

Where are you now? AAHS Class of 1967 40th Reunion Survey

In August of 2007 we sent out a survey to the members of the AAHS Class of '67 that we could contact via e-mail. The survey was sent out to approximately 220 class members. We received 39 responses during the short period the survey was out to class members. The results that follow are based on the 39 responses we received and the data is as of August 12, 2007.

- The 39 respondents had a total of 100 **children** for an average of 2.56 children per class member. The range was from zero children to nine children for an individual class member. The group had 51 grandchildren for an average of 1.31 grandchildren per class member. The range for individual class member grandchildren was from zero to four. There were 62 marriages for an average of 1.58 marriages each for the survey group. The range of class member marriages was from zero to three. One class member reported that they had nine marriages. While reported here, it is not confirmed to be accurate.
- The 39 respondents **have moved** a total of 297 times since high school. This is an average of 7.61 moves per class member since high school. The range of moves per class member was from zero to twenty five times. Of these 39 people 14 have lived in 16 different countries. The range of foreign countries lived in per class member are zero to three. They have lived in the following countries in addition to The United States: Bonaire, Canada, Caribbean, China, England, France, Germany, Greece, Israel, Japan, Scotland, Spain, Switzerland, Thailand, The Netherlands and Vietnam.
- Our 39 respondents have had 299 **jobs** with an average of 7.66 jobs each. The range of number of jobs held is from 2 to 12. One person who worked several construction projects and also worked multiple jobs concurrently had 56 jobs. 13 of the respondents or 33% of the total, have retired.
- Our class members listed **their least paying jobs** as: Teacher _ Part-time factory worker _ Meijer's _ Cashier at Museum of Fine Arts in Boston _ Circulation rep. For AA News _ Community Ed. Teacher _ Working at home for his wife _ Homemaker _ Mowing lawns _ Ward clerk at VA hospital _ Summer school jobs _ Navigator in US Air Force _ Working in uncle's grocery store _ CPS Investigator _ Mom (although it was the most rewarding) _ Secretary _ Auto parts sales at Loveland's Auto _ Selling art supplies at Ulrich's Bookstore _ Selling intimate apparel at Jacobson's _ Receptionist at Frankfurt Community Hospital _ Computer operator _ Part-time at UofM _ Budget analyst _ Law clerk _ Real estate assistant _ Staff RN UofM Children's Psychiatric Hospital _ Jewelry clerk _ Liberty Music _ Seaman apprentice US Navy _ Working in my family's business.
- Our class members listed **their highest paying jobs** as: Nurse manager in E.R _ Director Health Promotion & Wellness-Alexandria Hospital in Virginia _

Ann Arbor News _ Commission sales _ Homemaker _ Leading community health improvement initiative for the largest health system in New England _ Pharmacist _ President of our own company _ U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service liaison to U.S. EPA, Great Lakes National office _ V.P of sales & marketing _ Director of Accounting Services for Washtenaw Community College _ Administrative Assistant to Medical Director of Cancer Institute _ Employee Benefit relationship manager and trust officer _ Assistant Director of New Jersey Transit _ Estate employee _ Manager of Design & Application Engineering for Judd Wire _ Owner of recruiting firm _ Special education teacher in San Jose _ Project management positions for multi million dollar construction projects _ Executive recruiter _ Lt. Colonel Deployed in Iraq 8/04 to 8/06 _ Principal of Paramount Academy _ Teacher _ Regional V.P. Hospice Family Care _ Director of meetings and conventions for Parke Davis Pharmaceuticals _ Associate Professor of Art – St Louis University and Director of Studio Art _ Commander Huron Clinton Metro Parks Police Dept _ Flight attendant _ Director of Quality Management at a hospital _ Division Chief and Directorate of Engineering & Housing for Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Field _ Manager Crown Zellerbach Paper Company _ Manager of Training _ Parks and Recreation Director for Municipality.

