



## We Stalwart Survivors

More than a half century later—if you are reading this—count yourself as one of our “stalwart survivors.”

And, believe it or not, once again we’re telling you that **our next Reunion—our 55th—is just about a year away.** Clichés notwithstanding, time has certainly flown by since our terrific 50th. And so it’s not too early to remind you to:

**SAVE THE DATES: Thursday-Sunday, June 8-11, 2017!!**

Your Class Council began planning the 55th shortly after we said good-bye in 2012.

Within a few months the Reunion Committee, ably headed by Neil Schilke, was working on an outline for our get-together in 2017. Four years later Neil and his great crew have another big time planned for your weekend. Our 50th Reunion brought out a record number of class members, families and friends. Those of you who were there know what a fabulous time we had. And there’s every reason to believe that our 55th will be no less fun. Those years on The Hill have left an indelible imprint on our lives---and we should be grateful to be able to relive them at Reunion. **That’s why we really want you to be with us.**

With one year to go here’s the **tentative game plan:** we don’t know for sure, but we expect our **Class Headquarters** will be located at the

**Alice Cook and Carl Becker houses**, on West Campus, where the U-halls used to be. That hoped-for location is important because the West Campus is very close to transportation stops—and that will help us with getting around. Most of us are well aware of the difficulty of parking on campus.

We’ll be going pretty much nonstop starting with check-in time on Thursday afternoon. **Thursday evening** we’ll have a **class welcome reception** and buffet dinner at Alice Cook House, which has excellent facilities. A good time to start those reconnections.

Our **Class Symposium on Friday** will rival our 50th and be another special event. We’re zeroing in on a couple of exciting ideas, and Evelyn Eskin, our Symposium chairperson, would love to hear your ideas. Reach her at [evelyneskin@mac.com](mailto:evelyneskin@mac.com).

There will be time on Friday for University-wide activities including an alumni lunch at the Statler Terrace, a remembrance service at Anabel Taylor Hall, and the always popular Olin Lecture at Bailey Hall. You just might want to bed down at Bailey because you’ll have great seats on **Saturday** for the **State of the University address** by our President. There will also be time on both days for visiting your old fraternity or sorority or just wandering around a campus that has changed immensely since we were on The Hill.

If our Friday night at the 50th was

any indication then we’re going to be rockin’ and rollin’ again to the music of the **fabulous Backtalk Band**. One look at the pics on our web site and you’ll remember the terrific dinner and dancing that went on past the midnight witching hour. We’ll follow that with a concert by the **Cornell Chorus and Glee Club**.

**Saturday night** we’ll switch venues—because our **Class Meeting and Dinner** will be held for the first time at the **Country Club of Ithaca**. But you’ll want to get back to campus for **Cornelliana Night** at Bailey Hall. And did we mention the beer tents?

If you have an artistic bent here’s your chance to get noticed by some very discerning people—your classmates. We’re planning **an exhibit of artwork** by our members. If you are interested in exhibiting your art you can contact Nancy Clark at [nwc8@cornell.edu](mailto:nwc8@cornell.edu).

**Speaking of great pics** here’s another heads up: we’re returning to our traditional **class photo session**. So make sure you’ve done your hair and makeup to look fabulous for 55!

**One last note:** we really want you to be involved, so if you have any ideas on how to make the 55th even better **Reunion Chairman Neil Schilke** wants to hear from you. E-mail him at [neroschilke@aol.com](mailto:neroschilke@aol.com).

**Our 55th should be another terrific weekend for the Class of ‘62, and we want you to be there!**



# Our Legacy Of Giving To Cornell

We have many fond memories of our time at Cornell. But what memories does Cornell have of us? Well the generosity of the Class of 1962 will long be remembered for the gifts we've given to our school. **Since graduation**, as of March 2016, collectively classmates have given **\$159,447,378** in gifts to the University, including Reunion campaigns and Major Gifts.

Cornell's books on the fiscal year don't close until June 30, 2016, so our total giving is very likely to be even higher!

