



## 55<sup>th</sup> in View

### Still Alive at 55!

That headline: "Still Alive at 55!" – could be misconstrued. So let's clear up any misunderstandings. It's not that we still exist---obviously you do if you are reading this. More importantly it's that, some 55 years after we left The Hill, **we still find life interesting and exciting**---we continue to look to the future.

And part of that future is right in front of us because, just a couple of months from now, **we want you to be with us as we return to Cornell June 8th through the 11th for our 55th Reunion!**

If you haven't done so already, make sure you open that packet of registration materials, fill out those forms, then drop them (with a check!) in the mail so that you join your classmates for what's going to be another smash weekend of comradery, education and fun.

Your Class Council met at the alumni leadership conference in Baltimore in February to finalize plans. Reunion Chairman Neil Schilke and his great committee have planned quite a blowout for the 55th. Here's what's in store:

We are very fortunate to have secured the beautiful **Alice Cook House** on the West Campus for our **class headquarters**. Nostalgia right there for us guys---that's where the old University Halls used to be!

But we won't have to climb Libe Slope because several of our events

will be right at headquarters, and there are transportation stops nearby which will help us in getting around. And no, parking on campus really hasn't improved.

But you'll have a chance to see what's new on campus because on Thursday and Friday afternoons you can board a bus for a tour.

Alice Cook will be the location for **Thursday evening's welcome reception and informal dinner**---a chance to check in and reconnect with folks you haven't seen in at least 5 years---if not more. And forget your diet---there will be a big pizza and salad buffet. As Chairman Schilke says: "Meeting, greeting, eating and learning will be an active part of our Reunion."

You won't have to go far for some of that good food in the morning. Breakfast will be served each day at the Alice Cook House. Judging from our 50th we're going to be tempted by a scrumptious spread.

Friday morning, after breakfast, we have quite a treat right at headquarters. **Our 2017 Reunion Symposium Speaker will be Dr. Stephanie Wiles, the Director of Cornell's Johnson Museum of Art.** And, if you want to be intrigued, here's the title of her talk: "Engineering, Chemistry, Soil Science and More---Unexpected links to the Johnson Museum". Talk about piquing your interest!

We have a unique connection to the Johnson Museum: the **Class of 1962**

**Photography Collection.** Over the years our class has provided funds for the purchase of 24 historic and contemporary photographs. The collection will be on view at the Johnson all weekend.

And, speaking of art, we want to call your attention to another weekend-long treat. Here's where 15 of our **artistic classmates** will shine because they **will be exhibiting their works** in the Bibliowicz Gallery in beautiful Milstein hall, the home of Architecture, Art and Planning.

The exhibit will include paintings in many different media, a sculpture, a beautiful quilt, and several other items. It will be open Thursday afternoon, all day Friday and during a special reception late Saturday.

There will be time both Friday and Saturday for **University-wide activities**---an alumni lunch at the Statler, the remembrance service at Anabel Taylor, and the popular State of the University and Olin lectures at Bailey Hall. And of course those visits to fraternities and sororities for some nostalgia---to say nothing of just wandering around a greatly-changed campus.

Friday night, at Alice Cook, we recreate the tremendous evening from our 50th. Along with a great reception and dinner, we've invited back **the fabulous Backtalk Band**---the group that had the place jumping all evening---

*(Continued on Page 2)*

# A Very Able -- Abel

This is not just a story about our very first alumni president. It's also a love story.

For **John Abel**---more accurately Cornell Professor Emeritus of Civil and Environmental Engineering---would want you to know as much about the love of his life---**Lynne Snyder Abel**, Cornell '62 and a Ph.D in Classics from Stanford 1974---as about his history.

Because in 1974, when John came back to take a position in Civil Engineering at Cornell, Lynne returned as an Adjunct Assistant Professor in Classics in the College of Arts and Sciences. She became Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education and, in the 25-year term that followed, became loved by students and parents for what one writer called "Lynne's kind, insightful yet exigent counsel for them both personally and academically."

Says John: "I believe that one of the greatest contributions that I made to our university was bringing Lynne back to Cornell..."

Their life partnership began back in 1958. John and Lynne met at a freshman orientation dance in Willard Straight Hall. They were both 17. They courted for 6 years and were married in 1964.

Lynne died of cancer in 2006. They had been married for 42 years. In her memory the College of Arts and Sciences created the Lynne S. Abel College Scholar Endowment Fund. Several of our classmates have contributed to the endowment in her name.

John's curriculum vitae is much too

extensive to list here. Suffice to say that, as a professor and researcher in civil engineering, John has worked in the area of those big concrete domes, membrane roofs, and steel-framed structures we see in many areas of our lives. He's written or co-authored more than 200 papers and reports dealing with structural engineering.

And he's made contributions to earthquake engineering---things most of us don't worry about as we go through our daily activities. But topics critically important to our well-being and safety.

As for the Class of '62: John tells the story of being honored and surprised at becoming the first class president. Of course, he says he was an engineering "hangover" for another year on campus, and most everyone else had "scattered" into their new lives.

