1967 MATRIC MEMOIRS

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**SHEILA BARNESS-WEBB / BURKETT : cell 07818790792**

I joined the S.A.A. after leaving school. I married Neil (Old Marist flame !!)

I have two daughters. Natasha in Port Elizabeth, married with two grandchildren, Bryce aged 11 and Tayla aged 9) and Taryn in Cape Town (also married) and teaches – just like my mom.

We moved to Cape Town where Neil was coach/co-ordinator with Western Province Cricket Club, Bowls and I was a tennis member. He represented Bowls South Africa at a very young age and I played Inter Provincial tennis for Western Province, whilst living there. It was while we were in Cape Town that Neil was approached to come and play for one of the 3 Big Bowls Clubs in Sydney. We have been living in Oz since 2008.

We visit the family over Christmas and I extend my stay to join Neil again later in the year.

His sport has taken us to many parts of the world!

**RHONDA BLEWETT/STEVENS:ianron@telkomsa.net**

After matriculating I joined the Standard Bank in PE with the aim of working for a year to save for tertiary studies. Unfortunately this did not come about as once I “tasted” my own money I lost interest. I worked there until Sept. 1976 prior t daughter Kims birth.

I became a stay-at-home mom and wife, becoming very involved in Church work until my health failed completely in 2015. I was diagnosed with bronchi-efficus in 2000 a debilitating lung illness which has gradually worsened and is now simply called emphysema. I never smoked but was subjected to secondry smoke from my working days. I am now attached to oxygen 24/7 and have recently had one cataract removed – awaiting the second op soon so my vision is not clear.

Our daughter was unable to conceive so they adopted “twin” boys a Tswane of 4 months and a Xhosa aged 3 months and a total hand-full. They were in a foster home in Johannesburg and could not decide which one to take so took both.

My life sounds boring but I accept that this is the path that God had set out for me from birth. Would love to attend the reunion but my health does not allow it.

Good luch with everything.

**HEATHER BROWN /MCEWAN:** **heatherbell@telkomsa.net** **cell: 0727080981**

Upon matriculating I was accepted as a trainee Medical Technologist at the S.A. Institute of Medical Research and began working there on 3 Jan. 1968. We worked 5 days a week and every 2nd Saturday and attended lectures after hours. Some ofus persevered and in 1971 I passed my finals in Clinical Pathology which embraces the disciplines of Bacteriology, Haematology and Bio-Chemistry and thereafter chose to work in Bio-Chem. The work was very rewarding – highs and lows, happiness and sadness, but always a sense of humour amongst the staff.

In 1972 I married Peter McEwan. Peter worked in IT at VW until his retirement. In 1975 saw us welcome our daughter Gillian Leigh and Craig Oliver followed in 1978. We are amongst the lucky few who still have our children living in SA, and not too far away either !

Gillian has two children and Craig lives with Doreen who has a 15 year old daughter.

My hobby is art (food for the soul ! and I belong to a social art group who meet on a farm outside Uitenhage to relax, unwind and paint. Peter and I retired to the Wedgewood Golf Estate in Greenbushes. We put a lot of planning into the building of the house and are now down-scaled and as self-sufficient as possible with a water harvesting system and PV panels. Peter is living his dream, playing as much golf as he wants and we are both enjoying the country lifestyle. It is so beautiful here, our own little piece of Heaven !

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**JENNY CLARK** / POTGIETER : jennypotgieter123@gmail.com

After leaving school I joined Barclays Bank. I met my husband Evert Potgieter in May 1968. We married in 1972 and moved to Airforce Base Langebaanweg. My eldest son Andre was born in 1973 followed in 1977 by my middle pip Morne. My daughter Stacey was born in 1980.

In 1978 we were transferred to Airforce Base Hoedspruit as one of the pioneer families when the base was being built and then opened. During all those years I continued to work in banking. In 1980 I joined the S.A. Airforce as a civilian. The best years of our lives were still to come when we as a family were permanently transferred to Airforce Base Ondangwa in the operational are in Namibia during the Bush War. I was working at Barclays Bank in Ondangwa town until the Post Office opposite the Bank was blown to smithereens be a Swapo terrorist bomb. I rejoined the Airforce again and worked in the signals office as a code breaker and radio operator. We lived in the ops are for 5 years until the Bush War ended. It was the most amazing and scary time of our lives. The kids were transported to Oshakati to school in armoured vehicles and security covered by Alouette helicopters which they loved. The experience for the children was unbelievable and 30 years later we still cannot gather around a table or braai without reminiscing about the wonderful times we had during those Bush war years in Namibia.

