Fun-Filled Weekend Will Bring Classmates Back to Campus

By Betty Eidenier, Everlasting President
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Hello, everybody! It will be so good to see you at our 50th Class Reunion!

All your old haunts are here, and the Alumni staff can arrange for tours for you and your guests. You will be fascinated by the many ways UNCG has changed – there’s a new look to the Quad, an expanded Jackson Library, and buildings and grounds that support the energy and love for learning you will find on campus.

The Reunion Planning Committee has arranged a class meeting and lunch, faculty-guided discussions, a tea (you are invited to wear hat and gloves if you like), and a ’60s-theme dinner (you can dress up as much as you like ... round collars and beads will be in evidence!). A memorial service will honor our departed classmates, and we need your help to make sure our list is correct. On the second day of Reunion, we will be inducted into the Vanguard Society after a grand procession.

In October we will call classmates to try to get everyone here, and we will need your help with that. You can call from home or from the UNCG call center, pizza provided.

As we have met to plan the Reunion, I have been struck by what a remarkable group of women we are. I am hearing stories of resilience, courage, creativity and service. Who would have thought as we piled on a bed in a dorm room singing our motto “service will remain, and service we will give” to the tune of “Ghost Riders in the Sky” that we would actually accomplish all we have in these past 50 years. What will make this reunion memorable is for everyone to come and tell their stories.

The Fundraising Committee for our Class invited proposals from across the University’s academic units, programs and athletics to review where and how the money we can raise might best support the advancement of the University. It is important to us that our class gift should have an impact, make a difference. After thoughtful review of a diverse range of proposals, the Committee has voted to recommend that class fundraising be focused in two important directions:

- We hope to make very significant gains in the endowment level of our Class of ’66 Scholarship Fund. This fund was established in 1966. Currently the endowment stands at $30,734. Our hope is to increase the core endowment principal to at least $100,000 in order to provide financial support to more students each year.

- Our second emphasis is to provide significant support to the UNCG Teacher Education Fellows. Contingent on fundraising success, there are three directions our class gift could take, e.g., a gift of $150,000 could be used to establish a Teaching Fellow position in perpetuity named in honor of the Class of 1966. The global importance of good teachers is undeniable, and UNCG has a very long and proud history of preparing teachers exceptionally well.

Please continue to watch for updates regarding ways to give and our progress in class gift growth. Our primary goal is to widen class
Meet the Members of Your Reunion Planning Committee

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We need your help! It takes the help of many volunteers to create a successful reunion.

Please contact Betty Hobgood Eidenier at bettyeidenier@gmail.com or Nancye Baker Bryan at nancye@durhambryans.com if you are interested in volunteering.

There are lots of tasks, so let us know how you’d like to help.

A Message from Your Everlasting President

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participation in giving to the school. It is very important to note that regardless of the two targets listed above, any and all class members are free to make their own choices about how they want to give. If you want your gift to be used for something radically different from the two causes listed above, that is surely your prerogative. Whatever gift you make will certainly count toward our total class gift. This class came to an institution that was enlivening, that opened many new doors for all of us, that shaped the adults we have become over the nearly five decades since our graduation. For what we were given in our years at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, we want to give back in gratitude.

Please contact MaryK McGinley, our liaison development officer for our Class of 1966, with any questions you may have about making a gift. She can be reached at 336.256.1054 or by email at maryk_mcginley@uncg.edu.

I hope you will come to Reunion to reconnect, reflect and renew. Who knows where that will lead!
If I come back, what can I expect?

The 50th Reunion promises to be the largest gathering of our classmates since June 1966! Whether you’ve come for every reunion since graduation or have never shown up, this one is the one that will be most worth your effort to attend.

How do I know if my friends, the ones I really knew, will be there?

This is where what you do can make a big difference in gathering our classmates. It’s the hope of the Planning Committee that many of you – as in many, many – will take the initiative to make contact with your pals. Your phone call to some of those friends from years gone by has the potential to make all the difference in who attends. There’s really nothing quite like a phone call from an old friend to stir someone who’s on the fence into action!

