



HARVARD-RADCLIFFE CLASS OF 1966

Dear Classmates,

January 2025

Our January newsletter:

Donna Gibson Stone and **Randy Lindel** have both agreed to co-chair our 60th Reunion next year. Stay tuned as they get their team up and running.

Last week, the alumni-led HAA Nominating Committee [announced its slate of candidates](#) for spring 2025 elections for the Harvard Board of Overseers and Elected Directors for the HAA.

Peter Johnson:

Your happy G&S reference reminds me I was VP of the Harvard G&S Society in '66.

I arrived at Harvard as an AP sophomore in 1963. I had been in some high school plays, so my first stop was the Loeb Drama Center, where I got cast in Durrenmatt's *The Visit*, translated & directed by Ken Tigar '64, produced by Tim Mayer & filled with the Harvard stars of the era - Lynn Milgram, Laura Esterman, Mark Bramhall, Andreas Tauber, Arthur Friedman. We opened in Nov but had to pause (along with the Harvard-Yale game) for the weekend when JFK was shot. The University wanted to cancel further performances entirely, but Ken Tigar fought bravely to finish the run – it was his translation & thesis project, that he'd worked years to complete. We were finally allowed to perform the following weekend, on condition that we cut all references to widowhood. This proved difficult, as the play is about *The Visit* of, um, a widow to her hometown. We muddled through – I remember changing a reference to *The Merry Widow* to *The Gondoliers* to bewildered applause.

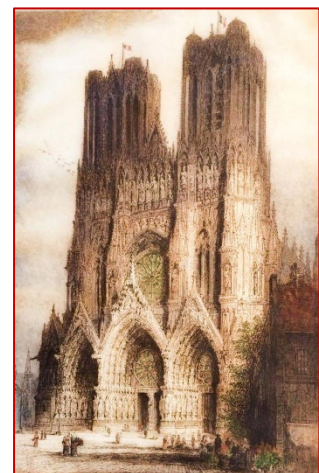
All my time at Harvard I was either rehearsing or performing a show. Tim Mayer's production of G&S's *Utopia Ltd.* for which John Lithgow learned to sing, dance & juggle. "Major Barbara" with Trish Hawkins & Stockard (then Susan) Channing. "Duel of Angels" with Emily Levine ...

Later, Ken Tigar & I performed at The Proposition, an improv troupe in Cambridge & off-Broadway in NYC. Our careers then diverged, Ken on stage, TV & films – most recently a 1-man show in London – me less visible in dozens of regional theatre roles, scores of voice-overs & hundreds of audiobooks. I last saw Ken at a Proposition reunion 10 years ago, where we recalled the Cambridge years.

Ben Dunham:

Here's a link to a local newspaper story about a donation of etchings my wife and I made last year.

<https://sippican.theweektoday.com/article/etchings-20th-century-british-artist-donated-marion-residents/73043>



Tom Black:

I recently saw in the *Harvard Crimson* and *Harvard Gazette* that our classmate **Don Smith** has established a professorship in Environmental Economics. Please see:

<https://www.thecrimson.com/article/2025/1/16/economics-department-alumni-donations/>

I called Don to see what the back story on the gift was. Here's what I learned:

In the 1990's and early 2000's Don made quarterly gifts to Harvard College, on a strictly secret basis, as he did not want to publicize his financial success, due to his competitive relationship with the Oklahoma utility company. At the time, Don wanted to fund a Professorship in honor of his mentor, John Kenneth Galbraith.

In early 2024, Don learned from the Development Office that the amount of the funds had grown to \$18-\$20 million and was now large enough to establish a full professorship. Over the 30 years, Don's interests changed from wanting a Galbraith type of figure ... to wanting Harvard to hire a world-renowned scholar in environmental economics... and, if possible, in the area of combating global climate change.

Don learned this summer from an old friend in the Kennedy School, Robert Stavins, that Harvard had recently wanted to hire such a scholar with a named professorship, but the expected funds were not allocated by the Dean. Then Don decided to direct his Professorship to such a person..... hopefully in time to hire the scholar Harvard had in mind.

Don is thrilled to establish a Professorship in the area of his current passion. From the early 2000's to today Don's interest in combating climate change grew to the point that it culminated in his founding a new company, EnviroBeef, last year. The company provides a patented combination of cattle feed supplements which produces beef with medically significant levels of omega-3s like ocean fish, and from cattle which do not burp methane, which otherwise contribute hugely to climate change. See www.envirobeef.biz. He is raising capital now to complete work to initiate commercial operation next year.

Mike Wholley:

Things here at Lake Norman continue to remind me exactly why I relocated from the DC area eight years ago. When friends there ask me why I moved my answer usually is "You don't have to shovel sunshine!" Truth is, the lake is wonderful (525 miles of shoreline), Charlotte is 25 minutes away, its International airport is 25 minutes away, there are great sports, theater, music and cultural facilities close by, and the motorcycle rides into the mountains are breathtaking! Davidson College is four miles from my home and has great courses for seniors. I don't want to sound like a Chamber of Commerce booster, but it is pretty nice in this part of God's world.

I went to Australia for six weeks again this year to see my "Aussie family" in Perth. The two particular reasons were that my "nieces" were celebrating life events. The younger one, Georgia, turned 21 and the older one, Sascha was admitted to the Bar at the Supreme Court of Western Australia. They are both terrific, smart, beautiful and well-grounded young ladies. Perth is an absolutely wonderful city with great sailing, beaches on the Indian Ocean, and the fascinating city of Fremantle close by.

In between these life events I visited my younger son, Clay, and his wife for a week in the Philippines and met her family...a busload of them! My son and his wife have been married three years and it has taken this long to get to the final stages of her receiving her visa to come here. Yes.....our immigration system is ABYSMAL.

I still serve on the Board of the world's largest Credit Union, go to financial conferences, travel, help my church, and volunteer for Habitat. Life is good.

The one with my younger son, Clay, his wife and their dog was at their insistence that we take a "family portrait!"

The group picture is my Aussie family taken at the conclusion of the Bar Admission ceremony outside the Supreme Court of Western Australia in downtown Perth.



William Neaves:

Photographing wildlife continues to distract me from less pleasant matters.

Here's a blue jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*) on 1/7/2025 at our mesa-top home in Northwest Texas.



In Memoriam:

Barbara Livermore:

William "Skip" Irving White.'65, October 27. Willi was instrumental in organizing our reunions of the 1964 Harvard Radcliffe North American Tour (NAT). I discovered that he was ill with dementia/speech problems when I organized a 60th anniversary NAT zoom meeting for September 1 this past year, and he didn't respond. Several of us from NAT attended his memorial by zoom on December 14. One attendee aptly summed up Willi – "There are people who have a kind of perfect pitch when it comes to ethics and morals, knowing instinctively what is the right thing to do."

'65	Ranney Thayer	10/20/24	
'65	William White	10/27/24	Elkhart, IN
'66	Robert Barrett	11/29/24	Vero Beach, FL
'66	Theodore Lee	05/31/24	Minnetonka, MN

Tom Black
co-class secretary

*Why can you nver go hungry at the beach?
Because of all the sand which is there!*