



## CLASS OF 1963 – ALUMNI NOTES JULY-AUGUST 2018

From May 31 through June 3, 2018, we held our 55th Reunion in Branford College in New Haven. Our 55th Reunion was noteworthy for several reasons:

First, the 55th Reunion was our first Free Reunion. All food, drink, and lodging in Branford College were entirely free of charge to all classmates and guests. This was made possible through Class dues and contributions to the Reunion Expense Reserve by hundreds of classmates. This is the first time that any Yale class has self-funded a free reunion in this manner.

Second, our 55th Reunion broke all the records for a 55th reunion. Not only did we break the records, we shattered them. Our attendance of 307 classmates was 123 more than the largest number of classmates that had ever attended a 55th reunion. 39.9% of our Class attended the 55th Reunion, demolishing the prior record of 28.6%. It seems safe to predict that the records set by our 55th Reunion will stand for many years to come.

Third, and most important, the 55th Reunion was our best Reunion ever. The spirit of the Reunion was grounded in conversations both short and long that formed new friendships and reinforced those that stretch back for almost 60 years. If you were there, you know how wonderful the Reunion was. If you were not there, ask your friends who were there to share their experiences with you. Memorable photographs of the Reunion, taken by **Pat Johnston**, are posted on the Class Website, [www.yale63.org](http://www.yale63.org).

The program for our 55th Reunion included many features pioneered in our previous Reunions, including Class discussion groups and a Memorial Service in Battell Chapel remembering our classmates who died since the last Reunion. Our 55th Reunion also included several innovations, including informal tabletop discussion groups after breakfast in Branford courtyard.

At the Class Dinner on Friday, June 1, 2018, Class of 1963 Achievement Awards were presented to **Jim Courtright, Fred Hanser, Peter Kiernan, Mike Koenig**, and **Bill Kramer**. Then all of those who had made important contributions to the Reunion were successively asked to stand, including the Class Officers, the Class Council, the Reunion Committee, and the Reunion Gift

Committee. Without all of them, our record-breaking Reunion would not have been possible.

The Reunion Gift Committee, headed by **Fred Hanser** and **Bill Kramer**, raised a total of \$12.73 million, exceeding the target. Our Alumni Fund effort, headed by **Troy Murray** and **Ken Porter**, likewise reported good results. Thanks are due to Fred, Bill, Troy, Ken, and their Committees for their hard work and dedication.

The Reunion was preceded by a pre-reunion in New York City, culminating in a Class Dinner at the Yale Club of New York City, and a golf outing organized by **Peter Kiernan** at the Yale Golf Course, followed by dinner at Mory's.

The Co-Chairmen of the 55th Reunion – **Ian Robertson** and **Eustace Theodore** – did an absolutely outstanding job in planning and executing the Reunion. They were assisted by many classmates, including **Jon Larson**, Chairman of the Reunion Committee, and **Jon Rose**, Editor of the 55th Reunion Class Book.

All in all, our 55th Reunion was one we can be proud of, and it sets a very high standard for our 60th Reunion and beyond. At the close of the Reunion, we dedicated ourselves to the goal of bringing back to our 60th Reunion as many as

possible of the classmates who were not at this Reunion. We look forward to seeing everyone in 2023.

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