

From: Dennis Baldwin <drbaldwin32@gmail.com>

Subject: Our Hamilton 60th

Dear Classmates,

Well, our oft-delayed 60th reunion is now but a collection of warm and wonderful memories. For a great overall recap of Hamilton's Reunion Weekend—including some terrific photos—I refer you to the recent email from Josie Collier '97, our outgoing Alumni Association Prez (See attachment for Josie's email). For my recap I want to focus on the events which might be of special interest to the Class of '61.

Happily, 10 of our classmates were able to make the trek to the Hill for all or part of Reunion Weekend (or as the College advertised-- "One Hill of a Party") including Joe (and Sparkie) Spaeth, Sev (and Margie) Marsted, Bill (and Sue) Mattern, Chris (and Susan) Mazzola, Tom (and Ann) Crane, Charlie (and Sally) Svenson, John (and friend Kay Lee) Schoemer, Hank Pinkerton, Pitt Petri, Jr. and yours truly (and Gail).

The College outdid itself in welcoming us, with plenty of food, activity and swag. Even the Weather Gods cooperated with dry, coolish conditions. And with an eye to Mr. Covid, many events were held outdoors under tents galore on our beautifully groomed campus.

Since the Classes of '59-'62 set it up, a group of us Friday morning attended a very revealing picture of Hamilton admissions at an Alumni College presentation by Peaches Valdes, our very talented Admissions Dean. The College is coming off a record-breaking year of almost 10,000 applicants, with an historically low admit rate of 11.8% ending up with a hugely diversified and accomplished freshman class of 488 students from 35 states and 27 countries—a testament to the skill of our hard-working admissions team. Clearly, Hamilton's come a long way from the days of '61 and deservedly retains its lofty position in the upper ranks of elite US colleges.

On Saturday morning we picked up our '61 class banner and fell in with the traditional Alumni Parade, but, alas, due to an innocent mixup, most of our classmates weren't able to join us. That said, we all nevertheless ended up at Wellin Hall Schambach Center to hear some engaging half century annalists from Hamilton and Kirkland College classes of '72, along with a few tunes from the mixed-voice Reunion Choir under Doug Sheldon's '63 inimitable direction.

Following an all-alumni lunch on Saturday, we gathered in the Chapel for the annual meeting of the Alumni Association featuring brief remarks from our ever eloquent and affable President David Wippman, a terrific half century annalist presentation by Rory Radding '71, and celebrations of Gordon Kaye '74 as the Jeff Little '71 Volunteer of the Year and Phyllis Breland '80 as the College's Distinguished Service Awardee.

Cocktails and Dinner Saturday evening at the former AD House for '59-'62 (plus all pre-59 attendees) was terrific, with Neal Pilson '60 as our genial MC. About 60 of us gathered for cocktails on the back porch and dinner in that iconic great room. During cocktails, Prez Wippman stopped by to say hello and share a heartfelt welcome. During the evening we enjoyed the opportunity to catch up, reminisce, doff a few, dine well and enjoy a lively program including a few video clips capturing the essence of today's Hamilton students introduced by our two student interns, Jake Valensi '23 and John Hern '24, brief comments by our featured guests, Ben Madonia '74 (recently retired head of Gift Planning) and Fred Rogers (former Annual Giving Director and current Director of Gift Planning), a Neal-inspired sports trivia contest (with sport caps prizes courtesy of Neal), a "come as you are" choir performance by former members of the Hamilton Choir (with many of our favorite tunes), a moment of silence for those no longer with us and an always hauntingly beautiful rendition of Carissima to close out the evening. We even had a Zoom hookup for those who couldn't attend like loyal reunion planning team member, Bob Rockwell '60 who came down with Covid just before our reunion. (BTW, I did hear reports that the Zoom sound wasn't so good. Sorry about that but we did the best we could with the technology available....)



