Welcome and Overview

Karen Grove Feldt and John Lundsten welcomed the group to this first meeting of the Class of 1961 Fiftieth Reunion planning committee. The efforts of all committee members are appreciated.

The purposes of the day’s work include finding ways to generate enthusiasm for the gala 50th Reunion celebration. The overall goals are:

- To find ways to maximize attendance for the 50th Reunion celebration
- To make sure that our time together on campus in 2011 with our classmates is of the highest quality
- To include all classmates in some fashion as the 50th process unfolds
- To raise a meaningful gift for Carleton

The Program Committee is responsible for creating a series of ’61-specific activities and events during the Reunion weekend. Walter Andrews and Harriet Thiele Statz are the co-chairs of the Program Committee.

The Publicity Committee is responsible for activities resulting in a high attendance rate for the 50th Reunion celebration on campus in 2011. This committee will lead the charge and make the first formal announcement of the Class’ 50th Reunion. Bob Fliegel and Sheila Johnson Girton are the co-chairs of this committee.

The Gift Committee is responsible for raising a meaningful 50th Reunion gift in celebration of this milestone anniversary. Their efforts among the Class at large will begin after the formal announcement of the 50th Reunion has been communicated to the Class. Dan Pearson and Judy Sosted are leading the Gift Committee.

Karen Feldt reinforced that a goal for the planning process is to include 100 percent of classmates in the 50th Reunion in some fashion—even if someone cannot attend the actual event. She urged the group to find creative ways to engage classmates and to overcome “issues” that some have with the Class or the College.

Campus Update

Mike Tompos from the development office provided an overview of the College’s response to the current economic situation.
Endowment
Mike told the committee that Carleton’s endowment was down roughly 30 percent from last June’s value. While this was good in relative terms compared to the experience at other institutions, the reality is that Carleton must reduce expenditures in the coming years.

The Carleton endowment is overseen by a committee of the Board of Trustees. Day-to-day management is handled by a group of Carleton staff members who are professional investment managers. The Board has set guidelines for investment diversification, and the College has benefitted from maintaining a calm and balanced approach to the portfolio.

Admissions and Financial Aid
On the admissions front, Carleton is holding up well. Applications were down slightly this year, but only about four percent. We have more than 4,700 applications for the 500 slots in the next first-year class. This is very close to the numbers the College experienced two years ago, and the admissions staff is very confident that next year’s entering class will be of the highest academic quality.

One variable that remains unknown is the amount of financial aid that students will require in the future. So far, current students have not been requesting increased levels of scholarship support. What the coming year will be like in that regard no one knows.

When the markets were at their worst in October 2008, President Oden and the Board of Trustees quickly confirmed that the College’s highest priority is its students. Financial aid for scholarships is the one budget line that will not be reduced. In fact, Carleton may have to increase scholarship outlays to meet the needs of families who are impacted by the economic situation.

Budget Reductions
All departments are looking for ways to cut spending where there would be minimal impact on the educational program. The non-academic offices on campus are looking to reduce budgets by at least five percent this year, with more cuts anticipated down the road. Academic budgets are also under review for non-essential cost reductions such as discretionary faculty travel, conference costs, speaker fees, etc. Unfunded items like the Arts Union construction project are being put on hold. Projects that have funding—like the new residence halls—will be completed as planned.

Alumni are sharing in this endeavor to save funds at Carleton. Alumni services are being reduced as fewer mailings are conducted. Catering at Reunion Weekend will be curtailed as well. Across the board, alumni are doing a great deal to help Carleton with budget issues.

Residence Halls / Faculty Hiring
Mari Aylin from the development office shared news about the College’s recent experiences in hiring new faculty members. The Carleton Board of Trustees reaffirmed the College’s commitment to hiring new faculty this year in keeping with the long-range strategic plan for Carleton. In the current economy, many other institutions are not hiring, allowing Carleton to attract the very best candidates. Carleton conducted ten faculty searches and all ten were successful. This compares with the College having four failed searches last year. The candidate pools have been excellent. A math professor position received over 800 applications! Carleton tried to hire a tenure-track Arabic professor two years ago but couldn’t find a qualified candidate. This year that position was filled. Last year Carleton tried, unsuccessfully, to hire a full-time adjunct professor to teach Hebrew half-time and Arabic half-time. This unique combination of expertise was found in this year’s applicant pool. The Dean has been making the most of Carleton’s competitive position and has been securing talent and in some cases negotiating contracts that won’t begin for one year—a strategy that has not been used before. All of this faculty hiring falls within the realm of the institutional and campaign goal of
expanding the overall size of the faculty in order to bring new knowledge to the College and provide
time for faculty members to work closely with students on projects and research.

