

SEATTLE PACIFIC UNIVERSITY

50-YEAR REUNION Life Updates

JUNE 6, 2025



1975

CLASS OF



Pamela Barney '75

My husband, Gerry and I recently retired and we are just transitioning into this new season of life. A rich career as a nurse and psychiatric nurse practitioner has provided opportunities to work in oncology, the ED, research and in private practice as an NP. The slower pace of retirement has given us more time with our two children and their families, friends, our church and hobbies of gardening, watercolor, and a bit of travel. In the months ahead we look forward to volunteering in capacities that we haven't had time for with full work schedules.

- Pamela Barney

Dave Beagle '75

For those of you who we will see or not see at the reunion here is an update.

I graduated from SPC with a degree in business administration and biblical literature. I went on and got an MBA in Finance from UofW directly following SPU. While at SPC, for the summer of 1974, I responded to a posting on the Career Center bulletin board for a summer position as a sales person on an Alaska cruise ship. Because of my truck experience that led to a summer job in Alaska giving tours and driving a motorcoach. In the Spring of 1975, I trained 12 SPC classmates to do the same before driving that summer and the next. After the MBA I joined the tour company which later became Holland America Line based in Seattle. After some years I became the VP of Transportation in charge of ground operations worldwide with a staff of 2,250 . With responsibility for motorcoach operations in Alaska, Vancouver and Seattle and passenger rail and marine operations in Alaska as well as meet and greet and ground transportation contracts and staff worldwide, travel was part of the job. As a result of that a lot of the family responsibilities were shouldered by my high school and college girlfriend Karen Kenealy (Beagle) who became my wife in 1976. With two boys, she had her hands full as I travelled about 1/3 of the time.

Due to a change in leadership, I retired from Holland America in 2009, started consulting and later started a sightseeing company (Gray Line Oregon) in Portland. The consulting ended up in an executive job offer in Florida which we pursued in 2012. Post that 5-year commitment we travel between Florida and Portland round trip each year in our motorhome to help run the business which has grown to 9 coaches, 12 trolleys and 3 minibuses. The motorhome has been across the US sixteen times (+1 by the time of the reunion). Hope to see you all at the reunion and hear your stories from the last 50 years!

Karen Kenealy Beagle '75

Update on Karen Kenealy (married David Beagle)

Since I graduated with a Major in Education and Psychology in June 1975: I taught school at Seattle Christian School in Seattle for 6 years (K and Music) I was married to

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Alum David Beagle in Sept of 1976. I received 5th year in Special Education using the Orton Gillingham Slingerland multi -sensory approach to reading, writing, and language. I am the mother of 2 sons, Ryan David Beagle and Robert Eldon Beagle, both of whom are married. Ryan has 4 children and Robert has 3 children. I was a substitute teacher in public schools and at Hamlin Robinson School, a school for students who benefited from a multi-sensory approach to learning. We were active members for 35 years at Lakeview Free Methodist Church in Lakeview, Seattle. I was involved in Sunday School, Churchwide Missions, choir, and Women's ministry. We are involved with our Clermont Living Hope Global Methodist Church. My hobbies are reading, gardening. I am an avid researcher in family history and genealogy. We enjoy travel in the US and living part-time in our 40-foot RV (apartment on wheels) I host a monthly online SIG for Irish Genealogy at PastfindersofSLCountyFL.org through the Cooper Memorial Library of Clermont, FL. We have done extensive travelling around the world with Holland America cruises. (Dave was employed there for over 34 years) We have enjoyed camping with family and friends over the years.

Dan Bolin '75

My wife, Cay, and I live in Culpeper, VA. We moved to this area seven years ago to be near our daughter, son-in-law, and delightful grandchildren - now 8 and 5.5. I retired, seven years ago, from my role as CEO of Christian Camping International. I was blessed with the privilege of serving Christian camping leaders in over 40 countries. In retirement I started a small non-profit, Refueling in Flight. The imagery is of off-loading what's in my tank to the next generation. I do that through writing, teaching, and connecting.

