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COLLEGE OF THE HOLY CROSS • 40TH REUNION • JUNE 8, 9, 10, 2007

October 2006

Dear Classmates,

With mixed emotion, Lyn and I received, in quick succession, invitations to weddings on separate July weekends in Washington, D.C. The pleasant prospect of visiting with friends was tempered by the exchange of scarce Cape Cod summer weekends for Washington's oppressive summer heat. We attended both and had such a great time at both that we were shamed to remember the hesitation we experienced upon receipt of the invitations.

Both weddings had a distinctly purple hue. Our host for the first wedding was John Collins '68, the preeminent sprinter of our era. (According to the HC web site, John still holds one in-door and three out-door College records). John is Dick Egan's cousin and, while Dick could not attend, brothers Jack '66 and Jim '65 and sister Mary did. In addition to John's classmates Mike O'Neil '68 and Al Carolan '68, Mugs Moran also celebrated the occasion with us.

John and Kathy Collins have three daughters, all HC alumnae. Since not only the bride, but her two sisters are Holy Cross graduates, many of the young attendees were also Alumni/ae. (Not for nothing I took Latin for two years at Holy Cross.) Just to draw the circle narrower, one sister is married to Steve Matthews, nephew of Chris Matthews. Steve's father, Chris' more affable brother Jim '70, took time from his campaign for Lieutenant Governor of Pennsylvania to attend.

As if all that purple were not enough for one weekend, on the day after the wedding, as Lyn and I were playing tourist with our DC resident son, we ran into Tom Flynn on the Mall. At school, Tom and I were good friends but we have seen little of each other over the years. Our chance meeting and brief conversation was an unexpected treat.

The second wedding was of Mugs Moran's son, also an alumnus of the College. Many of the guests at the Collins wedding also attended the Moran wedding. Again, many of the younger guests were Alumni. The addition of Jim Brett and John Miles guaranteed both social success and extensive society page coverage.

(Bear with me, all this is leading somewhere.)

The summer's purple haze was enhanced and completed by the Hawk Golf Tournament and Dinner. I have attended all three and the randomness of seat selection at the end of a buffet line has, at all three, placed me with classmates I hardly knew at school. My

enjoyment of those conversations, matched with Andy McElaney's profiles, have left me regretful that I did not know more classmates better.

My not very astute conclusion from the summer's activities is that because of a common experience, it is easy to begin a conversation with Holy Cross graduates, especially those around our era. More importantly, those conversations are invariably enjoyable and the time spent passes quickly and pleasantly. These summer activities were like individual pieces of a Reunion Weekend.


By now you have figured out that the occasion for this letter is our approaching Reunion, June 8, 9 and 10. The purpose for the letter is to encourage you to attend. For those of you who have attended in the past, you know generally what to expect. If you haven't been in awhile, most faithful attendees observe that the tone is more mellow and low-key with each passing half decade; each successive Reunion is more enjoyable than the previous one.

For those who may never have attended, let me encourage you to attend. I think you would be surprised how welcoming it is and how much you would enjoy it. Given the other alternatives for an early June weekend, it sure beats mowing the grass and cleaning the gutters and, I hesitate to add, you won't have a many more opportunities to give it a try.

Lastly, our varsity fundraiser, Kevin Condron, has been promoted to the very big leagues of school wide responsibilities. Once again the JV has been scoured and I have agreed to serve as a sorry replacement for the real thing. Even given our smaller class size, we have always given very generously and have stood out among the other classes around us. At this point, I would simply ask that you begin thinking about making a gift to the College and whether you have the ability to make a larger gift than in the past.

Thanks.

Sincerely,


Gerry Mulligan