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## The 50th Reunion Program Committee Heard You!

Vol. 1, No. 2, April 2021

**H**eartfelt thanks to all classmates who responded to the 50th reunion program committee survey. We heard from 108 of our 387 classmates (28%). We appreciate your feedback on the program content and format, suggestions for topics, and willingness to share your expertise and that of your classmates.

The class of 1972 is clear that fun stuff and social activities are the preferred format for our reunion (chosen by 86%). Program committee members believe that many of the most memorable moments at reunions happen in conversations with old friends and opportunities to connect with classmates we may not have known well. We are delighted to learn that you affirm our goal of having plenty of time for social activities, unstructured time, and fun.

The activities and social events of most interest are a tour of campus (80%), reception at John Ophaug's home (66%) [Thank you John and Patsy!], outing to Keepsake Cidery (66%), canoe rental on the Cannon (46%) and folk singing (39%). Similarly, Keeping Nature in Our Lives through outdoor activities resonates strongly; 80% expressed interest in an Arb tour on restoration and management, 62% want to hike, and about 45% would like to join an all-classes service project, or engage in cloud, star, or bird watching.

Structured, more formal formats also are of interest. Two-thirds of the

class expressed interest in lectures by classmates or faculty and 57% prefer small group discussions, with 52% liking the panel format. We will factor this in providing a variety of formats for the issue-based content of the program.

Classmates affirm the reunion planning committee's belief that music brings back memories and strengthens connections. The playlist under construction by the outreach committee will provide an important resource for a lecture by Carleton Professor Andy Flory, rated as being of interest to 75%. Other issues of interest to half or more of our classmates (in order) are Coping with Climate Change, Anti-Intellectualism and the Future of U.S. Higher Education, Defining Moments: Social Justice, and Vibrant Aging in Place.

The program committee is very grateful for your network of connections and thoughtful ideas for other activities and issues. Please keep the ideas and suggestions coming. Also, thank you for identifying classmates who could be involved in programming. We are delighted that many of you volunteered to share your expertise. And we will consider some of the new ideas you suggested as we shape the program to provide venues for conversation, learning, and connection. — **Bill Kuhlmann** ([bill.kuhlmann@gmail.com](mailto:bill.kuhlmann@gmail.com)) and **Margaret Crowley** ([crowleymargaret@sbcglobal.net](mailto:crowleymargaret@sbcglobal.net)), **Program Committee Co-Chairs**

### LOOKING AHEAD

Everybody has a story — and we want to hear *yours*. Write the story yourself or be interviewed: your choice.

Submissions should be no longer than 375 words and accompanied by a high resolution current photo of yourself.

Stories will be subject to editing for length and style, but you'll get to look over the results and revise things as needed before anything goes to print.

### AUGUST / Deadline — July 1

Have you spent an extended time working and living in another country?

Or did you come from abroad to study at Carleton?

Share with us your experiences working, serving, living, and/or studying as "a stranger in a strange land."

### AND AFTER THAT?

Send us your suggestions. Would you like to know about classmates who made their livings in the arts? Or in farming or ranching? About post-Carleton activism and advocacy? Want to reminisce about a prof who changed your life? Something else? Let us know.

Email stories and theme suggestions to newsletter editor Nancy Ashmore at [njashmore@gmail.com](mailto:njashmore@gmail.com).

It's Your Thing ...  
Do What You Wanna Do

## What Gives Us Joy

“What are you doing for pure enjoyment?” we asked. “How did you find your avocation and would it surprise your younger self?”

What follows is a *very* small sampling of some of the interesting things that members of the class are doing to enrich their lives and bring smiles to their faces. We'll reprise them on the class Facebook page, where we hope YOU will share with us what you're doing that gives you joy.

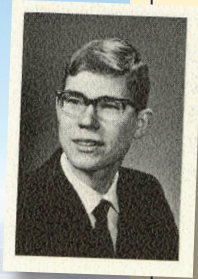
What floats your boat nowadays? Are you fly fishing? Building furniture? Playing World of Warcraft or another MMO RPG? Learning Spanish? Tutoring it? Quilting? Cooking? Doing genealogy? Registering voters? Running for office? Writing a book? Scuba diving? Playing pickleball? Arranging flowers? Brewing beer? Singing in a virtual choir?

