Reunions are moments of deep reflection, when you can count your blessings, and contemplate life and your goals.

Reunions date back to the earliest years of schools and universities. Initially, graduates returned to their schools or universities just to visit professors and friends. Then they lingered on and stayed for dinners or banquets. Over the years, for some universities, reunions have developed into elaborate festivals that can last for a week, with talks, concerts, tours, and so forth. Reunions come to be milestones in the collective life of a class and of individual classmates.

Reunions give alumni a chance to nostalgically reminisce about their old school days, fondly remember their youthful pranks, and bring each other
Reflections of the Past

“For one thing is certain as we grow older: The few people who have truly passed through us and us through them, until the dreams, images, memories are past sorting out, these people become precious links to our continuity... If we try to bury the images of others who meant so much, past of us dies with them. How much greater our aliveness if we can come to a freestanding friendship with those who have shared us.”

Gail Sheehy, from her book Passages

Reunions bring together people who shared experiences which were socially and psychologically significant in their lives; experiences which continue to have an impact on them in the present.

The reunion acknowledges the importance of those past experiences and gives substance to the past by presenting an opportunity to connect with one another, and to reminisce and reinforce memories with those of others who shared those experiences.

However, attending a reunion involves more than reminiscence. Reunions are unique occasions; they say who has done and who they are now, how successful they are in the present and how that measures up to their past expectations.

Each reunion builds on a community that existed in the past to which returnees seek to return to in the present. By connecting new events with old ones, the new events become part of tradition and past experiences, and build continuity with the past.

And while the community built during the one night of a reunion is fragile and limited, reunions ultimately draw people closer to each other.

For more on the reunion phenomenon:


up to date on what has happened to each of them since they went their separate ways. Above all, reunions offer opportunities for us to glimpse at who we were and who we are today.

Reunions say as much about the future as they do about the past.
Global Fervour for Reunions

Graduates of universities worldwide have developed vibrant and diverse traditions for reunions over the years

Reunion Weekend
In North America, reunions are celebrated with robust conventions and festivities which bring thousands of alumni and families from near and far. While most of these annual festivals will stretch over a weekend, some can last as long as a week and include local tours and other entertainment. The more formal reunions occur every five years, although alumni who have not ventured far from their alma mater may attend class reunions every year.

Apart from talks, dinners, concerts, tours, the reunion programme often includes a memorial service for members of the class who have passed away. The service typically includes music, readings and a reading of the names of class members who have passed away and are often held with the loved ones of the deceased in attendance. If a memorial service is not held, the names of the departed class members may receive recognition in the reunion’s programme.

Reunion Gifts
In the year leading up to the reunion, classmates also organise a reunion campaign to generate a special gift for the future development of their alma mater. This tradition of reunion-related giving dates back more than a century for some US universities, such as Harvard and Yale.

P-rade in Style
The climax of class reunions at Princeton is the P-rade, or the annual procession of classes, which is replete with elaborate costumes, marching bands and exotic floats. Even the most senior alumni get to join the procession by riding along in golf carts. This tradition harks back to 1906 when the reunion planners asked alumni to march in procession on their way to watch the annual Princeton-Yale baseball game.

Highlanders, bellhops, sailors, Roman gladiators, convicts, pirates, a deck of cards are just a few of the costumes Princeton alumni have donned over the years. And occasionally, live animals have joined the procession: a

Golden Jubilee graduates of University of Adelaide relive the thrill of graduation

Some class reunion logos from Cornell University
A Survival Guide for Reunions

Some useful advice from reunion experts around the world on how to survive (and enjoy!) your class reunion

1. They remember you and you don’t have clue who they are:
   Time to study and hit the books. Before the reunion, dust off your old albums and brush up on long-forgotten faces and names. But if you forget someone’s name, don’t worry — you won’t be the only one in the room to do that.

2. Looking your best
   Forget the cosmetic surgery. Plenty of rest and exercise before the reunion will make you look more refreshed and vibrant. Pep up your colour hair, get a manicure or a pedicure a few days before the event.

3. Dressed for success
   Leave those fashions from your heyday in the kids’ dressing up box. Choose clothes that are youthful but age-appropriate in your most flattering colours and styles. Wear what makes you feel confident.

4. Get snap happy
   Take lots of close-ups and candid shots. Get facial shots of those special people; a long shot of people milling around on the dance floor isn’t going to mean as much to you later. Create and share a post-reunion photo album or upload them onto the reunion website.