The College will open two new residence halls in the fall of 2009, the first new large-scale residences
since Watson Hall, which opened 42 years ago. These two buildings will house 230 students of all
class years. Cassat Hall has suite-style living arrangements and will attract juniors and seniors.
Memorial Hall is a traditional-style residence. The two buildings are linked by an underground
tunnel. These new halls will bring more students back to living on campus and reduce overcrowding
in some of the other dorms. More than 200 students are living off-campus in Northfield-owned
housing and nearly 100 students will be brought back to campus living when these halls come online.
Both halls have an environmentally sustainable design, achieving a LEED (Leadership in
Environmental and Energy Design) Gold standard.

Student Life
Naja told the committee that the Alexander sisters (a senior, junior, and freshman) are on Carleton's
Swimming & Diving team and that the senior sister broke many College records, then her junior
sister came along and broke her older sister's records, and now the freshman sister has since been
eclipsing them all. Naja also informed them that Colin Steers '09 is a contestant on "Make Me A
Supermodel."

Alumni Annual Fund Update
Beth Dahle reported that the AAF has made recent gains on alumni participation and is now
maintaining last year’s pace. Alumni giving continues to run about 10% behind last year’s pace.
While the declining economy is a significant factor affecting alumni giving at all levels, we have
identified significant decreases in reunion stretch gifts and stock gifts. Volunteer morale has
improved recently and we expect to have a strong finish on June 30. Beth thanked everyone in the
group for their generous annual gifts and reminded us that most committee members are now, or
have been faithful AAF volunteers.

Change in Meeting Schedule for 1961
John Lundsten reported that the ’61 Fiftieth Reunion planning committee is helping Carleton to
address the budget constraints by reducing the number of meetings from five to four over the time
between now and 2011. This is one important way that ’61 can make a difference and demonstrate
leadership to other alumni. The new schedule is attached to this meeting summary. Note that two
meetings will be held at Carleton due to its central location and inexpensive meeting arrangements.
A substantial benefit will also be derived from re-connecting with Carleton twice during the Reunion
planning process.

Walter Andrews—Visiting Professor Role
Judy Sosted alerted the group that classmate Walter Andrews will be on campus this spring as a
visiting professor in the Headley House program that connects outside scholars with students and
faculty on campus over an extended period of time. Walter will be giving a lecture open to the
public on April 21, 2009. Classmates may call Mike Tompos at 800-492-2275 to get more
information.

Committee Expectations and Current Status
John and Karen encouraged the committee to be independent thinkers and to show no deference to
the co-chairs! They thanked Bob Fliegel and Dave McKercher for their work in maintaining the
Class of ’61 Web page. This very helpful communication tool has already established enthusiasm
among classmates.
Bob Fliegel informed the group about Reunion attendance records. ’61 holds the all-time attendance records for the 35th and 45th Reunions. (38.36 percent of the Class attended the 45th.) The current 50th Reunion record held by the Class of ’54 is 49 percent of classmates attending. Surely, he says, ’61 can get at least 50 percent to attend the Reunion in 2011! Mike Tompos stated that 50 percent attendance would currently translate to 107 attendees. This figure is based on the total number matriculated (278), less those lost, deceased, or removed by request from College contact.

Some classmates have already indicated their plans to attend on the Web site: http://carleton61.bizland.com. John and Karen reminded the group that most of the work of the committees would take place between these planning meetings and that a great deal of communication was going to occur using emails and phone calls.

Overall, our task is to pass the gift of Carleton to others—our classmates and the current students at the College.

The committees then met in individual sessions before coming together again in the afternoon for reports.

**Publicity Committee Report**

Sheila Johnson Girton and Bob Fliegel provided an outline of the Publicity Committee discussions. The committee’s general philosophy can be summarized as follows: 1) inclusion: reach classmates regardless of their level of engagement with Carleton—fully engaged, active, or inactive; 2) “keep it simple”—don’t send too much stuff—everything should be both simple and persuasive.