Our world came crashing down when Evert became an amputee (gangrene) in 19999 followed by cancer and yet another amputation. The cancer had spread and he passed away in 2007.

In 2015 I had worked for the Dept. of Agriculture for 23 years and decided to resign. My boys had moved to the U.K. some years earlier so I decided to get an ancestral visa and came to work in the U.K. as a carer. I have been placed in north London since March 2016 caring for a 97 year old sweetie. I miss my daughter and her family and my own little house at the beach and will be returning home for a long holiday in November 2017.

I do hope that when I am home we might get together for a catch up.

Love to all …. I think of my years at Riebeek College and Hostel with much love and nostalgia.

**YVONNE DAWSON/BARNES :** **Yvonne@tbid.co.za**

I have two beautiful children, both married. Greg Wilmot and Natalie, my daughter-in-law, live in P.E. and have a son Josh who is 13. Meredith and my son-in-law Jason live in Centurion and have a son Kade who is 11. I have worked most of my life since graduating from UPE now NMMU. Retired in 2013 and now back working full time for an Independent Insurance Broker at the ripe old age of 67. I think that some of the highlights of my life can be summed up as follows:-

My beautiful children and grandsons, swimming with dolphins (awesome) great and wonderful friends, a very mischievous ginger cat who rules the roost and of course bowls which keeps me sane, fit and gets me out into the glorious sunshine and fresh air every weekend.

**JULIA DAWSON / POTGIETER :** **juliapotgieter@gmail.com**

I got married on 3 July 1971 – 45 years now.

We have 2 daughters Lauren 37 and Sharon 33. Lauren has two daughters Emily 7 and Rachel 5 – the most gorgeous loves of our lives.

They live in Sandton so we don’t see them as often as we would like to. Sharons first child is due in October and we are very excited at having another grandchild. She and her hubby live in Cape Town.

I worked at Volkswagen for 46 years and 10 months and retired February last year. I was the longest serving woman employee and the second longest person at VW. A guy beat me to the longest service.

I was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2010 and luckily only had to go for radiation. I am still clear.

**SANDRA DAWSON / WILLIAMS :** **27731522167@mms.mtn.co.za**

Hi – I am married to Brian Williams. Have a son Ryan who lives in Cape Town, Current address 1 Olive Street Jeffreys Bay. We’re both retired after working at General Motors for decades.

-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------**GAIL GILLMER / EHBEL :** **ehbel@worldonline.co.za**

After two years of study towards a Secretarial Practice Certificate at Rhodes University, I started my first job at General Motors where I was Secretary to the Economist. After a year I left Port Elizabeth for Johannesburg and worked for various companies culminating in the position of PA to the Sales Director of International Harvester. I met Nic (future husband) a Horticulturist in 1970 whilst in JHB and we returned to the EC when we got married in 1972. Our son Russell was born in 1977 and our daughter Sharon was born in 1980.

I returned to being a working girl in 1992 and joined the then University of Port Elizabeth as a Faculty Officer in the Faculty of Arts. I remained with the University until 2011 when I retired as Senior Manager of the Faculty Administration overseeing the faculty administration work for the Faculties of Arts, Education and Health Sciences. Thereafter, I accepted various contract positions in the Arts and Health Sciences at the University until 2016.

Our son Russell who lives in Cork, Ireland, is married to an Irish girl, Caroline and they have two beautiful children Anabelle who will be 3 years old in Oct. and Luke who will be 2 in Sept.

Our daughter Sharon lives and works in Zurich, Switzerland. She has numerous jobs i.e. PR work at an Art Gallery, mentors a 7 year old Russian boy in English and gives him piano lessons, is a DJ in and around Zurich and on alternate Saturdays works in a record store.

We travel overseas to visit family as often as possible i.e. Ireland, to Holland (Nic has a sister Ellen and mother – 96 years living in Leiden) to Zurich and to Morpeth near Newcastle in England where my brother Bruce has worked and lived for many years.

