50th Reunion Memory Book
Class of 1964

Washington University in St. Louis
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Hello to all my fellow classmates from Washington University!

Fifty years seems like a long time ago and yet when I look at the changes both on campus and in the St. Louis area, and observe our children and grandchildren I realize that yes, indeed, the time has surely passed, and in our family, we are now the “elders”.

After graduation, I taught 4th grade at Daniel Boone School in University City. I married Bob the following June after he graduated from W.U. and continued teaching until our children were born. When our youngest entered kindergarten, I began a career in Early Education which continued for 27 years. In 1992 I established the Brentwood Pre-School, which is now a very successful early education program operated by the Brentwood School District.

After retiring in 2005 I went to “school” at the Zoo for a semester, and now I am a Docent there, teaching a lot of the classes for young children and leading tours. I also tutor first graders at Northside Community School, a charter school in the St. Louis area. I am active at our church, singing in the choir and working at our Food Pantry. For the last 8 years Bob and I have gone on a 10 day Mission Work trip to Antigua, Guatemala to work with the God’s Child Project, building homes for impoverished families. To qualify for a house the family has to own the land and promise to send their children to school. It is very humbling and deeply fulfilling work, and we have made wonderful relations with the families for whom we build. I now know how to dig foundations, mix concrete, mortar cement blocks together for the foundation, frame the house and attach walls, and put a roof and guttering on the house. While a fairly simple house, it replaces a structure made out of cornstalks lashed together. Each year this is a life-changing experience and we come home exhausted and fulfilled.

Bob and I have 3 children, Christopher, Holly and Sarah, 3 in-laws and 5 grandchildren... Matt, Ryan, Jack, Beckett and Rosalie. They are our legacy!

My favorite memories at W.U. involve all the activities with Gamma Phi Beta, including Bearskin Follies and Thirteen, and the University Choir, our choir trips and singing with the St. Louis Symphony. My favorite class was “Greek and Roman Art and Archeology” with Dr. Mylonas. Bob and I took a side trip from Greece and went to Mycenae to see firsthand his excavations. We have also traveled to Europe, Australia and New Zealand.

We have enjoyed our continued association with Washington U. in the Eliot Society and in the various activities it provides. The campus is still beautiful and the students are outstanding, just like we were in the early 60’s!
The most prominent WU memories are of my friends and extracurricular activities. My first paid job at school was being a soda jerk at the Wohl Center cafeteria. My friends shortened my title to “jerk” and of course I rewarded all with an extra scoop of ice cream.

In my last two years I became a chauffeur, driving Mrs. Orr on her errands. She owned a Bentley and after picking up the car, I always had some extra time. I immediately drove to the campus and gave my friends a whirlwind tour of the neighborhood before returning to pick her up at home.

Those of us in the dorms who weren’t part of the greek system came up with our own social activities. Running outdoor movies, “room stuffings”, in which we piled up as many people as possible into rooms on campus, and even a food fight when we got bored. Although we couldn’t change the routing of the streetcars, we changed the nature of the streetcar ride. We rented streetcars, added music and a keg of beer and presto: a party!

Panty raids, demonstrations, improv shows and of course the annual KEI day on May 19th, a day for fun and frolicking, remain fond memories.

And oh yes, I also went to class. The intimate access to the faculty was a unique experience for me. Watching Herb W., the WU staff photographer, almost invisibly engage people as he photographed them, inspired my creative side. Richard H. was a film/video teacher who didn’t laugh out loud when my paper suggested that we shoot live television from music venues and clubs. In fact, 5 years later he offered me my first full-time position, producing media materials at the State University of New York at Stony Brook.

The social bonds I formed at WU also grew into long-lasting professional relationships. Twelve hours after the graduation ceremony I was on a boat to Europe and didn’t return for five years. Having shed my bermuda shorts and crew cut, I returned to my new university job with a wife (only 1), I eventually settled in the new center of the earth, Brooklyn, New York, where currently I live with my life partner, Sherry W., and within an arm’s reach from my son, Kenji, and my beloved grandchildren, Akira and Enzo.

All in all, I think this journey prepared me for my contribution to the WU 50th reunion video: A Time of Change. And that was truly what it was.
Class of ‘64
Photo Album