

Opening Remarks - President Stern

“Behold the effort of many for the benefit of all.” That is the first line that appears in the 206th Class Yearbook. I have adapted that phrase for the 50th Reunion: “Behold the effort of a few for the benefit of many.”

Let me give you some statistics: according to the yearbook, we had 268 people graduate in our class. We know of 31 who are deceased and 16 for whom we have no address. Of the 221 remaining, we have almost a 50% turnout for this Reunion, which is fantastic!

We started full-time over two years ago and it was a good thing we did, because we’ve been working at it steadily right up until this moment. Everything took longer to accomplish than we thought. For example, we started with one hotel, and then switched to another; the person who was designing the reunion logo got sick and we lost more than a month; the press and bindery went down last week right when our souvenir yearbooks were supposed to be printed. Then in their haste to get to books to us on time the printer got Mayor Street’s letter out of order! However, it’s still a fantastic reunion yearbook and a fantastic reunion.

All of the various elements that went into creating this Reunion would also not have been possible had it not been for computers and email. Even though for at least the first 45 years of our lives computers were not commercially available on a wide scale, and until fairly recently high-speed internet was not available at a reasonable cost, I am amazed how we old-fogies have embraced the technology and have used it to such great advantage. The Committee members (and other classmates and vendors) were constantly emailing each other, designing things like the invitation, the reunion logo, and events list, and sending documents electronically, back and forth, improving them with each successive version.

But the real reason this Reunion is so successful is the tireless dedication of a committee of 9 of your classmates, all of whom came forward and volunteered, and have worked diligently, sometimes through entire weekends, and sometimes using their own money without reimbursement, to make it happen. Let me call to the front each committee member and give you a brief idea of the contribution they each made. They are not in any order because the whole was dependent on each part. Please

come forward as I call your name and please stay up here until the entire committee is present:

(1) Nominally, this person was in charge of the Souvenir Reunion Yearbook, but he turned out to be the person who infused the Reunion with the spirit that you see here. He reached out and reunited with many of us, whether by mail, email, or telephone. He helped track down missing members and followed up getting the bio pages in and all the while having a wonderful time doing it. He confided in me how gratifying it was to re-connect with so many old friends. **Harv Becker**

(2) You may not know it, but the next person is the one who at our first meeting said, if you want to have a great Reunion, go to the Barnes and the National Constitution Center. And he was right! He is on the Board of both institutions and paved the way for us to make the appropriate arrangements. Last week he was honored by being inducted into the Central High Hall of Fame. Congratulations **Steve Harmelin**

(3) This committee member designed the Invitation and the Events List. One of the previous classes was kind enough to give us a set of their reunion materials. Their invitation was very formal, like a wedding invitation. As you see, he gave it a completely new look, and about 15 versions later, it was ready for prime time. He is also the person who came up with the fact that if you add a zero to 206 you get 2006. This idea became the basis of the reunion motto, which manifested itself in the reunion logo design: "The 206 in 2006." **Dave Horowitz**

(4) We didn't know it was going to turn out that way, but the next person had the hardest job – dealing with Central High. They were not very responsive, to put it mildly. But everything turned out well. He also arranged for the lunch at Central. **Gerry Spivack**

(5) The biggest surprise to me was the addition of the next person to our committee. Harv suggested it and this person has been unbelievable. We should give him a big round of applause for producing and printing the DVD and CD. He also was kind enough to assign a member of his art staff to create the reunion logo for us. **Morris Ballen**

(6) Talk about a full plate – this person was in charge not only of the hotel, and the buses, but also manning the registration tables. He did all the

leg work in visiting the hotels, tracking down the right bus company, and getting people to cover the tables from Friday night through tonight. **Paul Gutterman**

(7) Next is a retired English professor living in Canada. Some of you wouldn't be here this evening if it weren't for Dr. Bob hunched over a computer in the dead of night, in Edmonton, snowed in by 10 feet of snow, with a tall beaker of Canadian Club, ferreting out our lost boys. **Robert Solomon**

(8) This person not only took care of the finances, depositing all the checks and making all the payments, he also collected all the bio pages and all of the order forms and maintained a spreadsheet of everyone's reservations and events. He was invaluable. **Steve Goldstein**

Last but certainly not least:

(9) This guy wasn't just my right-hand man, he was my whole right arm. I counted the emails we exchanged and they averaged more than 2 a day for an entire year. Here are just a few of the many things he did to make this reunion successful: located missing classmates, assembled all the materials for the invitation, made the labels, stuffed the envelopes, got the postage, and mailed all of the invitations; all the leg work on the keychain souvenirs and the plaques; ordered and assembled all the materials for the reunion packages, made the badges, stuffed the envelopes, and delivered all of the reunion packages. **Tom Dulin**

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN: YOUR 50th REUNION COMMITTEE