Nic and I will have been married for 45 years this December and we are enjoying our retirement. We have live at Amsterdam Hoek all our married life and do not plan moving any time soon !

**ADRIENNE GAMBLE / EHRICH :** **Adrienne.ehrich@gmail.com**

I married Colin Ehrich on 20 December 1969. We have 2 Children, Michael and Karen. Each gave us a granddaughter, Amina and Holly who are now both in high school. Michael and his family live in Swaziland and are very happy there. Karen returned to Grahamstown after a 10 year stint in London and lives with me. I am happily retired after working at Rhodes University for 21 years. Colin passed away in 2012.

**ETHEL GOUW: LAWSON :** **ethel.lawson@vodamail.com**

1 Jan 1968 I started nursing in Uitenhage with surprise surprise Patty Moore.

Nursed for 8 months then started working in PE at the Receiver of Revenue. Signed up for dance lessons at Arthur Murry where I met my husband Terry Lawson. Married in Uitenhage 18 April 1970. My mom and I made my wedding dress and 2 of the bridesmaids dresses.

Travelled to Rome in 1973 with Holiday Magic Cosmetic for a conference with Reeve Forman.

Moved to Milnerton, Cape Town in 1974.

Had 2 children, Natalie in 1976 and Wayne in 1977. Sold Tupperware and became a Manager but in June 1980 we moved to Table View and became a housewife and full time mother.

Started Patchwork and Quilting lessons and started teaching ladies in my area in 1993.

Openend a Patchwork and Quilting shop in Table View. Taught many ladies and won many prizes and trophies for my needlework (on the Pfaff of course) Had other teachers come and teach patchwork, silk ribbon embroidery, cross stich etc. in my shop. Sold Pfaff and Singer sewing machines in my shop as well as everything for the quilter and needlework enthusiasts.

Got divorced in 1997 and had to close my shop in 1999. Started working for an embroidery company in Sept. 1999 – moved to Milnerton in 2000.

Opened my own Corporate Company in 2008 and haven’t looked back.

Joined the Friendship Force Club of CT in 1997 and have been to Cyprus, France and England with the Club.

My daughter Natalie has 2 daughters and my son Wayne is recently married with no children .

I live with my 3 cats.

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**JENNY HANNA : THIELE :** **jen.tl@telkomsa.net**

My husband Quintinn and I live in Kidds Beach ( a small village just 30 klms from East London.

I have a daughter Vivienne who lives with her husband and 2 children Devon aged 13 yrs and Sarah-Jade ( 11 years). They live in Knysna. My son Donovan lives in East London and is unmarried.

My husband and I are both retired and enjoy travelling.

**LYN HOSKING : VAN DER MERWE :** **lynnvdmerwe50@gmail.com**

After doing a BSc and NHED at Rhodes, I taught Biology (now called Life Sciences) for many years and retired from the post of Deputy Principal at The Settlers High School at the end of 2011.

My husband Steph and I recently celebrated our 40th wedding anniversary. He is Professor of Law and retired from Stellenbosch Law Faculty in 2013. We have 2 sons Stephen and Justin and a daughter Kristin.

Stephen works for a publishing company in London, Justin a researcher at the Centre for Military Studies of the University of Stellenbosch in Saldana. After lecturing at Rhodes Univ. for 7 years, Kirstin has recently moved back to CT and is working at Get Smarter.

Since retiring I have served on the committee of the Heritage Society in Durbanville and have enjoyed planning and arranging outings and meetings at which we have speakers to address us on various topics related to heritage. I have also enjoyed keeping in touch with my subject by teaching extra lessons.

Steph is still involved with writing various legal publications and keeps me busy assisting with the preparation of those manuscripts.

I’m looking forward to seeing lots of photos of the reunion and hearing / reading all about it when we return from our overseas trip !

Love to all

Lyn

**HELEN HOLMS : KNIGHT :** **helenkni@gmail.com**

After leaving school I worked at the Allied BS for 2 years. I then went to Barkly House and trained as a Nursery School teacher. Along the way I upgraded to Bed and became Pre-school/Grade R teacher. I was teaching for 42 years. 30 at my last school. I retired at end of last year.

