

*40th Reunion
Of
Brainerd Senior High School
Class of 1972*

July 27, 2012 Sheps on South Sixth Street

July 28, 2012 Old Waterfall on Highway 371

*Food Provided By
Lakeland Catering*

Ron Allord

Ron and I will celebrate our 39th wedding anniversary this fall. We are still - have never left - in the area living in Baxter. Our two daughters and families live in Brainerd - thankfully - as we then have all 6 of our Grand's locally :). Our eldest is almost 13, and the newest - we were blessed with twins (boy/girl) on November 1, 2011. Each of our daughters have 2 girls and a boy. We love every single minute we get to spend with them!! Ron is still with the school district and I have just completed 41 years with St. Joe's. I am VERY much looking forward to retirement in about 12 months - to do whatever I want whenever!! Ron will be close behind. We love to travel when we can, enjoy biking in the summer (pedal!!), love being with our Grand babies and would like every Minnesota winter to be like 2011!! Looking forward to seeing everyone!! (written by Peggy)

Everett Anderson

I now live in eastern Ontario, south of Ottawa and west of Montreal. I come home every May and unfortunately can't make another trip now. If anyone would care to converse about life or the future of western civilization my e-mail is smilin-ev@hotmail.com. It would be nice to hear from you. I was divorced twice and both times got full custody of two children. That was pretty much my life. I am now married to a lovely Canadian woman and mostly just play poker. Saddened to see almost 10% of our class is deceased and it is also a bit disconcerting. Wish the best to all of you who are still enjoying the life experience!

P.S. Universal health care works great! Don't believe the propaganda.

Gerald Anderson

I am still in dairy farming and there are many blessings in this profession, but it has shortcomings also. My father died in 1995 which was one of the pivotal moments in my life since he was also my farming partner. Since that time I have continued the family dairy farm relying more on employees. Every since 2008 the going has been rough in this industry as it has in most of the rest of the economy. In addition there seems to be some type of weather modification going on making it harder to put up crops.

My sister and her family live in Coon Rapids and I enjoy her visits. My mother is still alive and mentally fit; she helps with some of the accounting on the farm. So I am very very busy.

I still do freelance writing and frequently appear in Hoard's Dairyman magazine, which also has a Spanish Edition and a Japanese edition which my work has appeared in. So my writing has been translated into many of the world's languages, something I am really thankful for. In addition to this I have been editing and working with Jean Haugen Rosenthal on her Dove Christian trilogy. It is a major work and she has just finished the third part of it, but I haven't read or worked on the last book yet. I am excited, though, about this trilogy. Hope to see many of you at the reunion and I hope you are all faring well.

Pam Anderson Nelson

Classmate Ron Nelson and I still call Brainerd our home. Ron has many years invested as a pressman at Bang Printing. I am currently employed as the Executive

Director/Administrator of the Crow Wing County Historical Society/Museum. Our two grandsons, Jahson and Josiah turned 13 and 11 this summer. Our daughter, Katie and her husband Dusty Imgrund own and operate a full service used car lot in Baxter. Joel, our son is employed at the BNSF Equipment Shop as an Electrician. Ron and I are looking forward to retirement! Ron enjoys fishing and hunting. I also enjoy fishing but not quite into the sport as much as Ron. Whenever possible I spend my free time with my twin "Pat". We are looking forward to seeing everyone again! Ron has to nudge me a little to get me to go to the reunions, but once I'm there I enjoy every minute of it!

Craig Arnold

Happy 40th! And thanks organizers. After graduation, I went to St. Olaf College where I met Sarah (Sal). We just celebrated our 34th anniversary this summer. We have two sons, Peter (29) and Dan (28), who both live in New York City. I got my masters at the University of Illinois and doctorate at the Eastman School of Music. I spent the majority of my adult career as a college teacher, most recently, Luther College in Decorah, IA. I am now running a company in New York City that I started in 1999, Manhattan Concert Productions. Sarah and I live in Summit, NJ. I am a train commuter into the city each day. Sarah teaches nursing at University Medical and Dental School of New Jersey. I look forward to being back in Brainerd where I no longer have family. My Dad died about four years ago and my Mom this March following two years of assisted living in Summit, NJ. Continued best wishes to Brainerd classmates and their families!

Sunnie Asplund

Some of the things I've done in the past 40 years:

I've been married twice, divorced the same. I lived in the Bemidji area for about 10 years during my first marriage. Nice area, close to Itasca, but Brainerd is better.

My second husband came with 2 small children whom I got to help raise – our daughter just graduated from college and our son is at Camp Pendleton in the Marine Corps. Beautiful children! I'm so lucky to be their "Other Mom"! But they're not children anymore. I have no grandchildren yet, but I do have a daughter-in-law to be whom I adore.

I moved back to the Brainerd area nearly 20 years ago. I've pretty much always worked in the hospitality industry - I've been at Madden's on Gull Lake for 17+ years in the Reservations Department, where I get to help make vacations for guests. It's a great job and I love it.

I've recently moved back into the house I grew up in. I have a dog with a sense of humor and 3 brothers with families who keep me busy, along with my kids. I've also been blessed with some pretty amazing friends, both old and new. LIFE IS GOOD!

Ginger Badger Brown

40 years ~ where has the time gone? I have been working at Crow Wing Power for 35 years now. The purchasing department and finance department is where I hang out. I am looking forward to retirement in a few short years probably at age 62. Denny my husband of 37 years is working at Pepsi Cola as a Service Technician and on call all the time. He will be retiring in another year and a half. He hunts ducks in the fall and fishes whenever he has spare time. We both do the rifle hunting for deer in November. Our daughter Becky, her husband Scott, sons Parker and Brenden are living in Tucson Arizona at this time but due to Scott's promotion to Senior Master Sergeant in the Air Force they will be moving to Mountain Home Idaho this coming October. That will be a nice drive for us this Thanksgiving. We still live on Ruth Lake (22 years now) and love to use the lake for fishing in winter and paddle boat riding in the summer. We enjoy

having bonfires with the neighbors, which has to include roasting marshmallows. I enjoy making greeting cards with my rubber stamps. I have a great group of stamping friends that I get together with many times a year for birthday lunches and Christmas brunches. We are hoping that retirement will bring about some traveling after the good winter fishing is over, with a fifth wheel behind us ~ catching up with Becky and her family where ever the military moves them. I need to spend time with those grandsons of mine and enjoy the unconditional love they have for their Nana. I had a knee replacement almost 3 years ago and now I am looking at having the hip replaced on the same side as the knee. I have inherited the arthritis that has handicapped my mother so guess I can't always be as active as I would like but I do the best I can. Denny built me a new deer stand this year so now I will have steps up to a more spacious enclosed deer stand ~ can't wait!! I hope that I'm not the only one in the class that has an artificial joint ~ so I would be interested to know if there are other classmates that have had that experience. All in all life is good.

I have enjoyed being on the planning committee; reconnecting with these great classmates, also hearing from all of you with the biography paragraphs and the notes with the checks for the dinner.

Vicky Beto Berry

I am back home to Brainerd after living 13 years in Colorado. I have two boys, one girl and three beautiful grandchildren (two girls and one very special boy). Currently I work at Big Lots and enjoy it very much. I also do respite for my grandson. I love to travel, walk, sew and watch golf.