- None of the 39 respondents had been in the **Peace Corps** but several of the 39 respondents are known to have served in the military although the question of serving in the US military was accidentally left out of the survey. We don't have data to report specifics on this.
- The 39 respondents have **earned a total of 61 degrees** for an average number of degrees per person of 1.56 degrees earned. The range of responding class members earning a degree is from zero to 36. The range of number of degrees earned per class member is from zero to four. The types of degrees earned by the respondents are: BA in Special Ed. _ MA in Special Ed. _ BA _ BA Engineering _ BM _ BS Accounting _ MA Educational Leadership _ BA Fine Arts _ MA Fine Arts _ BBA _ MA Education _ MPH Public Health _ AA _ BBL Business Leadership _ Associate in Technical Studies _ Electrical Apprenticeship _ BS Aerospace Tech. _ MS Technical Management _ BA Music _ BA History _ MA Counseling _ Grad work in Psychology _ BS Electrical Engineering _ MS Electrical Engineering _ Pharmaceutical Degree _ Masters in Public Health _ Doctorate Degree in Educational Psychology _ BS Math _ MA Secondary Counseling _ MS Community Clinical Psychology _ Phd. Clinical Psychology _ BS Police Administration _ Grad Cert. Police & Command _ MPA _ JD _ BS Nursing _ Assoc in Horticulture _ ML Architecture _ BS Aquatics & Fisheries Sciences _ MS Natural Resource Policy & Management _ Phd. English _ BAA Marketing & Economics.
- Of the 39 respondents, 12, or 31% of the total had not worked on a political campaign. 24, or 62% of the total had **worked on at least one political campaign**. 3 people, or 7% gave no response to the question. Those who did

work on a campaign worked on campaigns from their own local township office _ school board and mayoral campaigns to campaigns for county sheriff _ local community college millage renewals and governor _ congressional seat and presidential campaigns. Several of the respondents participated in three or more campaigns.

- The 39 respondents reported that 19 or 49% have **authored or published** something and 3 or 8% have **invented** something. And one person has authored/published something and has also invented something. Items authored or published included: one time, regular or periodical articles for trade magazines _ a motorcycle magazine _ health journals _ technical papers on automotive electronics _ technical specifications for construction _ reliability testing program _ weekly & monthly news columns and documents on environmental habitat restoration _ photos, drawings & prints _ songs _ grants for funding _ surveys _ books. Six or 15% of those responding to the survey indicated they had either authored/co-authored or had a book published. One has authored and had published, 13 books. Many of the respondents indicated they had authored or had published many items. Three respondents have invented something. Inventions include flash cards to teach rhythms – a software product and one held 3 patents on electronics.
- **Personal goals** of our respondents: Run a half marathon _ Become a pilot _ Become an instrument rated private pilot _ Choir director at Pioneer High _ Served a two-year mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Spain _ Having children _ Won a Maryland State Senior Golf Tournament _ Qualified paratrooper and Special Forces ~ Commission as an officer ~ Civil service retirement at 55 with 30+ years service _ Recovered emotionally and financially from a divorce 20+ years ago ~ Achieved peace and contentment in my life ~ Raised 2 sons who are self-sufficient and are great fathers to their children ~ Enjoyed my work on a daily basis and earned respect of those I worked for ~. Enjoy a very close relationship with my family ~ Going back to school and completing my Bachelor's degree 33 years after graduating from AAHS in '67 _ Married my current wife ~ran 5 marathons and Remaining happy and healthy _ Write weekly newspaper column & play guitar at church services _ I wrote a book ~ I went to Spanish school in Guatemala ~ I climbed the Inca trail to Machu Picchu ~ I hitchhiked through Europe for 6 months ~ I rode a bike from L.A. to El Paso ~ I traveled through S. America for 6 weeks ~ I visited the Holy Land and all the countries in Europe between 67-87 ~ I visited my daughter who went to school in Athens in 2002 and then visited her in school in Sydney in 2003 ~ We snorkeled the Great Barrier Reef ~ I've been to all but three states (Alaska, Maine and N. Dakota _ Married a wonderful man ~ raised two delightful children and have become the best grandma ever _ Ran Marathons _ Top 1% of national recruiters to join the Pinnacle Society ~ Chairman of the Board of the International Hewlett Packard Computer Users Group ~ Retired early and enjoying scuba diving on our Caribbean Island ~ Gave several management presentations at international conferences in great

