September, 2016

Dear Fellow ’66er,

This is the first class letter from your new officers, who inherit a wonderful well-connected class from Charles Plohn and his band of merry men. We’ll try hard to live up to their example.

We’ve just come down from the high of our extraordinary 50th Reunion. If you were there, no hyperbole is needed. If you weren’t, we’d just like to say that it was amazing how the years melted away, old friendships were renewed, and new ones formed. Over half the surviving members of the class attended. And it was especially gratifying to see classmates who rarely or ever had come to prior Reunions, and how meaningful it was to them. So if you weren’t there, start planning now for our 55th.

We also just completed a record-shattering Annual Giving campaign, with over 76% participation! We all thought Nelson Hendler did a great job as Class Agent for our 25th and we got to 65%. And we way more than doubled the dollar total for any previous Reunion, to over $5.8 million. Just an amazing effort. We made a special effort of outreach to classmates who had never or seldom given, with wonderful results.

Which gets us to the core message of this letter.

You may have noticed that we’re getting older (who were all those old guys at Reunions?). Your new class officers want our mission to be one of building class community further in every way possible, to include all of us, not just the group that has been heavily involved over the years. Toward this end, several initiatives:

- Jim Parmentier is spearheading an effort to expand the work that Kearney Shanahan and others began after our 40th Reunion. The Support Committee will coordinate our Class’ responses to the inevitable life changes that our classmates and their families will experience in the years ahead. Our goal will be to build a network of classmates who could provide friendship and emotional support by writing or making phone calls to classmates whom they may already know who are experiencing loss or some aspect of physical or mental problems. Tim Smith, Larry Petrowski, Gib Hentschke, Ruth Krosin, Pam Wetzel, and Susan Davis are participating in these efforts. Please keep track of Jim’s email address (jparmen@aol.com) and reach out to him if you’d like to help or with these projects if you know a classmate who might benefit from them.
• Staś Maliszewski will continue to produce the occasional FLIX ’66 videos like the spectacular series leading up to our 50th. If you have any great ideas, such as a classmate with an interesting story who would be worth highlighting, email him at stas@zastaria.com. Likewise to Glenn Goltz, our new Class Secretary, if you have items about yourself or others, at glennngoltz@gmail.com.

• We will continue to plan Mini Reunions during the year, with an effort directed at getting new participants. If you have an idea for a theme or location, please email John Edie at johnedie66@gmail.com.

• For those not already on Facebook, or not already registered on our page, our own David Marshak is the impresario of the Class of ‘66 webpage, which has membership limited to our classmates. About 145 classmates have signed up already. There are pictures from Reunions and many other items, and you can keep things very private. You can see the page here https://www.facebook.com/groups/Princeton66/, and David will be happy to walk you through the process of joining the class group at marshak.david@att.net.

• There will be a class tailgate and meeting on the day of the Harvard game, October 22, followed by the yearly amazing party at the home of Charles and Dorothy Plohn. And a class dinner at Alumni Day on February 25 next year. Alumni Day includes a Service of Remembrance for any classmates who have died in the prior calendar year. And our own Tom (T.R.) Reid will be our guest speaker at the Alumni Day dinner; T.R. is a widely renowned Washington Post columnist and NPR contributor, and his book on health care in America is required reading for all interested in the subject. He has a new book coming out on tax reform which will form the foundation of his talk to us.

It goes without saying that we need your tax deductible Class Dues. This pays for your PAW subscription and helps underwrite some class activities. You will get notification when these are due.

And finally, please send your best email address to John Hart at jmhart62@gmail.com. Only with this address can we send you FLIX and class information without cutting down trees to send snail mail.

It has been a wonderful 50 years. All of us are determined to make the years going forward every bit as rewarding.

Kit, Jon, John, Glenn, Norm, Stitz and Dennis