

Highlights of the Class of 1968

Summer, 1963

Gallaudet College (Gally) started a six-week summer school for newly admitted students for the first time. Fifty-three of the 68 first summer school students were '68ers. During that hot and humid summer, we lived and studied in non-air-conditioned dormitories and classrooms; and the cockroaches were plentiful. Imagine **Clark Connor** and **Jenny Sue Bruton** from cool Washington State arriving in their best wool clothes. Fortunately, we went swimming in the Hughes Gym pool everyday and visited many historical sites and air-conditioned museums every Saturday.

There were a few '68ers who met during that summer and got married shortly after our graduation five years later. **Clark Connor** and **Rosalee Bryan** met in the patio of the Student Union Lounge (SUL) on the first day of orientation, and started going steady in Spring, 1964, and married one week after graduation. Another class couple was **Robert Watson** and **Betty Grubb**.

During the summer of '63, John F. Kennedy (JFK) was the President of the United States. The Cuban crisis, which had occurred the preceding Spring, had quieted down; but the Soviet Union and USA continued to test nuclear warfare. The crisis in Vietnam continued to become worse; President Kennedy sent more military advisors to help the South Vietnamese government. President Kennedy started the space race with the Soviet Union by promising to send our men to the moon within a decade. The Beatles was the most popular band; and everyone started to show off new hairstyles. "We Shall Overcome" and "I Have a Dream" became the popular song and slogan during the huge demonstration of Black people on the Mall in late August.

Preparatory year, 1963-1964

Gallaudet celebrated its 100th anniversary of President Lincoln's signing of the Enabling Act which created the college. At that time, the total student population was 968. Of this student body, two hundred and thirty-five (235) were preparatory students, thus forming the largest, strongly bonded (and best) Class of '68 on campus. Of these, most came from California and they arrived with bleached blonde hair and sporting deep California tans. Remember, those from California had their tuition, room and board plus allowances and transportation (yeah, everything) paid by California's Vocational Rehabilitation (VR)...ironically, later many of them left Gally!

In the Fall semester, **Sharon Kay Wood** served as the first Class President with Vice President **Alan Bloom**, Secretary **Andy Morales**, Treasurer **Daniel Blessing**, and Parliamentarian **Judy Mezzanotte**. In the spring semester, **Gordon Johnson** presided at our class meetings along with Vice President **John Kaleta**, Secretary **Andy Morales**, Treasurer **Bruce Herzig** and Parliamentarian **Mark Corson**. Our two youngest preps were 14-year old **Ken Mikos** from New Jersey and 15 year old **Mark Corson** from Pennsylvania. Mark was

very actively involved in politics and deaf activities on campus; his older brother Harvey Corson was the Student Body Government (SBG) President.

Knob Hill News was published monthly by our Prep Class; **Charles Marsh** was the editor. Guess who wrote The Shadow Box? **Linda Raymond** and her three snoopers (who were they?).

We had our social parties with different themes every month, including skits, in Chapel Hall. **Edmund Waterstreet** often showed his great dramatic skills in the skits. At the "Backward Party," there was a game in which each of us picked one envelope from a pile of envelopes with numbers from 1 to 100; only one had the best prize. Darn it, no one thought of picking the number "68"! **Jackie Thixton** broke her nose when she raced to grab a balloon with a prized number inside.

Two 68er sweetheart couples started dating during their old school days and are still married to each other: **Ralph Fuechtmann and Karen Mattson** (who were sweethearts for 10 years at the Minnesota School for the Deaf before coming to Gally); and **Bruce Herzig and Elaine Lefkowitz** of New York. **Harold (John) Coggins** and **Margaret Judd** were sweethearts during the prep year, later left and got married.

No dorm life is without curfews and rules! Boys were required to return to College Hall by 6 p.m. on weekdays and by 11:00 p.m. on weekends. Girls were required to wear dresses when going off-campus; but they were allowed to go off-campus only once a month and had to be back by 11:00 p.m. or earn red marks, also known as demerits. On other days, they had to be back by 6:00 p.m.