Our class name has been burnished still further by extraordinary Major Gifts from classmates, and by **grants from our Class Gift Fund** for special class projects at Cornell. CGF projects are funded by your contributions directly to our class treasury.

We've given generously to the University, but individual classmates also have made a number of very important major gifts—funding buildings, classrooms, auditoriums and learning centers. They've endowed professorships, scholarships, collections at Cornell Libraries, and have donated works of art to the Johnson Museum. They've shown their generosity in other ways—too many to mention here.

Need another reason why we are special? **Since 1967 our class has given \$120,000** for a number of special projects at Cornell. Over time these grants from the Class Gift Fund have underwritten an electronic baseball scoreboard at Hoy Field, a lecture series at the College of Arts and Sciences, participation in the Honor with Books program, planting trees on campus, grants to the Lab of Ornithology, and funding of the Frank and Rosa Rhodes Class of 1962 Tradition Fellowships, with additional gifts from individual classmates.

**Gifts with a history—a legacy of which we can indeed be proud.**



**Allie, Annie, Hannah, and Berit, all 13, before the first big party of the seventh grade, Edina, Minnesota, 1998.**

*Lauren Greenfield (American, born 1966), dye destruction print, 20x30 inches, Collection of the Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art at Cornell University. Acquired through the Class of 1962 Fund for Photography, 2007.038.001 © Lauren Greenfield/INSTITUTE*

Of the many gifts our class has given, we're especially proud of The Class of 1962 Fund for Photography at the Johnson Museum of Art. Since 1977 our class has given nearly \$35,000 toward the purchase of historic and contemporary photographs. The photo above is a case in point.

## Then & Now: Our Class & 55 Years Later

This won't take long. **In 1958 there were 2,150 Freshmen** heading toward life at Cornell. 54 years later we have mailing addresses for 1,207 classmates—and only 383 of us are paying our class dues. This may be hard to believe (maybe not) but tuition for Arts and Sciences in 1958 was **\$1,250/year**. Tuition for Arts and Sciences for 2016-2017: **\$50,712/year**.

At our **10th Reunion in 1972** the cost for a class member and spouse—including all meals, liquor (for two cocktail parties) and the class photo: \$66.00. Rooms in the dorms (Balch North that year) were extra—\$5 per person per night, or \$40 per couple. Total cost for Reunion weekend: \$106.00. We hope you understand

that it will be a bit more next year—but well worth it.

Enough history. Here's a profile of the **Class of 2017: 3,282 freshmen** enrolled in Fall 2013, with 37% of them having been admitted via the early decision path and 5% from the waitlist. Their average age was 18, with **51% women and 49% men**. 66% attended public high schools. 16% were children of Cornell alumni. 7% were recruited athletes.

Arts and Sciences received the most freshmen: nearly 1,100. Nearly 1,800 applicants, or 54% applied for financial aid. 87% of the class graduated in the top 10th of their class. 98% graduated in the top quarter—and 99% in the top half. **Talk about a tough selection process!**

## Class Profile: Mike Duesing

Perhaps the first thing you'll notice about Mike Duesing—besides his impressive crown of white hair framing amazingly youthful good looks (he has not paid for this description) is his voice. It is soft, and calm—and filled with quiet reasoning.

Now that's important because, over these many years as a valued member of your Class Council, our Membership Officer has kept a close eye on our ranks—on the total number of “mailable” classmates—on the total number of dues payers (and boy is that important!) and the total number of subscribers to the Cornell Alumni News. Mike, and his lovely wife Joan (Lesley College 1965), live in Ithaca—something which, over the years, has enabled him to keep in close touch with the University.

Mike spent 5-years earning a Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering, which enabled him to spend 8-years at IBM and 22 more at General Electric. But he left the corporate life to start his own consulting company, handling assignments for the College of Engineering and then becoming a

director in Cornell Alumni Affairs and Development.

