

Meet. Link. And be merry.

Plan a bash without breaking a sweat

If you're like most of us, it's been a long time since you've seen anyone from your graduating class. It's the way it goes – life gets busy.

But all too often, we focus on the things that we *have* to do, and forget about making time for those things that we could *get* to do.

After a long winter filled with dire newscasts, most of us are due for a little fun. What better time to celebrate the truly important things in our lives? The people. Our relationships.

And why not start by reconnecting with some of the people who knew you *when*?

Alumni, separated by time, distance or other factors, are now able to connect with one another - easily. NetCommunity (powered by Ning – <http://rdcalumni.ning.com>) is free to join, and has a lot of features – such as a customizable page for each member, live chat, blogs, photo sharing and more. There are also two features to help our alumni plan reunions (read: party) – large or small.

The first of these tools is the 'Groups' function. After you have registered to the site, you can choose to either join an existing group – for example, "Theatre Studies, Class of 2003" - or create a new one. You can then invite other former classmates to join and send their own invitations. While this is a great way for members to communicate about the reunion, it is also longstanding. Your group can continue to use this avenue to keep in touch even after your gathering is over.

The other function is the 'Events' tool. You can create an event, such as "Nursing Reunion", and again invite others to attend. The nice feature of this tool is that you can

track which invitees plan to attend, those who aren't sure, and those who have declined – making organizing that much easier.

And when you are planning, don't forget about RDC's Welcome Back Weekend this fall – November 6 & 7, 2009. The event generally attracts a number of RDC alumni to the College and some of your guests might already have plans to be in town – making it even more convenient for everyone. If you are looking for activities or a familiar place to meet, check out our Alumni Wine Tasting Festival or President's Lunch. (See <http://rdcalumni.ning.com> for more information).

After the reunion, be sure to post photos or video from your event to your page. Attendees might even share their own. Aside from being a great way to archive your memories, it could encourage more alumni to attend your event(s) in the future.

If you have questions about the site, or if you would like help to organize a reunion, give the Alumni Office at RDC a call at 403.343.4016. Above all, we hope that you have a fun and successful reunion!