Hope you have a wonderful reunion. Sorry I cannot join you.

Dan Bolin

Dennis Carlson '75

After SPU '75 - Dennis K Carlson

... A year and a half later, I had a chance to attend URBANA'76 where I reconnected with some influences from SPU days, including Bible Teacher, John Stott and InterVarsity's Triennial Student Missions Conference. There I met Peter Deyneka (& wife, Anita also an SPU grad) of Slavic Gospel Association. Within three months, I was working at their Wheaton, IL headquarters ahead of the first of four summers of service in Eastern Europe...which led me to four years of MDiv seminary studies... two full years of living and working with the church in Hungary as a student during the Iron Curtain era. I eventually returned to the States to serve as a pastor in a hundred year-old church in Kansas City, MO...during which time I met my soon-to-be wife, Mary Lynn, her father, Gordon Christensen also having attended SPC in the mid-1940s. As 'late bloomers,' I was 35 and she was 30 y/o when we married. Her parents spent 40 years as

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missionaries in Africa (search Amazon for their life story, “Fire in Their Bones”). As such, instead of returning to Hungary for me, we headed for Brussels, Belgium for French studies before traveling on to Zaire (now D.R. Congo) serving in pastoral training, leadership development and church planting. Both of our kids, Timothy (SPU 2013) and Kristin were born there.

Following two evacuations prompted by civil war and unrest, we eventually re-deployed to Oaxaca, Mexico training rural lay-pastors. To 15 years of overseas missionary service was added 20+ years of pastoral ministries in Evangelical Covenant Churches in OR, MO, MN and MI. Following ‘official’ retirement in 2020 after 13 years at Faith Covenant Church Farmington Hills, MI—my/our longest single tenure in ministry—we have settled in Denton, TX near our daughter, Kristin & Scott. Together with Mary Lynn, we are active in local ministries—both church and community—and on a national level I serve on the Evangelical Covenant Church’s Board of Ordered Ministry and with the ECC’s Crescendo ministries for lifelong purposeful Kingdom living for Boomers and Beyond. My greatest passion is Biking for Congo, a ministry that my brother and I developed 10 years ago to raise funds –roughly \$100,000 over that period of time – for our church’s medical work in the Ubangi region of D.R. Congo, Africa <https://www.paulcarlson.org/>

So THANK YOU President David McKenna for your leadership in my years, now realizing you were a rather youthful college president in your early 40s at that time, knowing you are still amazingly bright and active well into your 90s now! Though I have never made it back for a Class Reunion—virtually, always living at least two time zones, if not an ocean, away, I am deeply grateful for my years at SPU and the formative impact they have had in leading me into vocational Christian service, both in overseas missions and in stateside pastoral ministry and a life of significance and service. Thanks be to God! And greetings to friends and colleagues of the Class of ’75! Oh yes, and while my nickname, Odie Futz, was ‘all the rage’ through the latter years of high school, college at SPU, four summers of Christian camp counseling and even clear through seminary it did not really go with me into missions and pastoral service. But when I run into folks from that era, they often ask, “Does anyone ever still call you, Odie?” I say, “Yes! Every day! My wife!” She was first told by a missionary colleague of hers that she should look up his friend, Odie Futz! The name almost ended our relationship before it ever had begun! But we connected and are closing in on 37 years of marriage, ‘late bloomers’ such as we are!

Florence White Gustafson ’75

My husband Keith and I were missionaries with the Evangelical Covenant Church, to the Democratic Republic of Congo (formerly Zaire) starting in 1984 and ending in 2007 for me and 2019 for Keith. (Keith went back and forth to Congo 4-5 times a year in those last years.) We are both grateful to God for the time we had in Congo where God taught both of us many things. I say God sent me to Congo to teach ME about faith.

In 2008 I took a nursing refresher course, as I did not practice nursing in Congo (I was busy with our 3 sons). I then was a hospice nurse until 2020 (stayed a year longer than I wanted to as I wanted to see our agency staff--Providence Hospice and Home Care of

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Snohomish County--get our first union contract that I and 8 others bargained for for 4 years.) I loved hospice nursing and learned so much! My husband and I are both retired now and in 2027, when we turn 75, we plan to move to a Covenant Living Retirement community in either Minneapolis or near Chicago, to be close to one of our sons.

