Dear Classmate,

49 years ago we were at Penn together, even if we weren’t running in the same circles. What a time to be alive! The War in Vietnam, the Civil Rights Movement, The Pill, gender dynamics, amazing (and lousy) teachers and courses, the school’s facilities, the professional development, the great (many lifelong) relationships, the arts, the unending hours of study…add your own descriptors!

Around 200 of us are interacting and sharing ideas and experiences in a lively congenially diverse, and often stimulating fashion on our Class of 1967 Facebook page. If you’re not already involved with it, I think that you’d get a kick out of joining.

Fortunately for us then and now, Penn had, in my opinion, a great independently-chartered newspaper, The Daily Pennsylvanian. The eight page DP was a terrific compendium of important and widely diverse information about events at, surrounding and influencing Penn and its students, primarily focused on undergraduates. There are many daily news outlets being published today that don’t hold a candle to the journalistic standards of our DP.

As part of my own prep for our 50th Reunion, slated for May 12-14, 2017, I’ve taken to posting the DP from 50 years ago every day it was published, exactly 50 years later. Plus, I add a small bit of commentary, mostly on the waggish side, but occasionally more seriously when events elicit a more sober tone. With the help of the Alumni Relations Office, I’m posting the DP archive on Facebook, and I’d be delighted if you were to join the members of our class who are dropping by time-to-time (and some quite regularly) to check out campus life in the mid-60s.

I think that you might like this look back at a primary source from our shared history, in part because life then was both so different and so similar to present day conditions. I know that I’d welcome your engagement and participation. There aren’t any hard and fast rules except be respectful of other posters and don’t push your politics too hard or your professional agenda. Of course, this is a very political and polarized season, as was 1967. But, if we become too strident in our views, we’ll kill the forum. There were a lot of us and, therefore, many perspectives. So, I hope that we’ll keep in mind whatever lessons we learned about tolerance at Penn and elsewhere to find a way to express our views on controversial subjects with integrity and courtesy. I’ll be working on that myself!

More importantly, the Facebook page doesn’t have to be connected to the DP action. Whatever you want to post about is pretty much perfectly okay! Check it out and you’ll see what I mean.
If you aren’t already a Facebook member, there is a registration process to go through, which I don’t recall as being too onerous. You can also establish privacy settings that keep your information out of public view. If you need help doing that, send me/the alumni office an email and we’ll work on getting you set up the way you’d like.

Join the fun and best of everything in the year ahead!  
https://www.facebook.com/groups/penn1967/

In the Spirit of 1967,

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