On Mum's Day in October, all prep girls wore black dresses or two-piece outfits and sprayed their hair black, like "beatniks."

On November 22nd, JFK was assassinated. The next day, no classes were held. Many of us attended JFK's funeral procession at the Capitol. The Vice-President, Lyndon B. Johnson (LBJ), became our next president and class patron.

Who can forget the "Snow War" that raged back and forth between the preps and frosh on the mall. Originally, we built a big snow mouse with "Magnificent Prep" on the slope of the quad. The word "Prep" was destroyed and changed to "Frosh" by the Class of '67, but later we restored the word back to "Prep." Yeah, we preps won, but each of us had to pay 2 cents for breaking Ely Hall windows with snowballs.

Hooray! No prep math classes for one day! One snowy night some of us blocked the entrance doors of Kendall Hall with snow and ice. After midnight, Dr. Elizabeth Benson, in her funny outfit of robe and curlers, tried to catch us by chasing us around the building. Later in the morning, Dean of Students Dr. Richard Phillips ordered us to dig the snow from the doors. That was an old tradition for every prep class on the first snow of the winter! Another tradition for the Prep Class was to climb and "autograph" the inside walls of the clock tower.

During Spring Break Week, we had really crazy Washington, D.C., weather. The week started with a nice warm sunny day, but it changed to cold BRRR windy snow and a damp, cold week followed!

In April, 1964, all prep boys sprayed their hair silver and wore white shirts and Bermuda shorts.

May, 1964, saw two big events for us: a picnic at the quiet cove. Some preps, who went swimming, narrowly escaped from an ugly big thing - a snapping turtle! Good thing, no one lost a toe to it! We went on a Moonlight Cruise on the Potomac River, which took us to big Marshall Park: this event was sponsored by the Kappa Gamma.

Gallaudet saw the largest enrollment of prep athletes (26 men) in its history; about 75% of the Gallaudet track team were preps. There are too many good athletes to be named here. We lost our best wrestler **Mike Golightly** (ex-68er), who later came back and graduated with the Class of 1972.

Among the funniest prep happenings and most vivid memories, mentioned by 68ers and reported in the Knob Hill News, are:

The girls in Fowler Hall poured ice cold water on **Linda Allen** and her boyfriend Robert Whitworth '64 on a very cold day in February 1964! She had sneaked out to the movies one evening (remember the curfew - girls must be back by 6:00 p.m.).

Douglas Bernhardt reported that some prep boys grabbed and undressed one guy in front of Fowler Hall, which was the home of the prep girls.

In March, 1964, there was a shortage of toilet paper in dormitories. Because **Linda Bove, Jenny Bruton** and their committee, who sponsored the games at the annual Girls' Athletic Association (GAA), wrapped the boys with toilet paper as if they were mummies.

Jenny Bruton ate lots of cookies, but ended up spending much of her time on the commode because **Betty York** secretly added a laxative to the cookies.

The candies **Jenny Bruton** and **Betty York** bought and shared with some preps, were different kinds - bees, ants, grasshoppers, and caterpillars. They fooled them by saying that each kind of candy came from a different country. They enjoyed watching those who gulped them - some of them thought that they were delicious and some stopped eating them when they realized what these sweets were made of.

Adrienne Cleva was chosen as a Homecoming princess during the Homecoming Weekend.

Thomas Henes was stunned to see a fireman on a ladder when he looked out of a window on the 4th floor in College Hall. Was there a fire? No, it was a false alarm!

Joan Hersh, Margaret Holcomb and Elaine Lefkowitz were caught and earned 5 demerits for burning candles to do their homework a little past midnight (Remember - lights out by midnight!).

Bruce Herzig - a sort of "all around athlete" - ironically could not beat **Elaine Lefkowitz** in bowling. In fact, she still beats him today!

Twelve prep girls were suspended for throwing **Marcia Kessler's** mattress and sheets out of the window. She had to carry her mattress back to her room; but the campus police caught her. She had to convince Dr. Benson that she did not throw her own mattress outside. Poor her!