The committee’s first priority was to develop a class theme and logo to bring to the full planning committee. The group discussed a number of possibilities. Noting that “1961” looks the same backwards, forwards, and upside-down, the group considered playing off a theme of reflections, both happy and sad, possibly using a logo with 1961 reflected in Lyman Lakes. Possible mottos included “Reflections/Connections,” “Reflects a New Perspective,” and “Reflection and Connection.” The group noted, however, that 1961 doesn’t work as a reflection. The group also considered using the unusual characteristics of 1961 by using it in a circular pattern, illustrating the full circle of life. The group also considered creating a Joseph’s ladder or a pinwheel. The themes of reflection and connection, and the potential use of geometrical shapes also informed the discussion of potential mottos:

- “Reconnect,” “Only Connect,” “Connect Again”
- “A gift (friendship) not passed on dies.”
- “Reflect – Rejoice – Renew”
- “Return – Reconnect”
- “Glance Back – Focus Forward”
- “Echoes to Songs”
- “Songs of the Past”
- “Be There, Be Square”

The motto that most resonated with the group, however, was “Past Stories/Future Songs.” This motto not only picks up on the forward and back theme, but also focuses on life stories and the music that was important to the class.

The committee discussed places on campus that had been important to the Class, including the Lyman Lakes bridges, the Arb, Lilac Hill, Gridley, Willis, and the Chapel. It ultimately decided that it would like to incorporate an image of the Chapel in its logo. Besides the many hours the class
spent their attending mandatory Chapel services, it had been the venue for popular musical performances and lectures. The committee also considered using images of a bell or musical notes.

The committee noted the group’s good fortune in having Mary-Leigh Elmore Miller, a gifted graphic artist, as a member. Throughout the theme/logo discussion, she produced a number of possible logos on her laptop for the group to consider. She produced a draft logo that incorporated the 1961/1961 image, a chapel tower, and “Past Stories/Future Songs.” She produced a prototype letterhead design, using a maize and blue color scheme.

The committee shared the prototype with the full planning committee and elicited comments and suggestions, a number of which were incorporated into the motto and logo.

The group also reviewed sample communications from previous classes and discussed a communication plan. The first communication to classmates will be a June 18 (“Two years until reunion!”) letter from Karen and John, the reunion committee co-chairs. The group would like to include a collage of photos on the back of the letter, possibly including photos of the ice sculptures, bonfire, Kingston Trio, Pete Seeger, and Hal Holbrook. Subsequent communications and point persons probably will include:

- Newsletters (Our Voice ’61?) – There will be two issues, using a layout similar to the one used by other recent 50th reunion classes. (Ann Mauker King and Mary-Leigh Miller)
- Bio book (Sheila Girton and Betty Rae Paske Bacon)
- Carletonian: Class of 1961 50th Reunion Issue (Frank Surpless and Mary-Leigh Miller)
- Reminder item (e.g., note pad, magnet, or post-it pad) (John Beal)
- DVD (John Beal and Larry Gregg)
- Demographic survey (possibly add survey results at back of Bio Book) (Bob Fliegel)
- Postcards (Ann King)
- Emailings and class Web site updates (Bob Fliegel)
- Phone contact to be made with classmates who have never attended a reunion; list of same to be provided by the College (Sue Christian and Mary Ceridan)

The committee discussed various categories of classmates. A few classmates have indicated that they want to completely cut off ties with Carleton. These classmates are not included in the “active” roster and will not count against ’61’s attendance and gift participation percentages. Others have not cut off ties, but have requested that they not be contacted.

**Gift Committee Report**

Judy Sosted and Dan Pearson provided an outline of the gift committee discussions. At this early stage of the project, the Class of ’61 has raised $4.1 million that counts toward the 50th Reunion gift. The Class is benefitting from momentum in the College’s Breaking Barriers—Creating Connections campaign that is under way at Carleton. Several classmates made gifts and commitments early as a way to bolster the campaign and the 50th Reunion.

- What constitutes the 50th Reunion gift? The committee discussed the time frame and guidelines for 50th gift recognition and how we can communicate this information to classmates.

- How do the Alumni Annual Fund and the 50th gift relate to each other? The committee discussed ways to talk about both kinds of gift in the morning session. In short, we are
asking classmates to continue supporting the annual fund, and to also consider a gift over and above the AAF as a special 50th Reunion commitment.

- The gift committee members will be contacting other members of the planning team to test strategies and to become more comfortable in gift conversations. Later, when the 50th has gained momentum with the work of the Publicity and Program committees, the Gift Committee will take contact assignments from the Class at large.

