



## Class of '68 Profile Carleton College

### 1. Sources

The profile below was derived from: the 214 bios posted on the Class of '68 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion web page through February 3, the 195 bios in the 25<sup>th</sup> reunion book (about 70 per cent of which were of people who also have bios in the 50<sup>th</sup> page), plus a review of Alumni Notes for the class of '68 in the Carleton Voices from 1968-2017. Altogether, this gave some information about the careers and activities of 303 members of the Class of '68.

These records revealed varying amounts of information about the 303 individuals identified. In the sources examined, no records exist of about one-fourth of our classmates. So, while it contains a lot of information, the profile is far from complete.

### 2. The Profile

In September 1964 (according to the 1964 New Students "Zoo" Book), 431 of us (including 7 foreign students and 4 transfer students) started our Carleton journey. Over the next four years, some left, others joined us, and Carleton records now reflect that 438 men and women belong to the Class of '68, of whom 326 graduated from Carleton. As indicated above, records of post-Carleton activities of 303 of those people reveals the information in the bullets below. (Note that many people fell into several categories – e.g., art and teaching, research and business, etc., either concurrently or consecutively, so the numbers add up to well over 303. Also, not every activity is listed – only what emerged as major categories.)

- 144 spent a substantial time in education – mostly as teachers, from preschool to graduate, adult, and seniors – as well as a few administrators and librarians. Overall, this constitutes about 47% of the population.
- The next largest category is business and commerce – 83 people – everything from big corporations to sole proprietorships, from construction to radio stations, pottery to IT.
- 49 of us were lawyers; engaged in all manner of public and private practice (and teaching, including a couple of deans) – prosecutors, defenders, public interest, corporate practice, etc. At least two were judges.
- 45 engaged in scientific fields, many in research in areas such as oncology, psychiatry, dentistry.
- Overlapping particularly with the above category, 43 worked in medicine, many as MDs – again, all kinds of practices, from big medical centers, to family practice and services to indigent.
- 46 worked in social work or counseling for needy, elderly, disabled, or others less fortunate.

- 48 worked for federal, state or local governments, in a wide variety of jobs.
- 24 practiced in some field of the arts – painting, pottery, music, theater, art history.
- 13 wrote extensively, publishing at least several dozen books (a couple of which sold for movie rights).
- 12 were ordained clergy.
- 7 farmed or ranched.
- At least 27 reported that they primarily worked as volunteers, invariably in support of civic or social causes. This number appears to be growing as we retire from paying jobs.

Also, reflecting, to some extent, the circumstances when we graduated – the war in Vietnam and the draft – 38 of us entered one of the armed forces. At least 14 served in Vietnam and one gave his life in combat there. At the same time, at least 5 were conscientious objectors, and others reported being active war protesters during that era. 20 people served in the Peace Corps, and 5 in VISTA.

### 3. Observations

Those are the numbers. Everyone can draw their own conclusions, but here are a few.

First, we paid our education forward in many ways – as teachers, counselors, doctors, social workers, and clergy, researchers, producers of goods and services, writers, artists, and more.

Second, we were lifelong learners. Almost all of us went through several transitions in our careers. Carleton seems to have prepared us well for these adjustments.

Third, we went all over the world. We traveled to just about every part of every continent, and many of us lived abroad for extended periods (and a few still do).

Finally, these numbers do not begin to capture the most important of our experiences since 1968, on several levels.

- Family and friends: many of us were married or had special relationships with someone else. Many of us had children, and grandchildren (and now even a few great grandchildren). Most of us report these experiences as the richest, most rewarding part of our lives. Many also report long lasting friendships with classmates.
- We also knew tragedy and disappointments – loved ones and friends lost, divorces, loss of jobs, injustices and misfortunes that we couldn't fix, and other highly stressful events. It hasn't all been a bed of roses, but somehow we were resilient and dealt with these challenges
- Many of the bios speak about the Carleton experience not in terms of how it prepared us for a particular career, but how it prepared us for life – curiosity, love of learning, openness to new things, tolerance, character, commitment to others and doing what is right.

The journey continues.

John Cooke  
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