We closed out a memorable weekend with the traditionally powerful Service of Remembrance in our historic Chapel. As usual, it included stirring performances by the mixed-voice Reunion Choir led by G. Roberts Kolb and the all-male Baldwin choir led for about the 20th year by John Baldwin-trained Doug Sheldon '63, a thoughtful sermon from guest pastor, The Rev. Dr. Charles E. Hambrick-Stowe '70, and one final rendition of Carissima and then hanging around to relish in one of my old favorites--Widor's Toccata from Symphony V on the Chapel's magnificent organ—shades of John Baldwin, indeed.

Our '59-'62 60th reunion was the culmination of about two years of planning—mostly via Zoom—by a stalwart team including Neal Pilson '60, Sam Crowl '62, Bill Wieting '59, myself and a loyal group of other stalwarts including '61ers Joe Spaeth, Sev Marsted, Tom Crane, George Elferink and Bill Mattern and Bob Rockwell '60, Mike Kaiser '62, Ralph Oman '62 and Phil Mead '59 plus the irreplaceable Sharon Rippey (Director of Alumni and Parent Relations) who was the key to putting it all together for us. My many thanks to the team including some amazing student interns along the way including Felix Tager '23, John Hern '24 and Jake Valensi '23.

One final word—whether you were able to attend or not, if you haven't already, you can express your own support, appreciation and thanks for all that is Hamilton by considering a gift to the College's Annual Fund before June 30 or even better by joining the Chapel Bell Society and obtaining your own pair of iconic Hamilton socks (www.hamilton.edu/give). What better investment for a College which has given us so much....

Enjoy the summer and be well.

Best,

Denny

Dennis Baldwin
315 436 0896

Dear Hamilton and Kirkland Alumni,

Each time I drive up College Hill, I'm excited. But excitement isn't a strong enough word to describe the emotions I felt on my trip back for Reunions '22. After all, in-person reunions were canceled two years in a row and this would be my final reunion as Alumni Association president. There was a powerful energy surrounding this Reunion Weekend, and the campus was completely transformed to make way for more than 2,300 registrants to reconnect and celebrate their Hamilton and Kirkland home. What a metamorphic moment it was to drive past the Hamilton signs and make our way up College Hill Road!

It really warmed my heart to see so many alumni of all ages enjoying the festive atmosphere, gathered under huge canopies and reconnecting in clusters of Adirondack chairs for overdue conversations with classmates. The joy we shared to simply be back together was elevated by so many events where we recounted old memories and made new ones with classmates

from various years. Some reviews I heard from the weekend: "Better than I could have imagined!", "The best weekend ever!", and "Thank you for having multiple classes here. It was so great to see all of my friends, not just those in my class year."

Check out the [photo gallery](#) to see all of the smiling faces soaking up the sunshine, great music, and overall good company.

If you were with us on the Hill during the weekend, or with us in spirit (a.k.a. Zoom), please keep in mind the College needs your support to bring the magic and provide the educational experience we loved to today's students (like the ones faithfully staffing reunion events and driving everyone around in golf carts!) I truly mean it when I say that your gifts to the College make all the difference, and if you haven't already participated in the Hamilton Fund, I urge you to [do so today](#).

Here are some highlights from the weekend:

