

The Lion Speaks

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Spring 2024

Nasson Homecoming 2023



KRW Williamson
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Photo by Kirk Williamson

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By Mark Hoffman '77

Nasson College Homecoming 2023 was an amazing success! Over 200 alumni, faculty and friends participated in multiple events held from Friday, Oct. 6 to Sunday, Oct. 8.

Friday began with the afternoon golf scramble at Pine Hollow Little Par 3 Golf. That evening, the annual pizza party was held in the beautifully restored Nasson Little Theatre with over 50 participants (a new record). As usual, it was well attended and provided a chance to meet everyone and kick off

the weekend events. The Nasson Little Theatre's bar was open for business, and there was plenty of pizza for everyone. Later, the party moved to the coast with the Class of '83 and entourage.

Saturday's events got underway at 9 a.m. in the Nasson Community Center (gym) with registration, breakfast pastries and coffee. Our annual meeting began at 10 a.m. in the Little Theatre with over 100 participants. After the annual meeting, there was a special presentation of the

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.....A Note from the President.....

By *Connie Witherby*, '73

Last October, I celebrated my 50th reunion at our 2023 Homecoming. It was wonderful to see old friends, and meet up with classmates, some I hadn't seen in over 20 years. We reminisced about our college days and how our Nasson experience influenced us and helped us grow.

Many of you have only returned to Springvale a few times since graduating, and the changes on campus over the past 40 years since Nasson College closed are dramatic. Allen Hall and the Dining Commons were torn down to make space for a new structure. The quad was turned into a parking lot. The highlight on the main campus is the gym and Little Theatre, which became

the Nasson Community Center in 2002 — it is flourishing. The rest of the buildings on the main campus have all found new uses. Sanford and the village of Springvale have benefited from these upgrades. The final set of dormitories, Pryor-Hussey and Upper Campus, have been purchased. Pryor-Hussey has been torn down, and Hanscom and Fobes are being converted into apartments.

Return to campus, and you will recognize it, but it's not the same. Time has taken its toll, even to Main Street. Like our campus, we have all grown and improved.

I have made so many friends since joining the Board of Directors, from the classes that graduated before and after me. That's what reunions are about.

Making NEW friends from a variety of backgrounds but with a common interest — our collective appreciation for what Nasson offered us, and how we benefited from our years here.

I hope you will consider attending Homecoming 2024 next October 4th, 5th and 6th. Our summer newsletter, published in August, will have all the details and registration information. Our website, nasson.org, will also have Homecoming 2024 details by early summer, with online options for registering. If you are on Facebook and haven't found us yet, our Nasson College group page has over 1000 members, and we will be promoting Homecoming 2024 long before the summer newsletter comes out. *See you in October!*

HOMECOMING 2023 continued from page 1

"Wizard of Oz" special effects followed by a showing of the "Nasson Movie." Both presentations took 30 minutes, and showcased the new Little Theatre sound system, giant screen and new projector. (Amazing that we helped to create a "state of the art" movie theatre with a film library of 300 classic films to show). Due to rain, the class photos were taken in the Nasson gym.



"Eight to the Bar" did not disappoint! Go to nasson.org and click on "view gallery" to see more photos taken at Homecoming.

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Lunch was served at noon in the gym during which the developers of Upper Campus presented a progress report. The renovations of Upper Campus are moving along nicely!

Following lunch, the bus arrived to take everyone on a campus tour including Upper Campus. Alumni got a chance to go inside Upper Campus 2 and see the renovations! The bus eventually made its way up to Greg Gallup's cocktail party on the site of the former Hilltop House. Thanks to the generosity of Billy Plante, we were able to party inside the Hilltop House with music and a full bar.

Saturday's late afternoon activities included a celebration of the class of 1973's 50th reunion (the classes of '68, '78 and '83 also celebrated their

milestone reunions) in the Nasson Little Theatre. Lite snacks and actual vinyl albums were provided by WNCY disc jockeys!

At 6:30 p.m., the star event was held: The Nasson Homecoming "Dinner and Dancing" at Jonathan's in Ogunquit featuring a Hilltop House band, "Eight to the Bar." Dinner choices included lobster, steak, chicken piccata or pesto primavera. It was our best party yet!

Sunday's SMBC (Sunday Morning Breakfast Club) got underway with brunch fare and bloody marys on the coast at The Bull and Claw. This year's SMBC guest speaker was former faculty member Dr. Morton Gold who talked about his career and current interests.

