

Biography - Dr. Marsha (Stone) Swindler

Rushing decisions because of the Vietnam War affected many of us from the Class of 68, not just for the guys but for some of the girls, too. Waiting a total of five months after RHS graduation to get married, and send my sailor back to Vietnam three times before getting him back for good, was a Vietnam War-bride decision. The wife of a United States Navy sailor, life for me was lonely without him, but one of the best decisions of my life. Jay's an amazing guy--and marrying him came with the added benefits of the rich culture of The South! I met a Southern gentleman (a young one--he was 20) when I was 17, and it has been one grand adventure for 40 years (in 2008). You have heard the expressions opposites attract: well, that's us! He is my balance, and together we tackle life's adventures. New Orleans, what a city of adventure! We never lived there, but a trip back every single year from 1970 to 1996 for Grandma Nonnie to see the grandkids makes it feel like home to me.

Three other decisions in my life: our three children, now 38, 35, and 30, provide blessings aplenty! Joey, a computer tech, lives in the OC with his long time girlfriend, and announced last year no kids for them, so no luck there for us with grandkids. Our daughter, Amy, married in late 2005, decided that after nine years teaching 7th and 8th grade English, it was time to become the school librarian, take a trip to the UK, and get serious about babies. She called the trip UK for KIDS, and is hoping to make us grandparents soon. Our youngest, Shane, is an artist in Chicago. Why is it that the baby always lives so far away? He is a So Cal boy through and through, so he will return someday. When the School of the Art Institute in Chicago (SAIC) offers up a full ride to a finish carpenter at the age of 27, attending sculpting classes at a JC in San Diego, what mom would not say: GO FOR YOUR DREAM, kid? I encouraged him, he flourishes in Chicago as an artist and his website www.shaneswindler.com gives you a taste of his work. Our trip to Chicago for his BFA was a kick! We took my dad with us, too, so that made the trip even more special. I will post pictures soon. Currently I am working on my dream, one of many, to make the world of education better, but I promise to never grow up and stop dreaming, promise.

I definitely decided after the baby graduated high school in 1996 to try something new. I love motherhood: LOVE-LOVE-LOVE it, but the babies all left the nest, as they must. My first step on to a college campus was 11 years ago, and the education bug bit me. When my third and last child turned 30 years old on September 19, 2007 my doctorate degree was complete. As Dr. Marsha Swindler I have published curriculum available for Special Education. The Ph.D. in Special Education allows me to offer teacher training programs to support the mainstreaming and inclusion efforts in education. My website www.drswindler.com gives you an idea of my past accomplishments and future goals in education. It has been an amazing journey, and well worth all the work to get there! I thank my husband for the gift of education, and Mr. Hinkins for the incredible insight, encouragement, and inspiration. His teaching influence has been instrumental in my career choices to help others to learn.

Waiting around for grandkids is not my style, so I keep myself busy sewing, swimming, gardening, traveling, Colorado River boating, Seadooring, and researching new avenues of learning for those not as blessed to find school as easy, and as fun, as I find it. I always did, and continue to, love to learn! High school was a BLAST growing up with all of you, so why not keep up the adventures in life with education. Taking college Algebra in 1996, 30 years after high school Algebra in 1966, was a trip! In case anyone is wondering, the quadratic equation pops right back after 30 years of storage in long term memory! (Mr. Dennis was right--it comes in handy!)

I have four brothers and two sisters; there are seven of us Stone kids (and Mike Stone is not my brother, right Mike). My siblings are all members of younger RHS Classes of 70, 72, 74, 76, and 78, except one older brother, Rocky, Class of 66. The decades of my life from a daughter: 0 to 10+, to a big sister: 10 to 20+, to a wife: 18 to 40+, a mother: 20 to forever+, a teacher: 40 to 50+, and now a doctor of education: 50 to forever+ have presented challenges, opportunities, and rich blessings. I am excited to begin another adventure in the many adventures of life! 2008 will be a GREAT year--I will graduate in Texas in the winter, and see all of my RHS pals in the fall. I CANNOT WAIT, RHS 68 classmates, to see you all again!!

~Dr M

Where have you been and what have you been doing since 1968? It is now your turn, classmates, for some tidbits about Y-O-U since graduation! Your classmates are asking about you, so if you are shy, send us a summary and let us help to write it up for you. Inquiring minds want to know!