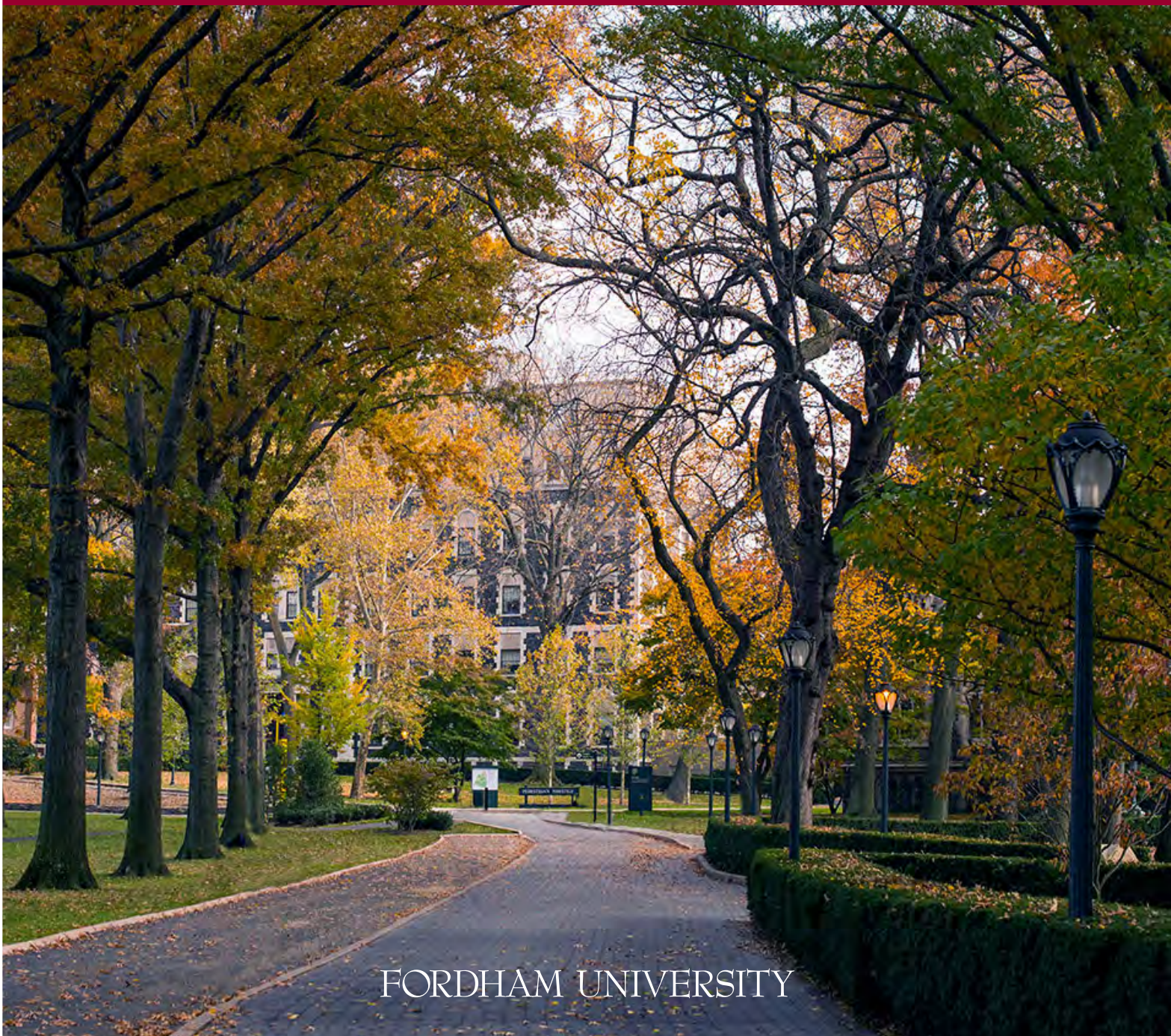


# *A Look Back*

HOSTED BY THE CLASS OF 1963



FORDHAM UNIVERSITY



**FORDHAM UNIVERSITY CLASS OF 1963  
55TH REUNION JUBILEE**

PLANNING, COORDINATION AND OUTREACH  
ELMER BRUNSMAN

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**GABELLI SCHOOL OF BUSINESS**

ROBERT RUOTOLO

CLASS SURVEY AND COMMEMORATIVE  
BOOKLET DESIGN

ELMER BRUNSMAN

“A LOOK BACK”

PRESENTER: PAUL SAUNDERS

MODERATOR: ELMER BRUNSMAN

# The Transition Generation

THE TRANSITION GENERATION, CLASSES THAT ENTERED COLLEGE IN 1959 AND THE EARLY '60S, GRADUATING IN 1963–1968, ARE NOW “GOLDEN RAMS.”

Here's how we were then and how we are now.

The mid-1960s graduating classes now celebrating their 50th anniversaries are the transition generation linking the United States—culture, politics, technology, communications, religion, social justice—as it was before to what it has become. What a remarkable time in history we have lived through! We are a lucky generation, the college generation starting with the 1959 high school class that graduated college in 1963. We didn't realize or appreciate it at the time—with neither the limitations of our forebears nor the coming challenges for our descendants—but open horizons, some of our own making, were before us. We are a generation that was earthbound in our teens and entered outer space and landed on the moon in our 20s! Serendipitously, our college years corresponded with the papacy of John XXXIII, who was described as a transition pope.