locations like Nice, France and Copenhagen ~ Managed to stay alive ~ live to be debt free ~ have children that are super and making outstanding contributions on their own ~ I have bicycled much of western Europe ~ I recently joined the board of an organization that is rebuilding medical infrastructure in northern Haiti (the most impoverished country in the western hemisphere) my first trip there last January was the most sobering experience I have ever had and I have traveled to many third world countries _ Earned pilot's license with instrument ratings and numerous State, Regional and National shooting titles _ I ride and show dressage horses as a hobby. I currently own an imported Dutch Warmblood that is the best horse I have had in my 25 years of riding _ I just returned from touring the interior of Alaska and cruising the inside passages of Skagway, Juneau & Ketchikan _ We raised two outstanding sons _ I have spent 25 yrs. directing an early childhood center & I am a cancer survivor of 2 years & am helping to adopt a child from Russia _ My art works have been shown in Florence, Italy _ Performed numerous times on Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre stage in Ann Arbor _ Established a couple environmental "legacies" that continue on _ I enjoy sports, I have attended many Michigan bowl games, including the '81 Rose Bowl, where Bo won his first bowl game ~ I was on the UofM Hockey team 1969-1971 ~ played professional hockey ~ numerous Top Sales achievement awards.

- **Unexpected life lessons learned** by our respondents: It is hard to adopt a child from another country there's a lot of paper work _ Nothing is Easy ~ Sin has a price _ Siblings don't always fight with each other _ The death of a child is the toughest adversity imaginable _ Back then I didn't realize how simultaneously wonderful and difficult living life really is ~ I thought there would be boundless time for so many things but life goes by quickly _ There are very few honest people left that you can trust _ That people really don't care _ That even with all the hype about having degrees, one can be successful without one _ I didn't expect that I would enjoy being a mother as much as I do _ That my wife decided she wanted to be with one of my best friends instead of me and resulted in divorce _ That I would be a "happy" father at the age of 50 _ New experiences are ever coming _ Aim high, because you will always land low _ Importance of family and Christian values and unimportance of materialistic desires _ None of the other stuff really matters _ How strong my family is after dealing with 2 accidents involving TBI and my wife's death from lung cancer _ How "life" runs out _ That I could be madly in love at age 45 _ Don't take it so seriously and how hard it is to say good bye to your parents _ To never stop learning _ That I could provide good therapy to abused teenaged girls _ That it can take a very long time for a young kid to recover from the untimely death of a parent _ It's all so short ~ live it well and give some back _ That it's way nature over nurture _ How much work and responsibility it takes to raise a family and how much joy and reward there is on the journey _ Doesn't pay to judge others _ How to raise 2 sons alone and out of state _ To have peace that passes all understanding _ Strangers are easy ~ love is difficult _ There is life after one's teen

years....and they are good _ With parents angry at each other all my life (and divorced before I went to HS), I was lucky enough to find a husband who knew the importance of devotion to one another in a marriage _ That there are more wonderful and exciting people in the world than I could have ever imagined _ It's who people are, - their character ~ rather than what people do ~, that's most important.