Guess who did steal **246 pairs of shoes** from prep girls' closets and dumped them in one huge pile in the basement of the Fowler Hall? They were **Nancy Lawrence, Marilyn Beal, Janice Harris, Susan Jackson, and Patty Shutter.**

Harriet Lachman and **Nancy Lawrence** were punished for sneaking out to witness JKF's coffin being brought to the Capitol for a state viewing.

A prep girl put Vaseline on **Nancy Lawrence's** hair on her birthday!

Who can forget **Tom Lewis's** first experience with laundry. He loaded his dirty clothes in the dryer before loading them in washing machine. Ha!

Eugene Manion and his friends piled into and fully packed a telephone booth! Bet they could not breath at this time!

Firemen came to the College Hall dormitory and hurried to **Tom McKenna's** room, but it was only smoke coming from his coffee pot! No big fire!

Alex Richey is still trying to find out who did drop a balloon filled with water on him?

Bobby Skedsmo and some prep boys were taken blindfolded and dropped off at a far away and unknown place, but they managed to find a way back to the campus!

Andrine Thorsell sprayed her hair black on Mum's Day but forgot to shampoo her hair first before taking a shower. She had trouble getting rid of the black dye from her body!

Edmund Waterstreet and **John Huang** were our best barbers. The boys saved money!!!

Betty (Yorky) York suddenly found soapy bubbles coming out of her sneakers on a rainy day. Why? Because she put too much laundry soap in the washing machine to wash her sneakers. She could not measure the amount of soap right. Ha!

Freshman year, 1964-1965

The big events during the year were the World's Fair in New York and the Civil Rights Bill of 1964 which was signed by LBJ. He also started his war on poverty, known as the "Great Society." The Vietnam War continued with President Johnson sending 500,000 more men to Vietnam. Many students were drafted to the war and many hippies, who were against war, burned draft cards and dodged the draft.

Thirty-four (34) students joined the Class of 1968 as freshmen. **Lyle Hinks** was elected as our Class President with **Judy (Mezzy) Mezzanotte** as Vice President, **Emory Marsh** as Secretary, **Bruce Herzig** as Treasurer, and **Alan Bloom** (1st semester) and **Mark Corson** (2nd semester) as Parliamentarians. Unfortunately we lost a great leader and actor - **Bill Ennis** (ex-68er), who later returned and graduated in 1971. John Tracy, the son of prominent movie star Spencer Tracy, enrolled as a special student in our frosh class, but left after one semester.

We went through two fun (not really fun!) weeks of "hazing." John Cowen of '67 was the chairman of the hazing week for the boys; and at first, we freshmen boys were not afraid of him. In front of us, he broke wood into half with his bare hand and also broke a big block of ice with his bare foot (only toe). We then became scared of him and obeyed his orders all the time. He had a black belt in karate. One day, we were ordered to present a skit. The skit was called "The Statue" and the audience waited a long time for us to act before they realized that "The Statue" involved no action at all. The sophomores, Class of 1967, who were in the charge of hazing week, got mad and chased us back to the dormitories.

We Frosh won the traditional Tug of War between Frosh and Soph classes. **Betty York** sprained her ankle; **Ken Mikos** and **Peter Vandenburg** carried her all the way to the infirmary.

We experienced our first food boycott in the cafeteria on Veteran's Day (November 11). In observance of the holiday, the cafeteria served us the best delicious dinner, including unique desserts! But, we all cooperated not to touch or eat them. Guess, we all forgot about Veteran's Day. President Elstad was very angry at us for not paying our respects to this very special day. Later, the services in cafeteria improved a little with the addition of chocolate milk dispensing machines.

Among the memorable events during that year are:

Linda Bove's hair got greased and the grease stayed for a whole week!

On his first date with **Jeanne Biser**, **Emory Marsh** spilled Coke on his pants. (They later got married after graduation.)

The Class planned and had a big and successful football Homecoming Dance on Halloween Day. **Mona Trimble** was a Homecoming princess.

