spellman



# A SALUTE TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

SLOCA volunteers, board members and staff gathered at Meadowbrook Country Club on October 26th for a volunteer recognition party! The evening included delicious appetizers, spirits and a surprise teal piece of Kendra Scott jewelry gift for each volunteer.

SLOCA President, Nancy Larson Vomund, announced, "Volunteers have contributed more than 800 hours of their time to supporting our mission so far in 2017. We've had more than 21 volunteer events - from Teal Toes and FamiliesROC, to health fairs and the Working Women's Survival Show. Through



Beth Hudson, Susan Robben and Erika McDaniel

these events we have touched nearly 39,500 people by informing them of the signs and symptoms of ovarian cancer, the importance of early detection and ongoing research needed to find a cure. We have also had ten Survivors Teaching Students presentations where 132 medical students receive first-hand accounts from

our survivor presenters on their experience. It takes an army to do what we do - every contribution of time and talent is greatly appreciated!"

Please mark your calendars for this year's **Working Women's Survival Show, February 23-25**. It's all hands on deck!

## FIGHT LIKE A GIRL SUPPORTING SURVIVORS

"You are not alone in your cancer journey," is the personal message SLOCA tries to convey through its Sister Box gift to women newly diagnosed with ovarian cancer.

SLOCA distributes about 200 chemotherapy care packages each year to patients across the St. Louis area. Nurses present the Sister Box to their patients at the offices of gynecologic oncologists and at chemotherapy infusion centers, usually at the beginning of treatment.

The boxes are assembled by SLOCA volunteers. Some of the contents are inspirational, some provide comfort and some are just plain fun.

Here's what a few recipients had to say:

"Opening the box brought tears to

my eyes. I know I'm not alone in this journey, but your box lifted my spirits beyond the support from family, friends and community," wrote one survivor.



Opening the box brought tears to my eyes.

Another wrote, "I just started chemo today and the sister box was really a boost to my day." Another said, "This box was wonderful to receive. I was feeling really sick when I arrived home from my treatment. Opening the sister box was so much fun!"

**You can help support our Sister Box program by donating today at [www.sloca.org/donate](http://www.sloca.org/donate).**



Box assembly by a SLOCA Volunteer



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## SEND DONATIONS

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We publish Teal Talk twice a year and send e-mail blasts intermittently. We hope you'll share your e-mail address so that we can stay in touch; go to [www.sloca.org/newsletters](http://www.sloca.org/newsletters).

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