



REUNION MEMORIES AND HIGHLIGHTS

Wow.

So many wonderful moments from last weekend (and I had to leave on Saturday morning.....)!

But my hands-down favorite was the parade. Sitting on the top of that Catalina, waving to old friends in the crowd, jiving to a fabulous soundtrack of '60s Greatest Hits (thanks, Duke!), shimmying down the trunk to join our classmates who were dancing down Northwest Boulevard (honestly, what 45 year reunion class has EVER danced its way down the parade route? None that I recall from our youth)....I felt like the Homecoming Queen and Miss Arlington at the same time! Better yet, I felt 17 again!

Almost as wonderful was the moment at the Party in the Park when my brother Barry said, "Look who has come to see you get your award," and I found myself in the arms of my beloved Dave Shelby, who taught a little three year old girl to swim in the Devon Road Pool long before he was the Assistant Principal of her high school. My brother took a wonderful photograph of our reunion, which now graces my desk.

Thanks to those who nominated me for the Distinguished Alumnus Award, and to all of you for the congratulations with which you showered me last weekend. I meant what I said on Friday night.....you are the product of where you come from, and I would not have done anything worth doing if I had not grown up in Upper Arlington, with my amazing family and my wonderful classmates, some of whom I have known literally all my life! The plaque that I was handed last week already hangs on what I have come to call my "Wall of Shame," but I feel a great deal of pride whenever I look at it. Special thanks to the three of you who nominated me – you know who you are!

Finally, a special shout out for Ellen Clark. 17 year olds are not known for their prescience, but we obviously intuited something very important when we elected "Ms.Isaly" as our Class Secretary back in 1968. Without her we would have ORDINARY reunions, an ORDINARY class web site, and ORDINARY connections among our scattered class. That everything about the Class of '69 is EXTRAORDINARY is principally her doing. God help us if she ever loses interest in keeping us together. Thank you, Ellen, for everything.

WE ARE GREAT! WE ARE FINE! WE'RE THE CLASS OF '69!

Colleen McMahon