

Spring 2008

Dear Friends,

We are getting old(er).

This has gotten clearer and clearer to us as we plan our 40th reunion (it's only 39 but we are clustered with 1967 and 1968). That means that just about every one of us has turned 60, some more.

That also makes this an interesting reunion in at least two respects. Many of us have welcomed grandchildren into our families. Most of us are thinking about retirement. Most of us are making just about as much as we ever will.

So, as we sit, the reunion has two purposes above and beyond the usual giggling, picture swapping, and music. First, we are all facing a transition in our personal lives we probably never imagined when our hair color was challenged in 1969. Second, many—though by no means all of us—are in a position to make a larger gift than usual as part of the reunion process. But just as important for the College is that as many of us give as possible, because that's a key component to all those ratings systems of institutions of higher education.

At this point, we are not involved in planning the reunion itself. That's another team's job. Our challenge is to get you to think about how much you can give at a time of transition for us and for the College.

It seems as if the transition to Marvin Krislov's presidency is going well. He spent a night with alums in Washington, and Chip, of course, wrote down the wrong date. We have both met him in Oberlin (more time for Walt) and he is an engaging and charming guy who hopes to continue Nancy's traditions and ramp up the financial side of them a good bit. We've been particularly impressed by his commitment to environmental issues.

Oberlin is not in bad shape financially. As of June 30 last year, our endowment was at almost \$800 million, which is more than ten times that of George Mason where Chip teaches, and placed Oberlin in the top quartile of all college and university endowments for the 2006-2007 year. But with over 2,500 students, that leaves us well below the leaders among what are euphemistically called our peer institutions. Swarthmore, Amherst, and Williams have an endowment-per-student ratio that is more than two times that of Oberlin.

Learning from both of our own reunion gift committees, and from other comparable schools, there has been a change in the class agent process. We are going to do more personal contacts by email and through phone calls, especially now that four or five of our classmates have volunteered to help. Thanks in advance for your support.

We are well. We hope to get together during the second week of March when Chip is visiting his mother who lives near Walt. You can expect the reunion phone calls to begin soon after that.

Best,



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