

RECONNECTING AT REUNION 2007

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The click and flash of cameras mixed with laughter and exclamations of “It’s so good to see you!” throughout the weekend at Reunion 2007. This year’s reunion had the highest attendance of any in Rivier history—more than 210 alumni, faculty, staff, trustees, and families participated.

Members of classes ending in 2 and 7 came from around the country to celebrate and reconnect with classmates. The College welcomed guests from Arizona, California, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Maine, Massachusetts, Maryland, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Vermont.

Fifty-six alumni and guests spent the weekend in the new dorm, seeing how campus life has changed since they graduated. Weekend highlights included an awards luncheon on Saturday afternoon, a campus tour, a lobster bake and dance, and mass and breakfast with the Sisters.

At the Awards Luncheon, members of the Class of 1957 were inducted into the Golden Society and two alumnae were honored with the Sister Madeleine of Jesus Award. Rita Leblanc Sheehan Bell ’52 and Sr. Sue Bourret, p.m. ’72 were recognized for their commitment and service to Rivier and their communities.

“I’m deeply honored to be numbered among the Sister Madeleine of Jesus recipients,” Sr. Sue said. She said that when she arrived on campus as director of residents, there had been four consecutive years of change none of her predecessors were nuns. While students wondered what it would be like to have a Sister as resident director, they soon grew to appreciate the warmth and openness that Sr. Sue brought to the position, and Sr. Sue grew close to the students. “I was bonded to Rivier by the students,” she said.



Above: (clockwise from top left) Maria Papadopoulos '87, Jackie Hodgdon '87, Karen Nightingale '90, Terri Warren '87 and Catherine Croteau '87 at the Saturday night lobster bake.

“Had a great time at the reunion! So happy many could make it. We had 21 in attendance for at least some part... Many thanks to Delores for helping me crack open my lobster so I could eat it—I don't get to eat those in Ohio at it showed.”

— Murielle (Gosselin) Bennett '72

“The reunion was a SUPER success. You may agree that it only took a short time to recall a story, or 12... I am truly blessed to have crossed paths with you all and I am grateful for the weekend we had to reminisce, share and learn about where our lives have taken us.”

— Lisa (Palazzo) Hintze '87

“Everything was well organized, the food was delicious, the welcoming was warm, the awards ceremony was sensitive, the conversations with friends—never to be forgotten.”

— Kate (Moriarty) Ackerman '52



Above, clockwise from top left: members of the Alumni Council and Parents Association at the donor recognition reception. Sr. Madeleine of Jesus Award recipients Rita Leblanc Sheehan Bell '52 and Sr. Sue Bourret, p.m. '72.

Rita Leblanc Sheehan Bell '52 taught in the inner-city schools in Springfield, Mass. for more than 40 years. She helped elementary school children from broken homes learn to value peace over hatred and violence; as a student at River, she inspired her classmates to speak out for justice. “My joy lies in sharing this award and this moment with my cherished classmates from 1952,” she said.



Above, clockwise from top left: Sr. Jeanne Perreault, p.m. '98H and trustee Joyce Arel '72G enjoy a conversation in the sunken garden. Vice President for Student Development Lynn Jansky '95G and Vice President for Academic Affairs Sr. Therese Larochelle, p.m. '72/'75G catch up with members of the classes of 1987 and 1988. Christine (Reynolds) Russo '87, Alison (Ploszay) Seavey '87 and Annette (Baldi) Hood '89 are all smiles.

Later in the afternoon, alumni enjoyed a special presentation by Sister Jeanne Perreault, p.m. '98H and a tour through familiar buildings and changing spaces across campus. Saturday concluded with a lobster bake and dance. Assistant Director of Admissions Tim Bruneau's band, Tables Up, provided music for the evening.

"It was great to see so many alumni on campus—more than ever before," says Mary Bollinger, Assistant Director of Alumni and Parent Relations. "We had some wonderful volunteers from the alumni board and the reunion classes who worked hard to encourage their classmates to attend and who really helped make the weekend such a success." ■

* **JENNIFER LISKOW** works as a Public Relations and Web Writer in the Office of Marketing and Communications and teaches in Rivier's Professional Communications program. Jenn earned her bachelor's in English and communications from Notre Dame College in Manchester, N.H. in 1996. In 2002, she completed her master's in writing and literature at Rivier. She began writing in junior high school; since then, she has had poems, short stories, features, and essays published. In her free time, Jenn enjoys practicing yoga, ten-pin bowling, and listening to live music with her husband, Tim.