



1969 Class Letter

Hello '69ers!

It's a beautiful fall weekend in Grinnell and I am here with class members from '70 and '71, as well as **Barb Weitz, Jim Sebern, Sue Krause Lueck** and **Tom Triplett**, doing planning for Reunion, 2015, May 29-31; being immediately preceded by Alumni College, May 27-29. It has been a very busy time, but it's been great to see the campus, hear a nice speech from President Kington, and attend a few classes. I enjoyed Sarah Purcell's, '92, "Civil War and Reconstruction" History 214 class greatly and was joined by Chris Meyer '70 and Ann Taylor Schwaller '71. After the Friday dinner, Barb Weitz, Jim Sebern, Fritz Schwaller, Ann Taylor Schwaller, Sue Krause Lueck and her husband, Cal, and Roger Roe '70 went downtown and had some drinks and talked at a popular bar/restaurant called Lonnski's. It is right across from the Strand Theatre, which has been renovated into a three-screen movie house. Roger noted that a number of storefront facades have been really upgraded and the downtown looks a bit more upscale. The losses were noted as well -no Longhorn, no JD's, no Rex, but the new Prairie Canary seems to be doing well with good food and drink.

Since I last wrote in May, the flow of mail and email to me has been sparser than usual, so I hope that there will be more updates soon, as well as promises of attending the Reunion. We'll be calling soon to get '69ers excited about being here in May. Our meetings here have included folks from '70: Jon Andelson, an anthropology professor here at the college, Kathy Schaff Broadwell, Linda Hayes Gallegos, Nora Sansone Hoover, Bruce Nissen and Tom Thomas in addition to Roger and Chris. The '71ers are David Braodwell, Ken and Nancy Ackerman Schofield, Mary Brooner, Mark Hamilton, JC Labowitz, John Otto, Henry Scheff, Frank Thomas and Sheena Brown Thomas. It's been great to talk to all of them and our meetings--although long--have been rewarding. We hope it all leads to a great Reunion with lots of attendees. You will be receiving some other notes from committee members between now and then, so be ready for more urges to attend.

Glen Gleysteen, my mentor as Class Agent wrote in May, just after the last newsletter was at Grinnell being printed. Here is Glen's sobering note from then:

Hi, Murry. I am finally coming out of what I see now is a many years' long depression. It's been hard watching John dealing with dementia — he's no longer the brilliant, witty man I married. He is still, luckily, the good-natured, easy-to-laugh man I married, which is a huge gift.

I realize now that I should have turned the Class Letter over to you years ago. To my classmates, I'd like to say, if I lost any notes from you or behaved oddly at Reunions, please forgive me. I feel as if I've been in a tunnel of grief, unable to see anything except what's right in front of me.

John has had to give up driving, which is harder on him than on me. What's hard for both of us is that he can no longer read books — apparently he can't remember what's gone before. He still reads the *Trib* every morning, and I do wonder what we'll do when that is

gone, as well. We've always spent lots of time with books, so now he is bored quite a bit of the time, and I'm not sure how to keep him occupied. Luckily, we have friends from church who take him out every week, for coffee when it's cold, or for walks in the park when it's nice.

My cousin Mary Gleysteen was here for John's 90th birthday in April. My old roommate, **Marcia Mahley Bower**, arrives on Saturday, and she makes me laugh more than anyone I know. Laughter seems like a really good idea these days.

Happy spring to everyone. I still love hearing from people, so feel free to email, even though I'm not the letter-writer any more glenore@att.net

--Glen

George Oleson sent a nice note of sympathy for my latest knee surgery in June, noting, "The woes of an aging bb player are probably no worse than those of a golfer. 57 years of hitting too many shots on the practice range have resulted in an arthritic spine and bulging lumbar disc. Thank God for acupuncture. After a miserable season last year (my hc went from 6 to 12), I am now walking the golf course again relatively pain free, and my hc is dropping like a rock". I am hoping that George attends Reunion; it's been too long. The Grinnell golf course is waiting!

Ralph Clayman, Dean Emeritus at U.Cal-Irvine School of Medicine, dropped a short note and it's encouraging for May's festivities. "I have penciled in the reunion on my calendar and if all goes well I hope to be there. Visited Grinnell last June - indeed was fortunate to spend time with Coach Pfitsch. For me it was a very renewing couple of days - thoroughly enjoyed the time." Thanks, Ralph, we look forward to seeing you in Grinnell.

You may notice that this newsletter is shorter than usual. I wanted to get this out immediately after our time at Grinnell to try to convey the fun and excitement that we experienced there this past weekend, so I had to go with the news that you've shared with me since April. Clearly, you've been holding out on me (and the rest of us). Please drop me a note of any length to update all of us on your activities.

Have a scary Halloween and a robust Thanksgiving!

--Murry

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