5. What not to forget
   Besides your camera, pack your albums or yearbook. A sneak peek during a break might help to you figure out just who that was you were just speaking to. Take along snapshots taken of you and family over the years, things that connect the person they knew back then to the person you are now.

6. Sorry, but what was your name again?
   Now you’ve found out who they are, don’t forget them five minutes later. Repeat each person’s name right after being introduced and immediately present the person to your significant other or friend. Make a list of people as you meet them, add an identifying characteristic to their names.

7. Staying connected
   Exchange name cards, swap email addresses and phone numbers. Get duplicates of photos made and send them to the people in the picture. Don’t promise to stay in touch and then forget to do so — no excuses!

To young graduates:
Avoid developing reunion angst by keeping in touch with your classmates and your alma mater from the moment you graduate. Start a tradition of holding a class reunion every five or ten years!
Those Were the Days

A selection of extracts from articles appearing in Silver Jubilee programme books of various class years

Loke Yew Hall

七十年代入學時，是最後一屆需要穿Green Gown，七百多個新生齊集在陸佑堂，依院系次序，接受教務長的呼喚，起立向羅賓遜校長鞠躬。當時氣氛有點肅穆，感覺已踏入港大的門檻，接受『明德格物』的校訓，心情既興奮，又覺肩負的擔子重了。

Yeung Pak-sing 楊佰成
(BEng 1973, MScEng 1980)

〈從穿 Green Gown 的日子說起〉

陸佑堂的走廊上
一片陽光
用窗櫺的尾音
說著漸漸變長的話

布鞋偷偷聽入
半透明的玻璃自掩的嘆息
花磚上遲疑匍匐
靈魂一樣，戀慕光滑的地色

高大的木門悄悄呼出一首英文詩
房壁內向地四下自抱
像摺了頁的初版書
合攏了，仍總遺下一道誘人的縫
我推門，輕輕叫一聲教授
……

Wu Yin-ching 胡燕清
(BA 1978, MPhil 1983)

〈摺頁〉節錄
Lily Pond

七十年代，大學校園，環境優美，到處樹影婆娑，綠草油油，建築物沒有現在的擠。偌大的荷花池，氣定神閒地環觀四下，舒展而雍容。不見漣漪池水上，荷葉片片，圓渾有致，偶爾托著水珠顛顛，更顯得清雅而包容。盛夏時節，荷葉縫中挺立朵朵荷花，嬌豔之中顯高雅，端靜之中顯豐姿。

Sun Wai Ling 孫慧玲
(BA 1973)
〈老了，荷花池！〉

Youthful Passions

回想當年熱切地投入校園宿舍和學會的活動，滿腔熱血地跑到內地訪問；夜裏守在宿舍，甘願廢寢忘餐，通宵達旦地討論時事與社會問題。同學間經常互相激發思潮，辯論不同的觀點角度。那是充滿理想的年代，也是執著的年代。

Rosanna Wong 王嘉鳴
(BScEng 1975)
〈似水流年〉

Teaching Us Still

To start with, I still miss Mrs Mary Visick, who lectured standing for one full hour (all the time with her handbag on her shoulder) and poured forth with energy which soon permeated the class, who once scratched her armpit and nonchalantly took out her umbrella from under her overcoat ten minutes (!) after the lecture started, who recited from memory long passages with impeccable accuracy from Emily Bronte’s Wuthering Heights, and whose rapid-fire speech drove many fellow classmates breathless in attempting to record her eloquence on paper as I sat back in the last row (being one of the three male species in the room) relaxed, inspired and thrilled. To me, she was a great teacher.