Don Horrell '75

Don Horrell is serving as the Converge Northwest Chaplain ministering to pastors and others in the Seattle area and the Pacific northwest. He served as a pastor in churches in Michigan, Wisconsin and most recently at Haller Lake Baptist Church, Seattle. He and his wife Gloria have been married 44 years. They have three grown children and four grandchildren all living nearby. Don and Gloria have lived in Shoreline WA for the past 24 years.

Joseph Losacco '75

After working in Gwinn Commons, I continued working in Food Service for the rest of my career. Employed by well-known restaurants, 13 Coins, Duke's, The Keg Steakhouse, to name a few. Then with starting a family, looked for more work-life balance to use my skills and discovered could do the same thing in retirement homes. So got certified as a Dietary Manager and worked in Senior Living Services until I retired in 2019. Now every December I become Santa Claus for Nordstroms much to the delight of my grandchildren.

- Joe Losacco

Connie Hathaway May '75

It's hard to believe it's been 50 years!! I completed 42 years in public education, most of that time at Sweet Home School District in Oregon. I taught most of the elementary grades and Title 1.

I finished my career as Title 1 coordinator and a mentor to other teachers K-12. I still do occasional substitute teaching. My husband, Darrell, and I are very active in the Sweet Home Evangelical Church. Darrell, a lay leader and a trustee, always has a project underway. I lead bible studies and am on several committees. We also manage forested acres and find time to travel south each winter for a short time.

- Connie (Hathaway) May, Class of 1975

Sylvia Berg Oines '75 has been the organist for Bethany Presbyterian Church in Seattle since 2000. Augsburg Fortress Publishers has released three volumes of her music, including *Hymns of Joy and Grace, piano arrangements for the church year* (volume 3, 2024), and volumes 1 and 2 of the same series, featuring hymns and spirituals for the Advent/Christmas and Lent/Easter seasons, were published in 2022. Described by the publisher as “easily learned, engaging and artfully crafted,” the collections are available online from Augsburg Fortress. Sylvia also published an SATB Choral piece “Ride on King Jesus,” written for the Bethany Presbyterian church choir. Sylvia and her husband, Thomas Oines '75, have three sons, Nathan Oines '03, Luke, and Philip. She and her husband live in Brier, Wash.

Dawn Seymour '75

I'm living in Olympia. I'm a retired pediatric social worker.

I have one daughter, a senior city planner.

I'm recently widowed and am doing well in the coping process.

I've started square dance lessons, having made clear that I don't do petticoats or country music. So far so good, except I have to know my right from my left.

I'm a dedicated Seattle Storm/ WNBA fan.

- Dawn Seymour

Bob Sloat '75

Life Update from Bob Sloat

These are some of the more significant steps of my last 50 years:

- After dating for 47 months, finally having the good sense to ask Susan Fischer to marry me.
- Going through Harvard Law School, with prior ASSPC president Stephan Coonrod (who took a gap year).
- Raising three incredible children, who are raising six grandchildren.
- Managing a 10-lawyer firm for a few years before going out on my own in the mid-'80s.
- Leading small group Bible studies with Sue for 50 years.
- Living a few doors from Kevin Costner early in his career.
- Singing for more than 40 years in a 100-voice church choir, leading the tenor section, with a summer 1989 concert tour through central and eastern Europe (in Poland two weeks before communists relinquished power, through Checkpoint Charlie to East Berlin concert, in still-communist Hungary) and a 2011 concert tour across Argentina, both echoing the 1972 Seattle Pacific choir tour to east Asia.