We graduated out of the '50s into the new era inaugurated by the '60s. We were the early World War II babies, ahead of the baby boomers. Our spirits soared with our generation's music—rock 'n' roll. We went to college in greater numbers than those before us. We were tested by induction into, enlisting in, or resisting a war that helped define our generation—Vietnam. An alternative, John Kennedy's Peace Corps, recruited representative numbers of us. We came of age with the events and experiences of the happy days of the '50s and moved on to the cultural-political confrontations of the '60s and beyond. We attended Fordham at a height of academic and extracurricular achievement. FCRH '61 and '62 produced Fordham's two Rhodes Scholars. Fordham was admitted to Phi Beta Kappa. Our FCRH '63 class's plethora of scholarships to postgraduate study included Fulbright, Danforth, Marshall, and Root-Tilden. Future NBA coach John Bach led the basketball team to the NIT with star Bob Melvin, one of Fordham's first African-American players. Before Bob were three others, including John Coalman, FCRH '61, who had been the Hoosier state's "Mr. Basketball." The track team experienced a golden age of victories by Frank Tomeo and others. Rugby was instituted. Football returned to Fordham as a result of FCRH '62, '63, and '64's efforts.

The '62 *Fordham Ram* editors were sanctioned for the paper's campaign for the return of football. *The Ram's* editors endured a short-lived, administration-picked student committee of overseers—a censorship of the student press, a practice that's long gone. Material is now published in a humor paper on campus that before would have bought the editors and writers expulsion. Which accounted for the periodic underground appearance of *The Mar*—*The Ram* spelled backwards—with clandestine, mimeographed, anonymous criticism and satire. The humor magazine, *The Thorn*, and the literary



Campus Center



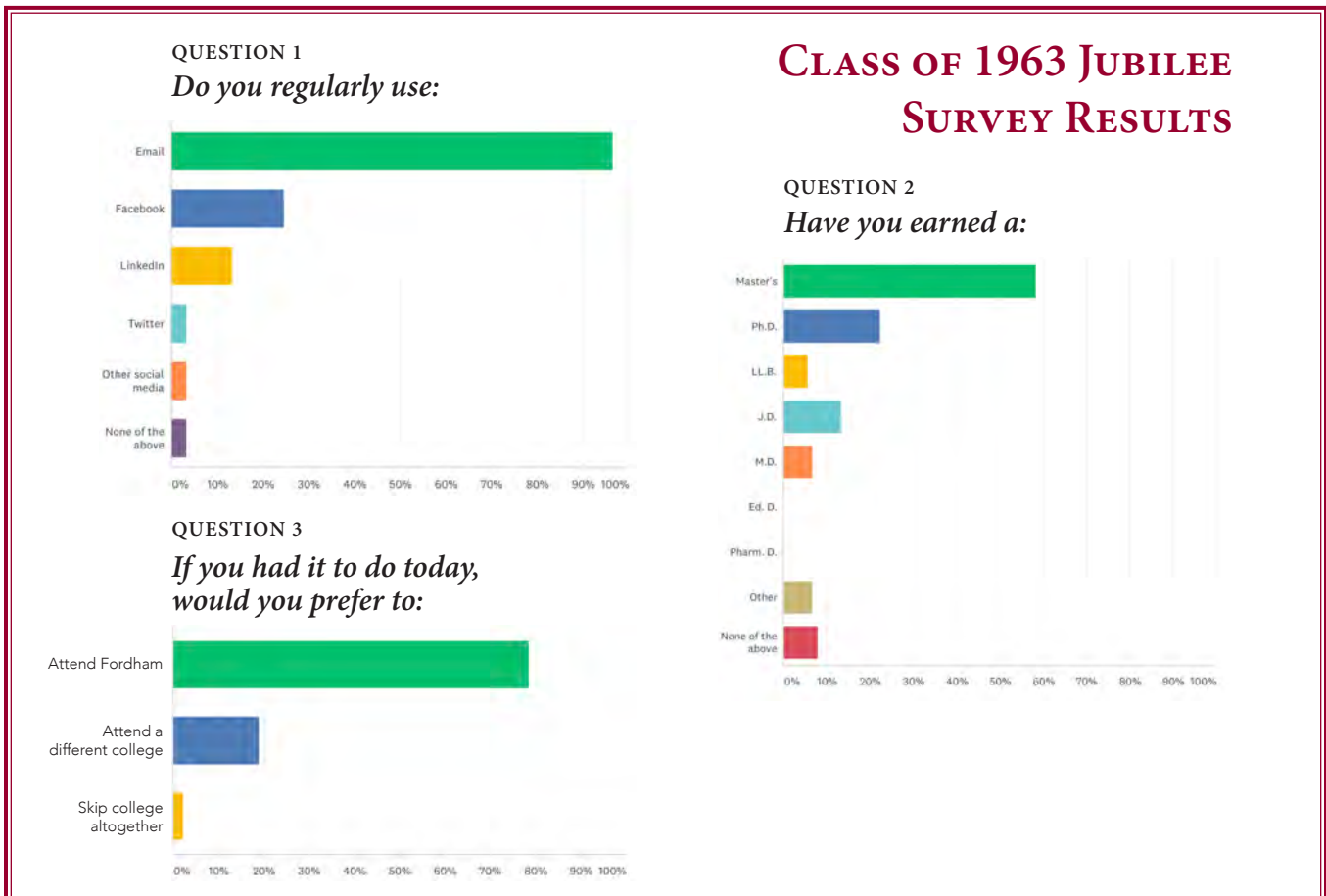
Martyr's Court, Upperclass Dorms.

magazine, *The Monthly*, are now extinct. There are now four new literary magazines—one, *The Cura*, focuses on the integration of the arts and social justice.