Frank Edward Bingham

I don't have much to brag about in the last ten years!! WHO-DA-THOUGHT; at age fifty eight, I would be addicted to nine heart pharmaceuticals ~ have aches and pains ~live with a neurotic golden retriever. I am still trying to lower my sex drive and addiction to Vodka and Viagra!! Seriously; I had the biggest scare of my young life, a year and a half ago. Got a helicopter ride, went thru two heart surgeries, saw the white light and learned a lot. I learned to talk with God and I don't know if he is a very smart man? He put that much effort and strength into me. I must have more to accomplish in this life!! He wakes me every morning and guides my footsteps. New retired and operating my own business, days go fast and are rewarding. Life couldn't be better in my little corner of the world. If you took the time to read my ramblings, may your life be successful and rewarding like mine. I wish you FAITH, PEACE and LOVE!!

Maureen Brusseau Engholm

Rick and I dated grades 9-12 and we were married the summer of 1972. We have 2 children and 3 grandchildren. We were divorced in 1994. I have worked for Cub Foods almost 21 years now and I have weekends off. I get to watch my granddaughter Madison who is now 3 while her parents work at Home Depot.

Kristil (Cain) McDonald

Following the completion of my college degrees, I married my "one and only" high school sweetheart, John McDonald. We have three wonderful children – Lori, 31, Michelle, 18, and Nathan, 17. John and I, along with our children, enjoy family activities at our home on North Long Lake. We are actively involved in various organizations in the area. I especially enjoy singing and performing as often as my busy schedule allows. Both John and I have spent the last 36 years in the field of education as teachers and administrators. After teaching for 24 years, I began my

current administrative career as a high school principal where I have served for the last 12 years. We have been given many blessings over the fleeting years since graduation. But I have always fondly remembered my time in high school and all those of the Brainerd High School Class of 1972.

Bruce Caughey

I am a partner with 3 of our 4 grown children in B&C Dairy Farms, LLP specializing in dairy, beef, corn, soybeans, hay, oats and rye. I am currently Daggett Brook Township supervisor and on the Board of directors for the Pierz Coop. I am still married to Rosanne (almost 35 years).

Tim Clarine

Since our last reunion, I've had a few changes in my life. My family has grown quite a bit. With the addition of 1 son-in-law and 1 daughter-in-law, I now have 4 grandchildren. Avery who is 5, is a big sister to Beckett, who turned 1 in July. Peyton who turned 2 in April, has a little brother Kolby, who was born at the end of May this year.

I retired from the Crow Wing County Sheriff's Department in December 2009. After a year off, I decided to go back to work part-time at an auto parts store. I still enjoy hunting, fishing, and riding my motorcycle.

Forrest Compton

I am writing this with a heavy heart. I am Doreen Compton, Forrest Compton (Bubba's) wife. We lost Forrest suddenly in August of 2009.

He suffered a brain hemorrhage. We were married 27 years. (together30) We had 3 children two boys and a girl. We were married May 1982.

We went back to Minnesota for Forrest's 10 year class reunion that summer. We had so much fun and I had the pleasure of meeting his many friends. He had great memories of High School and talked of it often. We met and married in the little town of Pioneer Calif. Forrest got his General Contractors license, and soon after we moved to Lodi Calif. where we raised our family. He worked for a company many years and traveled all over the United States. He was a very hard worker.

He was a great Dad and loved his kids with all his heart. He is greatly missed, but he left a mark of his humor and generosity on everyone he touched. I appreciate you passing

this on to his class. He would want me to write this to all his friends in Brainerd.

Thank you,

Doreen Compton

Sandra Pickar DeRosier

Still living on Dewing Highway and married to Larry DeRosier since 8-21-1971. We have two sons, three grandsons and one granddaughter ~ ages 16,13, 8 and 4. I have been working at Mills Ford since October 2011. I worked at The Fort Steakhouse for 30 years prior to that. I enjoy fishing both summer and winter, snowmobiling and gardening. We enjoy watching the grandkids, crafting and being at home.

Judy Dewes Jones

I currently reside in Washington State (near Tacoma) where I've lived since 1979. After a 34-year absence from school, I returned to college in 2006. I graduated in 2011 with a B.A. in Interdisciplinary Arts & Sciences, fulfilling a life-long dream. I've always loved school, and I had the time of my life! I hope to continue on with my studies and pursue graduate school in the future. In the meantime, however, I'm currently taking a break as my husband prepares to retire from his job this summer.

I've been married to my awesome husband, Bob, for 27 years. We don't have any children, but a steady progression of pets continues to serve as "surrogate kids." Bob and I enjoy traveling. Over the years we've had the privilege of visiting China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Thailand, England, and Israel. We especially enjoy taking day trips to visit the many beautiful, scenic sites that our own Washington State has to offer-- everything from a rain forest to the Pacific Ocean to two majestic mountain ranges. Other activities I enjoy include ministry-related projects, organic gardening, collecting carnival glass, and spending time with family and friends.

I was thrilled to have the opportunity to attend our class reunion in July. What fun it was to connect with classmates and old friends after 40 years! I also got in on the group picture with other classmates from my elementary school, St. Francis of Assisi. I do hope we get to do a 45th reunion celebration.

Vance England

Served 8 years active duty U.S. Navy (1972 – 1980) Served 2 tours during Vietnam, the last tour our ship assisted with the evacuation. Enlisted into the MN Army National Guard Sep 1980 and I am still a member. I have been activated to assist with troop and unit deployments and redeployments since Apr 2011 and will remain in this capacity until I retire in 1 year and 9 months. I retired from Federal Civil Service April 2011 after nearly 40 years.

I married Robin (Boeder – Class of 75) England Feb 8th, 1975 and we will be celebrating our 38th anniversary this coming February. My son (Cameron) was born November 1978 and my daughter (Heather) was born April 1982. I have 5 grandchildren; 4 girls and 1 boy. They all reside very close to us!

We have lived in San Pedro, Chula Vista, and Long Beach while I was in the Navy in California. We lived in New Brighton, Brooklyn Park, Brainerd, White Bear Lake and now Hugo, MN since then. We have managed to buy a small cabin on South Long Lake just south of Brainerd and enjoy our time there when in the Brainerd area.

We enjoy walking, spending time on the pontoon, vacations to Cancun, Bahamas, Mexico, Florida, and reuniting with friends from my Navy days in California. I sponsor and coach a Co-ed softball team. I did play, however, have stepped down and now coach the kids of the players who helped me start the team more than 20 years ago. Time does fly by and those kids sure grew up quick! I sing in a Men's Choir and the church Chancel Choir. I am currently serving on the Board of Elders. Robin retired from her insurance position after the big down-sizing a couple of years ago. She is now working from home. She is an Area Manager with Arbonne International, a health and wellness company. She is doing very well and doesn't regret leaving her insurance career.

I made the 10 and 20 year reunion and regret missing the last two. Look forward to the next Class of 72 get together.

Randy Griess

40 years in a short paragraph-not an easy task, but here are some of the high points. I attended Brainerd Vo-Tech for Sales & Marketing. After graduating I went on to Bemidji state for more business. In 1975 I married by wife Lori. We have 3 children - Brandi, Brad and Bryan and now two grandchildren. We have lived in the Park Rapids area for the last 37 years. I was in the marine business for almost 25 years and in 1998 switched careers and went to work in corrections for the Hubbard County Sheriff's Department as coordinator/crew leader for the Sentence to Serve and Community Work Service Program. Only a few more years until retirement and then I can enjoy all my hobbies full time. Snowmobiling (especially out west), touring on our motorcycle, traveling in the US and abroad, hunting, cars, landscaping, construction (as can be seen in our yard), water gardening and raising koi.

Tom Grotjohn

I married my soul-mate and best friend, Nancy, in 1978 and she is still putting up with me after 34 years; proof positive that she is at the very least, part saint. We are blessed with a son and a daughter, apparently neither of them thinks Nancy and I are ready for grand children. We make our home in Morris, just down the road from Lake Wobengon.

