

**Remarks for Class of 1962 – 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion  
University of North Carolina  
May 12, 2012  
By Ray S. Farris**

In September 1958, most of us arrived in Chapel Hill. We had to wait two years for all but about 50 of our women who entered with us as Freshmen. Roughly 85% of us came from North Carolina's small towns, large cities, from the coast to the mountains. Generally our class represented the best students of our North Carolina high schools. Most of the remaining 15% of our class came from other southern states and from the middle Atlantic states. All were vital to the mix of who we were as students in Chapel Hill.

In our freshman year, Dwight Eisenhower was President and then, in 1960, John Kennedy was elected, the first Catholic President. Today, the first African American serves in that capacity, narrowly defeating a woman for the Democratic nomination.

We were in a Cold War against the Soviet Union and feared a nuclear missile catastrophe. President Kennedy advised us to build individual fall-out shelters. In 1959, Castro overtook Cuba.

While we were in the middle of what has been called "the American Century", many believe today that China, even India, will be principal leaders, perhaps with the United States, in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

The United States was for the most part a male dominated Christian nation, preoccupied with what was happening within its borders. Today we recognize more races and religions and we are trying to deal with the change brought about by globalization.

We were soon to see a gradual reduction of barriers to the free flow of ideas, goods, money and people around the globe. Today we are inundated with goods from China and other Asian countries. A symbol of this change is Google, which literally organizes the world's information and makes it accessible throughout the globe. Look at the phenomenon of Facebook, what it did in Egypt and how it may soon have the largest public offering of stock in the history of organized business, American or otherwise.

Our population has also had enormous change. From a United States which had 175,000,000 persons when we entered as freshmen, the number is now over 300,000,000. The world has grown from three billion since we came to Chapel Hill to more than 6.5 billion. Our life expectancy has grown roughly from a little more than 69 years of age to slightly more than 80 years. Perhaps more telling, in 1958 the Federal budget was slightly over \$82 billion dollars and in 2011, the budget in the range of \$3.8 trillion dollars with a deficit of \$1.6 trillion. 1960 was quite different: the job market was good and average annual salaries were over \$5,000. A new car cost less than \$3,000 and a new starter home, around \$13,000.

We were in the midst of the civil rights movement. In 1958, the United States Supreme Court ordered Little Rock High School to integrate and the United States Senate passed the Civil Rights Act. We had one African American in our class, George Grigsby, who is not with us this weekend. George graduated with

our class and from the University's medical school and is a practicing physician in Las Vegas, Nevada. Happily, barriers to equal opportunity are substantially eliminated.

We were also at the beginning of the Women's Revolution but the idea that a woman could be a credible candidate to become President of the United States did not often cross our minds.

As we have seen this weekend, we've had major changes over the last 50-54 years at Carolina.

In 1962 our campus was 79% men and 21% women, many in graduate school. The Class of 2012 is comprised of 59% women, 41% men. In 1962 we had 9,082 undergraduate and graduate students. In 2012, the student body has 29,290 students.

While we had one general library, students today have three major libraries.

We watched basketball games in Woollen Gym. Woollen still exists, but the team moved on to Carmichael and then to the Dean E. Smith Center.

Our Chancellor was William B. Aycock, a popular law professor with a distinguished World War II record as an infantry officer in the Battle of the Bulge.

In our first two years the basketball coach was Frank McGuire, whose team won the national championship in 1957. Three years later, the NCAA imposed a one year probation because of inadequate and ineffective accounting in recruiting

and, later, issues relating to player point shaving. Chancellor Aycock took charge. Frank McGuire retired and was replaced by a little known assistant coach named Dean Smith. We know the rest of that story, but I suspect many do not know that the basketball team graduated 96.2% of every basketball player who enrolled at Chapel Hill, and that 40% of those players pursued graduate or professional school. Bill Guthridge and Roy Williams are also model coaches and teachers. At that time, Carolina had another great coach, Jim Tatum, who played football in the early 1930's at Carolina. Coach Tatum had amassed a remarkable record at the University of Maryland where its football team won the national championship, just before he came to Chapel Hill. By 1959 his Carolina team had a preseason ranking in the top five in the country. His life ended prematurely in September of that year as a result of Rocky Mountain spotted fever. Mack Brown is another example of a great Carolina football coach whose Texas team also won a national championship.

I mention Dean Smith, Bill Guthridge, Roy Williams, Jim Tatum and Mack Brown because they are examples of coaches whose teams competed successfully and honorably as have virtually all other teams in Carolina's other 26 sports. Anson Dorrence, the women's soccer coach is another good example as is Mike Fox, our baseball coach.

At a University which has produced 47 Rhodes Scholars and an enlightened leadership for North Carolina and the nation for over two centuries, it is hard to believe that we as an institution have multiple violations of well established rules of conduct. We failed to manage our football program and a number of academic classes. The consequences were harsh: a loss of 15 scholarships over 3 years, post season play in 2012, 3 years probation and a monetary fine of \$50,000.

With those sanctions and the further investigation Chancellor Holden Thorpe has launched in the African American Studies Program, we can have a closure of this unfortunate chapter in the University's athletic program. And with the closure comes a clean slate which our players, the Trustees, the Chancellor, Athletic Director Bubba Cunningham and Coach Larry Fedora and his staff can use as a springboard to responsible academic performance and high athletic achievement.

Each of us has his or her feeling for Carolina, but our clearest priority is not won and loss records. Our thoughts are based for the most part on what this public University stands for, what it is and what it made available to us – uncompromised scholarship, accountable student government, encouraged inquiry of ideas, a sense of personal freedom, tolerance, making an education accessible to those who otherwise could not have it, and, in the process, leading North Carolina and the nation. We were fortunate to have been here and to share our time with one another and with the many classmates who are deceased and for whom we offer our thoughts and prayers.

On behalf of all of us, I thank Bob Sevier and our Reunion Committee for their work in engineering this Reunion. Bob is a life long contributor to the University in many ways, and an officer or chair of various initiatives of our medical school, just as he was a distinguished student and Morehead Scholar. He has been at the center and in all other areas in planning this Reunion.

We also recognize Tim Burnette, a leader of our class, a former Chairman of the Board of Trustees and last year's recipient of the highest honor the University can bestow, an honorary doctor of law degree. We thank Wade Hargrove, current

chair of the Board of Trustees, who yesterday accepted our membership in the Old Student's Club. We also acknowledge our appreciation to Jim Hynes and Arch T. Allen each of whom has served as a member of the Board of Trustees and have in many other substantive ways and capacities served our University.

Lastly, we present to Diane Frazier of the University's Office of Development a \$10,000 check in the name of our Class as unrestricted funds for the School of Arts & Sciences. These moneys represent an old \$3,000 balance from prior reunions which we long ago placed in a certificate of deposit.

**Go Heels!**