The parking area on Southern Boulevard, then mud, is now paved. There is a three-story parking garage where we had structures remaining from military use in World War II housing our student activities offices. The McGinley Center, opened in our sophomore year, still stands. The former Fordham Prep baseball field has a modern Fordham Prep building. The campus is refurbished with student housing creatively and discreetly located so that walking up the brick path from Fordham Road presents the same scenic sight as 50 and more years ago. The addition of the modern Walsh Library enhances the campus. We wore philosophy robes to class over a coat and tie; there were no women in FCRH, only a few in Business (now Gabelli) and Pharmacy. Then, FCRH required as many courses combined in Thomistic philosophy and theology as we took in our major, thus everyone double majored. Today, that's gone while a multitude of social justice outreach organizations and departments thrive on campus.

Fordham graduates of the '60s went on to be national and world leaders in every field—medicine, science, education, law, media, and business.

We may still enjoy the ritual of the morning newspaper and remember when there was also an afternoon one; now we get five-minute news updates on a miniature device carried in our pockets. We were the first television generation; it was black and white with a small screen compared to today's wall-covering HD TVs. We had cars of our own instead of being limited to the family car. Our Main Streets have been overtaken by malls and Walmarts. We, some of whom cooked on wood-burning stoves on the farms, now “nuke” dinner (and damage it nutritionally). We would never have guessed that the fundamental



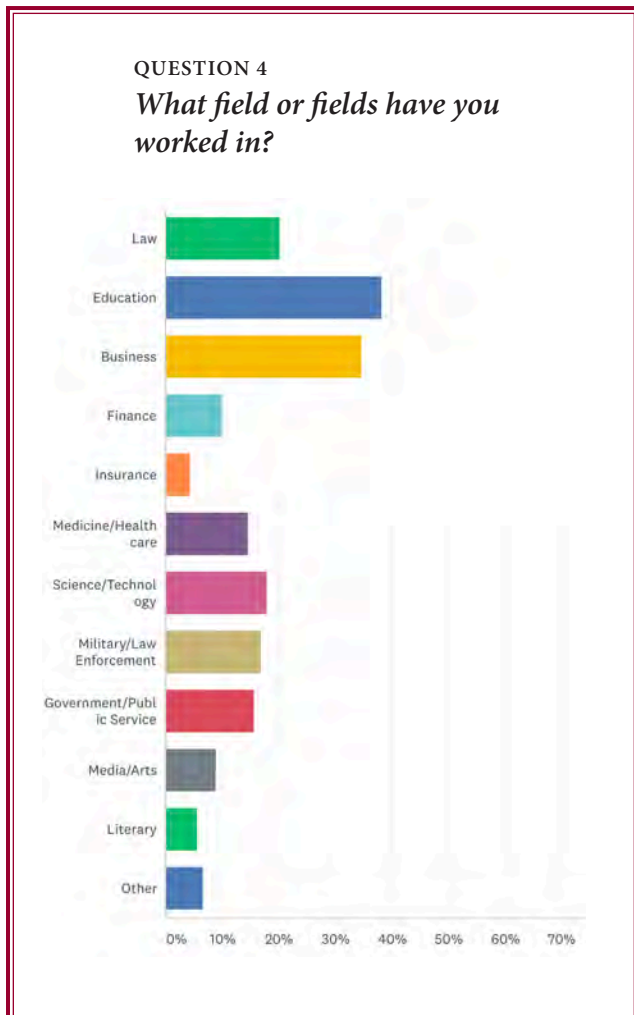


element of life—water—would be so damaged that we'd purchase it in plastic bottles. There's even less oxygen in the air today.

We've changed from viewing tattooing as the "expression of drunken sailors" to seeing such body art routinely on middle-class torsos. Before, suits and neckties were required attire; now people attend even Mass in shorts and T-shirts. Spoken English has degenerated beyond the ungrammatical use of double negatives to include rote expressions such as "I was, like," "basically," "kinda-sorta," "literally," or "at the end of the day" in every other sentence. There's arguably been a decline in education and in achievement versus other nations since 1959. Yet high school students take math and science courses we didn't have in college. And research that then took days in a library arrives in a millisecond on our personal computers.

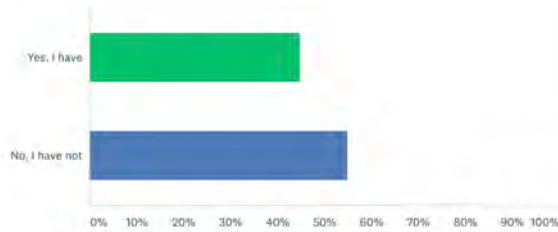


We inherited and bequeath a great country with enormous accomplishments which we contributed to, achieved through immense resources found here and acquired abroad, with the aid of military spending greater than all other countries combined, helped in turn by our Constitution, the concept of individualism, and the mythology of American exceptionalism. We are patriotic and proud of U.S. wealth, power, and individual benefits. We're beset by the effects of U.S. corporate food (it feeds a nation yet engenders diabetes, coronary issues, ADHD, and obesity); medical treatments (miraculous advances that usually address symptoms instead of causes); pharmaceuticals (with so many "side" effects); insurance (which controls healthcare while every other industrialized country has guaranteed universal care and spends far less with better health outcomes); endless litigation; prisons (with far more people incarcerated than any other country); and a military—national security—state that consumes 25 percent of the world's energy (while we are less than 5 percent of the world's population), has an estimated 750 to 1,000 overt and covert military presences and bases in other countries, and has participated in more than 50 invasions of countries to enforce U.S. goals since World War II, all despite President Eisenhower's parting warning about the military-industrial complex.



