

Class of

1969**REACH OUT I'll be there**

THANK YOU FROM THE COMMITTEE

We are pleased that so many classmates enjoyed their 50th reunion experience this past June. Planning the weekend was a group effort, but the event's success is attributed to many individuals whom we wish to thank:

- **WENDY WIPPICH**, DePauw's alumni engagement director, who guided us through necessary tasks and listened to some of our "hair-brained" ideas.
- **D. MARK MCCOY**, DePauw's president, who set the tone for the weekend by graciously opening his home to us and freely explaining DePauw's present issues.
- **CHRIS WURSTER '69**, former alumni relations director, who brought us back to our college days by performing at this lovely event.
- **KEN OWEN '82**, special adviser to the president, who presented a slide show that chronicled our four years in school. It evoked fond and, at times, humorous memories.
- **GLENN GASS**, provost professor of music at Indiana University's Jacobs School of Music, who made an unforgettable presentation on the Beatles.
- **ROBERT SEDLACK**, DePauw professor emeritus English, who led a presentation and discussion of the Vietnam War. Both veterans and anti-war activists applauded his effort.
- **REV. BARBARA WHITE PARKER '69**, she reminded us of all our blessings at the class reunion dinner.
- **DOUG MCALISTER '69**, he did an outstanding job representing us as class speaker.
- **All the fantastic living unit representatives.** They were the individuals who encouraged fellow classmates to attend and to donate to our class gift.
- Most important, the 155 members of our class who **reached out and were there!**

-Lynn Bohmer -Tom O'Neil -Dave Bohmer -Sara Jane Moore -Jim Tomsic -Linda Budelsky



A LOOK BACK AT THE PROGRAMS AND PRESENTATIONS

DePauw classmates returning for their 50th reunion celebration were able to hear presentations covering two of the most pervasive subjects during our years on campus – the Vietnam War and the Beatles. On Friday morning, June 7, classmates packed Watson Forum to listen to Professor Emeritus Bob Sedlack discuss the war and how it affected DePauw and Greencastle in the late 1960s. Sedlack was in his second year as a professor of English in 1965 and our class was the first he advised. Some of his advisees were part of the audience who heard a balanced presentation of how the war affected us, whether we protested it or headed into the service upon graduation. He included the importance of the Democratic primary in Indiana and the controversy in Putnam County over allowing students to vote in 1968. A lively session of questions and discussion followed Sedlack's presentation and he joined the class for their dinner on Saturday evening.

That afternoon, the Class of 1969 filled much of Thompson Recital Hall to listen to Glenn Gass talk about the Beatles, focusing on their work during our DePauw years – from “Rubber Soul” to “Abbey Road.” Gass is no stranger to Greencastle and DePauw. He grew up there while his father was a mathematics professor. Both of his older brothers are DPU alums. He has returned to his home town numerous times to give talks on his favorite group. Members of the class of '69 were engrossed in the two-hour presentation, which ended with a rousing standing ovation. Even the most avid Beatles fan left with greater insight on the Fab Four.

Between the presentations, the class was entertained over lunch by a slide presentation put together by Ken Owen '82, special adviser to the president. Owen reminded us of campus speakers, sporting events and various music groups who visited campus. The photos encapsulated many great moments during our four years. By the end of the three sessions, it was almost as if a time machine had taken us back to our formative years at DePauw.





ALL-ALUMNI CONVOCATION

For about five minutes on the morning of June 8, 155 boomers were carried back to the spring of our Junior year at DePauw, as we danced into Meharry Hall to the sounds of the Four Tops. As the powerful beat of our reunion theme, “Reach Out, I’ll Be There” flooded the great old hall, we could almost feel the same excitement we did in Bowman Gym on that magical night in 1968 when DePauw became “Motown South.” The steps might have been a little slower in 2019, but the enthusiasm and smiles on our faces still topped the charts. The music and the word “gratitude” best sum up the All-Alumni Convocation in 2019.

As for the music, as she was singing and dancing with the rest of us, Leslie Williams ’03, the executive director of alumni engagement, leaned over to me and emphatically said “this is the best procession ever!” Later in his speech to the assembled crowd, President McCoy said that, as the former dean of the School of Music, he knew something about the subject and stated that “the class of ’69 has the best music.” Of course, we emphatically agree.