Mike Burpo fell asleep in a humanities class, and the classmates left quietly - not waking up him up. He often dozed off during movies or plays in the Elstad auditorium.

During Sadie Hawkins' Day, **Charles Marsh** climbed up to the top of a tree to avoid two chasing girls, but **Kathy Lukaszek** tackled him down and sprained his ankle. The next day he wore a cast! Guess what! They got married later after graduation!

Linda Yuen said that a dead hamster was found in a freezer in Peet Hall. Who had put it there?

We baptized the seniors in the mud hole when they returned from their senior trip. We got a bulldozer from the near-by Washburn Arts Building, which was under construction at that time, to help dig the hole.

The Class went on a picnic at the Milford Mill beach in May before going home for the summer.

World Games For the Deaf (WGD) was held in Washington, D.C., in late June and early July. **Charles and Emory Marsh, Bobby Skedsmo, Bill Smith, Karl Nygaard, Tom Henes, Gary Hendrix, John Dyreson and Steve Baldwin** were on track team; **Rodney Moreland, Steve Holst, Bruce Herzig, Robert McDevitt and Nancy Lawrence** were on swimming team; **Dale Nichols** competed in table tennis; **Eugene Manion** on the tennis court. Many of us volunteered to help the Games: **Jenny Sue Bruton, Rosalee Bryan, Clark Connor, Edmund Waterstreet, Joan Hersh, Diana Dawes, Sharon Wood and others.**

Sophomore year, 1965-1966

Our Air Force continued to bomb Viet Nam....many ended up as POW's and MIA's. Russia and the USA continued the space race to send the first man to the moon.

Our Class elected **Mike Moore** as its Sophomore President, **Ken Mikos** as Vice-President, **Linda Bove** as Secretary, **Art Roehrig** as the Treasurer and **Jon Kidd** (1st semester) and **Mark Corson** (2nd semester) as the Parliamentarians. It chose maroon as the class color for our blazers. The logo of the Tower Clock for the blazer was designed by our **Paul Setzer**.

Two brand new modern air-conditioned dormitories, Krug Hall and Cogswell Hall, opened for the first time. They were comfortable and had lot of storage space, private closets,

and wall to wall carpets. Each of the 4 floors had a great TV area/lobby. Most of us occupied the top (4th) floor. Furniture arrival was delayed by a hurricane, however.

Some memorable events include the following:

We were in charge of the frosh hazing week on the Class of 1969.

Jeanne Biser was chosen as a Homecoming princess.

The first fire in the new Krug Hall was caused by **Mike Burpo's** vibrating alarm clock - Room 326.

A big blizzard hit the Washington, D.C., area, dumping up to 6 feet of snow. In fact, it almost covered a whole phone booth! It was fun to slide on a car hood on Kendall Green!

Junior year, 1966-1967

The U.S.S.R. achieved the first soft moon landing with an unmanned lunar spacecraft, which began relaying photographs. Three U.S. Astronauts, Grissom, White and Chaffee, were killed in a flash fire in the Apollo spacecraft during test on the launch pad at Cape Kennedy, Florida.

The Junior Class president was **Mark Corson** along with Veeps **Myrtle White** (1st semester) and **Bruce Herzig** (2nd semester), **Karen Mattson** as the Secretary, **Robert Watson** as the Treasurer and **Mike Moore** as the Parliamentarian. **Lorraine Brady** was a Homecoming princess. The Class Banner was adopted; its design was the Tower Clock (designed by **John Huang**) with light blue background and dark blue/white border. The class hosted a successful prom at the Presidential Arms; the theme was "Atlantis, The Lost Continent" where we wore all Greek attire.

Many of us starred in "The Three Penny Opera." The cast included **Ed Waterstreet**, **Charles and Emory Marsh**, **Ken Mikos**, **Bruce Herzig**, **Michael Burpo**, **Daniel Blessing**, **Sharon Wood**, **Linda Bove** (her 1st play), **Susan Jackson**, and **Wanda Smith**. **Sharon Wood** was the best supporting actress and most promising actress for her leading role in "The Three Penny Opera" performance.