I married and have 3 sons. They went to school with me. Sometimes there was only a crèche attached to the school so they would end of there.

I have 3 granddaughters and 1 grandson whom I love to bits.

I currently stay with my partner, Peter, in the village of Riebeek-Kasteel in the WC near Malmesbury. I have been staying here since 1991.

My hobbies are knitting, drawing, gardening and reading. I keep fit by doing Pilates and walking. So that my brain does not stagnate I do a lot of crosswords **:**

**SUSAN LUCAS / JONES :** **sueandglyn@hotmail.com**

After Matric I went to Wits Technical College. Then worked in Johannesburg for a couple of years. I returned to work in PE that’s when I met Glyn who came to SA on contract with FORD.

We got married in 1979. 11 months later we went to live in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia for 2 and a half years. Our next venture took us to Wales for 6 years. We returned to SA for a spell and then went to Gabarone, Botswana for 14 years. An opportunity arose to purchase a valve reconditioning factory in Benoni. 10 years later we retired to Beachview and are thoroughly enjoying it. I do volunteer work for Save-a-Pet in Greenbushes.

**JENNY KRAIN / SENEKAL :** **jennysenekal@hotmail.com**

Married to Harry for 45 years. Have 2 sons, Charles a Civil Engineer in Montreal, Quebec and Steve an architect in London.

I entered the corporate world after 1967 – was supposed to work and study at Onderstepoort but had to change careers due to my mums illness. However, in the 90’s I enrolled at the PE Oceanarium where I was trained by Dr. Vanessa Strauss of SANCOB Cape Town – it included the rehabilitation of seabirds and seals, the bleeding of seabirds and analyzing blood samples. At the same time I became a founder member of SAMREC and teaming up with Shamwari’s Education dept. conduction outreach programmes. I have had the priveledge of going to sea on SS Mendi as well as the research ships FRS Algoa and SA Agulhas. The cherry on the top was Dr Bill Branch (world renouwned) herpetologist’s assistant.

Today I am a professional homemaker who spends as much time as possible out hiking so if you cannot reach me I am at the top of a mountain or somewhere in the bush – awesome !

If I can end off with the quote etched in stone that Harry’s sister gave me “IT IS HERE WITH THE SPIRIT OF THE WIND THAT I WILL FIND MY SOUL.”

**SHARON DRUGEL : BURROWS :** **sharonandtony41@gmail.com**

Once I leftr schold I returned to Pietermaritzburg and worked in Secretarial. I married Tony in 1972 and we had 2 daughters in 1979 and 1981. Wishing to stay at home with my young daughters, I started making wedding gowns and still do to this day. I have done over 4500 weddings including Shawn Pollock’s sister and Jonty Rhodes, Andrew Hudson and Gary Teichmann’s wives. Also a few Miss SA winners and contestants. Jeremy Thompson’s (also Springbok) wife won a competition in the You magazine with her wedding gown. I have won various prizes including a Bridal Industry of SA award here in Cape Town.

We are now living on our daughter and son in laws property in Pinelands in our own cottage. I have a lovely sewing area upstairs.

We are privileged enough to see our tree grandchildren growing up every day. My mother lived with us until Jan of this year when she died aged 93. Our younger daughter lives in London with her husband and 3 children.

**MICHELE MASKRE : NEL : mjnelm6@gmail.com**

I married Owen Nel in 1972. We met at Rhodes and both went into teaching. Owen was a Science Teacher and taught at a number of schools before becoming Head Master of Claredon Girls High School.

I started my working career as a History teacher at Claredon Girls High School and became Head of Department. I taught there for just over 6 years. I decided to stop working while my children were little, never dreaming that when I worked again my life would take a completely new path. Our elder child, Andrew, was born profoundly deaf. Our daughter, Nicole just just 9 months old at the time (normal hearing). We were put in touch with the Carel du Toit Centre at Tygerberg Hospital – these children are fitted with implants and learn to speak very well but in those days the cochlear implants were not available. He was fitted with hearing aids and we visited the Centre every 3 months to learn how to teach him to talk using the auditory – verbal method. We were determined that we did not want him to sign as this would limit his ability to communicate to only those who could sign back. We moved to Cape Town in 1984 and I was offered a post teaching 3 to 4 year olds at the Carel du Toit Centre. Quite a change from teach matrics to working with little ones. We returned to EL in 1985 and I took over the Theodore Blumberg Clinic for pre-school deaf children.