Inquiring minds want to know! Join the Facebook group today and fill us in on your current enthusiasms.

To join, go to <https://www.facebook.com/groups/354815625798074>, and submit a friend request. After your request is approved, go to the blue + Invite rectangle near the top, click on it, and encourage friends to join the conversations.



“Plants have the good sense to stay put and let me get close enough to examine them in detail... When I was twenty I never would have dreamed this would become one of my great joys in life.”



### JONATHAN ICE: In Search of the Wily ... Phlox

I have been legally blind my whole life, and so my visual world has been much hazier than that of my sighted friends. Growing up I knew that there were dandelions, lilacs, roses, and even “flocks” (I later found it was phlox), but plants and their flowers were largely undifferentiated in my mind. Though I learned a few more things over the next 35 years, my ignorance of plant life remained profound.

I married Karla Buntrock in 1989, and just before we started seeing each other seriously she had taken a Minnesota plant life course and had gained a strong interest in prairie and its biota. We got field guides and started trying to identify flowers as we encountered them in our visits to state parks and other “parks with nature.” Being somewhat obsessive-compulsive, I started keeping a life list of wildflowers encountered wherever we would go – analogous to the life lists that serious birders keep. I have done this ever since.

If I'm going to study nature, for me, there is a special advantage to examining flora. Birds, mammals, and other critters are usually too far away for me to see them with any definition, and they move around too quickly for me to locate them with a monocular. Plants, on the other hand, have the good sense to stay put and let me get close enough to examine them in detail. Especially if I am out on the hunt with someone who can spot the flowers, I can get up close and work on the identification.

One of the beauties of “botanizing” is that there is at least the potential of a great find in the most prosaic of landscapes. Dramatic mountain vistas are wonderful, but we have found plants of great interest and beauty in the steppes of Montana and flatlands of our Iowa. And in the process I have found that all parts of the plant are of interest, as there is such diversity of form in blooms, leaves, stems, and fruits. The diversity of nature is amazing! When I was twenty I never would have dreamed this would become one of my great joys in life. — **Jonathan Ice**

## REBECCA ANNE SIVE: Appreciating Women's Art

While I was in Puerto Rico during the winter quarter of our sophomore year, attending a seminar for Carleton sociology students led by Byron Fox, I bought an amphora-shaped earthenware vase with yellow and green glaze dripping down its outside. My recollection is I paid \$15 for it, though since my prior summer's job lifeguarding paid about \$2/hour, that amount seems high to me now. Then again, I'd fallen in love with pottery, and the piece was lovely. When we returned for spring quarter, my roommate, Jane Prohaska, likely saw the vase since it took pride of place in my corner of Second Myers.

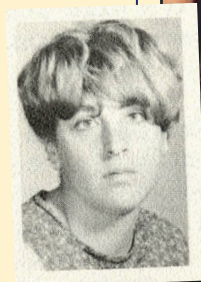
When my husband, Steve Tomashefsky (Harvard '72), and I moved to Chicago in December 1972, I learned about a wonderful ceramic artists' studio and gallery, near where I had lived with Stan Greenberg while we attended the ACM Urban Studies program in spring 1971. Soon thereafter, I met the studio's owner, Bruce Robbins, who guided many early pottery purchases of mine. Like Stan and me, Bruce was (and remains) a progressive political activist. Indeed, most of the potters I've met lean left. Lovers of the "back-to-the-earth" practices and environmentalism so many of us espouse, I've always felt at home with them.

Today, I own a large ceramics collection, mostly work by contemporary American women. When I was invited to speak at the annual conference of the National Council of Ceramics Educators (NCECA) in Minneapolis in March 2019,

I reflected on the Minnesota potters in my collection, some of whom live near Northfield and are members of the Northfield Arts Guild. Their "grandfather" is Warren McKenzie, whose works were on exhibit in the Carleton library when I was last on campus and are always on exhibit in the home of another dear classmate, Beverly Jones Heydinger.

One of these younger Minnesotans is Kelly Connole, Northfield resident and Carleton faculty member. Another was Linda Sikora, who lived in Houston, Minnesota for many years, whose work I have collected since I first saw it at the NCECA conference in St. Paul in 1995. At right is a link to a catalog of her work in my collection. (Three of the pieces pictured are promised gifts to the Metropolitan Museum of Art.) Linda and Kelly are just two of dozens of women ceramists whose work I commend to your attention. When you seek them out, I hope you will be reminded of beautiful Boliou with the Arb beyond.