- **High School Lessons or Experiences:**

- No matter how difficult the task is, just keep trying and you will accomplish it.
- I can move across the country and makes friends in new places.
- Good Friends.
- If you have 5 friends, you are doing well.
- Group memberships in athletic teams and choirs.
- My playing the trombone in bands and orchestras gave me a love of music, a feeling of accomplishment and continuing enjoyment- including singing and teaching my kids.
- You can put forth your best effort and have strong commitment but success doesn't always happen the way you might wish it to happen...but you keep on going.
- The power of networking.
- I was one of the folks in the cooperative occupational training (COT) program, I gained from that a sense of responsibility and work ethic that set me apart from those that meander through life, that never take initiative, or that never do more than absolute minimum to get by - One week after graduation I was in the US Army - They finished the training.
- I became a Christian in High School - That has made a difference in everything I have done since then.
- Learned early on that cliques really didn't matter -. If I wanted to talk to someone or be with a person or a group -, I did not pay attention to the cliques or how important or unimportant a person was - That allowed me to be able to deal on a daily basis with people from all walks of life - I found that I am able to communicate technically or socially and effectively with presidents of companies to laborers - A valuable experience.
- Wayne Cuthbertson's (sp) class and how he made me feel better about myself and who I was. Great teacher.
- I tried out for the talent show and did not get in. There went my Barbra Steisand ambition.
- Being an exchange student did so much to help develop my character. Traveling the world and adapting to a different culture helped me mature and be my own person. I learned I could rely on myself.
- How to be flexible.
- Learning to be a leader. As Principal Flute in band & orchestra, I gained confidence in public performance, and other leadership skills.

Leadership opportunities have presented themselves to me over and over since high school, and I have been president of state and local organizations, and Chairman of the Board of an international organization. I have learned to get things done.

- I learned that in spite of what others thought of you in the end you had to face yourself in the mirror and be satisfied in who you are.
- Giving back to the community is all-important - I remember the thousands of Peace Corps Pops that we (AAHS students) sold to help build a school in Tanzania - this kind of work has been part of my life ever since.
- Heck if I know!
- Playing in the marching band, which requires coordination and an ability to be a team member.
- Definitely a period that I am not proud of.
- I saw how everyone was different and how those differences made the individual.
- Choose your friends wisely and surround yourself with positive people.
- In Mr. Bordo's band class I learned the importance of hard work, esp. as a group. My best friends in high school came from band. Going to Interlochen at the end of the summer was the beginning of great friendships.
- Becoming a mediator, giving back to the community.
- Life is a blessing. The people I've met along the way are appreciated.
- Follow your heart and the money will follow.
- The games and bullsxxx of high school don't really matter in the real world.
- That being inclusive is a good thing.
- Friends make all the difference.
- That we are all pretty fortunate to have grown up in Ann Arbor.
- The daily practicing of athletic competition. Baseball, football. Continued practice and repetitive learning that set the foundation for later in life. Really, I think it was the punishing wind sprints we had to do for "Push Up Pete" coach.

- **Funniest or entertaining story**

- Played off key as last chair at Interlochen.
- Rich Joiner, Phil Hall and I sat outside the flag pole steps right through a Friday night dance after a football game talking. As people started to leave each of us got significant negative feedback from a young lady.
- I was the first chair trombone, but decided to play football in my senior year. Mr. Bordo, the conductor, glared at me the rest of the year. Now I wish I had gone out when I was a sophomore.
- Setting off fireworks from on top of the hotel we were staying at on the Washington Club trip.

