Hi Classmates,

Here’s most of our Class of ’65 50th Reunion Steering Committee as we look 50 years later. How many of us can you recognize?

We had a wonderful meeting two weeks ago in St. Paul. We had some fun but also worked hard as committees to begin planning for our Big Event June 18-21, 2015. Visit our class website (go.carleton.edu/1965) for updates as the program develops.

You can expect to hear from a member of the Outreach Committee soon—just to catch up with you and invite you to the 50th Reunion.

Jackie Marik Prince and Paula Persen Miller are Co-Chairs of the Program Committee. If you have an area of interest or expertise or know of a classmate who does and think it might enrich our Reunion—a panel discussion/seminar/workshop or musical performance idea—please contact Jackie at j.m.prince@earthlink.net or Paula at pp65miller@comcast.net.

And now we hope you will enjoy reading about a few more of our classmates.

Art ArtK@artandmartha.com
Sarah sarah.h.jones@gmail.com
Brian Fitch - Carleton continues to mean a lot to me. As I look back, I realize how much was set in motion then that is still with me today. I’m not saying that I’m accomplished at the things that Carleton offered me, but I would say that the College helped to educate me by emphasizing the importance of effort, constructive interaction, commitment, being spiritually alive, and being receptive to others.

For example, I thought I worked pretty hard in high school but Carleton gave a whole new meaning to what hard work is all about! I appreciated how the professors were interested in me and I see now how our interaction provided a good early model of respectful, productive dialogue. I loved playing football and developing the sense of commitment that binds people together, and the friendships created in the sport and in general are absolutely invaluable. The spiritual dimension at Carleton may have had more life-long impact on me than anything, perhaps because of the way it is intertwined with so much of the experience there. And who can forget Dace Moses, that wonderful person who gave unconditional love, and blueberry muffins, to so many?

After graduation it took me a long time to get the marriage thing right but it was worth the wait! Cathy and I have been married for 36 years and we have four wonderful children and three grandchildren. They live in various parts of the country so visiting is always a high priority. Cathy and I are sole proprietors of separate businesses and we are quite active with our work.

Professionally I have always been involved in education but not the traditional sort. I received a Ph.D. in educational administration at the University of Minnesota in 1971 and went from there to Gary, Indiana, to direct a school performance contract. I worked for the company that had the contract and we were fired after a couple of years because gains in the classroom couldn’t be correlated with performance on standardized tests. (Does this sound similar to what is going on in public education today?) Then I was on the faculty of The Ohio State University for 10 years and loved it, working at an R&D center that focused on career development for disadvantaged youth and adults. In that role I received football tickets but not tenure, since we operated on soft money, so I decided to try my hand at management consulting. I worked with two big firms and enjoyed the work and clients but found it hard to be at my best in that kind of business culture. Finally in 1993 I started my own company, Value Unlimited (the tag line is “Helping you create Unlimited Value through organizational development and training”). I provide leadership development and executive coaching to business, industry, and government clients, and also have found a niche with researchers and clinicians in schools of medicine and medical centers. Medical personnel are being required to lead, communicate, and collaborate in ways that weren’t necessarily taught in medical school, so many of them are interested in further developing these skills.

So that’s a look at my last 50 years. When I see you in 2015 I’m hoping to learn what you have done and the impact that Carleton has had on your life, too! See you then.
John Vankat - Our 50th reunion will be the first I’ve attended, and I’m looking forward to it! After Carleton, I received degrees from the University of California, Davis and was a faculty member at Miami University (Oxford, Ohio) for 31 years. I taught plant ecology at all levels from first-year non-majors to Ph.D. students and published a textbook on North American ecology. I loved working with students (Paul Ryan was not in my classes), and several became nationally known ecologists. I also loved research, with projects from California to The Bahamas and from Alaska to Belize that resulted in various journal publications and adventures with bears, boulders, guns, etc. Academic travel opportunities were a bonus, with invited lectures at universities in multiple countries, including the Czech Republic, where I also tracked down relatives…thanks to two dogs.

