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HOMECOMING

PLANNING TIPS
AND IDEAS

WRITTEN BY CLAUDIA JULAN

17 HOMECOMING PLANNING TIPS AND IDEAS

DONNING YOUR UNIVERSITY’S COLORS FOR A WEEKEND OF UNIVERSITY PRIDE IS A YEARLY TRADITION AT HOMECOMING. TRY THESE IDEAS FOR ALUMNI ALIKE TO PLAN FOR A FUN GATHERING THAT ALSO HAS THE POTENTIAL TO GIVE BACK TO YOUR UNIVERSITY — AND MAKE SOME NEW CONNECTIONS ALONG THE WAY.

1	<u>ORGANIZE</u>	IF YOUR FACULTY IS NOT HOSTING A TAILGATE OR SIMILAR EVENT, TAKE THE INITIATIVE TO ORGANIZE ONE. IT WILL BE A GREAT CHANCE TO CONNECT WITH OTHER ALUMNI. MAKE SURE TO SEND OUT INVITATIONS AT LEAST SEVERAL MONTHS IN ADVANCE SO THAT OTHER ALUMNI CAN BE PREPARE AHEAD OF TIME.
2	<u>PICK AND STICK TO A THEME</u>	IF YOU ARE THE ONE ORGANIZING A FACULTY EVENT, PICK A FUN AND EASY THEME THAT EVERYONE CAN PARTICIPATE IN TO MAKE IT A HIT. YOU CAN KEEP IT SIMPLE LIKE "EVERYONE WEAR ORANGE" OR GO ELABORATE BY HANDING OUT TIGER EARS AND TAILS TO EACH PERSON WHO COMES INTO THE TAILGATE TENT.
3	<u>EMBRACE SIGNAGE</u>	BE SURE TO HANG A BANNER OR USE SOME OTHER MARKER SO OTHER FORMER STUDENTS FROM YOUR FACULTY WILL KNOW WHICH TAILGATE AREA IS YOURS.
4	<u>GIVE BACK</u>	INVITE CURRENT STUDENTS FROM THE FACULTY OR YOUR GROUP TO SHARE THEIR STORIES WITH ALUMNI. IT IS A GREAT TIME OF YEAR TO GET PEOPLE THINKING ABOUT GIVING BACK TO THE UNIVERSITY — EITHER THROUGH TIME OR ADVICE OR A MONETARY DONATION.
5	<u>ORGANIZE A MEAL</u>	TAILGATES ARE FUN, BUT THEY AREN'T NECESSARILY THE BEST OUTLET TO RECONNECT WITH SERIOUS CONVERSATION. ORGANIZE A BREAKFAST OR DINNER THE DAY BEFORE OR AFTER THE GAME EITHER ON CAMPUS OR AT A FAVORITE OFF CAMPUS HAUNT.



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6	<u>JOG YOUR MEMORY</u>	IF YOU ARE NOT THAT FAR REMOVED FROM YOUR CO-ED DAYS, YOU CAN SCOUR SOCIAL MEDIA AND EVEN OLD EMAIL ACCOUNTS TO REMEMBER WHAT YOU WERE DOING (ACADEMICALLY AND SOCIALLY) BACK IN UNIVERSITY. THEN YOU WILL BE PREPARED WITH ANECDOTES FOR THE WEEKEND.
7	<u>STRATEGIZE</u>	HOW DO YOU WANT TO BUY GAME TICKETS? DIRECTLY THROUGH THE UNIVERSITY? A THIRD-PARTY WEBSITE? SCALPERS THE DAY OF? IF YOU DON'T GET BACK OFTEN, THINK ABOUT SPLURGING FOR THE GOOD SEATS.
8	<u>BRING THROWBACK PHOTOS</u>	IF YOU ARE THE ONE ORGANIZING A FACULTY EVENT, PICK A FUN AND EASY THEME THAT EVERYONE CAN PARTICIPATE IN TO MAKE IT A HIT. YOU CAN KEEP IT SIMPLE LIKE "EVERYONE WEAR ORANGE" OR GO ELABORATE BY HANDING OUT TIGER EARS AND TAILS TO EACH PERSON WHO COMES INTO THE TAILGATE TENT.
9	<u>BRING THE KIDS AND GRANDKIDS ALONG</u>	FROM THE TAILGATE TO THE GAME, THEY WILL BE EXCITED TO EXPERIENCE THE CAMPUS THST THEIR FAMILY ONCE CALLED HOME. AND YOUR UNIVERSITY FRIENDS WILL BE EXCITED TO MEET YOUR OFFSPRING.
10	<u>RALLY THE TROOPS</u>	USE SOCIAL MEDIA, EMAIL OR GOOD OLD-FASHIONED INVITATIONS TO GET YOUR CREW BACK TO CAMPUS FOR THE BIG GAME. YOU WILL HAVE MORE FUN IF YOU ARE WITH YOUR OLD PALS.
11	<u>RECREATE OLD PHOTOS</u>	RECREATE THE IMAGES THAT HAVE BECOME ICONIC IN YOUR FAMILY OR FRIEND GROUP. OF COURSE, NOW YOU'LL LIKELY TAKE THEM WITH YOUR PHONE (AND THE QUALITY WILL BE BETTER — ALTHOUGH THEY MAY FEATURE LESS HAIR AND MORE WRINKLES).



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12	<u>HONOR AN ALUM</u>	YOU CAN IMPROVE THE DRAW OF YOUR EVENT BY RECRUITING SOMEONE NOTABLE IN THE FIELD TO GIVE A BRIEF TALK OR PRESENTATION. PEOPLE WILL BE HAPPY TO GET A CHANCE TO LEARN SOMETHING WHILE THEY CATCH UP.
13	<u>SEE WHAT HAS CHANGED</u>	CAMPUS HAS LIKELY CHANGED SINCE YOU LEFT. BE SURE TO CHECK OUT THE NEW RESIDENCE HALLS, STUDENT LIFE CENTERS, ETC., AND RESIST THE URGE TO TELL CURRENT STUDENTS HOW MUCH BETTER THEY HAD IT THAN WHEN YOU WERE THERE.
14	<u>HIT UP YOUR FAVORITE EATERIES</u>	ORDER YOUR FAVORITE MEAL FROM BACK IN THE DAY TO SEE IF IT STILL TASTES EXACTLY THE SAME. AND NO CALORIE-COUNTING ALLOWED.
15	<u>HELP THE KIDS UNDERSTAND THE GAME</u>	IF YOU BROUGHT YOUR KIDS OR GRANDKIDS, BE SURE TO HELP THEM UNDERSTAND WHAT IS GOING ON IN THE GAME. THIS WILL HELP KEEPING THEM FROM GETTING BORED, AND MAY KICK OFF A LIFETIME OF SPORTS FANDOM.
16	<u>LOOK UP OLD PROFESSORS</u>	TAKE THE TIME BEFORE YOU GET TO CAMPUS TO REACH OUT TO PROFESSORS WHO HAD AN IMPACT ON YOUR UNIVERSITY EXPERIENCE AND ULTIMATELY YOUR CAREER. THEY WILL LIKELY BE EXCITED TO MEET UP WITH YOU WHEN YOU ARE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD.
17	<u>SHOW SOME SPIRIT</u>	YOU ARE NEVER TOO OLD TO WEAR FACE TATTOOS, WACKY WIGS OR OTHER CRAZY SPIRIT GEAR. SHOW THESE YOUNG BUCKS WHAT A TRIED AND TRUE FAN LOOKS LIKE.

