Sample Reunion Re-cap

Dear Fellow Graduates,

We could not have asked for a more perfect day for our 60th reunion! The sun shone, the sky was blue and the temperature was in the low 70’s. Our day started at 9:30. We met at Starbucks in the enlarged and rejuvenated Student Union Building which was completely unfamiliar to us! The Alumni Office distributed bags, Alumni Cards with special features and benefits for various activities on campus and a 60th reunion UBC pin. Just before 10:00 we left (after picture ops!) to catch one of the shuttle buses that was operating every 10 minutes. Sabrina Yan, of Land and Food Systems was our volunteer tour guide. She was great at pointing out familiar and unfamiliar landmarks. Not only that, she shepherded a group of talky 80 plus year olds with patience and understanding.

Our first stop was the “new - old” Auditorium but not before we had passed by many buildings which we did not even recognize! The campus has grown unbelievably since we were there. New faculty buildings, new residences, new private homes and condominiums are everywhere! Construction of new buildings and roads still continues. Knowing how hard it was to get from one lecture to another across campus in the 50’s we wondered how any student copes with the expansion that has taken place in the past 60 years!

The renovated auditorium was something to see. Nancy Hermiston, Professor of Voice and Opera led our tour. She was responsible for saving the “old “auditorium and bringing the “new” one into the 21st century. No expense has been spared to upgrade a rundown, fading theatre into a very modern one. Through many fund-raising activities the acoustics and the seating have been improved. We were taken back stage to see the comments splashed on the walls by former students and the new amazing pully control system for lowering and raising backdrops. Our next viewing area was in the basement that now houses the costumes. The number of donated or scrounged costumes stored here in a relatively congested space was amazing. This area had been created when the crawl space under the foyer was excavated. We then left this area to walk down a corridor that had been made by using concrete building blocks to separate the corridor from a large rehearsal room and two smaller rehearsal rooms - all from the old cafeteria! Bring back memories?

Following our tour of the auditorium, we caught another shuttle bus which took us to the Food, Nutrition and Health Building which turned out to be the replacement Home Ec. building when “our” white stucco building was torn down! We were taken to the basement where a wine research lab is located. Their main concern is checking local and foreign wines for longevity and flavour and documenting their findings. In some cases they patent their findings. In other cases they forward their findings to the local growers. It was now time to be picked up and taken to Tapestry, a retirement residence located on campus in Wesbrook Village, which is just of 16th Ave. and Wesbrook Mall, for lunch.

We were greeted at Tapestry by Gillian Fullerton and taken immediately to the 7th floor for a champagne cocktail, and a demonstration by Lynda Larouche, the head chef, of the chocolate dessert we were to have at lunch. This was followed by a power point presentation of miscellaneous pictures which recalled our undergraduate days on campus, graduation, and latter reunions - pictures donated by various alumni. The powerpoint presentation was made possible by Craig Chong, Hazel Chong’s son. Following the presentation, which we watched twice, lunch was served on the balcony under sun umbrellas. Salad, barbecue salmon or chicken as well as barbecued vegetables were served along with white or red wine. The food was great, the service excellent and the conversation non-stop!
Following dessert and tea or coffee, we were given a brief tour of the facilities before heading down to the Tapestry bus which was to return us to where our cars were parked and brought to an end a very happy 60th reunion day. Our only regret was that those who were too far way or had other previous commitments were unable to join us. We are looking forward to organizing another informal get-together in three years. Just to let you “out-of-towners” time to plan a trip west!

Sincerely,

The Home Ec Class of 1952 Committee