— **Rebecca Anne Sive**



A vase that caught her eye during off-campus study in Puerto Rico ignited Rebecca's fascination with — and collection of — ceramics, particularly the works of contemporary American women. A catalog of the works in her collection by Linda Sikora is available at [https://issuu.com/rebeccasive/docs/i\\_want\\_to\\_see\\_linda\\_sikora\\_wherever](https://issuu.com/rebeccasive/docs/i_want_to_see_linda_sikora_wherever). Or by scanning the QR code above.



Below, Rebecca, at the 2019 Operation PUSH national convention to interview Sen. Amy Klobuchar for her #VoteHerIn podcast, and works by Minnesota potters Lisa Buck and Linda Christiansen.



**WHAT GIVES US JOY,  
Continued on Page 4**

## BUT WAIT! THERE'S MORE!

April 21, 5:30–7 pm (CDT)

**CLASS OF '72 VIRTUAL BOOK CLUB.** Discussion with the author, Carleton French professor Scott Carpenter, of *French Like Moi*, an entertaining, at times hilarious, memoir about a tiny apartment and a sabbatical year in Paris.

May 19, 6 pm (CDT)

**VIRTUAL HAPPY HOUR**  
Choose your own small group to discuss topics such as current events, walking/hiking, travel, botanizing/gardening, birding, art and photography and much more...Option to switch to a new group halfway through the hour.

June

**OFF FOR THE MONTH!**  
Enjoy time with family and friends online and off.

July 15, 5 pm (CDT)

**HAPPY TRAILS TO US**  
Hear how three class of '72 Carleton students created an iconic game. Don Rawitsch, Bill Heine- mann and Paul Dillenger discuss developing the Oregon Trail game in the early days of computers.

INSTANT REPLAY

Did you miss an earlier virtual event? You can view it at the class website. Go to <https://www.carleton.edu/alumni/classes/1972/class-news/videos/>

## WHAT GIVES US JOY, Continued from Page 3

### NANCY ASHMORE: I Owe It All to Xena...

Confession: I am *two* of the 70+ members of the Class of 1972 Facebook group. I am Nancy Ashmore, whose 250 friends include family, high school and college classmates, and Minnesota friends and neighbors. I am also Medora MacDougall (a Facebook alias), whose 315 friends include several hundred authors and readers of lesbian romances, mysteries, and science fiction.

I owe the latter identity to a quirky TV series, *Xena: Warrior Princess* (1995-2001). Its main character was “a mighty princess forged in the heat of battle.” Accompanied by Gabrielle, a spunky bard, Xena traveled the ancient world, facing off against warlords and mythical critters – and inspiring legions of stories written by fans who used the show’s characters and settings as a basis for their plots. In most stories Xena and Gabrielle (and “uber” alternatives whose stories played out in a different time period, place, or reality) were lovers. Many of these fanfiction authors were lesbians, looking to create stories that provided the enjoyment that mainstream romances and mysteries did but also reflected their lives.

I stumbled upon these stories on the Internet, and before I knew it, I was proofreading and then coaching emerging authors on writing. I even wrote fanfiction myself – under the pen name my sister and I concocted when we were contemplating writing trashy romances together: Medora – a town in North Dakota. MacDougall – the name of the ancestral clan.

When these fledgling writers eventually began penning original stories and self-publishing them or founding publishing companies, my hobby morphed into a minor part of

my work as a freelance editor. I spend most of my time editing the quarterly magazine of the National Association of Geoscience Teachers and local histories (likely pastimes for all Asian history majors, right?), but since 2007, under my pen name, I’ve also been editing 10+ books a year for Bella Books, where I’ve had the pleasure of helping some very talented writers develop and polish prize-winning (and well-punctuated) novels.

Oh, the unexpected places this has taken me: Xena/fanfic gatherings in L.A., Chicago, Atlanta, Portland, and DC and a number of wonderful, improbable friendships. Since 1972 I’ve done many things I wouldn’t have predicted – working in the Japanese Consulate in NYC, becoming editor of *The Voice*, working at St. Olaf. But editing 100+ lesbian novels thanks to being a fan of a TV show? Yeah, like that was ever gonna happen! —

Nancy Ashmore



Nancy Ashmore,  
aka Medora MacDougall

## BRAD HOKANSON: Only Tango

Tango is about connection and grace, sadness and hope, and moments of believing there is nothing else.

