

# Steven S. Hall

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## **Recreating/Rediscovering the Fall of 1959**

45<sup>th</sup> Reunion (reprinted for the 50<sup>th</sup>)

To: A Select Group of My 1963 Classmates

From: Steve Hall

Subject: **A Chance to Engage/Share/Energize**

Yale's records say that just about half of our classmates have never come back to New Haven for a 1963 Reunion. Perhaps you, like me, find the present either too good or too challenging to spend much time coming to New Haven to spend three days with guys we either never knew, or found difficult enough to take while we were trying to get an education and get out into the world. Or maybe, like others in our class, the memories of Yale are filled with ghosts we would rather not raise from their slumber – or we feel that the Yale of today is just not our Yale, it's changed and not for the better.

I used to feel that way. Then, for whatever reason, I decided to finally come to one of those springtime gatherings that, when I arrived, reminded me of the fall of 1959, a fall in which an interesting, smart, talented and somewhat diverse – at least geographically – set of 1,000 guys came to New Haven to spend four years together. This smaller gathering on the forty-fourth anniversary of that fall, the one held almost five years ago, was not about the music, the speeches or the food and bars. It was about sharing ideas with people I knew and liked as well as ones I had not met until then, about honoring classmates who are no longer with us in ways that allowed someone who knew them well to share thoughts about them that furthered an understanding of everyone present. In short it was like the excitement of those first days of freshman year, meeting and talking with interesting folks who shared an experience and then went out and led lives that in some respects paralleled and in others diverged from mine.

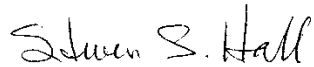
I therefore write because I believe that you have a great deal to offer those of us who will be returning and a great deal to gain by becoming a person like me who resisted coming back to New Haven and then finally did so.

I used to feel just as you do about Reunions – but I feel very differently now.

**What I found is that ours is a great way to spend a weekend every five years – it can make the months and years after this time in New Haven richer and more complete, just as the first Yale experience did.**

I hope I'll see you there, June 5-8, 2008. Call me or send me an e-mail, if you have any questions about the event. It will mean a great deal to both of us.

Sincerely,



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Update January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2013

You will recall that I was kind of the “poster child” for the last couple of reunions as the alumnus who never showed for reunion after reunion, and then regretted that after attending one.

**This year I have made it a condition of employment with my Bechtel project that I be able to attend.**

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