



CLASS OF 1963 – ALUMNI NOTES JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2020

In what originally was scheduled as a 60th reunion for the undefeated 1959 Bullpup Team, 17 teammates and honorary members convened in New York City on September 6 and 7, 2019. Those in attendance included Christine and **Fred Andreae**, Brenda and **Jim Biles**, **Jud Calkins**, **Wally Grant**, Erika and **Hank Higdon**, **Tom Iezzi**, Mary and **Erik Jensen**, Carol and **Bill Kay**, Kathy and **Peter Kiernan**, **Denny Landa**, **Dave Mawicke**, **Tim O’Connell** and his son Anthony, Chris and **Stanley Riveles**, **Ian Robertson**, Lisa and Vic **Sheronas**, Marcia Hill and **Guy Struve**, **Jim Thompson**, and **Dave Weinstein**. Last-minute unavoidable cancellations included Lynne and **Mike Freeland**, **Larry Gwin**, and **Lee Marsh**. The gathering was coordinated by Ian Robertson and Hank Higdon, with valuable support from Erik Jensen.

On Friday night the group gathered at Café Centro, across the street from the Yale Club. They renewed old friendships, and recounted oft-told tales (some apocryphal). The theme of the evening echoed Bob Blanchard’s (’61) motto “the older we get, the better we were.”

On Saturday evening the assembled Bullpups celebrated the life of **Jerry Kenney** at a dinner at the Yale Club. The entire Kenney family, including Jerry’s wife Carol, his daughter Kristin, his brothers Brian and Robert, as well as Jerry’s longtime assistant Pat Nance, were in attendance, as well as several representatives from Yale University, including the Director of Athletics, Vicky Chun, the former Director of Athletics, Tom Beckett, the Head Football Coach, Tony Reno, and the President of the Yale Football Association, Patrick Ruwe. Bob Blanchard of the Class of 1961, the star fullback on the undefeated 1960 team, represented the 1960 team.

The evening was highlighted by memorable and moving remarks offered by the representatives from Yale, Jerry's oldest brother Brian Kenney ('60), Bob Blanchard ('61), and Ian Robertson, who served as toastmaster and MC for the evening.

Don Akenson writes: "I really enjoy reading about our classmates – and especially the books they publish. I'm trying to keep up, reading everything new from the Class that I can get my hands on. Recently my University appointed me "A.C. Hamilton Distinguished University Professor." It's a nice wee merit badge, but I'm also keeping my endowed chair as Douglas Professor of Canadian and Colonial History: my classmates who have dealt with academic administrations will understand why! Work still is fun."

Michler Bishop would like to share that his new book, *Am I Addicted?: 64 Questions and Answers to Help You Change an Addictive or Semi-Addictive Behavior*, is available on Amazon. Contrary to what the media suggests, 50 years of research indicate that most people resolve their addictive problems on their own. Most people do not go for treatment. They might benefit from long-term therapy, medication and/or rehab, but they do not necessarily need it. Michler hopes the book will motivate people to take action to change one or more behaviors before their problems become worse. Michler is also very pleased to note that his youngest daughter, Anusha, has had three wonderful years studying Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at Yale and is on track to graduate in May 2020. Supported by a Rosenfeld Science Scholars Program fellowship, this past summer Anusha worked on developing spatial models to predict the distribution and movement of tsetse flies in order to inform disease control efforts in Kenya.

Skip Eastman reports: “Midge and I have talked about downsizing/moving for a couple of years. On June 28, 2019 an opportunity came up to secure an apartment in a retirement community in Virginia, but we had to move fast. We had lived in the same house in Maryland for 43 years and had never thrown anything away. That started a chaotic 60 days this summer in which we: (a) cancelled a three-week ocean cruise up the coast of Norway to Russia which was due to start on July 1, 2019 – we were packed and ready to go!; (b) found a real estate agent and listed and sold our house in 22 days; (c) distributed many of our cherished possessions to family, charity and friends as we were moving from 4,000+ square feet to about 1,800 square feet; and (d) packed things to go to our new home, to a storage facility, or to our motorhome. Our furnishings arrived at our new home on August 23, 2019. We stayed there two nights, unpacked a few things, and then left for a 10-day tour of New York City in our motorhome, closing on the sale of our house while on the road. From there we went straight to my high school reunion in Cincinnati, OH and, as I write this, we are heading to Naples, FL in our motorhome. We’ll drive the tow car back to Virginia in early October to finish unpacking and rest! My advice to fellow classmates is – if you are planning to downsize in the next 10 years, START NOW!”

Jon Larson reports: “Four of us had a small reunion at the summer home of Shirley and **Ed Carlson** in Port Clinton, OH. The gathering included most of the ‘Barge Guys’ who organized Class tours of France and Great Britain a few years ago: Pat and **Jere Johnston**, Karen and Jon Larson, and Mayda Tsaknis and **Jim Thompson**. Ed and Shirley were wonderful hosts and we greatly enjoyed their company, the food, and their lovely home right on Lake Erie. We dined one day at Bistro 163, the award winning non-profit ‘pay it forward’ restaurant started by Ed

and Shirley, which serves fresh locally sourced meals at a reasonable cost. Bistro's mission is to increase food security and offer all neighbors a place to eat and come together as one community. We took in an art festival and several cultural events at nearby Lakeside (Ohio's Chautauqua). The guys played a competitive round of golf, and Captain Jere took everyone for a cruise on Lake Erie, visiting Kelleys Island for an outdoor lunch and games. We tried to avoid discussing politics in favor of catching up on our personal lives, but that was hard to do in today's climate. We took the time to do some initial planning for a Yale '63 mini-reunion in San Francisco in late September of 2020 and a Yale '63 cruise from Amsterdam to Budapest in 2021. More information on both events will be released as plans are finalized."