So if I come, what will we be doing?

The Reunion schedule is for Friday and Saturday, April 15-16. There will be quite a list of programmed activities those days. Our hope is that you’ll give some thought to arriving on the evening of April 14. A block of rooms has been reserved at local hotels with shuttle service running continuously to and from campus. (There will be more details on hotel reservations later!) Being here Thursday evening means that you’ll have some leisure time to catch up with friends and get settled. And you won’t have to drive from Manteo on Friday morning!

We’re still fine tuning the program but it will look something like this:

Friday, April 15

Class meeting – the official start to our weekend with welcoming remarks by a representative of the University.

Lunch for the Class of 1966.

Afternoon breakout sessions with a variety of themes, such as:

- An overview of the ’60s and how the decade shaped current society.
- A liberal arts education: Is it still relevant today?
- Tate Street integration: Have we made a difference?

Running concurrently with the breakout sessions you will also have an opportunity to:

- Enjoy tea with your classmates (wouldn’t Dean Taylor be pleased!).
- Take a tour of the renovated Quad.
- Hop on a trolley for a tour of campus.

In the evening we’ll come back together for a wine and cheese reception, our group photo and end the evening with our class dinner and memorable entertainment.

Saturday, April 16

Memorial service for deceased classmates conducted by the Rev. Carol Packer Dague.

Grand Reunion Brunch and welcome into The Vanguard.

The weekend concludes by 2 p.m. Depart at your leisure. The Alumni House will be open for more fellowship with classmates.
Do You Still Believe in “Yesterday”?

There are places I’ll remember
All my life, though some have changed.
Some forever, not for better,
Some have come and some remain.”
- From “In My Life”
The Beatles

Why come back after 50 years? Why take a “Magical Mystery Tour” back to UNCG? Because it will feel good to go “Searchin’” for that girl you used to be. Do you remember much about her? Did she throw a scarf over 3-inch rollers to dash to an 8 o’clock class? Did she pass that Western Civ exam? Did she fancy Villager blouses or old T-shirts? Was she a “Leader of the Pack” or did she march in “Sgt. Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club Band”? Do you remember when “Long Tall Sally” “Came in Through the Bathroom Window”?

Come back to Greensboro on April 14-16, and we will “Help!” you find your very own girl. The other women who join you are looking for their girls too, and we will all be “Day Trippers” together down “The Long and Winding Road” in our comfortable, laced-up blue suede shoes.

And, please, don’t stress about age spots and wrinkles! “Let It Be”? We all have them “Here, There and Everywhere.” No one will look like their senior yearbook picture. “That Will Be the Day”? We will be looking in your eyes to see “That Girl.”

 Doesn’t matter if you live on “Penny Lane” or are a “Paperback Writer.” Doesn’t matter if you’ve been to other reunions or whether you give $10 or $1,000 to our class gift. Whether you were cum laude or stayed just one year.

You may want to tell us how you found a “Ticket to Ride” or worked “Eight Days a Week.” We need to talk about “The Nowhere Man” and women who had the “Devil in Her Heart.” About the many times we had “A Hard Day’s Night” and how life has had its way with us. About husbands and partners who are “So Fine.” About children and grandchildren and beloved family pets who make us “Glad All Over.” And … about those bucket lists.

Of course, there are other reasons to come: the new look of the Quad and the Civil Rights Museum downtown in the old Woolworth’s where the sit-ins occurred. That’s where we learn that “Love Is All We Need.” There also will be fascinating faculty break-out groups to choose from that will make us “Twist and Shout”!

Come closer, friend. “Let Me Tell You A Secret.” We will ride in that “Yellow Submarine” through “Strawberry Fields” looking for “Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds.” We will look at each other and remember. “Please Please Me” and let’s “Come Together.”

- With apologies to the Beatles,
Martha Smith Allen and Katy Law Shoemaker