Matter of fact, John says, "(I) decided to hold a class reception following the homecoming football game, but despite the publicity no one showed up!" John had to move the keg and refreshments to "an accommodating Greek house that shall remain unnamed."

At Stanford University John roomed with Fred Hart, then Class Treasurer and also later one of our Class Presidents. John says he and Fred hatched "the only constructive idea and action to come out of our administration of the class---the Class Gift Fund". Over the past 50 years that unique fund has supported many worthwhile projects at Cornell.

Over the decades John has been both a passive and active member of the Class Council. But for the past 15

**Saturday evening** will bring us to a reception at the Sibley Dome and dinner next door at the spectacular Milstein Hall. But, before that dinner, make sure you look handsome and beautiful because **we'll be taking our class picture.**

If you are still up for it---get over to Bailey Hall for another great Cornelian night. And did we mention the beer tents?

**Sunday morning** we bid each other **another breakfast farewell**---but not with nostalgia. Rather---don't laugh---**we'll look forward to our BIG 6-0!!**



Lynn & John Abel

years he's been a member of the Class Gift Committee and has been an affinity contact for engineering classmates for the 50th and 55th Reunions.

John and son Bill live in their long-time home on Cayuga Lake. They visit John's daughter Britt Abel (CU '91) and her husband (Scott Burglechner CU '91) at their home in Minnesota. And of course he's the proud grandpa of Will (17) and Natasha (13).

In retirement (since 2004) John keeps busy researching the history of Cornell civil engineering---the original engineering department when the school opened in 1868.

Bottom line: this very able Abel has kept his connection to our class over more than a half century, quietly helping where he can. John and Lynne's careers dedicated to Cornell have represented our class with distinction.

And their love story began with that freshman dance at Willard Straight

**Online Reunion registration  
is live at**

<https://cornell.reunioniq.com/index.cfm/event/party/>

**Or respond via mail**

## Joseph Zolik '19

Some Tradition Fellows are with us for only one year. Some earn their \$4000 stipend (to help with tuition) through their four years at Cornell.

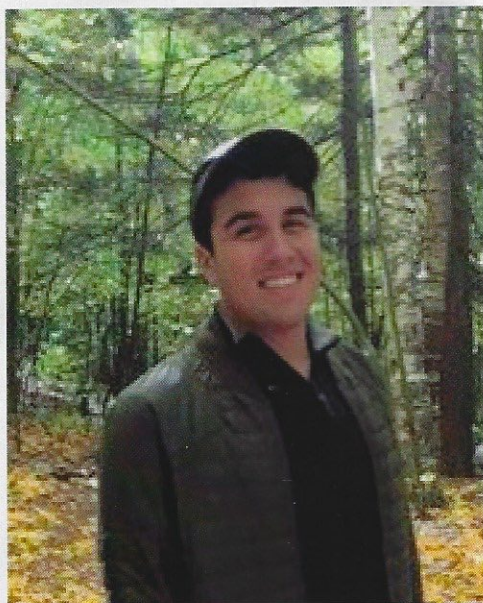
Joe Zolik '19 is on his way to being one of the latter. Through hard work in class, employment on campus and volunteer activities **Joe is in his 2nd year as a Frank and Rosa Rhodes Class of 1962 Tradition Fellow.**

This year Joe has decided to double major in Information Science and Economics. But he's added one more challenge: he's taking up the study of German, and during the summer he hopes to study at the Goethe Institute in Munich so as to improve his fluency in the language. And he still has thoughts of getting into global finance and investment.

This young man, one of four siblings, is very proud of them and his parents. His mom emigrated to the U.S. alone from Ireland and, along with his dad, has encouraged him to do his best.

This year Joe joined the Willard Straight Hall Board of Directors. He's also part of a group called The Big Red Manager Team. These students are working with the university administration and the Womens Resource Center to start up a weekend night bus system which will offer the Cornell community safe rides around campus.

Joe is grateful to the Class of '62 for helping to make his dreams into reality.



Joseph Zolik '19



It's always good to put names with faces---and to give credit to the hard-working group that keeps the Class of '62 together. Pictured above are Class Council members attending the Cornell Adult Leadership Council meeting in Baltimore in February.

*From left to right--front row:* Mike Eisgrau, Katie Kaufman, President Ruth Bleyler, Nancy Clark, Judy Rich. *Back row:* John Neuman, Reunion Chairman Neil Schilke, Frank Quirk, Alex Vollmer and Bob Wood. Reunion accommodations chief Don Juran also attended. Another half dozen Council members attended by phone: Char Collister, Ruth Fortkamp, Marc Gerber, Hal Seiling, Phil Handler and Dick Levine.

### Cornell & Class News: A New President & A '62 Rhodes Award

We came to Cornell as freshmen 59 years ago. Now, as we celebrate our 55th Reunion, we welcome another new face on The Hill.

So congratulations to Martha E. Pollack chosen as the 14th President of our great university. Ms. Pollack has been the Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs at the University of Michigan, having served on the faculty there since 2000. She has an extensive background as a Professor of Information, Computer Science and Engineering at Michigan.