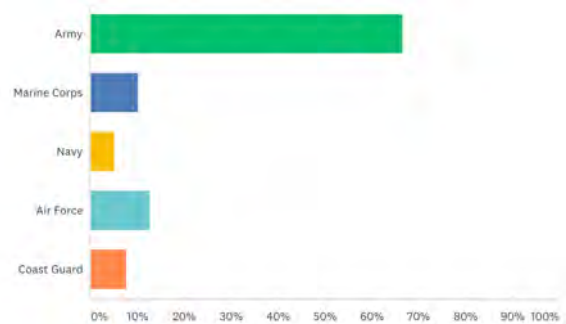
QUESTION 5

*Have you ever served in any branch of the United States military?*



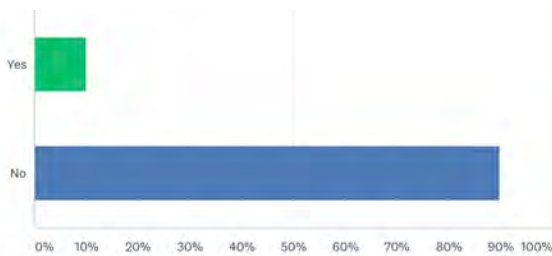
QUESTION 6

*In which branch (or branches) of the United States military have you served? (Check all that apply.)*



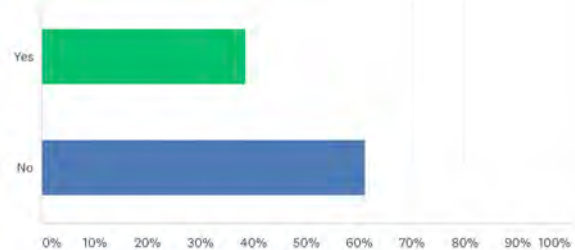
QUESTION 7

*Did you serve in the PeaceCorps or any other volunteer organizations?*



QUESTION 8

*Did you own your own business at any point?*



Conservatism, marginally influential before, is now prominent with the ascendance of the far right, heavily influencing opinion media and politics.

We lived on a relatively healthy planet and then created environmental crises that now threaten human existence. The Cold War was once our world’s zeitgeist. The Soviets, destined to fail, surrendered when the game of nuclear chicken overwhelmed them. We’ve thus far survived the threat of nuclear annihilation created by the prior generation only to now fear destruction at the hands of terrorists. We don’t see how terrorists—along with their egregious disregard for human life—have complex motivations, that terrorism in large part is a reaction to the world capitalist and military hegemony and occupations we variously support, ignore, or protest. To the extent that we don’t face our part in those or any problems, we don’t solve them. In that regard, wisdom came in the 1950s Pogo comic strip: “We have met the enemy and he is us.”

We were the generation with the most opportunity to make the most of our lives, to be whatever we chose, from career choices to religious choices. Women are corporation presidents while their forebears were limited to secretarial positions. Yet more progress is needed, as the current sexual harassment revelations show. We were not encumbered by our parents’ Depression-era culture nor our children’s growing economic crisis and national debt. While our parents paid cash or went without, we lived on credit. Now the national debt is immense. Our country’s disparity between the very rich and poor rivals any in history. In metrics of well-being in recent years we’ve fallen to 15th among all nations. Highlighting it all—emerging from segregated towns that confined black people to specific ghetto streets—we participated in electing a biracial president.

We are young enough to have led the computer revolution and communicate by email, while the generation ahead of us is largely unable to grasp computerized communication, and the generations behind us snicker at “snail mail”—we are among the last pen-on-stationery letter writers. Letters that took five days to arrive now take five seconds. We progressed to email but many of us eschew Facebook and Twitter, while others acquiesce to it being the only way to keep in touch with grandchildren! Those of us who didn’t have phones in our school buildings now have them in our pockets.

The generation preceding us saw still more change, and those succeeding us will face more consequences. No generation has been more fortunate than ours. The last high school class of the ’50s and the college classes of the ’60s reach a horizon, and we look forward.

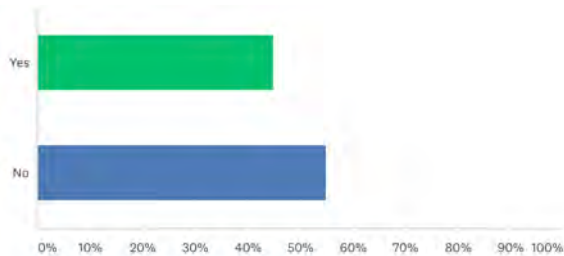
We celebrate the early ’60s in the 2000s!