Two well-known 68er sweetheart couples were **Stanley and Judy (Horne) Miller** and **Leslie and Aurora (Ortiz) Solomon**.

In late spring, the Class of '68 joined the campus-wide boycott against Gally to demand better medical services on campus. The boycott was lead by newly elected SBG officers, including **Corson**, **Marsh**, **Moore**, **Mikos**, **Raymond**, and **Herzig** as well as former SBG officers. All of us refused to go to classes for almost a week, it took the faculty to side with the students and to send the Presidential Search Committee (Dr. Doctor as its chairman) to work out a compromise between the students and the Elstad administration. During

that time, **Mike Moore** got very ill with a bad case of flu but refused to go to the infirmary until the boycott was over. You can imagine why Dr. Todd along with his favorite nurse, Ms. Helbecka, were so happy to see him and gave him a royal treatment!

Senior year, 1967-1968

The Shah of Iran crowned himself and Empress Farah. South African surgeon Christiann Barnard performed the first human heart transplant. Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated in Memphis, TN. Senator Robert F. Kennedy died at 42 of gunshot wounds after winning the California Democratic Primary.

The Class president was **Chris Walters**, with Vice President **Bill Angelbeck**, Secretary **Kathy Lukaszek**, Treasurer **John Dyreson** and Parliamentarian **Charles Marsh**. **John Kaleta** was the Head Senior for the boys; and **Sharon Wood** for the girls. **Charles Marsh** was elected Editor-in-Chief of the **Tower Clock** and many of us 68ers were involved on the yearbook. The yearbook had hand alphabet designs spelling "Tower Clock 68" with gold lettering against a maroon background.

Many of us were involved in SBG. **Mark Corson** was the President of SBG, with **Emory Marsh** as the Executive Vice President, **Mike Moore** as the Vice President of Academic Affairs and Student Welfare, **Linda Raymond** as the Vice President of Cultural Affairs, **Bruce Herzig** as the Vice President of Athletic Affairs, and **Ken Mikos** as the Vice President of Student Publications. **Lyle Hinks** was the Parliamentarian with **Ken Rothschild** as the Business Manager.

Many members of our class got the drama bug. **Nancy Lawrence** won the Best Actress for her role in "Spoon River Anthology" while **Richard Kendall** debuted as the best supporting actor in "The Man Who Came to Dinner" and **Elaine McHowell** was the Most Promising Actress in the "Waiting for Godot." **Susan Jackson** was recognized as the Most Versatile Actress.

Martin L. King was shot in April and the riots began; many buildings on H Street were set on fire. The flames and smoke could be seen from the roofs of the Cogswell, Krug, Fowler and College Halls. The National Guard, and later the 8th Airborne Division, set up temporary camp on the Gally campus while they were on duty to enforce the curfew in the city; they played a baseball game against Gally students. **Brenda Woods** tried to return books to a public library by bus to avoid paying overdue charges, but the library was closed. It took her four hours to ride back to Gally, because crowds of angry people were piling into the buses.

Our Senior trip was to the Vacation Valley on Echo Lake in the Poconos Mountains, Pennsylvania, for the weekend. Many of us stopped in New York City and Philadelphia before going to the Poconos resort; we also drove through Amish farms on our way back to Gally. Newlyweds Hal and Mary Lou Domich came along as our "chaperones," but they were busy being in love. **Betty York** lost her regular glasses during a hayride; so she had to use sunglasses during the rest of the trip. Interesting! **Linda Bove and Ed**

Waterstreet met and had a fling during the summer school of 1963...and they fell in love during the sneak weekend and got married later after graduation.

Back at Gally, the freshmen dug a big hole and filled it up with water (the traditional mudhole). But we bribed the preps to fill it up with sand. Thanks to the preps, the hole turned out to be very shallow. Two heavyweight wrestlers could not throw **Ralph Fuechtmann** into the mudhole.