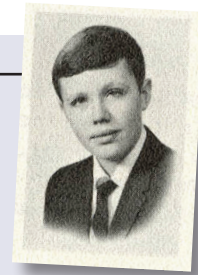
When my wife Betsy Henderson and I married, she was an active dancer. She did swing, contra, and folk dance, attending various camps and workshops. My dance experience was nil. While I attempted to join her in various dance activities, nothing stuck. I got to watch or stay home.

However, in 2003, Betsy suggested we go see a public tango demonstration. It seemed interesting and approachable...and exotic. I bought lessons for her, rather us, for Valentine's Day. At the first lesson, after simple steps, as well as descriptions of tango from the instructors, and with no inherent skill whatsoever, I was hooked.

What we had entered was a completely different world, one unknown to the rest of society. It demanded practice, attention, learning, social skills, and dedication. And late nights, bandages, ibuprofen, arch supports, and shoes. Lots of shoes.

To become competent, it's said, takes two years for a follower, generally a woman. And it will take six years for a leader, with practice, to reach the same level. The roles of leader and follower are well defined. The leader asks a follower to dance by a glance or nod of the head, a *cabeceo*, and it is accepted by a similar nod. They dance a full *tanda*, or a set of music, three or four songs, and when it's over they go their separate ways. If, however, it is clear that one's partner is mismatched or a bad dancer, a "thank you" after one song ends their dancing together.

Tango is challenging; you are seeking the magic moments when it



**"Tango demand(s) practice, attention, learning, social skills, and dedication. And late nights, bandages, ibuprofen, arch supports, and shoes. Lots of shoes."**

works for both leader and follower. The rare seconds of a good dance reach a state of flow, often called a tango moment. And when you notice it, it's gone.

On the other hand, a good set of music, building from the first song, synchronized and engaged, is evocative and passionate. It has been described as a "three-minute affair."

On my first visit to Buenos Aires, we went to an afternoon dance, called a *milonga*. The average age of the participants was over 75, and it appeared they were regulars and danced every day. I mused that it was a great retirement plan: socializing, exercise, camaraderie, wine, and dance partners of every age.

While we have been back to Buenos Aires multiple times, tango has served as an introduction for my wife and me anywhere around the world. I've danced in Copenhagen, Los Angeles, Japan, Cardiff; her dance episodes have ranged to Singapore, Hawaii, Hong Kong, and Taiwan.

In Stockholm we learned of a small *milonga* south of the city center. We took the metro close to

the location, heard classic tango music and walked in, carrying our dance shoes. After a few sets together, we both sought out other dance partners. I nodded to a woman and we danced the first song of a *tanda*. On the break she began speaking in Swedish. After my stuttered response, she quickly switched to English. Less translation had been needed with tango, *por supuesto*.

This past year has been a challenging one for the tango community around the world. In Buenos Aires, where regularly there were 20 scheduled *milongas* each day, the city has gone still or covert. We danced the last in Minnesota over one year ago before a rapid shutdown. We had built our network of friends as well as my wife's clothing design business (<https://www.betsyhendersondesigns.com>) on tango, and with the pandemic, both have been seriously affected.

We are waiting for a nod. —

**Brad Hokanson**

**Continued on Page 6**

## JOIN THE FUN...

- Share YOUR story related to an upcoming theme (see page 1 for details).
- Send your ideas for outreach events, programming, and class giving to a committee co-chair. Find their email addresses at <https://www.carleton.edu/alumni/classes/1972/reunion/committee/>
- Join the Class Facebook page (see page 2) and share stories and photos from our Carleton days or comments about things that engage you now.
- Reach out to former roommates, floormates, the folks you took a freshman seminar with, or those who were in an off-campus program with you. Send a card or an email, give them a call. (Find them at <https://apps.carleton.edu/alumni/>.) Invite them to join you in an upcoming virtual event and on campus June 16–19, 2022. More than 50 have already committed or are already giving it serious consideration!