**ELMER BRUNSMAN, FCRH '63**  
 Editor-in-Chief, *The Fordham Ram*  
 Fordham Club Member

**QUESTION 9**

*Did you change careers over the course of your working life?*



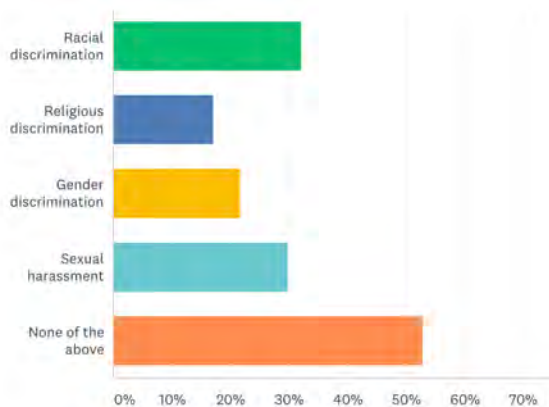
**QUESTION 10**

*What was your highest annual income?*



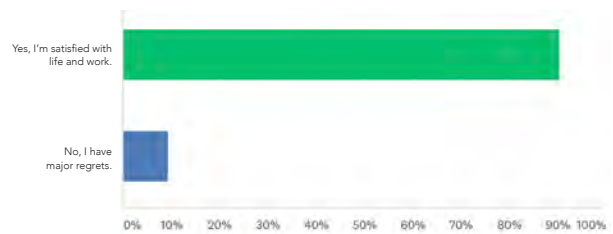
**QUESTION 11**

*In your work environment, were you ever aware of:*



**QUESTION 12**

*Are you satisfied with the path your life took?*



QUESTION 13

*Please share a significant achievement of which you are proud.*

CEO of savings bank that I took public

My wonderful family

Serving as town justice for 40 years

Raising four successful children

Enabled others to achieve their dreams

University awards for teaching excellence

Officer, USMC

Accepting my gay identity and marrying my partner after a 30-year relationship.

Entered amateur piano competition in U.S. and Paris and hold

13 educational licenses in NYC, including a principal's license

Director of the child and adolescent treatment unit at the Milwaukee Psychiatric Hospital

Following retirement, helped to found a Nativity-model middle school serving at-risk youth

Lost over 100 pounds; became a health coach; am teaching others how to become healthier and more fit

Got my pilot's license at 63; bought my plane at 73; flying all over the U.S.

Raising four children whose stable families are raising 10 grandkids

Two honorary degrees

Having been a Peace Corps volunteer

Having my own business, which I passed on to my son

Developing young talent during career  
Teaching high achievers as well as those with learning problems—both rewarding!  
It will be determined by others

Had a very successful three-year assignment in Hong Kong with the Federal Reserve as a consultant to the Hong Kong Monetary Authority

Voluntary teaching of ESOL

Ability to engage world business influencers

Two Presidential Citations and one Canadian Commendation

Retired as commander USN

Saved lives from fire of people I will never meet; also, my children and grandchildren

Three children and seven grandchildren

Being father to six great children who far surpass anything I did and remain close

At our eighth grade dances at Holy Name in Brooklyn, I always danced with the girls nobody else wanted to dance with; and I always walked one of them home

Being married over 50 years, with three happy sons

Made it to upper level of my profession

Married a wonderful teacher and raised two daughters in public service: an M.D. and a science teacher.

Rose through the ranks to excel in finance

I married the love of my life and had two awesome daughters

Married a wonderful woman and had three great children; I did a lot more—authorship of 16 books, 30–40 scholarly articles, had very successful academic career at a highly regarded university—but that all is dwarfed by my personal life



Leading operational branches (chemical) to obtaining quality certifications for customer business acceptance

I am fortunate to have raised a good family  
Tying my own shoes by myself

Worked on a drug which cured a specific, rare form of cancer

Successfully raising a family

At 76 I continue to work in the profession  
I always have been glad I chose

Saving lives of sick people

Decades later I got thank you notes from former students thanking me for the good I did for them

Induction into the Fordham Sports Hall of Fame

H.E. Lieutenant, KGCHS

Getting my pilot's license in my mid-50s

Parent of wonderful children

Captain in the USMC; Vietnam service

Being a husband and father

Accused President Nixon of a cover-up in a signed editorial in Dow-Jones's weekly paper *The National Observer* before the 1972 election; raised two daughters who are doctor and educator; wrote the first biography of Leo Szilard, who helped create and control nuclear weapons

Raising four children to include college education

Marriage and family (53 years, three kids, three grand kids); 22-year Air Force career, most as a clinical psychologist; private practice for 32 + years, currently quasi-retired

Convincing Fordham to admit me despite failing to meet admission standards

Getting sober

Wrote book on the films of Alfred Hitchcock

Recovered (repeatedly) from career setbacks and found new directions and rewards

Two presidential citations for computer security

Still alive

I married the most wonderful woman in the world

Being the parent of seven children and putting them all through college; I am also a proud grandparent of nine little ones so far!

Extended Einstein relation to interacting Brownian particles

Authoring several books

Military awards and election to Fordham ROTC Hall of Fame

Starting a home-based palliative care program in a hospital in rural Africa

Successfully representing a U.S. citizen in jail in China

Publishing two books of poetry

Voluntary teaching of ESOL

Improving the quality of my university

Ph.D. in Chemistry from Columbia University in 1968

Established a special book collection in Fordham's library

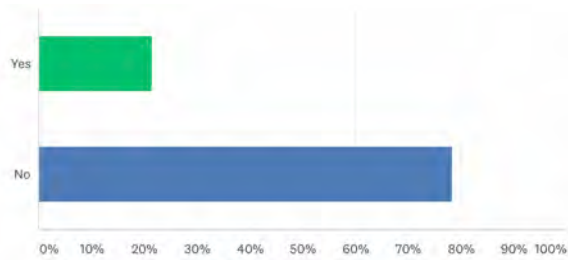
Donation of 100+ pints of platelets and red blood to Red Cross and Boston Hospitals over 30 years