Timothy Chan 陳德銘
(BA 1975, CertEd 1978, PCLL 1988)
“A Private Letter”

Food for Thought

山邊口的「新華園」的燒臘飯，另加腸腸，是秋冬暖胃之選。大道西近屈地街的「伍芳齋」上海茶館，不同的種類，統一的味道，一味多製，比一國兩制早上最少半世紀。在銀根稍為鬆動時，水街「打冷」，幼嫩的蕨紅蒜頭點點醬徐徐滑過喉頭的感覺，令人感動……

Lee Chi-ming 李智明
(BScEng 1980; MSc (UrbanPlanning) 1987; MSc(IDM) 2006)
〈輕狂歲月的飲食篇〉

Classmates & Friends

想起幾位大學時期英年早逝或遭遇不幸理應同學的，懷起他們當年在運動場上倒下的情景，患病重危時的鬥志、失意時旁人閃避和竊竊私語、精神困擾時的孤單無助……在這銀禧喜宴上，也許不能或不會見到他們蹤影；謹以「傷健共融」這主題精神，送上懷念和問候：「心底裏真的希望你會是座上客，你永遠都是八十年代港大人的一份子！」

Eugenie Leung 梁若芻
(BScSc 1981, MScSc 1983)
〈八十年代港大人〉

Where We Once Trod

有一次我決定作一個實驗，就是一角錢都不帶就回校了……每天早上就由旺角步行至深水埗，坐渡輪至上環的威利麻街，然後撘斜路步行上大學。如果我拿了兩星期，我才決定不再刻薄自己，結束這段非一般人所能想像的「非人生活」。

Richard Kwan 關錫堯
(BScEng 1974)
〈大學課堂內外拾趣〉

May Wong 李美英
(BA 1977)
〈天一色〉
A Fine Tradition

Since the Class of 1971, Silver Jubilee reunions combined with a giving culture have become an HKU tradition. The Class of 1981 just celebrated its anniversary and have pledged its support of a worthy social cause

Our Silver Jubilee celebrations and Inclusion Fund

“Dear Classmates and Friends,

Thank you for your support of our Class Silver Jubilee activities, including the Golf Day, Walkathon and Reunion Dinner. With your support, we have raised over HK$800,000 from the series of activities. Together with the kind donation of $1 million from Mr Henry Chan and the Stanley Ho Alumni Challenge, we have raised a total of $2.3 million. The fund will be used to set up the “HKU ‘81 Inclusion Fund” and “Henry Chan Inclusion Fund” to encourage the University students to conduct programmes, activities, publications and research for people with a disability in Hong Kong and the Mainland.

We look forward to your continuous support towards the Fund and the project.”

Class of ‘81 Silver Jubilee
Organising Committee
Details: www.hku.hk/class81

1 & 3. Walkathon (Oct 22, 06)
2. One-Day Together (Dec 30, 06)
   Alumni and their families matched with the mentally disabled students of Fu Hong Society (扶康會) for one day together to share experience and promote community understanding.
4. Golf Day (Oct 4, 06)
5. DVD & Souvenir Book
   If you missed the Reunion Dinner, order the DVD which recaps highlights of the event and the Class of ‘81 souvenir book at www.hku.hk/class81 now!
2006 has come and gone. Looking back over the past year, without any question our “finest hours” were the ones we spent together at our Reunion (19-24 November, 2006). After all, it has been 40 years and many of us have not seen each other since our graduation.

Some classmates travelled thousands of miles—from Toronto, San Francisco, Chicago and Melbourne—to join the Reunion. Frankly, we had a little difficulty in recognising each other. We talked about our good old days, our ventures, careers, families and we also talked about and missed those classmates who had not been able to join us this time.

The University has changed too, a lot in fact. Where is the Lily Pond? What is it called now? Who actually founded the University (not Loke Yew by the way) and in which year? What are the challenges and issues facing our University? We learned quite a lot more about our University than we knew before.

Besides the Reunion dinner and campus tour, we had a wonderful Pearl River Delta Tour. We were truly amazed by what we saw and were proud of our cultural heritage and the progress that China has made in the past 20 years. The greatest thing about the tour was that we travelled with a group of lovely people whom we have known for so many decades.

Some of the Economics ’66 classmates wrote to let us know their thoughts on the reunion, and we quote:

‘Just a short note to express my appreciation for the wonderful time I had during our Reunion activities. It exceeded my every expectation…’

‘Thanks for the opportunity to revisit the Pearl River Delta. They are now emerging as modern cities, with world class museums, concert halls, and new tourist attractions.’

‘I stated that the Reunion Trip was going to be a trip of a lifetime. How wrong I was. It turned out to be the trip of many lifetimes.’

‘The food, the accommodation, the coach, tour guide and the pace of the trip—they were among the best we have ever come across. Besides all these, nothing equalled our travelling companions. What I felt was that nothing really mattered, but love and friendship would endure.’