I managed to graduate from the University of MN at Morris in '86 with a degree in Studio Art, however, I must have more than a little 5W-30 in my blood as I've spent the better part of my career in some facet of auto repair, rodding, restoration or auto retailing. I'm currently earning my keep in auto sales and still love shiny paint and V-8's.

I spend (Nancy might say squander) my spare time in the fall waterfowling and upland game hunting. I take great pleasure in encouraging my son and several nephews to join in such idle pursuits. I dabble a little in photography and have grown to enjoy simple things such as bike rides with Nancy and time with my children.

Debbie Gusse Jelacie

Tom and I are still living in Brainerd. Our son graduated from Bemidji State College this year with a major in Sports Management and hopes to find permanent employment in the Brainerd area. After 25 years in banking I gave it up for a county job. I have been working in the recorder's office for 9 years now. It has been a nice change, but I am hoping my next "career change" will be retirement. After years of attending hockey and baseball games, I fill my spare time with biking, knitting, reading, and relaxing! It was fun visiting with everyone at the reunion. Thank you to everyone on the committee for taking time to organize the reunion.

Kathy Haglin Olmsted

After high school I went to the Brainerd Beauty College, and then worked in a hair salon for 7 years. I switched careers and did accounting for my husband's office for the next 25 years, while raising and homeschooling our two children. We celebrated our 30th wedding anniversary in May. Our son is almost 26, married to classmate Sue Hobson Knudsen's daughter. They live in Whitefish, Montana and are expecting our first grandchild! Our daughter is 23 and has recently started a photography business. We have a cabin on the periphery of Glacier Park in Montana and travel back and forth throughout the entire year. I am blessed to have all my siblings (4 brothers, 4 sisters) now living in Minnesota and we continue to have family gatherings often. I've enjoyed scrapbooking, attended Bible Study Fellowship for 15+ years, still doing income tax returns for a handful of family members, and must have at least one book to read on my nightstand.

Cheryl Hallgren Johnson

I have always lived here in Brainerd. Guess it is hard to leave once you are here especially when my family is still here. I have been a beautician for 39 years and self employed for 32 of those. Still love my job and enjoy going to work every day....just finding that the older I get the harder it is to stay on my feet for so many hours. A sign in my shop says GROWING OLD AIN'T FOR SISSIES and that is not far from the truth!!!

I have 2 children, Scottie is 27 and is a cook and going back to school for X-Ray technician. He is a very busy guy right now. He has a beautiful red headed daughter Morgan who is 4 and the love of my life. I have her every other weekend so she either wears me out or keeps me young. My daughter Jayce is 22 and just about to graduate from college as a surgical technician. Everyone says she is a mini-me (poor kid). She is such a joy and beautiful young lady.

I keep busy just being a workaholic, keeping up with my kids and family. Life has been good.

Theresa Halverson Munsch

I've been married to Phil for going on 13 years and we run the Heating/AC business right here in Brainerd (Unreal HOW one can live here and not see familiar faces, however I am at shop/house a few miles out of town, and my running around is minimal, so DUH?!?!?!). My kids have blessed us with four beautiful granddaughters (7,4,3 and 2). We just built a get away on the Grand Mesa in Colorado in 2010 so go there to play when we can! We aren't in Brainerd much on week ends. Life IS good....God is WHY! The pictures of many I did recognize and LOVED seeing them! Also, the balloon Celebration of Lives that mingled with ours and are no longer here was SO uplifting!! My heart and thoughts...and memories were renewed just by the pictures shared! THANK EVERY ONE FOR ME!!!

With Gods Continued Blessings to EVERY one of you!!!

And HUGS!!!!!! Teresa Halverson Munsch

Robin Hamren Myers

I graduated from the University of Minnesota in 1977 with a degree in pharmacy. I have worked in various settings over the years, including pharmacies in Rochester, Brainerd, Crosby, and Staples. In 2005 I went back to college and earned a degree in elementary education. John and I were married in 1978. We have two children, Nicholas, 28, and Kristina, 24. We have 2 cats and a fish and too many plants. We are dog-less or dog-free, however you look at it, for the first time in 34 years. I have too many hobbies and interests. I love plants, indoor and out. I volunteer as a Master Gardener. I enjoy needlework of all sorts, especially knitting and cross stitch. I have recently been teaching knitting and really enjoy that. I play flutes (piccolo, flute, and alto flute), cello, and handbells in various local groups. I teach Sunday school and have for many years. In my spare time I love to read. I especially enjoy mysteries and travel stories.

Rick Herder

Marsha (Hardt, class of '73) and I have been happily married for 38 years. We have three children (two daughters, one son) and five grandchildren. I graduated from Bemidji State in 1977 and have spent most of the years since graduation as a high school English teacher and speech and debate coach: seven years in Staples and then a couple decades in Naples, FL. In 2005 I returned to school and eventually picked up an MA from U of Miami and a PhD in public communication from Georgia State. In 2010 I accepted a teaching position at Southwest Minnesota State University in Marshall. We are happy to be back home in the north country, but spend considerable time on the road visiting children in the far flung environs of Tennessee and New York.

Suzanne Hoag Dicks

Why is it so difficult to condense 40 years into a few words? I think I answered my own question. My husband & I live near Bemidji MN-on a hobby farm, which means horses, dogs & cats. We do enjoy flower & a veggie garden too. We have 5 near perfect children and 2 perfect grandchildren. My dad, who is 92 years old, just moved to Bemidji this past June. I'm an LPN, did clinical work for 8 years-took time off to be home with my children. I then worked in our middle school health office for 10 years & really enjoyed watching the transformation of the students during that time of their

life. Also made me very thankful to have grown up when I did. I'm very grateful that my husband, Bill, supports & encourages my love for our 4 legged family and of course our kids, grand kids and the time I spend with my dad. Life is good! Until our next reunion-wishing everyone happiness & health!

LuAnn Hoffman Aasen

I feel the same; think the same I just don't look the same. Maybe that can be said for all of us. Where has 40 years gone. I work F/T as a 401 (k) Benefit Administrator and live in Eagan. I have a daughter in Erie, PA and a son in Duluth. No grandchildren but then neither are married, so I may have to be a rent a grandma. In my spare time, I make wine (merlot), cook vegetarian, follow NFL football-GO PACK, play bingo and shoe shop.

Tom Holloway

After 30 years of doing dentistry, I sold my practice and retired in September of 2009. I have found that playing golf, fishing in the summer, snowshoeing and ice fishing in the winter with a healthy dose of hunting in the fall seem to be a lot more fun and less stressful. Knowing that each day that passes you won't get back, being mindful of the fact that we are all "penciled in" it seems like retirement was the sensible path. Still married to wife Cyndy and will be making the 30th Anniversary in March 2013. I used to wonder how years rolled by too fast, now I wonder how decades do. Looking forward to seeing everyone and trying to summarize in a 5 minute conversation, what has happened in the last 40 years.

Peggy Kennedy Allord

Ron and I will celebrate our 39th wedding anniversary this fall. We are still - have never left - in the area living in Baxter. Our two daughters and families live in Brainerd - thankfully - as we then have all 6 of our Grand's locally :). Our eldest is almost 13, and the newest - we were blessed with twins (boy/girl) on November 1, 2011. Each of our daughters have 2 girls and a boy. We love every single minute we get to spend with them!! Ron is still with the school district and I have just completed 41 years with St. Joe's. I am VERY much looking forward to retirement in about 12 months - to do whatever I want whenever!! Ron will be close behind. We love to travel when we can, enjoy biking in the summer (pedal!!), love being with our Grand babies and would like every Minnesota winter to be like 2011!! Looking forward to seeing everyone!!