Helping my church pay off more than one million dollars in debt

Publishing my book

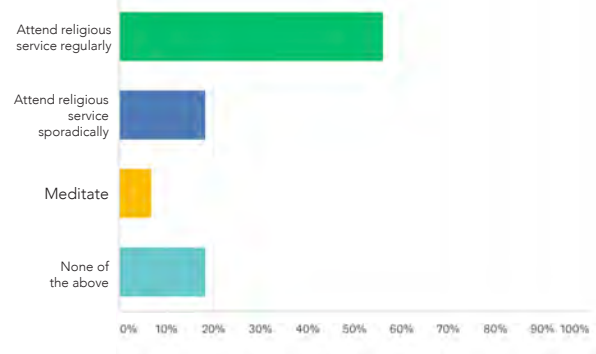
QUESTION 14

*Has your religion changed over the years?*



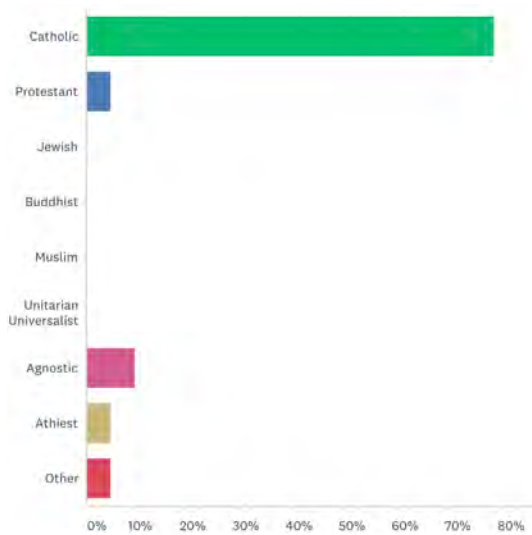
QUESTION 16

*Do you:*



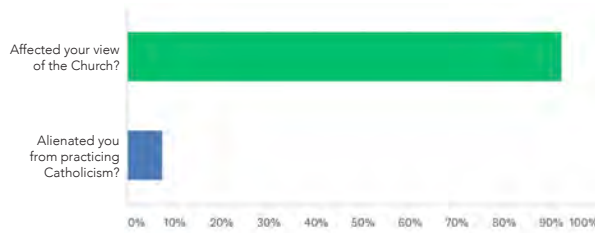
QUESTION 15

*Which religion do you identify with now?*



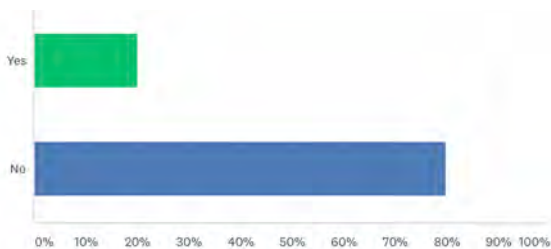
QUESTION 17

*Have the Catholic sex scandals:*



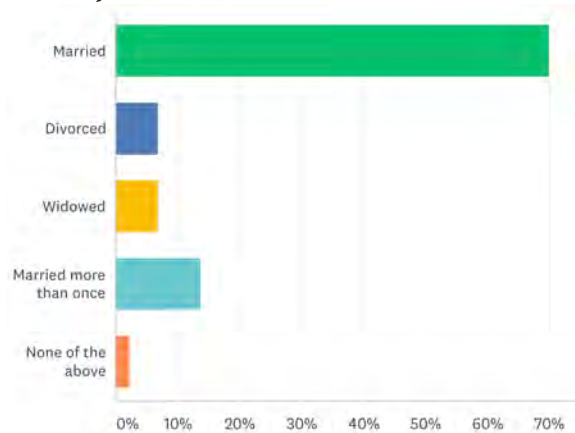
QUESTION 19

*Did any of your children or grandchildren attend Fordham?*



QUESTION 18

*Have you been:*



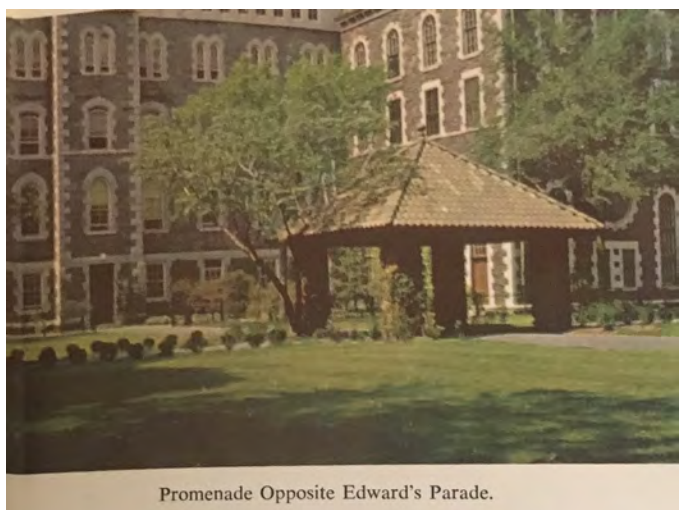
# THE YEAR 1963

THE WORLD AND THE UNITED STATES WERE VERY DIFFERENT PLACES WHEN WE GRADUATED FROM FORDHAM IN 1963. YOU WILL HAVE TO DECIDE FOR YOURSELF WHETHER IT WAS THE BEST OF TIMES, THE WORST OF TIMES, OR JUST ANOTHER YEAR. HERE ARE SOME OF THE HIGHLIGHTS AND, UNFORTUNATELY, SOME OF THE LOW LIGHTS.

