Ten Reasons to Attend Your College Reunion
From Yahoo Contributor, Nora Beane, 2008

There are at least ten reasons to attend your college reunion but often people immediately put up a wall when they get their reunion notice and never consider the positive side of showing up. I know because I have long fought the good fight against returning to the scene of my college days and meeting up with the folks who knew me when. I found it easy to think of lots of reasons to stay home: my spouse would hate it, it would take up a whole weekend, it was too expensive, my son was graduating from high school, my daughter was getting married. Oh it’s easy to come up with excuses to stay home. But once you go to just one reunion you discover that there are at least ten reasons to attend your college reunion.

1. **Re-connecting with old friends.** You may be lucky enough to still be in touch with a few friends from college. Maybe you get together a few times each year to keep up the relationship. But even if you do see a few folks, there are hundreds, maybe thousands of classmates that you haven’t seen since the day you got your diploma or at least since the last reunion 5 years ago. While there may be some chance meeting in your future, the truth is, if you don’t see these classmates at a reunion the chance that you will ever see them or hear about how their lives have turned out is pretty remote. Sure there are plenty of people at reunions that you could care less about seeing, but if you really think about it there are quite a few who you would like to catch up with. Of course the other part of that equation is that there really will be people there looking for you. To me that was the biggest surprise of my college reunion. It really is nice to discover that there are people who still care about you from back in the day.

2. **Immersion in the Past.** Even if you only meet a few old buddies, going back to your old campus, checking out where you used to room, eat, play ball, attend classes, hang out, even study will take you back in your mind to those very special and all too brief years of college life when everything was possible. With a little imagination you can almost taste the old meals, hear the campus sounds and visualize how the campus used to look. Taking a trip into the past via attendance at a college reunion can be a wonderfully relaxing trip for your mind. When you have to return to the present, it will be with a firmer grasp on the treasure that is your past.

3. **Taking a Look at Today’s University.** One thing that always is amazing when you return to your old college is the incredible development that has taken place. Oh there will be a lot that you remember, but you are bound to be impressed by what has happened at your Alma Mater since you left its hallowed halls. Whether it’s a new student union, science building, dorm or health and fitness center, you will be proud to see your college keeping up with the times. If you are a regular contributor to Alumni Funds, a reunion visit lets you see how your dollars are being spent.

4. **A Good Excuse to Travel.** While it’s true that a drawback to reunions can be the fact that your spouse or partner may end up bored silly but what we discovered is that going to a reunion can also be a great excuse for an extended trip. If you went to college at a location that is at a distance from where you now live, then going to your reunion can be a wonderful time to take a side trip. Better yet take a trip and make a brief appearance at your reunion. You can catch up on old times but you can also enjoy a nice trip with your special someone. My husband and I set out to go to a reunion in
5. A Chance to Meet Someone New. Depending on your age or your marital status you may find that going back to a college class reunion can turn out to be a wonderful way to safely meet and socialize with classmates who may also be out there looking to safely meet and socialize with someone too. It's not impossible to meet and continue seeing a classmate at a reunion that you never had the chance to get to know during your 4 years of college. There really is romance to be had at college reunions, no promises, but it can happen.

6. Get Out of Your Rut. After 10, 20 or more years, the new life you have been living since graduating from college can have some definite "rut" aspects to it. It can be a nice treat to shake things up a little bit and take the plunge. Mixing with people who you haven't seen in at least five years and won't see again probably for another 5 years can be like drinking a whole new beverage, a real kick. It can give you a new slant on life and move you dramatically out of that little rut you have made for yourself.

7. You Might Learn Something, Again. For many college grads, college really was the place where learning became important. Going back to college for your reunion can be a chance to do some learning once again. Lots of college reunions provide activities besides the meet and greet dinners and picnics. You may find that your school is offering an art exhibit, a concert, some panel discussions or even tours of the city you left behind. There is more learning waiting for you in a place where you might most expect it, your old college stomping grounds.

8. Another Networking Nook. If you are looking to expand your present business, change jobs or relocate you may find that attending your college reunion gives you a chance to do some effective networking. It is likely that you will find other graduates with whom you spent your college days now gainfully employed in fields related to yours. You may find time during a campus tour, barbecue or cocktail hour to talk a little business or make arrangements to get together or meet on line to talk about the your business or career options.

9. Making a Good Impression. It isn't likely to be the largest driving force to get you to go to your college reunion but you will find that after you make that decisions you like the options it gives you for impressing other people. Starting with your spouse and family, people will find it interesting that you have an ongoing college connection and they may look at you slightly differently and perhaps with a little more respect simply because you are demonstrating continued loyalty to your Alma Mater.

10. It's On Your List. The further away we grow from the year of our graduation it seems the more likely we are to produce lists of things we want to accomplish in a given year. After missing none of my high school reunions and several of my college reunions, getting to my college reunion made its way onto my own to do list. Going to your college reunion allows you a certain sense of accomplishment. You might not have lost the 20 pounds you had as a goal and you may still
be driving the same old car but you can check off going to your college reunion and that, if nothing else is an achievement for this year.