

## Supporting the Bengal Bouts

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*Sean O'Brien '84Arch.*, director of Alumni Community Service, accepts a check on behalf of the Bengal Bouts from *Jeffrey DeMartino, DDS, '84*, who created the "Bengal Bite."

In 1984, during his senior year, *Jeffrey DeMartino, DDS, '84* suffered a broken jaw during his training for the annual Bengal Bouts, which benefits the Holy Cross missions. Eighteen years later, Jeffrey—

now a practicing dental surgeon—has developed a patented mouthguard device, which he has dubbed the Bengal Bite. The mouth guard is being utilized in the professional boxing world by such notable boxers as heavyweight champion Lennox Lewis. Jeffrey's Bengal Bite is engineered to distribute concussion forces evenly throughout the jaw areas, thus minimizing potential facial or brain injury. It offers the athlete the opportunity to breath through the device without opening the jaw area, thus preventing susceptibility to a damaging blow.

In March, Jeffrey presented \$1,100 to the Bengal Bouts—his first annual donation of a portion of the proceeds from the sale of Bengal Bites. "This way, I can continue to support this great athletic event, which is dear to my heart, while affording athletes greater protection from serious facial injury," Jeffrey says.