After retiring from Miami in 2001, my wife Betty Huffman and I moved to Flagstaff, Arizona and began the best “retirement” I could ask for. It started with an offer I couldn’t refuse from Grand Canyon National Park to do forest ecology research. Findings (and heated arguments) led to crucial changes in fire-management practices in the Park and elsewhere in the Southwest. I’ve continued research since then with funding from the National Park Service and U.S. Geological Survey and this year published a book on ecology of Southwestern uplands.

Park Service and U.S. Geological Survey and this year published a book on ecology of Southwestern uplands.

I’ve been blessed with a wonderful family. Betty retired as a director of continuing education at Miami. Daughter Kara (30) is a client-relations director for a national marketing company in Austin, Texas. Son Drew (33) is an environmental planner for a consulting company in Boulder, Colorado and father of grandson Nels (2). Betty’s daughter Amy (43) is chair of communications for Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota and mother of grandsons Ben (10) and Nate (12).

Other interests include writing about wine for newspapers and magazines and enjoying classical music, jazz, hiking, traveling, and (co)owning the Green Bay Packers.

Barbara Goss Levi - After four frigid Carleton winters, I was attracted to sunny Stanford University, where I got a PhD in physics. There, I met and married Ilan Levi, a student in aeronautical engineering. Ilan and I reluctantly left California for jobs in the east, living in New Jersey for most of the next 20 plus years. Ilan spent his career at Bell Labs and I took a job with Physics Today magazine, writing about current research in physics. How wonderful it was to have a job that paid me to learn about a new topic each month and gave me access to top researchers, only too happy to explain their work!

I have had a strong interest in issues involving the overlap of science and society. For a few years, I worked for Princeton’s Center for Energy and Environmental Studies and served as a consultant for the now-defunct Congressional Office of Technology Assessment. I have helped sponsor conferences, edited books and given public talks on such topics as energy, arms control and climate change.

Ilan retired in 1993 due to early-onset Parkinson's Disease and we moved to Santa Barbara, where Ilan has thrived. He illustrates the importance of reduced stress and active exercise (plus considerable luck) in keeping the PD symptoms at bay. I continued to contribute to Physics Today until last year. We are both active in numerous community organizations. We love to hike, bike, play tennis and travel.

We have a son, Daniel, and a daughter, Sharon. Dan is a pediatric cardiologist at UCLA and Sharon is a stay-at-home mother and active parent volunteer right here in Santa Barbara. We love being closely involved in the lives of our 4 grandkids.

I am grateful to Carleton for:

1. Physics teachers who gave me not only a solid academic background but strong personal support
2. A sense of civic responsibility that motivated my continued involvement in both my professional society and my local community

John Vankat - Our 50th reunion will be the first I’ve attended, and I’m looking forward to it! After Carleton, I received degrees from the University of California, Davis and was a faculty member at Miami University (Oxford, Ohio) for 31 years. I taught plant ecology at all levels from first-year non-majors to Ph.D. students and published a textbook on North American ecology. I loved working with students (Paul Ryan was not in my classes), and several became nationally known ecologists. I also loved research, with projects from California to The Bahamas and from Alaska to Belize that resulted in various journal publications and adventures with bears, boulders, guns, etc. Academic travel opportunities were a bonus, with invited lectures at universities in multiple countries, including the Czech Republic, where I also tracked down relatives…thanks to two dogs.

After retiring from Miami in 2001, my wife Betty Huffman and I moved to Flagstaff, Arizona and began the best “retirement” I could ask for. It started with an offer I couldn’t refuse from Grand Canyon National Park to do forest ecology research. Findings (and heated arguments) led to crucial changes in fire-management practices in the Park and elsewhere in the Southwest. I’ve continued research since then with funding from the National Park Service and U.S. Geological Survey and this year published a book on ecology of Southwestern uplands.

Park Service and U.S. Geological Survey and this year published a book on ecology of Southwestern uplands.

I’ve been blessed with a wonderful family. Betty retired as a director of continuing education at Miami. Daughter Kara (30) is a client-relations director for a national marketing company in Austin, Texas. Son Drew (33) is an environmental planner for a consulting company in Boulder, Colorado and father of grandson Nels (2). Betty’s daughter Amy (43) is chair of communications for Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota and mother of grandsons Ben (10) and Nate (12).

Other interests include writing about wine for newspapers and magazines and enjoying classical music, jazz, hiking, traveling, and (co)owning the Green Bay Packers.