The Class of '62 wishes the best for Cornell's new leader. We look forward to meeting her in person at Reunion.

\* \* \* \* \*

Cornell's 9th President, Frank H. T. Rhodes, is one of the most beloved leaders in the university's history. In 1994 the Cornell Alumni Association established the Frank H. T. Rhodes Exemplary Alumni Service Awards.

This past year one of our own was a recipient. **Stephen B. Ashley, '62, MBA '64**, a successful business leader and a Trustee Emeritus of the University, deserves our congratulations. The award honors alumni who have demonstrated extraordinary service

to Cornell as long-term volunteers.

Steve is not the only Rhodes Award winner from our class. Prior awards have gone to **Nancy Clark, Sam Fleming, Nancy Meinig** and our great (now retiring!) Class President **Ruth Bleyler**. More than a half century later these people are keeping 1962 going as one of the greatest alumni classes in Cornell history.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Class of 1962 has been very generous in contributions to Cornell. Our 55th Reunion Campaign mirrors that generosity. We've had the goal of \$24-million in gifts---and we've reached \$23.5 million---that's 94% of our goal. \$500,000 is a lot of money, but maybe with your help we can reach our goal. Please consider a special Reunion gift.

\* \* \* \* \*

A note of thanks to one of Cornell's biggest donors: Charles F. Feeney '56. His foundation, The Atlantic Philanthropies, has made a grant of \$7-million to establish the Frank H.T. Rhodes Fund for the Cornell Tradition, of which our Fellowships are a part. The gift concludes Feeney's nearly \$1-billion in giving to Cornell over 35 years.



## 55<sup>th</sup> in View

### Still Alive at 55!

That headline: "Still Alive at 55!" – could be misconstrued. So let's clear up any misunderstandings. It's not that we still exist---obviously you do if you are reading this. More importantly it's that, some 55 years after we left The Hill, **we still find life interesting and exciting**---we continue to look to the future.

And part of that future is right in front of us because, just a couple of months from now, **we want you to be with us as we return to Cornell June 8th through the 11th for our 55th Reunion!**

If you haven't done so already, make sure you open that packet of registration materials, fill out those forms, then drop them (with a check!) in the mail so that you join your classmates for what's going to be another smash weekend of comradery, education and fun.

Your Class Council met at the alumni leadership conference in Baltimore in February to finalize plans. Reunion Chairman Neil Schilke and his great committee have planned quite a blowout for the 55th. Here's what's in store:

We are very fortunate to have secured the beautiful **Alice Cook House** on the West Campus for our **class headquarters**. Nostalgia right there for us guys---that's where the old University Halls used to be!

But we won't have to climb Libe Slope because several of our events

will be right at headquarters, and there are transportation stops nearby which will help us in getting around. And no, parking on campus really hasn't improved.

But you'll have a chance to see what's new on campus because on Thursday and Friday afternoons you can board a bus for a tour.

Alice Cook will be the location for **Thursday evening's welcome reception and informal dinner**---a chance to check in and reconnect with folks you haven't seen in at least 5 years---if not more. And forget your diet---there will be a big pizza and salad buffet. As Chairman Schilke says: "Meeting, greeting, eating and learning will be an active part of our Reunion."

You won't have to go far for some of that good food in the morning. Breakfast will be served each day at the Alice Cook House. Judging from our 50th we're going to be tempted by a scrumptious spread.

Friday morning, after breakfast, we have quite a treat right at headquarters. **Our 2017 Reunion Symposium Speaker will be Dr. Stephanie Wiles, the Director of Cornell's Johnson Museum of Art.** And, if you want to be intrigued, here's the title of her talk: "Engineering, Chemistry, Soil Science and More---Unexpected links to the Johnson Museum". Talk about piquing your interest!

We have a unique connection to the Johnson Museum: the **Class of 1962**

**Photography Collection.** Over the years our class has provided funds for the purchase of 24 historic and contemporary photographs. The collection will be on view at the Johnson all weekend.

And, speaking of art, we want to call your attention to another weekend-long treat. Here's where 15 of our **artistic classmates** will shine because they **will be exhibiting their works** in the Bibliowicz Gallery in beautiful Milstein hall, the home of Architecture, Art and Planning.

The exhibit will include paintings in many different media, a sculpture, a beautiful quilt, and several other items. It will be open Thursday afternoon, all day Friday and during a special reception late Saturday.

There will be time both Friday and Saturday for **University-wide activities**---an alumni lunch at the Statler, the remembrance service at Anabel Taylor, and the popular State of the University and Olin lectures at Bailey Hall. And of course those visits to fraternities and sororities for some nostalgia---to say nothing of just wandering around a greatly-changed campus.

Friday night, at Alice Cook, we recreate the tremendous evening from our 50th. Along with a great reception and dinner, we've invited back **the fabulous Backtalk Band**---the group that had the place jumping all evening---

*(Continued on Page 2)*