

Once and Again

BY BILL GLOVIN, BA '77

Even with a reservation, there's a long wait for a table on a Saturday night at the Old Ebbitt Grill. It's not a problem for 15 GW alumni hoop fanatics. We've just come from the Smith Center, where our men's basketball team won a close game against a good St. Bonaventure team.

Now, we're gathered around a TV at the bar, watching the University of Maryland choke away a 10-point lead against Duke in the final minute. Earlier, in our hotel room, we watched Notre Dame beat Georgetown at the MCI Center.

All things considered, this is measuring up as a perfect day for a Colonials fan.

The hostess finally gives us the nod and escorts us to two separate tables. We politely ask to rearrange things and, in a matter of minutes, are all sitting around one elongated table. After all, dinner together is an integral part of our annual weekend for friends from Metro DC and Chicago, New York, and Atlanta. It wouldn't be the same sitting apart.

Most of us first met as Thurston and Mitchell Hall sophomores in the mid-1970s. I'm an exception, having transferred to GW as a junior.

My connection to this crew began one afternoon after my favorite course: an elective, no-credit basketball class. Two classmates, Mark Bleiweis and Mark Warner, invited me to their G Street flop house for a beer. The decor of the three-story former frat house—home to about 14 GW students—was beat up sofas, chipped paneling, and dim lighting. Bands such as Steely Dan, the Allman Brothers, and Little Feat blared from small rooms down long hallways. An open door was an invitation to hang out.

The two Marks were roommates, and I met several of their housemates that day. I soon began bumping into them during pick-up games at the Tin Tabernacle. The bubble-like Tabernacle, demolished when the law library construction began, was a shrine for hoop aficionados. Its center circle now hangs mostly unnoticed at the Smith Center.

A GW-Wake Forest game opened the Smith Center in mid-season, 1976. Before

that, we traveled to home games at Fort Myers in Arlington, Va. Forget the NBA; our heroes were a pair of slick Colonial guards, Pat Tallent and John Holloran, a year apart and future members of the GW Sports Hall of Fame. As seniors, Tallent and Holloran led us to road wins over Georgetown and Maryland, feats of legendary proportions.



This reunion photo was taken by Ron Howard, former director of the GW alumni admissions program who passed away from cancer a year ago. Ron never missed the group's Saturday night dinner. From left: Asa Strong, BA '77, Paul Heimer, Mark Bleiweis, BBA '77, Dan Uslander, BA '77, Paul Giancola, BA '76, Bill Glovin, Dick Morris, BA '77, Mark Warner, BA '77, and Keith Frederick.

After graduation, we mainly kept in touch by phone and sometimes saw one another at weddings or on business trips. One summer in the mid-1980s, someone got the idea to rent a beach house for a week at Bethany Beach, Del. Most of us made the reunion with our fiancées or wives.

Our desire to experience a winning Colonials team again, helped in large part by the hiring of Mike Jarvis as coach, sparked another reunion in 1993. To maximize our time and fun together, and to simplify the arrangements, just the guys made the pilgrimage. It recap-

tured so many memories—and made so many new ones—that eight more weekends have followed.

After a late Friday dinner, we stay up all hours catching up and making fun of one another's widening bald spots and expanding waistlines. Saturdays begin with stale donuts and coffee at the continental breakfast, followed by our own oxygen-challenged, full-court game at some local school gym or health spa. The game will probably continue until one of us has a heart attack.

Careers, wives, and families are always major topics of conversation. We run the gamut from potential gubernatorial candidate to a portrait artist I'll never afford to commission. We've all been married at least

once; almost everyone has two or more kids. We're still known by our college nicknames: Stork, Pooks, Uly, Mr. Happy, Bli, Warny, Arno, Hulks. The list goes on and on. Every year we speculate on the whereabouts of Shifty, aka Marc Schiffman, BA'77, who disappeared from our radar screen when he began teaching English on U.S. military bases in the Far East.

Every year we recycle the same stories; rarely is a new one told. It goes without saying that we dearly miss GW. Our years there offered us something that we don't have enough of anymore: time for new, spontaneous adventures with individuals destined to become lifelong friends. For a long time now, we've known that college fosters the kind of camaraderie that is almost impossible to replicate as 30- and 40-somethings. One remarkable aspect of the weekend is that our friendship allows us to instantly share confidences, just as we did 25 years ago.

Just before our inevitable parting this year, Asa Strong seemed uncharacteristically glum as five of us settled in for Sunday brunch.

"What's the matter, Asa?" asked Brad Stevens.

I'm certain Asa meant no offense to his family or his commodities broker buddies in Chicago when he admitted: "I'm upset because I know that I'm not going to have this much fun again until next year."

—Bill Glovin, aka Gloveman,
is the senior editor of Rutgers Magazine.