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- Forming a company in the late '80s to produce secular movies with moral messages, managing to complete and release one feature film (which was not widely seen or financially successful).
 - Weighing in on the culture wars as an attorney representing Focus on the Family and others by reviewing and revising amicus briefs on appellate cases.
 - Three decades working on the Tournament of Roses Parade.
 - Serving as an elder of our large church during four of its most challenging years (contentious senior pastor transition, COVID, political and cultural turmoil), including leading the complete overhaul of our polity and preparing a 19-point confession signed by all the elders in response to justice issues.
 - Singing in an ensemble on stage with Barbra Streisand for two Hollywood Bowl concerts.
 - Hosting weekly movie screenings in our home—so far 705 films and 548 different guests.
 - Taking 52 cruises with Sue (and counting) as far away as Australia, Norway, Istanbul, and Antarctica.
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Susan Fischer Sloat '75

Life has never been dull! But God has been good. Like many other education majors in my class, I did not find one of those scarce teaching jobs after graduation, but went back to my home town of Longview, Washington, to be a teachers' aide. A couple months AFTER graduation Bob Sloat finally asked me to marry him. And so we married after Bob's first year of law school. Then, surviving tough winters in Massachusetts, I worked at the Harvard Business School in the admissions and then alumni departments. Bob chose a legal position offer in Los Angeles and we moved to Pasadena in the summer of 1978.

We were privileged to raise three children who are all now nicely grown and married. I used my education training to help in our kids' classrooms, homeschooled for a couple of years, and then became an elementary school librarian in the Pasadena School District. A very fun job! All along the way I was always doing various arts and crafts, teaching others and selling my current projects.

I retired from being a librarian when my daughter had twins (good excuse!) and did a lot of child care so that she could be a teacher. Continuing my crafting, I started a couple of Etsy shops. For one shop I made clothing with designs especially for fraternal twins. After that came a shop selling my scarves, shawls, and kitchen towels woven on a rigid heddle loom. And that continues to be my current addiction. I'm having fun collecting yarns from around the world as Bob and I travel!

You can check out Robert Sloat's information for more of our church, travel, and social life activities! I tend to follow him around.

Deborah Peters Smith '75

Deborah Peters Smith (Debbie Peters) and husband Scott Smith were Baptist missionaries in East Asia for 35 years with roles in church planting, language learning coaching, pastoring and pastor mentoring. We returned to the US in 2020 and settled in Lacey, WA, now closer to Debbie's mother and able to visit our two daughters periodically. We are part of a Chinese church here, with Scott preaching regularly and both of us participating in church and community music groups, and Bible studies.

Tim Taylor '75

Retired LEO, multiple commendations for saving lives including Hero K-9 award, solving cases, unit leadership, and community service; K-9 team of the year; Medal of Valor. Retired Scoutmaster, multiple Awards of Merit, including a Heroism Award for saving the life of an injured rider in the backcountry. (several of the boys were likewise recognized) Retired EMS. Retired Program Manager/Research Coordinator/Intern Supervisor at Washington State University. MaRae (class of 1973) and I celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary in Dec. of 2023. 4 children, 9 grandchildren and 1 great grandchild. We continue to be active in various capacities at our church.

-Tim Taylor

Carol Thompson '75

I graduated in 1975 with a degree in Elementary Music Education. I taught K-5 music in Camas, WA for three years, then after getting my Masters degree in Elementary Education, I decided to become a 3rd grade classroom teacher. In 1980 I married Gary Thompson, and moved to Aloha, OR where I taught 4th grade for two years. I chose to quit teaching and stay home to be a full-time mom as soon as we started our family. We moved to Redland, a rural area just outside of Oregon City, OR in 1990. We had two girls, and when they were both in school, I started teaching 1st grade at Damascus Christian School, where they attended. I decided to retire from teaching first graders after we became grandparents, 25 years later.

My husband and I still live on our small acreage in Redland, where Gary grows Christmas trees. We attend Good Shepherd Community Church in Boring, and teach the 4 year old Sunday School class every other week. We also enjoy being involved in Bible Study groups there. Up until a few years ago, I enjoyed playing my saxophone on the worship team at the various churches we have attended over the years.

We have 4 grandchildren, Joy (8), Ella (5), Brady (8), and Brooks (5). They are our pride and joy, and biggest blessings.

- Carol Thompson

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