I have just retired after running the Theodore Blumberg Clinic for 32 years. One of the highlights for our EC Centre was when we were awarded the National Development Agency National Award in 2015 for being the Best Centre is SA for babies and children with disabilities.

Nicole is very artistic and studies fashion eventually becoming fashion editor for Highbury Safika Media in CT . Andrew (who now has bilateral cochlear implants) followed a scientific career and has completed his PH.D in Microbiology and Biochemistry and working in the Institute of Intergrative BioMedical Sciences as UCT.

As for hobbies I enjoy gardening, reading and love cooking. We also love travelling. We also belong to the Alliance Francaise and I assist with fund raising at the Cdu T.

**PATTY MOORE : THIART :** **pattythiart@yahoo.com**

In 1968 I went to nursing college. I left Uitenhage in 1981 with my husband and 3 children to live in Melkbosstrand Cape Town – worked at Koeberg Nuclear Power Station in the Human Resources Recruitment Dept.

Took early retirement at 51 and since then have raised 4 grandchildren and do voluntary work in the community – also belong to the Neighbourhood Watch Exec. Comm. as secretary and do secretarial work for SAPS Melkbosstrand Joint Partnership meetings on Monday.

**ZELDA PIKE : BASSON :** **zeldabasson@gmail.com**

Lived in Uitenhage after leaving school studied privately and acquired my National Engineering Diploma after which I worked as a Tool designer doing tooling and structural steel designs for Aberdare Cables in PE, SKF Uitenhage and also VW.

I married Freek Basson in 1071 and my eldest son ( 1 of 3 ) was born in 1975. In 1987 Volkswagen sent my husband to Germany for training and ofcourse we as a family moved over and lived in Wolfsburg where my 2 eldest sons attended a German school. On our return we bought a farm just outside of Kirkwood in the Sunday River Valley and lived there for 10 years before moving back to Uitenhage. While out at Kirkwood I worked from home doing residential and other civil plans for the farming community.

Back in Uitenhage I ventured into a small retail business doing finer finishings working from home which I still do to date.

After my husband passed away in 2015 I sold out in Uitenhage and am now living in Aston Bay a home which we bought way back in 1997.

My eldest son and family live in Australia, my middle son in Scotland and my youngest son is also moving to Australia next year. I feel rich with 3 granddaughters and 1 grandson.

In my spare time I love doing crafts and any form of handwork, patchwork and quilting.

**LINDA RANDALL / COATES :** **woodvillehealth@gmail.com**

I married Geoff Coates

Daughter Gillian Physiotherapist in London

Son Stuart in Wealth Management

Geoff retired

Myself – a Bowen Therapist.

**BRENDA SEARLE /cox** **kcmotors@mwebbiz.co.za**

Met and married Kevin in 1983 and are very blessed and happy.

We had 2 children a son Bradley who passed away 5 years ago from a motor bike accident and we have a daughter Tami who is turning 28 this year and is expecting her first child in August so much excitement.

Kevin has two sons from his first marriage which I brought up. They are both married with children. We also fostered a young girl who is now married and living in Benoni and has a daughter. We now at our old age fostering a boy of 14. We also look after my husbands sister of 80 and brother of 77.

Kevin runs his own business and I am the jack of all trades, bookkeeping, receptionist etc.We have a vehicle repair shop and service any vehicle from Unos to Porshces.

**JILL TUNBRIDGE: WEBB :** **jillianwebb345@gmail.com**

After leaving Uitenhage I live in PE and married a few years later. Had 2 beautiful daughters and now a proud granny. I have been in Pharmacy all my working life and took a keen interest in cosmetics which lead me to winning a trip to Paris. Played EP Vets Basketball and for a number of years played league tennis. Still doing part time work to stay busy.