### Editor:

Nancy J. Ashmore  
([njashmore@gmail.com](mailto:njashmore@gmail.com))

**Profile photos** provided by profilees.

**Algol and Zoobook photos** obtained from the Digital Collections of the Carleton Archive, <https://apps.carleton.edu/digitalcollections/carletonian/>.

## WHAT GIVES US JOY, Continued from Page 5

### TODD LUND:

#### Art—Before, During, After Dentistry

I will always be grateful to Professor Davis Taylor (English Dept.) for noticing that I actually spent more time in studio art classes than I did in science labs. He asked me if I'd considered going into dentistry instead of medicine, since part of doing dentistry is artistic. With logic typical (for me, anyway) of a twenty-year-old, I responded, "Why would I want to do that? All the dentists I've ever known were jerks."

Luckily for me, I followed his advice. And happily, I went into a subspecialty in dentistry that involved as much art as it did science—maxillofacial prosthodontics, making facial prostheses for patients that had lost ears, eyes, or noses, usually from cancer surgery.

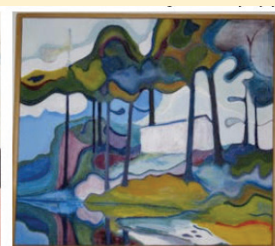
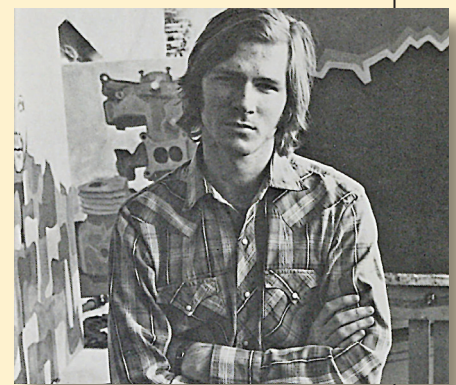
Since I'd continued to take art classes over the years, I knew when I retired that I wanted to spend my time painting and drawing, and I've been happily doing mostly that since I retired. Although it's important to first

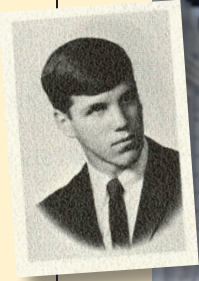
learn how to draw and paint things that are realistic (e.g., my drawing of the dogs below, and the not quite finished portrait next to it), there's no point in trying to compete with a camera. Drawing and painting what I imagine or what I feel and think I see is the most satisfying to me (e.g., my painting, the cottage up at the lake, below).

Also, I've been playing a guitar for so long I should be really good by now. (Not!) And I've been blessed with good fortune again, as I've been taking guitar lessons from my freshman year roommate, Roger Lasley '72. Roger was a really good guitar player when he came to Carleton at 18, but now he's amazing, and he's a wonderful teacher. Learning about music theory and the structure of chords is completely new to me. I've read that really working hard to learn something challenging is one of the best ways to maintain our brains and bodies. Although it's mostly a joy, especially learning old Beatles tunes.

— **Todd Lund**

**That his post-retirement avocation is painting is not surprising to biology major Todd Lund—or to those who remember his art-filled senior picture. The surprise came much earlier—after he followed a Carleton English prof's suggestion that he consider combining his interests in art and science in the field of dentistry. Which led to a career making facial prostheses for cancer patients.**



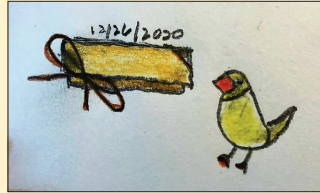


## SÁBADO

Día de cajas

Buscamos por regalos

En la ciudad



## HOLIDAY WALKABOUT

Boxing Day Specials

Strolling by neighborhood shops

Masks, hats and parcels

Above: The #haikuchallenge word for 12/26/2020 was #box, which is #caja in Spanish. Far left: Thomas and Annemarie in Puerto Rico, pre-Covid.

### THOMAS LOVETT: Seventeen Syllables a Day

I am winding down from 40 years as a corporate and securities lawyer, with a mixture of non-profit board participation as well, pro bono activities in immigration law, mediation, working with at-risk youth, and, more recently, election protection work. At Carleton, I majored in economics and participated in three varsity sports, forming friendships that endure to this day, and after college, I played basketball and softball, coached youth sports, and ran in hundreds of races from 5Ks to marathons. Now I walk, hike, and stretch; dogs help immensely. And I write poetry.

