

Notes From the Secretary

AT THE BEGINNING of our freshman year, the *Yale Banner* published *The Old Campus*, with headshots of each one of us. I think we might have called it "Facebook." You didn't need the Internet to have a social network. We used it to remember names, to get to know each other, and to ponder the geographic distribution of our class.

As Class Secretary for the past ten years, I've had the privilege to get to know a lot more of you than I did as an undergraduate. Writing the Yale Alumni Magazine column six times a year has given me the opportunity to communicate with many more diverse interests and personalities. My term has coincided with the Internet and digital social networks coming of age. Many of you don't participate in these media, but it certainly has made Class Secretary responsibilities easier. Classmate messages now arrive primarily as e-mails, with an increasing number coming via facebook.com. Eighty-two percent of our 860 members have an e-mail address. Not bad for the "Luddite Generation!"

I am content provider of our website (www.yale64.org). Words cannot express our good fortune in having Sam Francis as Webmaster. Both the column and website benefit from the incredibly wide range of talent, accomplishments, and experiences in our class. Members in the arts and letters have provided an ever-increasing source of publications, articles, and visual art. In the last 20 years, we've posted 138 books, 42 articles, and 29 paintings/photographs. We earned an AYA "Award of Excellence" for leadership in environmental sustainability.

A Facebook friend and classmate recently posted: "One of the things I like about Facebook is that you learn about dimensions and facets of people you had no idea of. That is cool." At the other end of the spectrum, a classmate emailed: "I know that for recent graduates there are many other ways of experiencing a virtual community, but for those of us who are somewhat allergic to social media, the Class Notes are a gift." Whether your network is analog or digital, its value comes from sharing experiences. Our latest website feature is called "Sound Off!" — an online forum for exchanging different points of view. Join in if you're so inclined.

Certainly, our 50th Class Reunion in the Spring of 2014 will re-ignite the social network that is the Class of 1964. May our memories always be bright.



Tony Lavelly