The 64th Annual Distinguished Alumni Achievement Awards

The GW Alumni Association created the Distinguished Alumni Achievement Awards in 1937 to recognize individuals who have excelled in their professional and personal lives. This year's awards were presented at Monumental Celebration at Union Station on Commencement eve, May 18, 2001. The honorees were also recognized during GW's Commencement ceremony on the Ellipse the following day. This year's recipients are:

Frederick L. Brown SPHHS, MBA '66

Frederick Brown's career in healthcare spans nearly four decades. From 1993 to 1998, Brown served as the principal architect and founding president and chief executive of the Barnes Jewish Christian Health System (BJC) in St. Louis. He continued his service to BJC as vice chairman until December 2000. Under Brown's leadership, BJC received national recognition and won several awards for its work in creating healthcare delivery and financing systems featuring a unique mix of community and academic services. Brown has served as senior adviser to numerous nonprofit and civic organizations, and was a member of President Clinton's Senior Advisors Council on Y2K. He has received numerous awards for his commitment



Frederick L. Brown

to improving the health of communities and individuals from organizations such as the American Academy of Medical Administrators, the American College of Healthcare Executives, and B'nai B'rith. Brown was the first GW alumnus to serve as chairman of the American Hospital Association.

Dee J. Kelly GW Law, LLB '54

Dee Kelly, Esq. is senior and founding partner of the Kelly, Hart & Hallman law firm in Fort Worth, Texas. His clients include the Bass family, former Bass financial adviser Richard Rainwater, Disney's Michael Eisner and John

Justin of Justin Industries. In addition, his firm has represented major organizations such as American Airlines, Pier One



Dee J. Kelly

Imports, AMR Corporation, the Dallas Cowboys, the City of Fort Worth and Dallas-Fort Worth Airport. Mr. Kelly attended evening classes at the GW Law School while working for former House Speaker Sam Rayburn. The *Dallas Morning News* recently described him as "possibly the hardest working, best connected, toughest litigator any night school ever produced." Kelly has served on the boards of numerous corporate and civic organizations and has received several awards of distinction, including Fort Worth's Outstanding Business Executive award and the Horatio Alger Award. In 1997, Kelly was named one of the 50 most influential Texans by *Texas Business* magazine.

Virginia R. Kirkbride GSEHD, EdD '59

Dr. Virginia Kirkbride was a professor and administrator at The George Washington University for nearly 50 years, including a term as Dean of Women from 1962 to 1967. She is a member of GW's Society of the Emeriti and a professor emerita of educational psychology. Kirkbride is currently volunteering her expertise as a counseling psychologist to the National Presbyterian Church Counseling Center, which offers professional counseling to local communities. She is also an

ordained elder of the church and has served on the Personnel Committee and Committee for Preparation for Ministry.

Kirkbride's writings have been published in several professional journals, and she has been a member of numerous professional and civic organizations including the American Psychological Association, American College Personnel Association, and the National Association of Women Deans, Administrators and



Virginia R. Kirkbride

Counselors. She has received several awards, including Who's Who of American Women and the National Association of Women Deans, Administrators and Counselors' Service Award.

Joseph W. Prueher ESIA, MS '73

Ambassador Joseph Prueher was sworn in as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the People's Republic of China in November 1999. As chief of the United States mission in China, he is responsible for directing, coordinating, and supervising the activities of the United States executive branch in that nation, including the recent incident involving a downed U.S. military aircraft. Prior to assuming his duties in China, Ambassador Prueher served as a senior adviser to the Stanford-Harvard Preventive Defense Program and as a senior fellow at the Center for Naval Analysis. Ambassador Prueher is a retired admiral from the U.S. Navy, with 35 years of service. He

served in numerous positions within the Navy, including Commander in Chief of the U.S. Pacific Command, Commandant of Midshipmen at the U.S. Naval Academy, and Commander of



Joseph W. Prueher

Carrier Battle Group One. In addition, Ambassador Prueher has 24 years of experience as a carrier-based naval aviator. He has received numerous awards for his military service and has written several articles on leadership, military readiness, and Pacific region security issues.

Ronald J. Zlatoper SBPM, MSA '70

Admiral Ronald J. Zlatoper assumed his current position as the 22nd Trustee of The Estate of James Campbell after successful careers in both the technology industry and the U.S. Navy. Admiral Zlatoper served as co-chairman and chief executive of Sanchez Computer Associates, Inc., from 1997 to 2000, where he oversaw the company's growth into a \$1 billion corporation. Admiral Zlatoper retired from the U.S. Navy after more than 30 years of service in several positions, including Commander in Chief of the U.S. Pacific Fleet, Chief of Naval Personnel, Battle Group Commander during Operations Desert Storm and Desert Shield, Military Assistant to the Secretary of Defense, and Chief



Ronald J. Zlatoper

of Staff of the U.S. 7th Fleet. Admiral Zlatoper's community involvement includes service to such organizations as the Boy Scouts of America, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, and the American Red Cross. He often lectures on leadership, management, and military matters at universities around the world.