- Beth Champion and I walking to see Joel Pott and a bird dumped all over her chest. We laughed so hard I thought we were going to wet our pants!
- The time I hid in the locker of my boyfriend (Bucky Lewellen) for April Foot's Day and popped out to scare him and others. I was skinny then.
- I would have studied much harder. I also wouldn't have dumped my 11th grade sweetheart for another. She knows who she is. I have thought about that for many years. High school was cruel at times and I know I sure was. I was able to apologize to her at the 10th reunion but it still bothers me today. I can honestly say there is something very unique about first love. It is magic. I can still remember the words I said to her when I got up the courage to talk to her after weeks of observing her - "I realize you don't know me and I don't know you but that puts up on an even basis." I received the same treatment from that other person and got my "Dear John" after Basic Training. Truly what goes around comes around!! Rejection really does hurt.
- All the times that Kip Single, Scott Moore, Tom Dyer and me skipped out of school with fake pink slips we manufactured ourselves - simply waving them at the teachers (Mr. Clark comes to mind) as we ran down the hallways, and left school to go get ice cream cones or something equally silly. I've told my son about the tradition of the senior pranks at AAHS; letting hundreds of crickets loose in the library, putting the VW on top of the school, etc.-- just so he get some idea about what went on when I was in high school and maybe will think we were a tiny bit cool.
- The time when the band director (Victor Bordo) was complaining about one of the drummers and said when you couldn't play an instrument, it was taken away and you were given two drumsticks. To which a drummer yelled back, "and when you can't play drums, they take one stick away and make you a conductor." Mr. Bordo was speechless.
- During the home football games I split my time between cheerleading and the marching band. I would cheer until almost halftime, then change into my band uniform and I loved being able to do both activities!
- Lots of fun times on the Washington/NY trip, sleeping through Fiddler on the Roof, climbing the Washington Monument and not being able to walk the next day along with quite a few classmates. I also recall with great fondness and fear, band with Victor Bordeau, and all those early morning preschool rehearsals. I think I had nightmares about that man and his impromptu "tryouts" for at least 10 years after school.
- Bouncing off a mini trampoline at a football game and landing flat in the mud.hard on the white wool Pioneer culottes.
- "Borrowing" a ten foot high advertising beer bottle that a couple nameless friends and I first put in our sub-leased party apartment, and then put on top of the AAHS entry way doors for senior prank.

- One afternoon after school several of us were fooling around in the gym and playing pickup basketball. I was about 5'4" and I STUFFED Earle Higgins when he tried a hook shot.
 - It was the time Jack Stollstimer "Rodent", "Big Frank" Fileccia, "Little Frank" Misureca & myself were chasing around neighborhoods in cars dropping cherry bombs while swerving out of the way of the bombs, while shooting the same with slingshots up in front of the car ahead while the lead car tried to swerve out of the way of the explosions as well.
- **What I would have done differently:**
 - Go to a small, private school.
 - Nothing.
 - Be more sociable while still being studious. I would have liked to attend more dances and learn this social activity and relating with more nice classmates when I should have.
 - Not feel so intimidated by the social hierarchy that existed. Savor the moments and try to remember the experiences more fully.
 - Study harder and learn a foreign language.
 - I would not be so intimidated by some of the classes. Ask for *Ritalin*.
 - Attend the same school the whole 4 years rather than a combination of schools. Switching schools and then working (COT) and then immediately moving out of the area did have an impact on building lasting friendships.
 - Besides studying harder, looking back, I enjoyed going steady in 10th, 11th, and 12th grade, but probably would not go steady if I were there now. I realize now how much that limited me from meeting new people and doing things with my friends. I always had a date during the school year, but missed out on some activities with my friends because I had a steady date that I had to be with. I also wouldn't have gotten married just a year out of high school.
 - Nothing, I feel my high school experience was great; it was post-high school that everything went south.
 - Get involved with more activities and try out for some sports teams.
 - Would have loved to learn to play golf.
 - I would not go skiing and break my leg right before cheerleader tryouts Junior year
 - Reached and have had more friends.
 - Nothing - I loved my high school experience.
 - Spend less time worrying about my hair.
 - Study.
 - Be more aware of the stereotyped counseling the African American students were getting...being funneled into vocation ed. rather than college prep. Shame on us.
 - Pay attention, study, get good grades, and be more social.
 - Get to know more people outside my classes and my groups.

