

May 25, 2008

NAME
ADDRESS
CITY, STATE ZIP

Dear SALUTATION,

A group of us recently came together to discuss our upcoming 15-year class reunion at a little bistro in Lake Bluff. For some of us, it was our first time stopping in Lake Bluff (why would we have ever had reason to go there as a student?) We obsessed over our reunion details at first—what, when, where, and what ultimately will appeal to the majority of us. Then the conversation turned inward, as we began to share stories of how we landed at Lake Forest College (98% of the faculty had Ph.Ds; it was nowhere near the Southeast; when I visited, Scornos didn't card me; while visiting, LFC took me to the school I was really interested in, but I came to learn Lake Forest just felt right.)

Whatever super-selective 18-year-old criteria it was that brought us to Lake Forest, our Reunion Committee came to realize we all shared more intrinsic traits—in shared values, beliefs, and life aspirations—with our Lake Forest classmates than any other group we've associated with before or after Lake Forest College. The fact that we weren't all in the same circles as students faded in importance, and along with it, the need to obsess over the details. What was important was just coming together.

We survived though the early 1990s, plagued with recession and a lack of jobs. We're better for it today, and with 15 years perspective, it's easier to see how our experience at Lake Forest College prepared us to tackle the challenges tossed our way. Our ability to write, our ability to problem solve, to work with a team, to believe in ourselves and our own abilities – these are all qualities that were strengthened by our time at Lake Forest.

As we discussed our reunion, we realized it's not about the details or even about the past. A reunion is about today, celebrating who we are today because of the experiences back then.

Each of us will be reaching out to you in the coming months. It's a busy time in our lives. The kids are young, or just arriving. Our careers are beginning to take off. Our hope is you will consider taking time to celebrate with us this fall, so please, mark your calendars for Friday and Saturday, October 3 and 4 and plan to join us back on campus. We'd love to see you.

Best regards,

Jessica Gardner
Worth Hawes
Carie Ann Collopy Hill
Louis "Tripp" Goltermann III

Amie Sunseri Marks
Janice Pytel
Timothy State
Amy Rogers Murphy