Brad Klein

"Hi everyone! Forty years really has sailed by quickly. I've been married to my wife, Cindy, for much of that time. We have one son, Jeff, who will shortly (hopefully) be completing his PhD in Physics. The culmination of his research will be a two month trip to Antarctica this fall.

After high school I received my undergraduate degree and J.D. from the University of Minnesota. I started working for U.S. Bank in Duluth shortly after law school and I've remained with the bank my entire career. I work in the bank's Wealth Management Group in Minneapolis as a Regional Trust Manager. Cindy retired from teaching in Stillwater (where we lived for the past 15 years) this spring so we decided to move into a warehouse condo in downtown Minneapolis to be closer to my office. We spend as much time as we can at our lake home on Little Pelican Lake, near Nisswa.

I hope to join Cindy in retirement in not too many years. We're looking forward to our future at the lake and as much travel as we can handle."

Cathy Kruger Borders

Wow!

It's been 40 years and I'm not sure how to summarize all those years. I have three wonderful kids, two grandkids, and two dogs. Tiffany is my oldest and lives near Milwaukee with her husband and 2 little ones. Max is 3 and Kate is only 1. My son, Michael, just graduated from high school and will be at NDSU next fall. Brooke is 16 and will be a junior in high school next year. Yes, I was pretty darn old when those last two were born? I was divorced about 3 years ago and am too busy to even think about dating???. Life is great just the way it is!

I finally graduated from Mankato State University in 1991 and spent a few years substitute teaching. I then tutored 9th and 10th graders at the Little Falls High School before getting my 4th grade teaching job about 6 years ago at Lindbergh Elementary. It is so great to love your job and get paid for it too!

I have a seasonal camper and pontoon boat on Lake Edward where we enjoy the lake and friends! I love reading, swimming, biking and spending time with my wonderful family!!

Rick Kummet

We (married to Debbie Nelson) continue to live and enjoy the Brainerd area, and are grateful for the opportunity to do so. Our three children are healthy, employed and enjoying their respective careers. We have been blest in that regard. We enjoyed our time at the 40th Class Reunion and it was fun to see and talk with so many of our classmates. As many others likely felt, WHERE DID THOSE 40 YEARS GO? We wish all of you health and a happy future.

Basil Leblanc

I am working fulltime at the St Cloud VA in primary care. Still active in the MN Army National Guard, third (and hopefully last) deployment was in 2009 to Iraq. I am married to Shelly, blended family of 5 children, no grandchildren yet. I still running, gardening, woodworking and playing guitar.

Scott Lideen, BHS Class of 1972

After high school I graduated from BJC, went a year to St Cloud State and in 1975 moved to Tempe AZ to attend AZ State University. I worked and went to school part time because I couldn't afford the out-of-state tuition, finally graduating with a degree in finance in 1979. I went to work for a large corporation, then another and another. Was married in 1981 and was transferred to Dallas/Fort Worth in 1989 but it didn't work out so moved back to Phoenix in 1992 to work for Integrated Support Systems. In 1994 the owner died of cancer and two of us employees bought the company and I'm still there. We represent the manufacturers of a couple of lines of equipment that are commonly found in data centers/computer rooms, Liebert computer room A/C and power conditioning and Tate Access Floors.

We have two children, Kristen is single and soon to be 26. She has one degree and is back in school working for her nursing degree. She should be done next year.

Taylor is 22, single, and wants to be a pro mtn biker. He and I chased the National Off Road Bicycle Assoc. (NORBA) series around the country for 4 years, winning a lot of races. I ended up national age group champion four times in downhill and superD. He started as a downhiller but gravitated to endurance and now specializes in ultra endurance solo mtn biking. He won his age group at the World 24 Hour Solo

Championships in 2009 and took 2nd in Australia in 2010 and we'll be in Canada in September for the worlds again. That's riding for 24 hours straight with only a few minutes per 1-1.5 hour laps off the bike. He's good at it.

I was divorced in June of 2009 and on Christmas Day of that year my house caught fire. It is now rebuilt and I moved back in January 2011.

I still love the AZ outdoors. I ride my mtn bike 3-5 days/week on South Mountain where my house is. This time of the year I ride over the top of the mountain home and back into work once a week. I've ridden dirt bikes in Baja CA a number of times. Used to barefoot water ski a lot. Lately into rock crawling. Started with a 1968 Ford Bronco specially fitted for crawling. Then recently upped the ante with a full tube buggy. It's the most fun you can have in a vehicle at 1 MPH.

It was great to see you all at the reunion. We don't have much time left on this earth so might as well have fun while we're here. Good luck to all of you.

Carol Loisel Bruchhof

I'm still enjoying life at this point in time in the beautiful Brainerd Lakes area. My husband, Greg, and I are still working, but have talked more and more about retirement in the next few years. We spend time together fishing in the summer and getting together with our families and friends in the winter. I like to travel, read, walk, and come up with new projects to do around the house when I can find the time.

Our daughter and her family moved back to Brainerd recently, so we are able to spend a lot of time with them (especially our only grandchild, Lucas). We are so blessed to have them close by and actively involved in our lives. Our son lives and works in Tucson, AZ so our visits with him are too few and far between. Thank God for technology so we can stay connected even from a great distance. We're hoping to spend more time with him once we are retired.

I'm looking forward to what lies ahead in our "Golden Years". Hoping that we are all able to make the most of what comes our way as we continue down life's path.

Debra Martin Esse

Long story short-I have had a wonderful life! I have been married to Bruce for 35 years. Bruce is retired from the Duluth Fire Department and is on his 2nd career as a data analyst at Wells Fargo. We moved to the Twin Cities from Duluth about 7 years ago and built a house in Eagan. We have 2 grown children; Beth is our eldest and she is married and has a 12 year old son. Kyle is child # 2 and is married and has a 5 month old daughter. They both work in the computer world! I feel like I have been a constant student. After high school I became an RN, went on to get a bachelor's degree, also received a master's degree in healthcare administration. I am a certified emergency nurse which is where my love lies. I am now employed with McKesson Technologies. I help facilities implement a coding program for the emergency department. After the implementation I work with the facilities using their data to optimize their processes. For this job I needed to become a certified professional coder (more school and tests!) which I get to add to the alphabet soup already behind my name! It is the best job in the world. I get to travel for the implementations so I get to meet a lot of wonderful people in lots of different parts of the country. The rest of the time I work from home. I am also a breast cancer survivor of 13 years.

Kenny Mathewson

After high school I went to Vo-tech where I took welding classes. I graduated with honors. I moved to the cities where I worked for Carter Day as a certified welder for 12 years. I moved then to Cambridge and bought a house. I married Diane in 1974 and we had one daughter Amanda in 1980. We divorced in 1982. I moved back to Motley for a year and then on to Staples. I worked at Scotty's Pub as a bartender for 3 years. I moved to New York Mills where I worked for Lund Boats for 22 years. In 2008 I was diagnosed with Rheumatoid Arthritis, Osteoarthritis and Osteoporosis. I tried to work for the next 3-6 months but missed more than I was there due to swelling and pain in my joints. I officially quit that fall. I married Lynn Nitschke on August 30, 2003, Lynn has 2 daughters. The oldest has 3 girls and 1 boy. The youngest Sheena, who has been like a daughter to me has a girl named Kennedy. Kennedy is my "bug". I have called her that since the first day I saw her. I have taught her to cast and now we go fishing together. Kennedy has been such a joy to me.