The Algerian War ended the year before, in 1962, and the Vietnam War was just beginning. In Vietnam, Buddhist monks were burning themselves to death in order to call attention to the discrimination against Buddhists. Madame Nhu, the sister-in-law of the U.S.-backed Vietnamese president Ngo Dinh Diem and the de-facto first lady, urged the Vietnamese to “clap hands at seeing another monk barbecue show.” The Diem regime was overthrown in November, and Diem was assassinated in an M13 armored personnel carrier. The United States’ role in the coup and assassination was questioned; it turned out the leader of the coup was a CIA operative. In 1963, the United States had only 16,300 troops in Vietnam; that number would increase dramatically in just a few years. By 1968, the United States had 536,100 troops in Vietnam.

Although the nuclear powers were continuing to test nuclear weapons, the partial nuclear test ban treaty was ratified by the U.S. Senate and signed by President John F. Kennedy. In Yugoslavia, Josip Broz Tito, the country’s first president, was declared president for life. Nikita Khrushchev, who precipitated the Cuban Missile Crisis in October of our senior year, was in his penultimate year as premier of the Soviet Union. General Charles de Gaulle, who had been the leader of France’s free zone during World War II, was president of France during the beginning of its Fifth Republic, and Konrad Adenauer was the first chancellor of West Germany. In England, Harold Macmillan, the conservative prime minister, resigned largely because of the Profumo sex scandal involving the secretary of state for war and a young model who was simultaneously having an affair with a Soviet naval attaché.

In the United States, President Kennedy was enjoying his Camelot moment, but the civil rights movement was growing. Medgar Evers, a black war veteran who fought in the Battle of Normandy and a prominent civil rights leader in Mississippi, was shot and killed by Byron De La Beckwith, a member of



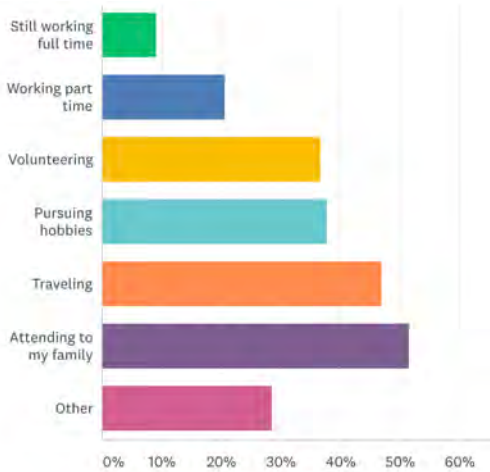
Promenade Opposite Edward's Parade.



Dome Library Window

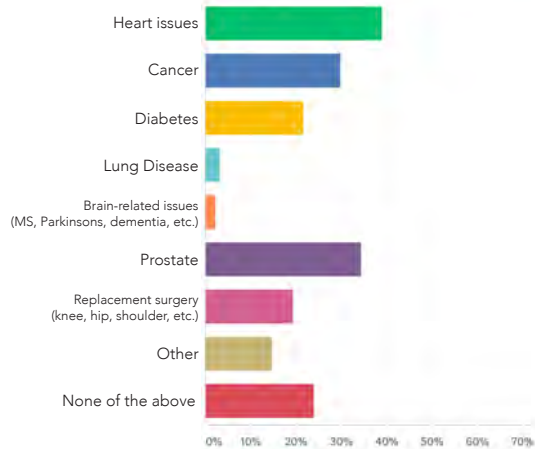
QUESTION 20

*How are you spending your retirement?*



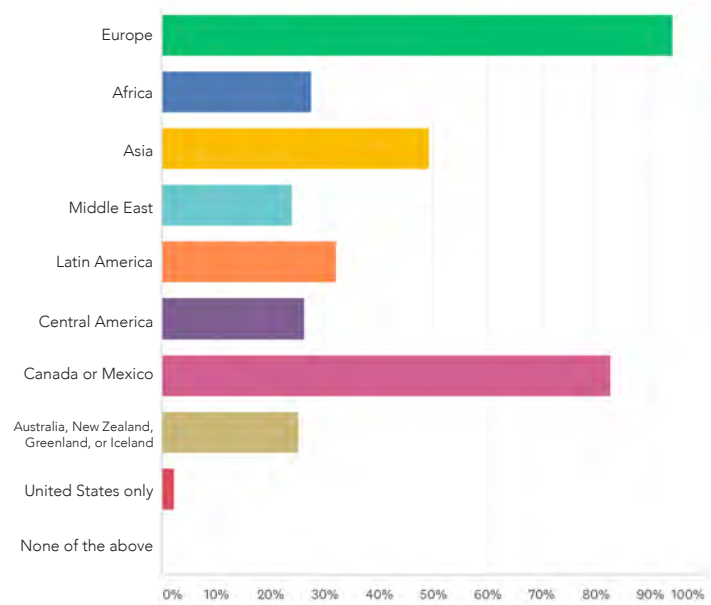
QUESTION 22

*Have you had any health challenges?*



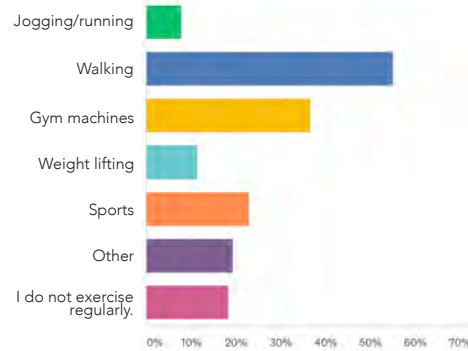
QUESTION 21

*Which parts of the world have you visited?*



QUESTION 23

*Do you exercise regularly?*



the segregationist White Citizens Council—Evers was buried with full military honors in Arlington National Cemetery. Governor George Wallace—who declared “segregation now, segregation tomorrow, segregation forever” in his inaugural address—refused to allow black students to attend the University of Alabama, resulting in federal troops being sent to forcefully permit them to attend. Members of the Ku Klux Klan bombed a church in Birmingham, Alabama. And at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., in front of a crowd of about 250,000, Martin Luther King Jr. gave his “I Have a Dream” speech at the March on Washington in August 1963.