- Study harder and choose a career earlier in life rather than getting married so young (21).
- Date in groups, not be so serious, take a fine arts class.
- Understand algebra, increase sports program for HS females.
- I wish I had gotten to know more people in a more personal way as you might attending a smaller high school.
- Not worry so much about the bull.
- Just be way more accepting and comfortable with being myself, and get to know and enjoy way more classmates outside the circle I ran with.
- Wow, High School was really a pretty good experience for me. I don't have any regrets.
- Get to know more people
- **Secrets revealed**
 - Having a crummy car often gets you keys to her father's car.
 - I had a huge crush on Judy Bradley
 - Drove to Win Schuller's in Marshall for dinner before the Senior Prom! Long drive for dinner!
 - I got my first real kiss after the Homecoming dance in 10th grade. I went home and wrote a poem about it.
 - My mother was/is a huge sports fan. I sat behind Mark Carrow in homeroom for three years, and my mother used to write him "Good Luck" messages on my lunch bags on the day of the games.
 - For my senior prom I wanted to have a tan to look good in my dress. I spent the day at the lake baking in the sun, using baby oil for about 6-7 hours. I looked good though!
 - Riding to Pioneer hockey games with Bob Ufer Sr. was an exciting experience. He wasted no time getting to the game.
 - Hey, I'm married! I won't admit anything.
 - I'll never forget the time playing spin the bottle with Linda Thielk & Roberta Gage. Oh, I'll surely never forget it.
- **Additional Comments:**
 - AAHS was a great place to go to school and I don't have much sympathy with all those who think they need a third high school now - when they already have a bigger Pioneer building than we had and fewer students. So what's the need?
 - I wish our graduating class hadn't been so enormous. Our size meant that there were people I barely knew and probably never spoke with. Everyone's version of the class of 1967 is dependent on the classes they took, and the organizations they joined, the people they hung out with over the three years at AAHS. Ann Arbor is a great town -- up on the wall in my office is the bumper sticker "I'd rather be in Ann Arbor".
 - *"To laugh often and much, to win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children, to earn the appreciation of honest critics and endure the betrayal of false friends, to appreciate beauty, to find the best in others, to leave the worlds a bit better, whether by a healthy*

child, a garden patch, or a redeemed social condition; to know even one life has breathed easier because of you have lived. This is to have succeeded!" - Ralph Waldo Emerson.

- Looking at high school now, we had it made. There was a dress code, respect for teachers and classrooms were not as concerned with discipline as with discipline as with real learning. I was involved in the music program. AAHS was amazing in the productions that were put on. The sports teams were a source of pride. I have continued to be proud that I attended this school. Academically we were expected to learn and our parents expected us to behave. I've taught at a college for the past 17 years. The students now have this sense of entitlement. They expect an A without doing the work. And the parents sue the school if their child gets a bad grade. Times have really changed. Am I old or what, talking about the good ole days....
 - Big regret for me, is to not come to the reunion
 - Attending Ann Arbor High was an incredible educational experience...but sometimes I wonder if it needed to be as intense as it was: needing to be the best in everything.
 - I think I'm one of the lucky ones, it's been a great ride so far and it's not over yet!
 - I loved being on the cheerleading squad. I'm not sure how I made it on the squad, but it was an awesome experience. Lani Loken was a wonderful captain.
 - Hello to all you who are still out there and rooting for the Pioneers!!
- 18 respondents indicated they had experienced 48-50 **illnesses or surgeries** during their lifetime. Some reported suffering auto, boat, motorcycle and industrial accidents. Not everyone reported the nature of their illnesses or surgeries but the ones who did, reported:
 - 2 hip replacements
 - Burns
 - Broken leg, herniated disk and 2 hip replacements
 - Triple heart bypass in '94
 - Leg smashed resulting in a blood clot in the lung
 - Numerous reconstructive surgeries after a serious accident
 - Fusion surgery of spine at L4 and L5
 - Open heart surgery to repair a hole
 - Another open heart surgery
 - ACL repair in '84, gall bladder '98
 - 3 knee surgeries, 2 back surgeries and a partridge in a pear tree!
 - Cancer Survivor. Doing well having been treated at UofM
 - Lower back surgery, gall bladder surgery, right rotator cuff repair and hernia repair
 - Cataract surgery in '05
 - **Contact with other class members:** 29 people responded that they had contact with other class members from zero contact to contact with 15 class

members. This is an average of 3.5 contacts per respondent. The exception and not included in the data is the reunion contact who had contact with a few hundred class of '67 members either by e-mail or by telephone!