Deb Melby Larson

Greetings class of 1972. Wally and I are living in Bovey, MN. We have two grown children, who are married and they have six children between them. What a ball to be grandparents. We are both retired as of July 2011, and just finished our retirement home 25 miles north of Grand Rapids. When we are not here, we are enjoying our cabin in Canada, with our family. Each day is such a blessing, as long as we have our health!

Kristy (Meyers) McTaggart

Hi Class of 72! God is good! I escaped to sunny southern California in 1989. I remarried in 1999 to a long-haired hippie Christian rock drummer who is my best friend (DanielAmos.com) and together we have 6 kids and 11 grandchildren and another one on the way! (Grandchild, not a baby!!!) In 1994 I started a business making wedding invitations; still doing that (Artiface.com) so I never had to get a 'real job'. On the weekends I play piano in the Wartime Radio Revue Swing Orchestra. I am hoping to raise collies someday. We have one, and he makes every day like living in a "Lassie" episode.

Can you believe we all grew up without the internet? My grandkids picture little wigwams in the forest, communicating with smoke signals...

Laurel Mezner

Single, Dog, Work, Golf, Lake and Friends

Evelyn Moss Hartman

I live in Fort Ripley with my husband Duane, it's been 15 years now! We moved from Baxter in 1995, when the last child turned 19! I worked as a nurse til 2009; my career was cut short by personal and family illnesses and losses. I have been semi-retired, taking care of myself and being a homebody! Most importantly, spending time with grandkids (we have 7) and hubby! We garden, can food, travel when we can. I'm looking for a hobby I can work at, rather than a job I'd be tied to. 40+ years of working for someone else is enough! Of course, that also means I've been out of touch for so long, I may not be recognized!!

Debbie Nelson Kummert

We (married to Rick Kummert) continue to live and enjoy the Brainerd area, and are grateful for the opportunity to do so. Our three children are healthy, employed and enjoying their respective careers. We have been blest in that regard. We enjoyed our time at the 40th Class Reunion and it was fun to see and talk with so many of our

classmates. As many others likely felt, WHERE DID THOSE 40 YEARS GO? We wish all of you health and a happy future.

Joe Nelson

I am working at Wal-mart and have 4 grand kids.

Kirstie Nelson Klassen

I currently reside in Granite Falls Minnesota. I keep busy with my business, "Therapeutic Massage by Kirstie", a husband of 15 years, Jim, and my brand new grand-daughter, Abbeygale Joy Stewart, my son Nathan's first child and my first grandbaby!

Nathan and his little family live right here in Granite Falls so I'm blessed to be a "hands on "Grammie.

My older son, Ryan and his wife live just north of here, near the farm where the boys grew up.

My husband's two girls, Kristi and Kari are also nearby, so we have our children close and we love that.

Jim is retired, volunteers his time a lot, so we are rarely home it seems.

I am so blessed to have a job I love, and enjoy the relationships that have resulted in years of "helping folks find their healing paths".

Being a Certified Natural Health Practitioner and Jin Shin Jyutsu Practitioner, in addition to massage has provided me a variety of modalities in which to lend a healing hand, ideas and protocols for my clients.

Always challenging, always new! 😊

Life has had its ups and downs along the way, but I wouldn't change a minute of it. It's made me who I am today, and for that I am grateful!

Ron Nelson

Ron and I (Pam Anderson Nelson) still call Brainerd our home. Ron has many years invested as a pressman at Bang Printing. I am currently employed as the Executive Director/Administrator of the Crow Wing County Historical Society/Museum. Our two grandsons, Jahson and Josiah turned 13 and 11 this summer. Our daughter, Katie and her husband Dusty Imgrund own and operate a full service used car lot in Baxter. Joel, our son is employed at the BNSF Equipment Shop as an Electrician. Ron and I are looking forward to retirement! Ron enjoys fishing and hunting. I also enjoy fishing but not quite into the sport as much as Ron. Whenever possible I spend my free time with my twin "Pat". We are looking forward to seeing everyone again! Ron has to nudge me a little to get me to go to the reunions, but once I'm there I enjoy every minute of it!

Linda Nyberg James

I continue to live in Fargo and teach at Concordia College in Moorhead in the Nutrition and Dietetics Department. Our children are 20 and 23 and for now, are living in the F-M area. Our oldest graduated last spring with a BA in nursing. Stan and I split our time between our responsibilities in the Fargo - Moorhead area and our cabin in Park Rapids. We are starting to think that retirement might not be so bad if we could spend more time at the lake. It was wonderful to see everyone at the reunion this summer and I look forward

to the next one. Please look me up if you are ever in the Park Rapids area.

Karin Ohlin Mandeville

After graduation I attended St. Olaf College. Then after that graduation, I decided to go to Norway (where my mother was from) to learn the language for a year. I ended up staying and have lived here for over thirty years, with two moves back to the states (Denver – where my family has resettled) with two different husbands. My second husband and I celebrated our 25th anniversary last year – that was indeed a milestone now-a-days! We have three children –two on earth and one in heaven as I prefer to say; Erik (30 – from my first marriage), Elizabeth (23) and Rebecca whom we lost to SIDS at the age of six months – she would have turned 18 this year. Despite the trials and mistakes in my life I must say God is good and has blessed me tremendously! I have had a very interesting career, first in teaching elementary school in Trondheim, Norway's third largest city. I then worked as a Senior Consultant in Corporate Training and Human Resource Development for 10 years in the banking industry in Oslo before we moved to Denver and I started on my Masters degree at Denver Seminary in Christian Family & Marriage Counseling. After nearly 20 years with IBM, my husband Eric received an offer he couldn't refuse to come back to Norway with another company, so I gave up finishing my Masters for the time being. I have worked for the past ten years as the Cultural Officer for the Embassy of Israel in Oslo and I must say, there's never a dull moment in this job! My daughter has just finished her Bachelor's degree in Counter-Terrorism in Israel and is now looking at graduate schools in the Washington DC area. My son's degree was in Finance and he now works as a Corporate Analyst. I am active in the American Church and other American organizations here so as not to forget my own culture. I am so looking forward to seeing everyone and thank goodness for the advent of Facebook - I will now be able to recognize most of you! A big thanks to the Reunion Committee for all your hard work and perseverance – what fun it's been following the planning on FB!

Lynn Peterson

1972 I enlisted in the US Air Force. I served as a military police at McChord AFB in Tacoma, Washington. I received orders in 1975 to serve as the only U.S. police officer in Belgium serving in an international police unit, part of NATO.

Returned to the US in 1978; and began a 4 year degree at St. Cloud State University. I graduated in 1981 with a double major in Criminal Justice and Psychology.

Well in those days jobs were scarce and the interest rates were 16%. I took a job with the State of Minnesota as a behavioral analyst at Brainerd Regional Center working with people with developmental disabilities and traumatic brain injuries. 14 years later I was given the opportunity to start my own residential facility and Clark Lake Homes, Inc. was formed in 1993. Currently my wife of 37 years and my two sons Adam and Jarod, now 27, all work with Clark Lake Homes. We have proudly served the disabled for 19 years.

My daughter Jordan, now 21, attends the College of St. Scholastica in Duluth pursuing a 4 year nursing degree.

It is great to see many of the 72 graduates and I wish all of you the best, because you are the best.