**RENEE VAN ROOYEN : BAARD :** **reneebaard@gmail.com**

Married Fred in 1972. Furthered my studies in music at Cape Town School of Music and privately. Taught for many years at varius schools and privately. Lived in Cape Town for approx. 17 years. Also got involved with the business work for many years in various positions. Moved to Addo – became a Citrus/Lucerne farmer and Thorough-Bred Horse breeder (with my hubby) and continued with teaching at the same time. We also became Boerbull breeders for several years. I eventually had to retire due to ill health and we decided to move to Bluewater Bay in PE although I still taught privately for several years.

Fred matriculated in Durban and studied at CT Technical College to become a Health/Meat Inspector – now retired. Both of us have always been very involved with sport. Farming, serving on various committees and basically working out butts off to ensure our children got the education they needed. Our Son Stefan 43 matriculated at Muir College and studied law in SA and in UK. He is now a duty solicitor in London and married a Turkish lass who is an Architect. They have two children. My daughter Carine matriculated at Riebeek and studied at Cape Town University and worked with autistic children for many years becoming Head of Autism at a school in London. She is now working in Abu Dhabi as Head of Inclusion. They have 2 children.

Fred and I have been very fortunate that in given our wide range of interests and careers, we have made many valuable friends, gained enormous experiences been lucky to travel and see so much but most importantly are blessed with two wonderful caring children and 4 great grandchildren.

**BONNIE VANDEN BERG : CAWOOD :** **bonniecawood@gmail.com**

Since leaving school I have working most of my working life in the exciting, vibrant and never boring Hospitality Industry as General Manager of a Boutique Hotel, Manager of Guest Houses, PRO and Co-ordinator for weddings, product launches and conferences for various Hotel Groups in Port Elizabeth. I guess it stems from my roots as my folk were Hoteliers.

I am now semi- retired and do locum work running Guest houses for owners who go on holiday.

I have two amazing sons, Nicholas aged 43 an Australian Citizen and Patrick 41, a British Citizen who have 3 lovely and very busy grandchildren between them. We try and meet often but I still miss them terribly.

I live with my partner of many years in Port Elizabeth and we both play lawn bowls as often as we can. I have met many Riebeek girls on the greens over the past 10 years.

Wishing you all good health , love and happiness and look forward to our 60th !!

**JOY WEISS : WILLIAMS :joybelle1950@gmail.com**

How time flies when one is having fun !The past 50 years have just flown by and sometimes I look back and think but where did the time go ?

I married a Grey High School man David Williams 37 years ago and we have a son Andrew and a daughter Susan. Both our children are qualified Chartered Accountants and Susan ended up marrying one.

Andrew is married to Carolyn for 3 years and hopefully will start a family soon. Susan has been married for 11 years and we have been blessed with 3 grandsons. We love them with a passion and we spend a lot of time with them as they live in PE.

I stayed at home whilst the children were small and went back to work mornings only and spent 19 very happy years at Deloitte & Touche where I was personal assistant to one of the partners. Whilst there I was nominated “ Secretary of the Year” a competition run locally by the Herald.

I retired 6 years ago and love it !

I joined the Quilting Guild and am very involved with the forthcoming National Quilting Festival being held in PE in July this year. Both David and I are involved with our church. We have been fortunate to travel and have been to London and Edinburgh on a number of occasions – we have also spent wonderful holidays in Mauritius with the family. Last year I was able to attend the festival of Quilts in Birmingham.

I look forward to seeing all my School mates at the reunion this year.

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**LYNETTE TEE : GOUWS :** **lynettegouws1949@gmail.com**

After leaving School worked at Goodyear where I met Martin Gouws and married him in 1974.

We had 2 children Marnette was born in 1975 and Lyntin was born in 1980.

Marnette had 2 sons Damien and Davin. Lyntin has a son and a daughter.

Martin passed away in 1986 and Marnette and Davin in 2005.

**CAROL CAMPBELL : MAYALL :** **carol.mayall@outlook.com**

I studied and worked at SAIMR in P.E. qualifying as a Medical Technologist in 1970. I then moved to Durban where I met and married in 1973 and continued to work until Dec 1976.

I had 2 children (son in 1977 and daughter in 1979) I was a busy stay at home mom till I went back to work for Natal Blood Transfusion Services in 1993. Later in 2007 NBTS joined with Jhb to become SANBS where I retired in 2015.

My husband and I are enjoying retirement and feel blessed to have good health.

I wish the Riebeek College Class of 1967 a very happy and successful Reunion.

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