After graduation, I served in the Peace Corps for two years in the Philippines, immersed in Ilokano and Tagalog daily. Regretting that I never became truly bilingual, I have been studying Spanish (and several other languages) on Duolingo for two years. It has helped me connect with clients from Latin America and Africa, including being able to rephrase questions when they could not comprehend the question the USCIS examiner was posing in English.

I'm also writing haiku poems, which, until I started on Twitter in 2010, were unknown to me. Under the name @minnesotahiker, I posted

sporadically until I discovered the power and beauty of how a 17-syllable (5/7/5) haiku fit snugly within the original 140-character Twitter limit. I have tweeted a haiku daily (with a few days off for various reasons) for over five years.

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**3.14:**  
**Forgetting the date**  
**He arrives late to buy pie**  
**Choices limited**

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I cheat because I usually give my haikus a whimsical title, which violates the syllable rule. I also violate the rule about nature most days. My theme depends on the #haikuchallenge word of the day, which is posted on Twitter at 0800 ET. The haiku may be about nature, exercise, politics, literature, geography, lunar new year, food, family, friends, sports, or even once a year for four hours the #superbowlhaiku.

Sometimes I allow the haiku to form the image. Sometimes I include a sketch: after my wife Annemarie and I took a class in bird drawing at the University of Minnesota Bell Museum several years ago, my love of haikus and drawing came together.

My wife, our children, and many of our friends now celebrate birthdays and other occasions, both joyous and somber, with haikus. Every day we are sharing with poetry. — **Thomas Lovett**

### SUSAN TERWILLIGER: On the Run, Volunteering

During the last 10 years, I've become an avid runner. I did the Richmond (VA) Marathon in 2018 and 2019. I don't know where the desire to run came from. At Carleton, I remember thinking (erroneously) that there were the jocks and there were the rest of us. I have met many wonderful people along the way.

I also love to hike and am active in the Roanoke Appalachian Trail Club. We maintain 120 miles of the AT in southwest Virginia. One of the most photographed overlooks on the trail, McAfee Knob, is in our section.

Growing up in flat Kansas, I would not have imagined such hikes.— **Susan**



# Class of 1972

The 50th Reunion Committee  
Carleton College  
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Northfield, MN 55057

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## GETTING TO KNOW US: RESULTS OF THE ONLINE OUTREACH SURVEY

Who are we? Responses to the survey created by John Vogel and Shirley Anderson Brantingham reveal that we're an interesting bunch. As Shirley, who summarized the results (provided in full at <https://tinyurl.com/uf7z767p>), put it, "Sex, drugs and rock and roll are thought to have heavily influenced the music of the '60s and '70s. Based on this survey, the long-term music influences on the Carleton Class of '72 would be better described as Love, Peace and Classic Rock and Folk." "Bridge over Troubled Water" got 64% of the thumbs ups among the songs listed in the survey, with "Like a Rolling Stone" getting 53%. According to the 140 survey respondents, many of us are still listening to music but more than half do so via streaming services or recordings on computers and smart phones. Volunteers are putting together a class playlist, which will be distributed later this year.

Almost three-fourths of us are retired, working 10 hours per week or less for money; 15% of us have only retired within the last year. While we were working, we tended to stay in one place – only 6% reported that the longest they'd worked for one organization was less than 10 years. As we approached retirement, we worried most (53%) about finding something meaningful to do and then (37%) about having sufficient financial resources.

We've been active in our communities – though 18% said they'd never been a board member or active volunteer; 73% said they been involved in 1-4 such organizations, primarily 501(c)3 groups, but also religious or affiliated organizations (40%) and political groups (27%), with 33% reporting that they volunteered 5-10 hours a week in pre-pandemic times.

Some 72% have attended a previous reunion. As we look ahead to the one in 2022, what would we most like to see happen? As Shirley notes and this chart shows, "It's clear that we value connecting with each other," especially those whom we were close to during college. **Start planning those June 16-19, 2022, get-togethers, folks!**

Q10: As you think about the 50th Carleton reunion how would you rate the following in importance as you decide whether or not to attend? A chance to...