Mary Puetz Chapman

I have been married to my husband Tom for 39 years. We met, 4 days later he asked me to marry him, and 3 months after that we were married. We have 4 children, Jen

(38), Heather (37), Matt (35) and Justin (31). They have blessed us with 10 grandchildren, 5 girls and 5 boys ranging in age from 21 to 4. I did home daycare for 18 years, until my oldest graduated high school. I went back to college at 40 and had a blast. After that I have had 4 jobs, tech support/PBX specialist for electronic voicemail company, advertising manager for magazine publisher, manufacturer's rep to Target, Shopko and Costco and currently working from home, managing logistics for 120+ suppliers shipping incentive awards to recipients. We love camping, working around the house and yard and spending time with our grandchildren. We have lived in the Minneapolis area for 35 years. My email is mchapman72@hotmail.com

Greg Rademacher

I am still a pro photographer 35 years late. Studio is located in Prior Lake south of the metro area. Wife Sally and I have 3 daughters, 3 son in laws and 3 grand children with one on the way We live in New Prague, MN 952 447-8825 I enjoy Painting, I enjoy Motorcycling, Travel and Solo Adventure travel and have been fortunate enough to see quite a bit of the world.

Jerry Rosnau

Living in the Deerwood area, where I have for the past thirty years, and still self employed in the construction trade.

I have one son and daughter, both married, and one grandson.

As always, I enjoy hunting, backpacking, kayaking, canoeing, and racing canoes when my partner and I get the time. Hobbies of woodcarving and reading take up the rest of my time so I don't get bored.

Brian Rosvold

I have been married for 38 years to Mary Fryklind (class of 73). We have 4 adult children and 7 grandchildren. I worked for UPS for 30 years and retired in 2009. We live in Baxter.

Marilyn Rubbelke

I have been contemplating for a couple of weeks, what I am going to write.....I have been nowhere out of the ordinary, I have done nothing beyond the normal, but in thinking about this "assignment" I realized "I am in my golden years" !!!! My life right now is the best it has ever been, it's the easiest it has ever been, I work from home and I am loving that, I can go 2-3 days without taking the car out of the garage. I have turned into a hermit :>)!!! So I am loving life right now, it is so perfect that it scares me sometimes, like I am waiting "for the other shoe to drop". I enjoy doing genealogy, and have found 4-5 fabulous finds, I am involved with the Brainerd History Group, which I enjoy, I enjoy my house and yard, I love my family and seeing friends. Life is good, it don't get any better than this.

Joan Schuety Swift

Lived in St. Paul for 7 years right after graduation, before moving back to Brainerd in 1979. Divorced. Live in Baxter, MN. I own my own home, love gardening (have 4 flower gardens & a vegetable garden), reading, making my own greeting cards, and cooking & canning for family & friends. Am currently remodeling my home.

I work for the State of Minnesota as an LPN in Wadena, MN at a Rehab Center. Used to be the Community Behavioral Health Hospital, which is where they sent clients when the state hospital closed in 2007 (worked on campus for 3 years). Before that I had my own daycare (when kids were little), CNA at Woodland, & Brainerd Manor,

Home Health Aide for St. Joseph's hospital, waitress, bartender, rifle assembly at Acrometal, & Potlatch til they closed in 2002, when I went back to school & got my LPN license.

I have 3 children, & 6 grandkids. Daughter, Chris, married, works part time as an accountant, (quarterly she goes into the homes of her 4 clients & does their taxes), husband, Eric, works from home as a computer programmer, has 3 kids, Tyler, 11, Kaitlyn, 9, & Nikki, 7, and a dog named Chips, and lives in St. Michael, MN. She has been through cancer twice, first breast cancer in '06, then liver cancer in 2010. She goes in for treatment every 3 weeks, and will have to do this for the rest of her life, but is doing very well at this time. We pray daily that the treatment continues to keep her cancer free. At the same time, my mother has been through cancer treatment twice since 2008. First ovarian then stomach. She is doing fine also.

My oldest son, Dale, has 3 children also, a son, Dylan, age 17 who will graduate next year, & works at Cub Foods in Brainerd, Gabe, 9 & Gracie, 7. They live in Bemidji where he works for Bemidji bus lines as head mechanic, & manager.

Youngest son, Don, single, no kids, currently unemployed, & has a cat named Emma.

Linda Schuety Ramsdell

I retired in June after 32 years at Head Start in Brainerd. Mike and I have been married for 30 years and will be celebrating it with a cruise right after Christmas. I can't wait! I hope we can have all class reunions as we are all approaching 60. How time flies. Thank you again, take care.

Thelma Segler

Wow!! It is hard to believe that 40 years have gone by already. I was employed by Crow Wing County Social Service Center for 35 years and on December 31st of 2009 I retired. It was quite a change at first for me however, I adjusted very well. I am doing things that I didn't have time to do when I was working. I like to summer fish, ice fish, knit and make cards. I love to spend time with family and friends and especially my significant other!! Being bored is definitely not on my list of things to do. The Good Lord is so good to me!!

Gary Seline

I attended Gustavus Adolphus College immediately after high school from 72 - 76 and upon graduation was hired by St. Paul Companies and moved to Denver. Over the next 13 years I climbed the corporate ladder and moved to Chicago, St. Louis, St. Paul, Portland, OR, San Francisco, LA and finally back to St. Paul in '85. I got married in '88 and have two kids - one in college (she's a junior and studying abroad for a year in Buenos Aires, Argentina before returning to UW - Madison) and believe it or not one son still in high school! That's what happens when you get married at 34! I still work in the insurance industry as a broker, having turned down one last promotion to Atlanta in '99 (I'm not a southern boy!) and I look forward to retirement at the end of 2014! At least that's the plan!

My wife and I (and our son DJ and cat Max) live in Apple Valley. My wife is an RN and we enjoy camping, fishing and golfing together and attending our son's football and lacrosse games. My family members - three sisters and parents - still reside in the Brainerd and are all doing well. I'm fortunate to be able to see them all at the same time when I visit. I thank the good lord for my family's health and my parents - 85 and 82 respectively - still living independently. I'm hoping it's in the genes for a long, healthy life! I certainly hope to "reconnect" with my Brainerd classmates in the future and I wish the best for all of the members of the Class of '72!

Kim Smith Henke

My husband Bob and I (married in 1998) live in Brainerd during the summer months and Orange City Florida in the winter. (last 9 years) Together we have 7 children and 11 grandchildren ~ they are ages 25 to 2 years old. Ryan my oldest grandson is a junior on the Brainerd High School football team. GO WARRIORS!! My career days were in retail management and sales. My husband retired from Excel Energy. We enjoy motorcycle riding ~ many roads traveled and great friends made. I am going to CLC this fall for Floral Design ~ my new adventure.

Judy Sundberg Carmick

My husband Barry and I are now living outside the city of Columbia, South Carolina. We moved last year from the Washington DC area where we lived for nearly 33 years. Barry retired from the Customs and Border Protection federal agency last year and that sparked our move to SC. I had been working as an Architectural Standards Administrator for a large planned community in Montgomery Village, Maryland prior to our move and am now semi-"retired" in SC and loving it. We live in a golfing community and are thoroughly enjoying the gorgeous weather and numerous outdoor activities SC has to offer, including kayaking, boating, swimming and golf. As for our family, our son, Trevor, lives in Boston, MA and works at Shotgun Media Group as a video editor. Our daughter, Kelly, lives and works here in Columbia at the present time. We also recently adopted a sweet Heinz 57 dog we named Molly and she is our newest addition! My sister, niece and her family still live in the Brainerd area so I return occasionally but not often enough. It will be great to see so many people after 40 years!