At the end of 1963, the Dow Jones industrial average stood at 762. The average cost of a new house was \$12,650, and the average annual income was \$5,807. Gas was 29 cents a gallon. A first-class stamp cost 5 cents.

In sports, Southern Cal won the Rose Bowl against Wisconsin; the New York Giants lost to the Chicago Bears in the NFL Championship game; the San Diego Chargers beat the Boston Patriots in the new American Football League Championship game; Roy Emerson won the Australian Tennis Championship; the baseball strike zone was expanded; “Red” Grange—the “Gallop­ing Ghost”—and Native American legend Jim Thorpe were inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame; New York Yankee Mickey Mantle and San Francisco Giant Willie Mays (the Giants had moved from New York in 1958) each signed an unprecedented \$100,000 contract; Loyola-Chicago won the NCAA Basketball Tournament against Cincinnati; Providence, led by John Thompson, won the NIT Tournament over Canisius; Wilt Chamberlain scored 70 points against the Syracuse Nationals (remember them?); the Boston Celtics won the NBA Championship against the Los Angeles Lakers in Bob Cousy’s last game; Cincinnati’s Pete Rose played his first major league baseball game; and golf’s Jack Nicklaus won the Masters Tournament. Michael Jordan was born, and Fordham was still a year away from the return of club football—the team’s first game in 1964 was against the NYU Violets, which Fordham won 20-14 before 13,000 spectators at Rose Hill.

In the arts, the Beatles released *Please Please Me*; Betty Friedan’s *The Feminine Mystique* was published; *Lawrence of Arabia* won the Oscar for Best Picture; *Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf* won the Tony for Best Drama; and *The Guns of August* won the Pulitzer Prize.

Other events of interest included: the mysterious loss of the nuclear submarine USS Thresher, which sank during deep-dive tests off the coast of Boston, killing all on board; the death of Pope John XXIII and the election of his successor, Pope Paul VI; the success of James Whittaker, the first American to climb Mount Everest; the introduction of the first touch-tone phone; the launch of the ZIP-code system; the awarding of honorary U.S. citizenship to Winston Churchill; the closing of the Alcatraz Federal Penitentiary; the end of Project Mercury with Astronaut Gordon Cooper’s flight in Faith 7; and a New York City snowfall of nearly 17 inches, the sixth largest on record for December since 1869.

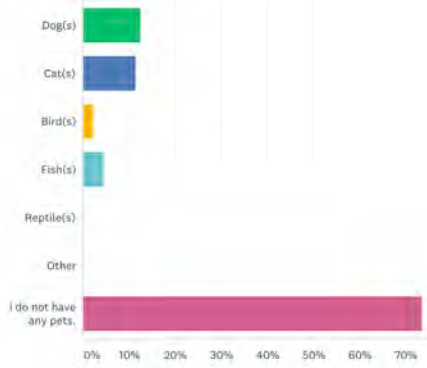
On November 22, 1963, President Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas, and Lyndon Johnson became president.



**PAUL SAUNDERS, FCRH '63**  
Honors Program  
Phi Beta Kappa

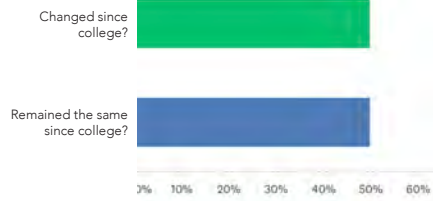
QUESTION 24

*Do you have any pets?*



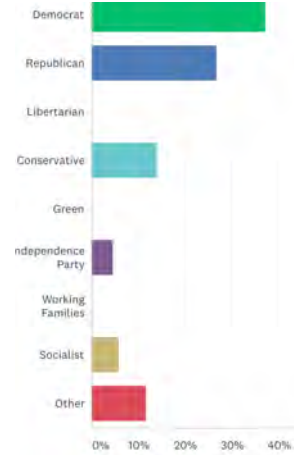
QUESTION 25

*Have your political views:*



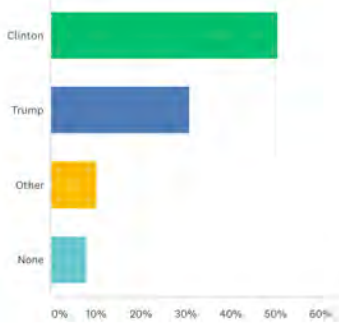
QUESTION 26

*How do you identify politically now?*



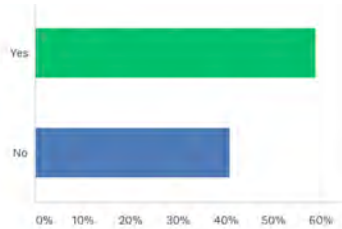
QUESTION 27

*In 2016 did you vote for:*



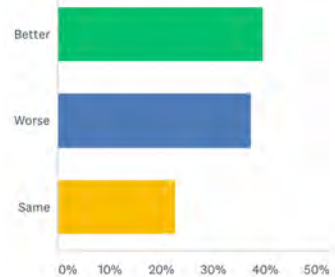
QUESTION 28

*Do you believe that corporate news media is, for the most part, credible?*



QUESTION 29

*Do you feel the world is in better or worse shape than in 1963?*



Queens Court, Freshmen Dorms.



Gymnasium







FORDHAM



19

63