The first speaker for the Class of ’94, Sarah Gormley, gave a terrific talk focusing on her journey since leaving DePauw. She talked about keeping her daily “Gratitude Journal” as she was trying to figure things out and, just like in a Hallmark movie, crying tears of gratitude when she did. She ended by saying how much DPU had influenced her life and urged her audience and to always make room for the things that matter, such as gratitude.

Our class speaker, Doug McAlister, gave a wonderful talk taking us back to the great Motown concerts (at \$10 a ticket), and to the varied and successful careers of some of our classmates, including an award-winning journalist and, of course, the vice president of the United States. Doug expressed gratitude for the core values learned at DePauw that prepared us for life’s journey – the pursuit of excellence,

leadership and personal accountability. He recalled a major influence on his life, Ted Katula, who was a DePauw coach, athletic director and assistant dean of students. No doubt, Doug is grateful for being able to have known the “Katman.” Doug finished with a story about his mother, Mary McCarthy McAlister ’44, who encountered Gen. Omar Bradley on a train ride home from Greencastle. After an engaging discussion, Bradley commented that the country needed more people with a background like hers – a fine liberal arts education. And that still holds true today.

In a brief, but thought-provoking speech, President McCoy then welcomed home all alumni. He continued the day’s theme by stating that DePauw creates leaders the world needs now – leaders full of gratitude. He went on to say “the impact of gratitude never goes out of style.” He urged us to remember that there is no “them” – only “us” – and to demonstrate gratitude this weekend by thanking someone.

There’s no better way to put an exclamation point on a wonderful day that began with “reach out” than to end it with a heartfelt “thank you!”

REUNION BY THE NUMBERS

- Class giving (final numbers/data)
 - Class giving participation: 43.15% (189 donors).
 - Gift to The Fund for DePauw: \$300,425.
 - 50th reunion class gift: \$14,333,713.
- Alumni in attendance hailed from 33 states, including Hawaii, plus Washington D.C. and the state of Jalisco, Mexico.
- 155 of our classmates were on campus that weekend and they brought 34 guests to share the fun.
- Over the course of the last year, 37 class volunteers, including a fabulous group of living unit representatives, helped make the weekend the amazing success it was.



WE WERE THERE!

You were there. You hit the campus with energy, enthusiasm and the gentle perspectives that only 50 years can provide. You relished the programs and events, ate heartily, hugged with emotion, toasted with gusto. Classmate connections were remembered, old friends re-cherished and unscripted moments gleefully welcomed. And then, when you returned home, you shared some of those fresh emotions with us. Thank you. These words are yours:

"What a magical weekend!"

"Upon arrival, I didn't recognize the campus or the town, but the weekend experience brought back great memories of 50 years ago."

"I am so glad you tracked me down and encouraged me to come."

"A wonderful weekend, exceeding my expectations — which were high to begin with!"

"We loved the whole weekend. Didn't want to leave."

"Thoughts, feelings and memories are buzzing around my head like the Beatles on LSD!"

"The best reunion in 50 years!"

"Every moment was a special gift."

"We should have been there for more of it."

"A magical mystery tour of a weekend!"

"We're hooked. Hope we're still functioning for the 55th!"

Thanks for helping. Thanks for coming.

There you have it: The words. The numbers.

And oh yes, here's one final classmate quote that may just say it all:

"I'm so glad I didn't miss it!"

PHOTO INDEX

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SIGNATURE REUNION PROGRAM: 'D' BLANKET CEREMONY FOR '69

Back in 1988, Phil Eskew '63 was instrumental in starting the DePauw Athletic Hall of Fame with the support from then-President Bottoms. In the early 1960s, DePauw had begun presenting 'D' blankets to returning football players who had played 50 years earlier and attended the Old Gold Day game.

With Bottoms' approval, Eskew revived the practice of presenting 'D' blankets to all letter winners who returned for their 50th class reunion. Shortly thereafter, a former alumnus who visited campus for the first time in 40 years was so impressed during the ceremony that he contributed \$500,000 to the university to endow a department chair. With that, Bottoms said, "So, you can now have all the 'party favors' you want!" This year, 19 former letter winners, the most ever, received blankets from Dr. Eskew.

Dr. Eskew is a class act and thanks go out to him from former athletes of the Class of '69!