Candy Swanson Lough

Hello everyone ~ I got married in 1979, had two children which are my son Paul, born Sept 1, 1980 and my daughter born January 3rd, 1983. My son is 31 years old and my daughter is 29. During the 2000's I have two grandchildren, granddaughter Bella born June 24, 2007 and the newest one a little boy Jordan Taylor born April 1, 2011. I enjoy my new little ones. During November of each year my son and I go deer hunting as a family and then again in August each year we pack up to go to the NHRA Nationals at Brainerd International Raceway.

Jean Swanson Broberg

I went to college for 4 years, majoring in psychology and sociology, and then worked for nine years as a social worker and social services supervisor in southern Minnesota counties. I am a grad school dropout who completed a computer programming degree in 1991. For the last 27 years I have worked for the state of Minnesota, first doing training and policy in child protection, and now working with computer systems for social services. I lost my parents early and gained a husband and two children, adopted from Ukraine, late. Although it seems like yesterday, the marriage is at 27 years and the kids are now 19 and 20 and off on their own – except for that “send more money” refrain. We hope to reclaim both the house and sanity before dementia sets in. In my spare time I enjoy reading, bicycling, gardening, camping – and, apparently, being appointed treasurer of community organizations such as church and Scout troops. For anyone thinking I have dropped off the face of the earth, my employer locks us out of Facebook and, as a serious introvert, I prefer sharing the details with smaller groups anyway....

--Jean Swanson Broberg, Shoreview, MN

Norma Thon Timmons

After thirty-three years of teaching high-school English at Jordan High School, I retired this fall. Whoot! Whoot! I loved my career but am ready to begin the next phase of my life. I do not know what that phase is yet, but I am ready for it. My husband Mick is still working at the Star Tribune so we are not "footloose" yet, but we are close. Both of our children are in college so we have far fewer obligations at home than we did a year ago. Our daughter Julia is majoring in accounting at Texas Tech in Lubbock. She is in the ROTC program there and also simultaneously serving in the Minnesota National Guard so it nice to have her home once a month. Our son Matthew is close by at Gustavus Adolphus. Majoring in communications and political science, he is on a pre-law course. My sibling and I have been able to retain my parents' farm south of Brainerd as a campground, so the family and I do get to the area occasionally and always enjoy it. I am looking forward to seeing classmates at the reunion.

Paula Timman Persons

My how those 40 years went by in a hurry. Still living in Brainerd, married to Mark for 34 years, no kids, one cat, still own a business repairing equipment used at radio stations. We built a home on Gilbert Lake 8 years ago and enjoy lake living. I still love to scuba dive, trying to get out to the mine pits in Crosby twice a week and a week in the ocean each winter. I thoroughly enjoy underwater photography, granted I get a lot of fuzzy fish tales most of the time. Mark as of last October is no longer "on the road" for work so we are starting to do some traveling which we are enjoying. I am still very active in our local Rotary Club and writing some websites as a hobby. Having lost one parent to Alzheimers and the other to dementia, I have learned to enjoy the moment and to take advantage of every opportunity. Life is good.

Reid Tollefson

I married Sherry Tompkins in August 1977, we lived in Minnesota for 7 years and due to the economy we moved to Corsicana Texas. I have been in the warehouse business for 28 years. We have a daughter Hannah that is attending college here in Texas ~ going to be a teacher. I hope to be able to retire in the future.

Lucy Ulm Murphy

Was sitting at my computer again today procrastinating my bio once again. So, here goes. Sorry to have missed all of you at the reunion. But, hope to make it to the next one. I am now living in International Falls, MN (icebox of the nation) on the Canadian border. Jim & I are running a seasonal boat shop repair and storage business, that we established there some years ago. In the winter, we run a similar repair business in Astor, Florida (on the St. John's River): if any of you computer savvy nerds want to google it and check it out. It is at the entrance of Voyagers' National Park. I have one son, Shon, whom spends his time exploring the entire United States via his thumb.. he only has one state to go to achieve his goal of hitting every state. He is still single, but, makes me very proud. Sadly, I lost my daughter unexpectedly four years ago. But, thanks to her I have four GREAT and beautiful grandkids. Needless to say, I still enjoy nature and the great outdoors. I want to know why some of you still look as good as you did back in high school??? NO FAIR! I was sad to see who some of the deceased were... just shows us once again how life is a blessing and we should enjoy each day of it... As I said, hope to see you at the next reunion... Lucy

Kerry Viehauser Gabrelcik

WOW!!! 40 years. Who can believe it?

Like most of us, I have experienced both triumph (marriage, children and the blessing of an early retirement) and tragedy (loss of close friends and family and health challenges) in those 40 years. I remain thankful for each day. So, the pertinent facts are:

I am married to Gary Gabrelcik (Watkins, MN) in 1981. I have two sons, Tony (26) an academic and musician and Nick (24) an athlete and sportsman. Both still single...no grandchildren. I was employed as an Accountant with the City of Minneapolis...retired in December, 2004. In retirement, I do some volunteering and some freelance accounting and public relations work and lots of landscape and garden work, both personal and professional. Some traveling...have traveled through most of the U.S. over the years, as well as trips to Mexico and Aruba. Planning Sedona and the Grand Canyon this fall, Jamaica and Ireland next year and thinking about Ecuador and Italy in the future.

I currently am still living in Crystal, MN but since retiring I have spent a considerable amount of time visiting with family (parents, siblings and extended family) in Brainerd area. I have often considered moving back to the Brainerd vicinity but haven't yet made the leap.

I am looking forward to catching up with everyone at the reunion.

Beth Vrudny Brostrom

Wow!! 40 years is a long time, but sure passed swiftly.

A brief look at the milestones for me....

1976 - Married (and still married)

- graduated, Bemidji State University

1979 - Son, John - born

1983 - Daughter, Anna - born

1988 - Left Minnesota for Michigan (still in Michigan)

2001 - Son graduated from Alma College, Michigan

2005 - Daughter graduated from Alma College, Michigan

- Son married

2007 - Daughter married

2010 - Granddaughter, Norah - born

2011 - Granddaughter, Lydia - born

In the midst of all the major milestones I have done some substitute teaching, coaching, secretarial work, organ playing and many volunteer activities. We have had some ups and downs in our personal life and have come through with a greater appreciation of family and a much stronger faith in God.

I hope to see, talk and renew friendships and acquaintances this summer at the reunion.

Debbie Wagner Nelson

I am still working at cleaning homes. Keeps me busy!! I am a grandma and have 4 grand kids ~ 3 boys and 1 girl. They are lots of fun.

Brian Whalen

Hello classmates, I hope this finds you well!

After graduation, I worked the summer in Brainerd at Brainerd Woodcraft. It was while working there I decided that particular kind of work was not going to be my career choice.

Go back a moment to the spring of 1972. That is when I first talked to the Air Force Recruiter. I really wasn't ready at that time to make a decision, so I didn't enlist. However, I was still going over the visit in my mind.

In August of 1972, I went back to talk to the recruiter. Much to my surprise, the guy I talked to earlier in the year had moved and there was a new recruiter. We chatted, and I enlisted and left for active duty before the end of August.

Since enlisting, I've been to San Antonio, TX, Denver, CO, and Finland, MN.

In 1973, October to be exact, I married Pat Laughlin. Together, we've seen the Panama Canal Zone, Minot, ND, and Recruiting Duty in Minneapolis, MN.

While serving in Mpls, Pat and I were blessed with two children, two boys, 23 months apart.

Since then, the family has seen places like Grand Forks, ND, Kelfavik, Iceland, Dayton OH, and for me, the hot sands of Desert Storm at Dahrn, Air Base, Saudi Arabia.

We retired in 1992 after 20 years, and moved back to Brainerd to start our new "civilian" chapter of our lives.

