

A Day in the Life of the Alumni Office

The story you are about to read is true. Only the names have been changed to protect the innocent.

The phone rings and the gentleman on the other end identifies himself as Michael C. He has an SBU ring. His grandmother-in-law found the class ring in Long Island in the late 1970s. It's been tucked away for 35 years and the family would like to find its owner.



The initials LVJ are etched inside, and the year 1966 sits to one side of the red stone. Michael asks if we can help him find the rightful owner.

The initials do not match anyone in our database, yearbooks or directories from the last 35 years. It's time to call in the university's archivist, Dennis Frank (real name).

A few days later, Dennis thinks he has the answer. There is a Lloyd

V. J. listed in an old directory who would have been a member of the Class of '66, but left before he graduated, explaining why he was not in the alumni records.

With no other information about Lloyd, the Internet was the last hope. A man with the same name was found living in Massachussetts. The alumni office gives this information to Michael, who has a friend who is able to find a phone number for Lloyd. After a phone call, success!

Lloyd follows up the phone conversation with this email to Michael:

Michael,

That is definitely my long lost college ring that survived a tour in Viet Nam and then I lost in the early 70's--very likely in or around the pool area of Allen's Acres or very close by in the Hampton Bays/East Quogue vicinity.

Your extraordinary diligence in tracking me down was quite impressive and I thank you very much for your effort.

Does this mean your grandmother-in-law and I were going steady for the last 45 years or so? If so, don't tell my wife! Or for that matter, her [Granny's] husband either.

If you could throw it in the mail I'd greatly appreciate it. Include your address so I may reimburse you for the expenses you've incurred.

Thanks again, great work.

So, the ring is finally on its way back to the original owner and the Alumni Office is back to solving more 35-year-old mysteries.