

Going Home

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Who says you can't go home again? Four of us did when we returned to Lafayette to celebrate the 40th anniversary of our championship season on the General Electric College Bowl, a nationally televised competition in which we represented Lafayette in 1962. We won five times (beating academic powerhouse Berkeley for our ultimate victory), retired undefeated, and enjoyed a brief moment of celebrity a long time ago.

On April 2, we toured the campus and saw the many improvements, physical, social, and educational, that have come since we left. Yet, we still could remember the campus of the early sixties, our teachers, classmates, and experiences. Our College Bowl coach, the late English department head **William W. Watt**, loomed large in our memories.

What an exercise in continuity and change! We met with the current president and provost and several members of the faculty. A highlight was dinner hosted by former President and Mrs. **Roald Bergethon**, who led the institution during our years there and who did so much to

change the college and make it what it has become.

We each had the opportunity to give a lecture in our field of expertise to students: **Steve Friedman '64** in medicine and HMO management, **Bob Jones '63** in Russian history, **Barry Wellman '63** in sociology of the Internet, and **Robin Wolfe '64** in corporate litigation law.

For the four of us, the greatest fun was playing an actual college bowl game against current undergraduates. We had some anxiety: Had we slowed down in the past 40 years? What was the Treaty of Ghent about? And when was it?

Before the show, we reminded ourselves of some tricks of the 1960s: our favorite was to answer questions before the moderator had finished asking them. Not only did this beat the other team to the buzzer, it might intimidate them a bit. Just before show time, we gathered privately in a huddle and psyched ourselves up.

The current undergraduate Mock Trial Team were our opponents. The contest used real college bowl questions, scoring, timing, and all the rest. We went in with the in-

attention not to embarrass ourselves. We may be wiser now but quick and sharp is another matter. At half-time we were slightly behind. Jones pointed out that the situation was identical to our last televised performance against Berkeley, and Friedman declared, "If they are going to keep score, we're going to win."

And we did, 320-150. It felt like being 20 years old again. The veterans could still do it! Life experience had its compensations for the passage of time. Wellman had lectured at Xerox PARC, the focus of one question. Jones had seen *Don Giovanni* recently.

Coming down from a momentary high, we congratulated the students on the other team. They are smart and getting a great education on which to build their own life experiences.

We are extremely grateful to the people at Lafayette who made this wonderful trip possible, especially Dean of Studies **Gladstone (Fluney) Hutchinson** and his staff.

Who says you can't go home again? We did. And had a ball.

Barry Wellman '63
Bob Jones '63