

Reflections from the Class of 2008

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College lasts just four years but those four years uniquely and powerfully shape us. Coming back for reunion is a bit like trying to go home again after college. It's a world we had for a period of time, an experience we now have both in our past and also deeply as part of us. But all of us can connect with each other because we have a shared history, no matter how you spent your time or who you hung out with as a student here.

We saw a lot of change as students. We had front-row seats for the construction of the Life Sciences Building, College Row, and the Iron Hill Brewery. We saw the Greeks re-recognized. We saw the House System come into being – and give rise to many Harry Potter jokes. We saw the nation change during the 2004 election – Bush vs. Kerry – which was the first one in which most of us voted.

We also have a unique tie and response to tragedy. In addition to Hurricane Katrina, we stood in solidarity with the families of the victims of the shooting at a nearby Amish school and then again at Virginia Tech. More personally, we were shocked by the deaths of our classmates, Phil Rehders and Chris Campbell. While it didn't open until after we graduated, we were moved by the beautiful tribute to Chris's memory that his teammates, friends, and family organized: The Chris Campbell Field in Cape Town, South Africa.

We also experienced the launch of Facebook. When we headed home for winter break freshmen year, most of us had never heard of it, but by the time we finished our second semester it was an integral part of our lives. Facebook can be an excuse to skip a weekend like this as we already know who's married with kids and who's got what job. This makes our reunions center around what it really means to be a community — a community about memories, ideals, learning, reflecting on who we are and who we want to be, enjoying and celebrating — a community we will want as part of our lives and to keep coming back to for the rest of our lives.