- Dan and Judy encourage feedback and suggestions from the planning team as the Gift Committee’s work moves ahead in the coming months.

Program Committee Report
The Saturday morning session began with an exercise in which the committee members re-introduced themselves to the group by briefly describing what they were doing at present and recounting one memory from our days as students at Carleton. The memories were rich and varied and the exercise was one that several of us thought might be fun to do in an informal way at the reunion.

Next Harriet and Walter reported back from a previous meeting of the committee chairs with Karen Feldt and John Lundsten. John and Karen indicated that they would like to see the reunion provide a learning experience and a chance to bond with the College and the Class of 2011 perhaps with a “time-capsule” project and/or a gift that would mature at the 50th Reunion of the ’11 class. There were many ideas expressed during this part of the session and later about how the bonding might be accomplished.

A major part of the session was taken up with brainstorming ideas about what we might do (below see the list of topics brought up in the session). This listing of ideas was intended to get as many topics and ideas on the table as possible. The list will be narrowed down later, but this “free-flow” of possibilities is intended to provide a starting point for the next meeting.

On Saturday afternoon, the committee reviewed the 50th Reunion general planning sheet and noted that most of the available times for planned program activities are early afternoons and evenings on Friday and Saturday. Ideas that emerged for use of those times are included below in the list of brainstorming topics.

It was agreed that Harriet and Walter would draft a survey to send to the Class based on the suggestions the committee prepared on the flipchart. Jay Sargent will review it and Sally Grinde Legrand will proof the document. The goals of the survey are, among other possibilities, to receive a response to the committee’s ideas, to determine new ideas not suggested by the committee, to generate interest in future mini-reunions, to discover if someone has expertise in a particular area, and to find out what skills/talents classmates can offer. The survey should go out in early July, about a month after a letter from John and Karen announcing the up-coming reunion to our classmates.

The committee wrapped up its meeting by discussing agenda items for the next meeting, October 2-3, 2009 in Northfield. Among the action items mentioned are:
- Review the survey results
- Review various previous 50th Reunion Evaluations
- Create a chart of times and possibilities for program activities
Timeline:
Letter from Karen and John to Class
  May 1, 2009—— draft ready
  June 1, 2009—Letter in final form
  June 18, 2009—Letter mailed to all classmates
  June 25, 2009--Email to all classmates, echoing the letter of June 18

Interest survey: online and hardcopy
  Early May: Walter Andrews and Harriet Statz– draft the survey
  Mid-May: Jay Sargent – review draft
  Late May: Draft to planning committee for review
  Early June: Final draft to Sally Legrand for proofing
  Late June: Sally Legrand sends corrected proof to Harriet and Walter
  July 1: Survey to Carleton staff for distribution to classmates

Survey Questions
  Rank in order of preference program ideas from committee
  More ideas?
  Suggested “experts”
  What can you offer (talents, expertise, insights)?

Unsorted list of brainstorming suggestions:
Take away something and leave something, e.g. locations on campus – taking photos or planting shrubs

A well-liked idea that surfaced was arranging table talks so that multiple groups could have multiple discussions at the same time, and participants could have a chance to enjoy more than one opportunity.

Share talents
Impact of individuals in 50 yrs on larger community

Impact of place
Campus architecture

“New” stories about Carleton (new meaning not shared before).
Focus on unexpected outcomes
After 2011…

Focus on spiritual growth
  Prof. Ian Barbour – When Science Meets Religion
  Personal, intellectual, experiential

International focus: Cultures, travel, volunteering

Leaving something for Carleton College
2061 time capsule

Class of 2011 one-on-one imaginings for the future – ours, theirs – by decade

Class gift: How will it be used? Investment policies?

Future shape of business, science, and technology
Focus on environment demographics

Educational philosophy
    Balance between the “hard” and “soft” sciences
    Role of the arts
    Combination with technology
    Rationale for new arts center

Bonding experience
    Time for individual connections
    Small group sharing (advance designations on the web)

Participatory activity
    Prepare a meal together
    Music
    Dance
    Mini reunions

Holistic health care
Morning physical activity: Yoga, Tai chi, Xi gong, Pilates, Bird walk

Co-Chairs Report
John Lundsten shared his thoughts for a project to connect the Class of 1961 with the Carleton Class of 2011. (See attached handout.) The program committee will lead this part of the reunion planning, but all committee members and classmates are encouraged to provide ideas and comments.

The meeting was adjourned.