Real People, Real Stories


Honoring Mark Barlow ’46 with Joseph’s Robe
The reunion steering committee enjoyed dinner with the Barlow clan on October 17 at Russell House. Our former Dean and trustee died June 23, 2012 at the age of 87 in Hanover, N.H. Because of his youth when he was named dean at Wesleyan, students dubbed him “the boy dean,” but he quickly developed a reputation for handling student issues with humor and an appreciation for individual personalities.

During the height of the cold war, students stole Douglas Cannon, and presented it to USSR’s United Nations delegation as a “symbol of peace, brotherhood, and friendship.” Barlow drove down to retrieve the cannon and when students attempted to steal it back from his house, he quipped, There were so many students coming in search of the cannon, we left flashlights around so they wouldn’t use matches and burn the place down.

Numerous comments and stories were shared at the dinner, highlighted by Ralph Jacobs’ email: Dean Barlow probably had more personal impact on our future success as students and later in life than anyone else on Wesleyan’s staff or faculty. Fred Nachman: While it was over fifty years ago, I vividly remember him giving some of us a reprimand and copy of a letter from Bennington College banning us from their campus forever. Kirt Mead recalled: Mark suggested strongly I not go directly to grad school after Wesleyan, but take a “year off” and do a Fulbright in Europe. I took his advice and have never entirely come home. I saw him again at our 25th and could sincerely report that he had changed my life. And he accurately remembered giving me the advice. We had the privilege to be at Wesleyan in a golden age. Jane Barlow accepted Joseph’s Robe, honoring individuals whose work has greatly benefitted Wesleyan or broader causes. Photo, l-r: Bob Schmidt, Paul Larson, Rob Abel, Jordan Dunaway-Barlow, Dave Dinwoodey, Jim Dunaway, John Hall, Kirt Mead, Libby Barlow, Bob Barton, Andrew Barlow, Mark Edmiston, Beth Ahern Barlow, Tony Schuman, Joe Garrison, Bill Blakemore, Hugh Wilson, Hal Gorman, Phil Rockwell, Donna Gorman, Win Chamberlin.

Our Stories
Whether in Middletown for 6 months or 6 years, our lives have evolved in ways that are interesting, sometimes rewarding, frustrating, remarkable, fortunate, sad, or simply unique. Share your story via the Reunion Questionnaire, and/or visit the class blog and email Bob Barton, skydancebob@gmail.com.

Reunion is for individuals to connect/reconnect, share stories—visit Wes65Stories