This Reunion certainly marks an important milestone in our relationships. When will we get together again? Hopefully in 2011 when we celebrate The University’s centenary.

Good health and good luck to all of us.”
Always Time for Reunions

Reunions are held all the time across faculties and class years. Reunion activities reached a peak for HKU alumni from October to December 2006. Let’s share their joy in reconnecting with their university years.

First Batches of Architecture Graduates (Class of 1955 – 1961)

Students of Professor Gordon Brown, also the first batches of HKU BArch graduates, returned to campus, some from overseas, for a special reunion.

The MBBS Classes

Medical Class of 1956 – Golden Jubilee

Medical Class of 1981 – Silver Jubilee

20th Anniversary Reunion

Social Sciences Class of 1986

Science Class of 1986
Hot Ideas for Reunion Planners

A reunion should be a fun, interesting and stimulating event for class members. Here are some hot ideas:

**Design a class identity**
Create artwork to illustrate the reunion theme with a reunion logo and other designs for stationery, costumes, yearbook, and the rest. Your class costume could be a basic reunion t-shirt or go full out with a hat, a jacket, a blazer, etc.

**Invite teachers as honoured guests**
People are curious about what has become of faculty members, especially those who have retired.

**Plan a campus tour**
Remember to explore every nook and cranny of buildings to see what has changed and what looks just the same.

**Awards presentation for reunions**
Present awards like Most Children, Married Longest, Newest Newlywed, or Changed the Least, etc.

**Plan an eventful reunion programme**
Talks and forums, sports events (tennis, hiking, swimming, football and golf), dinners, parties, concerts, dancing, overseas tours, etc.

**Identify and plan for community service projects**
Working together in the service of others often brings out a new kind of camaraderie to reunions. The Class of 1980 and 1981 have initiated the “Growing Partners” and “Class of ’81 Inclusion Fund” respectively.

**Plan for children’s programme**
For many alumni, reunions are a family event. Get an idea of the children’s expected age ranges before developing the programme, e.g. carnival-type games, magicians, science demonstrations, special book readings for kids, clowns, balloon artists and face painting.
R

eunions, whether big or small, from Silver Jubilee Reunions
to 10th, 20th, 30th, 40th or 50th anniversaries, have been
organised by alumni volunteers.

A few quick steps to set it in motion:
• Form an Organising Committee/Group with representatives from
different faculties and elect a convenor.
• Plan your reunion programmes — from reunion dinners,
homecoming visits and tours, to community service projects.
• Book venues for gatherings. You are always welcome to hold
your reunions on campus.

For more information on how to organise your next reunion, contact
the Development & Alumni Office: alumni@hku.hk

Who makes reunions happen?
You do.

Forward Planning

Reunion planning usually starts at least one year
before the event. But it’s never too early to start; the
History Class of 1970 has already begun planning for
its reunion in 2010

On January 26, Peter Lee 李樹德
(BA 1970), now living in Toronto,
attended a mini-reunion of the
History Class of 1970 in Hong Kong.

“Words simply cannot convey the
very heart-warming and enjoyable
experience to see old friends whom
we have not seen for over 35 years,”
he said.

The group has decided now to
stage a 40th anniversary reunion in
2010 in Hong Kong. And to get it
started, they need to track down the
whereabouts of all classmates.

So, if you are one of them, you don’t
want to miss it. Send an email to Peter
right away: peterstlee@gmail.com

Resources

Useful Contacts for Venue Enquiries:

On Campus:
Loke Yew Hall
alumni@hku.hk
HKU Senior Common Room
alumni@hku.hk
Joseph’s at the Graduate
2547-8999
Robert Black College
2296-1771
Faculty of Medicine Building Restaurant
21 Sassoon Road
2828-1799

Off Campus:
HKU Alumni Association Clubhouse
2 D’Aguiar Street, Central
2522-7968
www.hkuaa.org.hk/facilities.asp

Websites of Class Reunions

Class of 1972:
www.hku.hk/class72
Class of 1973
www.hku.hk/convocat/hkuclass73
Class of 1974:
www.hku.hk/daao/hkuclass/74
Class of 1975:
www.hku.hk/daao/hkuclass/75
Class of 1977
www.hku.hk/alumni/class77
Class of 1978
www.hku.hk/class78
Class of 1979
www.hku.hk/class79
Class of 1980
www.hku.hk/class80
Class of 1981
www.hku.hk/class81