While stationed in Iceland, I was able to start the learning process of being a "disc jockey" on the radio. I met some folks from Navy Broadcasting at the USO, and they told me to talk to Petty Officer Swanson. I did and I have been "doing" radio off and on since.

When we moved back to Brainerd, I went to work at a radio station in Crosby, MN for Steve and Margaret Hasskamp. I worked on the air there as an on air personality working the night shift Monday – Thursday 6 pm to midnight ~ On Friday and Saturday 6 pm – 2 am. I sure did love being on the air. I worked there for about 8 months. It was Margaret that gave me my "radio" name. I walked in one night, about 15 minutes early for my shift. She was filling in for Tom Lang and I stood in the doorway of the studio. She was literally in the middle of a break, talking on the radio, paused, looked my way and said "The Killer Whale of radio is here". The nickname stuck.

We moved to Minneapolis in April of 1993. Pat was working as a caretaker for a property management company and I went to work for a computer company, working in their warehouse. We lived and worked in Minneapolis until 1995.

Pat was working at Wendy's in Golden Valley part time, and was given the opportunity to be a manager at a new Wendy's in Bemidji, MN. In Bemidji, I worked at a radio station, a grocery store and a computer/office products company. In 1997, Pat was asked if she would be interested in being the GM of a new Wendy's in Fargo, ND. She was and we moved to Fargo.

I was basically looking for radio work when I got to Fargo, and wasn't having much luck. So, I helped Pat while the building that would become Wendy's was being remodeled. I got a call from a Gary Weber, and finally landed a job at Kool 96.7 in West Fargo, ND. Kool 96 was a small station with not much power, but, I'd like to think we were small but big in the sense that Gary knew how to "DO" radio. That was probably the most fun I had while in radio! Thanks for the opportunity Gary!! By the way, Gary and I are still friends today! Eventually, Pat left Wendy's and went to work for Krispy Kreme Donuts in Fargo. I left Kool 96 after the station was sold and worked at several jobs including owning my own mobile DJ business.

I was on line at a radio type web site and saw an ad for a morning guy. The ad didn't say where it was located, but gave an e-mail address and a phone number. I sent an e-mail asking where the 402 area code was located. I got an e-mail back stating it was in Nebraska. I thanked them for the answer and went back to work preparing for a wedding I was scheduled to work. I received another e-mail from this guy asking me if I had a resume and a demo I could send him. I sent the resume, but forgot the demo. Twenty minutes later, he called me and asked me to send my demo. I did, and he called me back and scheduled an interview in Nebraska City, NE for the following Tuesday. It was one of those small world deals during the interview. The General Manager was Sandra Overton. Sandra and her late husband Mike had lived and

worked in Brainerd for a group of stations that used to be located in the old Coast-Coast Hardware Store building on the corner of 6th and Laurel Streets! Sandra's daughter, Pam, graduated from Brainerd High School.

I got the job and moved to Nebraska City, NE, in 2004. Pat joined me about 6 weeks later, as she stayed in Fargo to pack up the house and wait for the movers. Pat worked at Wendy's in Percival, IA and at Cargill Meat Solutions in Nebraska City. We left Nebraska and moved to Fergus Falls, MN in April of 2007. I went to work for Lakes Radio and Pat went to work for Casey's General Store as the GM. Before I got to KBRF-AM, I had to come up with a "radio" name. The Killer Whale would not have fit the format, so, with Pat's help, I became Brian "Andrews". I worked for KBRF and Lakes Radio until September of 2011. I resigned and became semi-retired. Pat is now working at the bakery at Wal-Mart and I am a house husband? Not sure if that's the right term or not, but I do some house work, laundry, dishes and such. Yes, I know, I am leading a glamorous life!

Our boys, Daniel and Nathan are now grown men. Dan is 30 and going to college in Minneapolis, and Nathan is now 28 and living and working in Fargo, ND.

I have been truly blessed in my life. I have a great wife and best friend in Pat, and two wonderful blessings in the kids.

I thank God every day and every night for ALL the blessings he has given my family and me. It hasn't always been easy, but those times made us stronger.

Life is good, God is GREAT!

I hope this finds you all well, and for the classmates that have passed, I hope to see you again someday.

God Bless & Keep the Faith

Brian "The Killer Whale" Whale

P.S. I want to let folks know that during my playing days as a Brainerd Warrior, I DID hear the fans, I DID hear the cheerleaders, and I DID hear the bands. I want you all to know what a difference you made when I was playing. I still get goose bumps when attending a game and hear that national anthem. It takes me back to the days at BHS!!! Thank you all for being a part of my life then. Sue Holden, thanks for listening at that bus stop in Minneapolis when we lost to Duluth Central!

I also want to thank my former teachers and coaches for everything you taught me in the classroom and all the life's lessons. Especially one Clark "Corky" Johnson. He taught me never give up. He also talked me into playing basketball my junior year! Little known fact. Coach, years after playing for you, I had to use all you taught me to hang on, never quit to reach my 20 year mark in the Air Force. I learned a lot from my mom and dad growing up that's for sure, but I really do thank God for putting Corky Johnson in my life!

Again, Bless you all!!

Joanne (Witt) Meyer

Can't believe how quick 40 yrs came around. I am happy and feel lucky to live in the Brainerd Lakes area. I have been married to Rod Meyer for 30 years and have 3 children and 3 grandchildren. I am an LPGA Golf Professional and work in Nisswa at Grand View Lodge and Resort, The Pines Golf Course. I love my job, love teaching golf, and manage 5 women's golf leagues. In the offseason when the golf course is closed I work in the corporate office for Madison Properties in the accounting department.

In my free time I am an active member of Timberwood Church, love to spend time with my grandchildren, play golf, travel, pheasant hunt, fly fishing and reading a good book on vacation.

Mike Zaske

Class of 72, Brainerd Warriors, 40 Year Class Reunion
Hey Classmates,

Sorry I wasn't able to make it back this year. I'm sitting in Kabul, Afghanistan working with Dyn-Corp International as an Quality Control Inspector, training the Afghan Air Force Quality Control and maintenance personnel.

But my life after graduation, started with one year at the local junior college. The draft was still going on and I had a draft number of "130", I got a heads up that it was going up to "100", the Air Force was already on my radar. I went in active duty Nov. 6, 73 and retired Dec. 1, 97, 24 years/24 days. I worked 10 different aircraft-all fighters and reconnaissance during my tenure. During my early part of my career, I met my lovely wife Val, in England. We got married June 27, 1981 and have never looked back. We had one son, Christopher later on in life, and are proud to say that he made Eagle Scout. He is now pursuing an automotive maintenance degree in college.

After retiring from the Air Force at Nellis AFB, Las Vegas, NV, I carried on with my aircraft maintenance career in General Aviation for 9 1/2 years. In June 2007, I started doing Government Contract work in aviation. In Sep 2009, I started working in Iraq with L-3 Vertex and stayed there until the drawdown in 2011. Two weeks after leaving Iraq, I was in Kabul, Afghanistan. In March 2012, we switched over to a new company and contract and continued to work and train with the Afghan Air Force. I didn't hear anything about the class reunion until after my rotation dates were picked and my plane tickets were purchased and set in stone. Sorry.

I'll be headed back to Vegas Aug 4 and get home on the 5th, then my family and I will be flying back to Minnesota a little later to see my Mom, visit, and look for a place to plant our roots for retirement. Four seasons, green grass, lakes, and a White Christmas, here we come. I still have a few years left of contracting to do over here, before I can call it quits. That will put me over 40 years in aircraft maintenance. County rocks! Everyone, take care, God's speed, God Bless America, and may God Bless each of you and your families. Later