The Senior Banquet was held at the Stardust Inn restaurant in Waldorf, MD, on Wednesday, May 29th where we played slot machines. Baltimore's Sun Magazine had pictures of the Banquet in its June 23, 1968, edition. **Mark Corson** was elected as our permanent class president and **George Oakes** as secretary/treasurer.

Graduation Day was June 3, 1968, with Dr. Mary Switzer delivering the Commencement Address. One hundred and seventeen of us received our bachelor degrees, the largest graduating class in the college's history at that time.

After our graduation, 1968-1993

Two days after our graduation, Robert F. Kennedy was shot on June 5, 1968.

Our Class of 1968 got together from time to time at various events:

During the 1968 Gallaudet Homecoming weekend at **Andy and Patricia (Milbrath) Morales'** apartment in Landover, MD. approximately 15 of us (mostly from the Washington, D.C., area) got together for the first time since graduation.

In 1976, 10 of us got together at the National Association of the Deaf (NAD) convention in Rochester, NY.

In the summer of 1978, 10th anniversary reunion hosted by a committee: **Louis Schwarz (Chair), Clark & Rosalee Connor, Paul Setzer, Bruce & Elaine Herzig, Linda Whitworth, Alex Richey, Betty York, Bill Tipton, Carol Harter and Steve Holst**, 77 68ers with spouses/friends were at a get-together buffet party in a community room in Reston, VA, on a Saturday evening and had a picnic in Wheaton Park, MD, on a Sunday afternoon. In this reunion, **Louis Schwarz** was elected as Permanent President with **Bruce Herzig** as secretary/treasurer.

In July of 1980, 30 of us got together at the Centennial NAD convention in Cincinnati, Ohio. **Louis Schwarz** almost lost his daughter, Jovialis in Cincinnati, when she went out to look for her father, while he was still inside the restaurant. Thanks to **Landon Sahlin's** wife Diane for locating Jovialis.

In July of 1982, some of us bumped into each other at the St. Louis NAD Convention.

In the summer of 1984, 27 of us met at the NAD convention in Baltimore, MD.

In the summer of 1985, 20 of us had a good time on Santa Monica Beach, California, after the World Games for the Deaf in Los Angeles. Again **Louis Schwarz** almost lost his daughter, Jovialis on the crowded beach. He found her by using binoculars.

In July of 1986, some of us met at the NAD convention in Salt Lake City, Utah.

In the summer of 1988, 16 of us got together at the NAD convention in Charleston, SC.

Our 20th anniversary reunion during the homecoming weekend in the fall of 1988 was hosted by the same planning committee mentioned above with **Mary (Miller) Corbett, Sharon Wood, and Mike Moore** joining the committee. On Friday evening, 35 of us got together for a party in the lobby of the Washburn Arts Building; on the following Sunday morning we had a brunch at El Torito's restaurant in Greenbelt, MD. We were shocked to see **Robert Bolger** show up at the party because we had thought he was dead!

For our 21st anniversary reunion in July of 1989, there were 3 big events at the same time at Gallaudet: the 125th anniversary of Gallaudet University; 100th anniversary of Gallaudet University Alumni Association (GUAA and The Deaf Way). The same reunion committee hosted a get-together affair at Gusti's restaurant several blocks from the campus; 51 68ers plus spouses/friends attended.

In the summer of 1990, 17 of us got together at the NAD convention in Indianapolis, IN.

In the summer of 1992, 21 of us met at the NAD convention in Denver, CO.

For our 25th Anniversary Reunion, October 22-24, 1993 (Homecoming weekend), the big exciting event was planned by the same reunion committee plus several new members. About 115 with spouses/friends (about 91 68ers) got together at a reception at the Quality Hotel Capital Hill Friday evening, attended the brunch at Ole Jim, joined the Homecoming parade on Saturday morning; had a real nice banquet at the hotel Saturday night and parted with a breakfast brunch at the hotel on Sunday morning. Many class members stayed at the hotel. The planning committee produced its first class book in history with the letter of congratulations from a President of the United States, Bill Clinton.