SPOTLIGHT: Meet Jim Leach, Class of '83

By Ann Drenzek, '83

James "Jim" Leach has arguably done more than any other member of the Nasson College Alumni Association board to recruit new blood.

In this profile, he talks about his time at Nasson and why he's such a dedicated board member.

The Lion: What was your major and when did you graduate?



Jim Leach: I graduated in '83. I majored in government and accounting.

The Lion: Who were your favorite professors?

JL: I liked Scott Mellow and Merle Young.

The Lion: What's your fondest memory of your time at Nasson?

JL: The friendships I cultivated. Spending time at the fire department in the Call Company.

The Lion: What was the most important thing you learned there?

JL: I think organization; you had to be organized.

The Lion: Where do you live and what do you do now?

JL: I live in the same house I grew up in, in Providence, RI. I oversee our family holdings. They consist of large shopping centers — Lowe's, Walmart, Home Depot — that we own and lease.

I also serve on 12 nonprofit boards as chair, vice chair, secretary.

The Lion: What's your position on the Nasson board?

JL: I chair the Development Committee. It just started recently. We raise money from alumni to build the endowment and take on projects like the gym floor, bleachers and the Little Theatre, restoring and maintaining properties that are there and serve the community.

The Lion: What do you think is the

most important thing the board does?

JL: It's most important to maintain the database of the alums and to continue to inform them as to what's going on with the Association, including but not limited to the annual Homecoming.

The Lion: You've recruited several members of the board from the later years. What prompted you to do that and why do you think it's important?

JL: Approximately six members. Because I think it is important to continuously grow the board members and cycle through bringing new members with new ideas. Everyone should have a turn being on the executive board. And the board as well.

My time coming back to the alumni board meetings allows me to create relationships that had been absent in my life for 40 years. People from the '70s and '80s. It's almost like a private club no one can get into because it doesn't exist. We have a database of 2,000 people. That's the way I look at it. We still have the association, and we're all members of that club. It brings back people from all walks of life.

HOCO 2024!!

By Craig Dutra '77

It is not too early to start making your plans to attend HOCO24 which will be held this year on October 4, 5th and 6th. Unlike last year, Homecoming does not fall on Columbus Day weekend.

The fun gets underway on Friday October 4th with the Annual Golf Scramble which will be held at the Sanford Golf Course under the direction of Jose Pereira in the afternoon. Following the golf scramble, a pizza party will be held in the Little Theatre with pizza, soda, and water available in the theater, and beer and wine available for purchase in the adjacent bar. It is expected that we

will retreat to the coast for an evening social at a venue to be announced.

Events get underway on Saturday the 5th at 9:30 a.m. in the gym for HOCO registration and light breakfast refreshments. The annual meeting immediately follows in the Little Theatre at 10:00am. Following the annual meeting, class and group photos will be taken in the gym or outside Alumni Hall depending on the weather.

Lunch gets underway beginning at noon in the Nasson Gym. This year, an effort will be made to significantly improve the lunch offerings and ensure the quality of the food is excellent. Following lunch, a bus tour of the former campus footprint will once again be held including a trip to view the Upper Campus re-vitalization. The bus will stop at the site of the former

Hilltop House with a cocktail party hosted by Greg Gallup Class of '76.

The afternoon activities will conclude with class gatherings in the gym and Little Theatre with the focus being on the Class of 1974's 50th reunion along with get-togethers for the classes of 1964, 1969, 1979 and 1984 featured.

The day's events carry on with dinner at Jonathon's in Ogunquit followed by music and dancing to 'Eight to the Bar.'

The weekend's programming continues on Sunday, October 6th at 11:30 a.m. with the 7th Annual SMBC brunch at a location TBA. This year's guest speaker will be former faculty member and business professor Joe Roche who will reflect on his time at Nasson and career following this experience.

1976 Nasson Vienna Study Abroad Group Reunited in December, 2023

By *Merrill Marsh, '77*

Orchestrated by Judith Foote ('77) and Merrill Marsh ('77), the group convened in Portland, Maine for a weekend of memories, pictures, great food, and yes, libations indigenous to the Austrian area.

Judy reached out to each participant of the program. Out of 21 students, a remarkable 14 made the effort to attend the reunion. Three travelled from as far as Florida for the event.