Phil Otto relates: "We sold our house in Sonoma last year and have returned to our roots in Philadelphia. We have rented an apartment in Old City, a re-emerging neighborhood that's a walkable area with numerous restaurants, historic sites, and easy transport. So, in our new 'hood we just walk, having sold our two cars in California and then rent when we need to from the available pool of rental cars located right in the basement of our building. Meantime, we have purchased a house in Mexico in the small artists' town of Todos Santos, located about 60 miles north of Cabo San Lucas in Baja California. It's a marvelous warm-weather retreat from the East Coast's arctic winters. Our two children make us bicoastal: son Ross is on the faculty of McGill University in Montréal with his wife, Anja (who holds the same degree he has – a Ph.D. in Cognitive Psychology – and who has segued to the corporate world). They produced our first grandchild last year. Daughter Alexandra lives in LA with her husband Nathan and another new granddaughter, with a second one on the way. Bottom line: we're destined to

remain bicoastal no matter which coast we live on – hence our ‘Grand Experiment’ in Philadelphia.”

Dr. Robert C. Barker, Jr. died from a heart attack on August 9, 2019 at his home in Fort Smith, AK. Bob was born in Fort Worth, TX on February 6, 1941. He graduated from high school in Fort Worth, and then attended Yale University, earning a B.A. in English Literature in 1963. He obtained his medical degree from Tulane College of Medicine. After serving two years in the Air Force as a general medical officer, he resumed his medical training at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, focusing on internal medicine and gastroenterology. While in Houston, he met and married his beloved wife, Jere Jones Guin Barker. On completion of his training there in 1975, they moved to Fort Smith, where he practiced with Holt Krock Clinic and Sparks. After retiring, he volunteered for many years at Good Samaritan Clinic. He is survived by his wife, Jere Barker; children Mara E. Barker, Heather B. Heitman, Bevin B. Raines, and Brent C. Barker; a brother; and grandchildren, cousins, nieces, and nephews. He was an active member of St. Bartholomew’s Episcopal Church, and enjoyed reading, music, cycling, running, rugby, and race horses.

Ron Allison writes: “Bobby Barker, my roomie in 1959, impressed me immediately as a true Southern gentleman. He was born in Fort Worth, TX, where he met Betty. They married when Bobby went to medical school after three years at Yale pre-med. Betty died 12 years later. Bobby found and married Jere, who adopted his two children, and they had two more children together. Bobby's brother, Charlie, Yale '64, joined our other roomies, **Dan Arons**, **Bucky Buxton**, and **S. K. Wilson**, at parties in Silliman. All six of us became doctors in four states. Bobby joined his best buddy, S. K. Wilson, at Holt-Krock Clinic in Fort Smith, AK. Bob

became the premier gastroenterologist in the Tulsa-Fort Smith area. He retired to race thoroughbreds as well as serve his church and local history museum. Bobby and I talked or e-mailed almost every week. I do miss our friendship and dialogues. Well done, Dr. Barker!”

Hugh Rowland, Jr. passed away on September 5, 2019 at his home in New York City. While Hugh was physically weakened in recent years, his spirit and intellect remained bright. His passing was sudden and unexpected, and he will be greatly missed by many. Hugh was born on October 7, 1941, and raised primarily in New Britain, CT. A lifelong booster of all things Yale, Hugh graduated from Yale College in 1963 and Yale Law School in 1967. Hugh was a much-loved husband, brother, father, and grandfather. He is survived by his beloved wife, Irmela Florig-Rowland, who cared tirelessly for him after he became ill; two siblings; his son and daughter-in-law, Gregory and Amy Rowland; and his grandchildren, Isabel, Margaret, and John Rowland.

Hugh spent his entire legal career, spanning more than 40 years, at Debevoise & Plimpton, an international law firm, working out of both the firm’s New York office and London office. Hugh had a wide-ranging practice encompassing all aspects of international commercial transactions. His longstanding clients included Chrysler and Phelps Dodge. Hugh was loved and admired by colleagues and clients for his engaging manner, keen intelligence, creativity and mentoring, as well as his ability to maintain a playful sense of humor at critical moments. “There’s got to be a way to skin this cat,” was one of his signature comments. Hugh also devoted significant time to charitable causes, such as Union Settlement in East Harlem, where he served on the Board of Directors, including as Chair, from 1972–2002, and on the Advisory Council, from 2003–2015.

Nelson Luria remembers Hugh Rowland as follows: “Hugh and I have been close friends since meeting as members of our senior society. We roomed together two of my three years in law school, Hugh having taken a sabbatical to be a Rotary Fellow in Strasbourg near Irmela, whom he married 25 years later. While I was in Vietnam, he provided regular companionship for my new wife. Hugh’s life revolved around Irmela, his colleagues and work at Debevoise & Plimpton, his son Gregory, and his grandchildren. His intelligence was formidable but unassertive, and his sense of humor typically manifested itself in a hearty chuckle. Afflicted with a severe stroke some seven years ago and with ongoing health problems since, he continued to embrace life, traveling to Irmela’s apartment in Munich and retaining a keen interest in the affairs of our times. I saw him regularly and never heard him complain or lose the twinkle in his eye.”

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