But in 1998 his life changed once again. He bought a 68-year old Ithaca firm called **Stewart Howe Alumni Service**. For 17 years, until he sold the company in 2015, Mike supervised a staff that provided alumni affairs and development services for about 200 nonprofit clients—including fraternity and sorority house corporations at Cornell, MIT and 25 other colleges in the Northeast. Stewart Howe editors and graphic artists, for many past years, produced our class newsletter in fine style.

Over the years Mike has been quite involved with his Cornell fraternity chapter, Phi Gamma Delta, as a board member and senior advisor. Besides work on the Cornell Alumni Inter-Fraternity Council, he's served as a youth leader for multiple fraternity, sorority and honorary groups. His youth work also involved coaching women's soccer for more than 15 years.

Nowadays, though, Mike is taking things a little easier, and finding more time to pursue his longstanding pas-



sion for golf—Joan is now the better golfer. They've also spent many summers on Cape Cod at a small cottage in Pocasset, on Buzzards Bay. And of course, with two daughters and five grandchildren, they have plenty to keep them busy.

As have been his efforts for our class. His Council colleagues will tell you that this white-haired, soft-spoken, calm individual—**Mike Duesing—has been an indispensable asset to the Cornell Class of 1962.**

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## Our Tradition Fellow: Joseph Zolik '19

**For a young man of only 18 years, Joseph Zolik '19 has been around.**

He was born in Germany, lived in Ireland and South Korea, and then wound up in Cape Coral, Florida.

Perhaps not so surprising since both of his parents were in the Army for almost 30 years. All of which, he says, has enabled him to appreciate Cornell's global reach even more.

Freshman Joe Zolik is the latest recipient of the **Frank and Rosa Rhodes Class of 1962 Tradition Fellowship**. The fellowships provide up to \$4,000 a year to first-year students who fulfill work and volunteer requirements, as well as maintain a specific grade point average. The goal here is to help reduce a student's loans.

Joe is one of four siblings—three brothers and a sister. He's proud of them all, but is especially proud of his mother, who migrated to the U.S. from Ireland alone at a very young age and has inspired him to do his best. Also forming his view: his dad's work ethic

and dedication to raising his family.

Joe plans on majoring in Economics, with minors in French and Information Science. He's a budding banker, looking to learn about global finance and investment for his career after graduation. To help pay the bills he works on campus and volunteers with a group called College Mentors. That effort matches college students with kids from underprivileged backgrounds to show them that college can be a reality for them too.

Says a very appreciative Joe Zolik: *"I never thought I would be attending an Ivy League school in my life and your generous donation helps make my dream an exciting reality."* **Our very best wishes to you, Joe, from the Class of 1962.**

The Cornell Tradition Fellowship is a contemporary expression of Ezra Cornell's founding vision of students helping to build the university. The program awards 500 fellowships each year to Cornell students who demonstrate significant work experience,



a commitment to campus and/or community service, and academic achievement. Tradition Fellows contributed in 2014-15 over 54,000 hours of work and 38,000 hours of community service.



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***See us on the web: [www.cornellclassof62.org](http://www.cornellclassof62.org)***

We're one year closer to Reunion—and even more hi-tech. That means we want you to visit our new and improved website: **[www.cornellclassof62.org](http://www.cornellclassof62.org)**. As we count down the months to our next big get-together we want you to be up-to-date on all the plans and excitement.

**- '62 -**

Reunions and other class operations have one thing in common: they cost money. As you read in our "Then and Now" story we know of more than 1,200 classmate mailing addresses—But only one quarter of those folks have paid dues. For those classmates—thank you. For the rest of you: we really need you to send in the dues card with a check—or go the class website—it may be less painful that way.

**- '62 -**

Katie Kaufman is looking for you! Council member Katie is in charge of seeking classmates who did not attend our 50th Reunion—because we definitely want them to be with us for our 55th. If you know of someone please e-mail Katie with their names and any info you may have. Katie can be reached at **[sk4212@aol.com](mailto:sk4212@aol.com)**. It will be well worth the effort.