The weekend included cocktails at the

Top of the East, dinner, and in true Nasson style, after-dinner drinks.

Following breakfast the next morning, the crew explored the Portland area, reconvening at the Old Port Sea Grill for Maine specialties such as oysters, shrimp and lobster.

The manager embraced our group and had special menus printed with the lyrics to "Trink Trink Bruderlein Trink." The song was sung and glasses were raised at the astoundment of the restaurant patrons! Truly done in

Austrian style that would have made Dr. Herberger and Peter Jandl proud.

A Portland pub crawl followed dinner with a final drink at the Top of the East.

Breakfast followed Sunday morning with vows to do it again. Prosit!

In attendance were Lance Cartwright, PJ Cistulli, Brian Flanagan, Judith Foote, Wyatt Garfield, Deb Helft, Richard Hamilton, Beth Koehler, Merrill Marsh, Niles Peterson, Cass Scopino, Sherilyn Sykes, Rita Wiltsie, and Richard Winslow.

50th Reunion of the Class of 1973

By *Bob Perkins '73*

It was a wonderful experience celebrating our 50th reunion, seeing familiar faces, figuring out the somewhat familiar, and making new friends. Historical records indicate that we nearly tripled the number of us who attended our 45th, so odds may be in our favor going forward!

I found it interesting that, despite the amount of time that had passed, and the absence of a few familiar buildings, that the "feel" of the campus remained, both in its sense of place and the camaraderie of those present. It was also heartwarming to see that we did not spend much time talking about where our post-graduation lives had taken us, but seemed to while away the hours sharing and reliving memories, of our time together as students, our professors, classes, international studies, and campus activities.

To my knowledge, ours is the only college, past or present, with the motto "verite sans peur," or "truth without fear." It was a unique, forthright, and powerful statement for a place that we affectionately refer to as Camp Nasson in the Pines, and it was comforting to see and feel that the spirit that was Nasson is alive and well.

I'll close with the opening lines of a song by Canadian folk artist, Garnet Rogers. While I know that all of us have our own songs and lyrics that remind us of our time at Nasson, this one is much more recent, yet took my thoughts immediately back to our time together on campus when I first heard it.

"The shadows neath the trees do grow, the sun's embers die away. The hush of night falls o'er these hills, at the turning of the day. Twas on nights like this we'd gather here, brief crowded hours to fill. In kinship and good harmony, in my dreams, I can see us still."



Photo by Kirk Williamson



Connie Witherby, Phyllis Perkins, and Nancy Swanson Dulac

Hanscom Apartments Available to Rent April 1

By Ann Drenzek, '83

For former students who lived in Upper Campus and have “been there, done that” — and want to do it again — apartments are now available at the aptly named Nasson in the Pines.

“Located in the charming town of Springvale, ME, a cozy 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom apartment offers a tranquil setting surrounded by nature” for \$1,750 in the former Hanscom Hall, according to developer GreenMars’ website. The company is also redeveloping the former Fobes Hall, aka Upper I.

For those who need a little more breathing room, a 2-bedroom, 730-sf apartment can be yours for only \$2,050 a month.

A message left for the development companies’ owners about the future of Fobes was not returned.

The new, renovated digs will be available April 1; free parking, water, sewer and trash removal are included. Tenants can explore the nearby Sanford/Springvale Rail Trail and a hike to Deering Pond to relive fond memories. A trickling brook still runs through the wooded site.

And never fear — if you have a hankering for a “blow dog,” 7-Eleven is still just a short walk away.

Some things never change.



Above photos by Connie Witherby



Photo by Connie Witherby



Chris Marshall, left, and Nate Green, who plan to redevelop three dorms on the former Nasson College campus. Photo credit: Peter Van Allen and MaineBiz.

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Nasson College Alumni Association Brick Order Form



Your contribution of \$50 for each 4"x8" brick will be used to maintain the brick walkway of the Nasson Commons Flag Plaza. Make a check payable to the Nasson College Alumni Association and include it along with this form. Mail to: Nasson Alumni Brick Order, Nasson Alumni Association, PO Box 416, Springvale, ME 04083.

You may also go to www.nasson.org to purchase your brick online.

Brick orders must be received by May 15th each year to be assured of seeing it on the Flag Plaza at Homecoming.

Name _____ Class Year/Faculty/Friend _____

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Each 4"x8" brick is \$50 and includes 3 lines of text with up to 20 characters per line including spaces and punctuation.

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