- **Four 50th Class Reunions:** We welcomed four cohorts celebrating their 50th reunion, with the Class of 1972, the Classes of 1970 and 1971 making up for their postponed in-person celebrations, and the first-ever Kirkland 50th reunion. All of the 50th classes received the traditional medallions at a ceremony on Thursday, which they wore throughout the weekend along with their boater hats adorned with blue or green ribbons.
- **The Half-Century Annalist Letters:** A uniquely Hamiltonian tradition dating back to 1865, a member of the 50th reunion class reminisces about classmates, the College, and its faculty as they were a half-century earlier. This year was filled with many firsts; it was the first time a Kirkland alumna was able to present and the first time an annalist letter was presented by two people in a class. If you missed it, please know it was truly special. Take some time to watch the letters from all four 50th reunion class years. You can see all these presentations in the upcoming Hamilton Headlines email.
 - John Pitarresi '70 presented the 1970 Half-Century Annalist Letter on Thursday.
 - The 1972 Half-Century Annalist Letter by Steven Wulf '72, read by Jon Hysell '72 and J.K. Hage '72, and the Kirkland Charter Class Half-Century Annalist Letter by Betty Marmon K'72 and Donna Kerner K'72 were presented during the Reunion Assembly on Saturday morning.
 - Rory Radding '71 presented the 1971 Half-Century Annalist Letter at the Annual Meeting of the Alumni Association on Saturday afternoon.
- **Kirkland Gate Celebration:** Kirkland alumnae and Hamilton alumni joined a celebratory toast with green martinis and sparkling water to honor Susan Skerritt K'77 for her countless and tireless volunteer efforts, including providing the funds for the Kirkland Gate.
- **Kirkland Green Dedication:** The Kirkland Charter Class held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for their 50th reunion gift, an outdoor amphitheater called the Kirkland

Green. Located in the courtyard outside of McEwan and List, the space is marked with a plaque listing all of the alumnae who contributed.

- **Reunion Village:** How do you feed a few thousand people all weekend long? It takes a village! Built adjacent to the New Field House, this space was kind of like an outdoor dining hall, with a few fun additions: a stage for live music from Steak Nite and Kevin Kim '15, a bar on top of the tennis courts where alumni grabbed cocktails before dinner, and overlooking it all — a big blue H and a big green K, which you probably spotted in a few Instagram and Facebook posts from your friends who attended!
- **The Little Pub 25th Anniversary:** On Friday evening, alumni gathered to toast Claudia and Jeff Little '71, P'04 and 25 years of The Little Pub as a campus gathering space and favorite reunion hangout spot.
- **The Concert:** On Friday night, the quad in front of Burke Library became a music festival when two trustees took to the stage for back-to-back performances in One Hill of a Party: the Concert. First, Thomas Tull '92, P'13 with his rock-n-blues band Ghost Hounds sent guitar riffs bouncing off the walls of North and Carnegie. Then, David Solomon '84, P'16 whose spectacular digital light show and thumping beats brought an electric energy to the quad. A multigenerational crowd danced up front while others crisscrossed the lawn to visit the food trucks and Saranac beer truck.
- **The Awards:** At the Reunion Assembly, Kirkland President Sam Babbitt received the Bell Ringer Award, recognizing his contributions to the College and the community, while former Alumni Association President Gordon Kaye '74 received the Jeff Little '71 Volunteer of the Year Award, and Phyllis Breland '80 received the Distinguished Service Award at the Annual Meeting of the Alumni Association.
- **Chapel Ribbon Cutting:** We gathered in front of the Chapel on Saturday afternoon to celebrate the restoration of the iconic landmark with remarks from President David Wippman, College Chaplain Jeffrey McArn, and Director of Building Systems Management Bill Huggins P'14. Two new recognition plaques were unveiled to honor those who funded the project, including lead donors Peggy and David Mason '61.
- **Fireworks:** After sunset on Saturday night, we hung out around the fire, toasted marshmallows, and watched a fantastic fireworks display. It was the perfect way to wind down after a busy couple of days!

The fireworks and the Annual Meeting (which included an impromptu musical farewell) provided a smooth transition to new leadership, as I completed my two-year term as president, and passed the baton to my dear friend, and current vice president, John Christopher '83, P'14 who takes over beginning July 1. If you haven't seen any of my videos thanking you all for the chance to represent you, then please let this final letter be a humble testament of my gratitude to each and every one of you. It was a challenging two-year period for us all and I was honored to lead and be of service. I know that John Christopher and your new vice president, Adriana Schmeling Payne '92, will continue to lead the Alumni Council

and our illustrious Alumni Association with grace, compassion, and integrity.

Lastly, thank you to all the alumni who shared kind words and encouragement. I'm not sure what's next but as a famous group once said, you never can say goodbye.

Carissima,

Josie Collier '97, P'14

Chair, Alumni Council and Association President