Roger Hiemstra is 70!
Dear Dad,

In honor of this milestone birthday, we have gathered together this collection of notes, well-wishes, photos, and more. In the process, we have been deeply touched by the many friends and family clamoring to tell you how much they love, honor, and respect you.

You have truly lived these 70 years to their fullest. And we look forward to sharing many, many more with you!

We love you, Dad!

Dave and Nancy
September 15, 2008
For Roger...

A few memories: I first met Roger when he started at SU -- I worked at the Gerontology Center and, and Center staff were quite excited at the thought of possibilities working on potential projects. I can remember thinking how serious he looked and then discovering his absolutely wacky sense of humor and how endearing that was. Anyway we did work together on various projects over the years; he became my academic advisor when I started getting my degrees, and he was a superb advisor, mentoring, teaching and supporting me as he did all his students. Then I was fortunate to work with him and the staff at the Kellogg project. I only wish the powers-to-be really understood what we achieved in that project. One of our greatest achievements I believe was not just the objectives of the grant where we really did significant work, but rather the way in which the project operated. It was a truly "adult education" experience for all of us, and much was due to Roger. It was a collaborative and democratic working environment; team-work was cherished and everyone's input, regardless of status, was valued. And we had a ball -- it was fun, we worked hard, and at times really stressed out, but we leaned on one another and managed. I've had almost 40 years of management experience in three countries, and none has been better than that at Kellogg. And the Kellogg friendships still endure. Roger, I wish you all the luck in the world as you and Janet pursue your new adventures in the future, and yes, you do have an adorable grandson -- may you have many more (girls too)!

luv, Mo  Maureen Goodman

Greetings from the Detlefsens!

We all congratulate you on your 70th birthday, Roger. Our wishes for you are for many, many more happy and healthy birthdays. We always enjoy visiting with you and Janet on your trips to/through Iowa and hope you will have many of those trips in the years to come, too. Have a great birthday celebration and know that we are thinking about you on your special day.

With love,

Max and Marge Detlefsen
Ann Detlefsen and Bob Hoehle
Gwen and John Detlefsen

Welcome to the 70's. Not so bad, in fact pretty good. We look forward to more shared times in the years to come.

Ann and Dick Pearson

Hola Rogelio --

Estoy feliz de verte los domingos con los spanophiles. Estas muy divertido. Espero cada vez entender tus palabras con mucho anticipacion. Haz un buen dia de cumpleanos.

--Hasta el proximo,

Donna Rohde

Greetings from the Detlefsens!
Roger...

Dear Roger,

It was a little surprise when I saw the number 70 associated your birthday. Time goes faster than we like to believe.

Roger, you have always been a role model for me since my graduate student days. There are few things I learned from you:

- Always treat everyone with respect (including people work for you).
- Always have a passion for what you are doing (including barbershop quartet singing).
- Always work hard (including all the RV traveling).
- Always deal with unexpected situation with calm and humor (including the belly dancer on your 50th birthday party.)

Keep going strong! I am looking forward to be invited to many more parties!

See you in Varsity!

Yuming

I've known Roger through May Memorial for a long time, but only got to know him well during the past two years. He was invaluable in helping me organize the 1st Annual Samuel Calthrop Chess Championship. Roger produced a short biography of Calthrop, who was both a minister at May for 43 years and a recognized chess master, formed the basis of our promotional activities for the event and generated an article in the Post Standard newspaper. Beyond offering his insights and historical research on May Memorial, Roger and Janet have been good friends to my wife, Mardie and me. One highlight of this friendship was the day we spent learning to make apple pies from scratch in their kitchen. While Janet is the master pie chef, Roger's enthusiasm and cheerleading are perhaps the most significant ingredient in this enterprise. Every pie chef needs a dedicated fan.

Anton Ninno

Dear Roger,

Birthday greetings to you!

Bob and Erselle
Dear Roger,

Our lives began together when you were 29, when we married on June 23, 1968. We look so young and innocent!

And what wonderful times we’ve had together. Our best ventures together have been Nancy and David!

And here we all are in front of your parents’ pond.

And here we are in 2008, 40 years later, with our beautiful growing family. I look forward to the wonderful times we’ll have together.

And here we are in 2008, 40 years later, with our beautiful growing family. I look forward to the wonderful times we’ll have together.

Happy 70th Birthday, and may you have many, many more!

I Love You.

Janet
Dear Nancy and Dave,

My best wishes to Rog on his birthday. He is a very youthful 70! I've been honored to know Rog since 1997 when I was dean of continuing education at Elmira College. Rog and Janet have visited my wife, Ginni, and me in Massachusetts. I invited Rog to make a presentation on "distance learning" for faculty at Framingham State College a year or more ago. Faculty and administrators were favorably impressed and often talk to me about his presentation.

I know Rog professionally and as a friend. He spoke proudly of you two.

Our best wishes for a joyous birthday celebration.

Ron and Ginni Sundberg

Rog,

For several years, we've been pleased and privileged to share so many special times with you and Janet. We've taken pleasure in the events of your life, big and small, from quiet dinners to celebrations that marked wonderful milestones. We've also shared the joys of seeing our children reach their own milestones and, finally, our shared "grandparenthood."

Now, you join one of us in reaching the big "70"!!!

We wish you a wonderful birthday and many, many more!

Happy Birthday and let the revelry begin!

With our love and best wishes,

Bob and Sue Bronk

When first Ron and I met you, Rog, we saw a very thoughtful professor with a pleasant personality and great sense of humor - a likable chap, indeed. Our boys thought you a bit "nerdy," but that only means you had much in common with their dad. Little did we realize, until some time later, that you sing!! Yes, indeed, you sing barbershop! Now, I grew up singing barbershop - at least, singing songs in harmony with my mom and next door neighbor female friends. Many of the songs were barbershop songs. So when you invited us to attend your concert, I particularly was thrilled. It brought back such fond memories of my days back home. And when you invited us to go with you and Janet to the Afterglow - well, that was the icing on the cake! What great fun to sit in on such good music and great people sharing their love of singing. Thanks for the melodies, Rog. Happy 70th! Keep a song in your heart!

PEACE,

Elaine Johnson
Rog,

Joyce is celebrating her three score and ten this week as well, which must make September an auspicious month. As one who passed this milestone a few years ago, I remain as living evidence that it is a survivable event. Birthdays become like Kaleidoscopes, you turn the lens, the circles spin, the colors shift, and another year comes into view, different but even more colorful and complicated then the last.

I have enjoyed very much working with you on our many projects and look forward to more years of discovery. Enjoy you day with your family.

Happy Birthday Rog,

Harsey

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FRIENDS

As one who often lingers in the past favoring fond memories of by gone times days swollen in my thoughts with images of the happiest of times with family, friends;

Cloudless skies and endless summer days warm sunlight on my naked back, fresh strawberries sweet on my tongue, sticky fingers washed clean in the stream’s cool clear waters

And autumn, what memories of brilliant colors burning leaves-- but was it all so carefree, these memories, fogged through the cataracts of time, did the youth I was appreciate those moments?

Perhaps it’s a perspective that comes with age teaching a wiser grace about the living of life rationing our precious remaining time to spend only in the company of friends, like you.

Harsey Leonard, May 2004
Happy Birthday, Rog!

Bruce and Lou Ann Chapman
A Roger Moment

I’ve had a casual acquaintance with Roger for many years at MMUUS. Through the years we have exchanged greetings and sometimes brief snippets from our live. But it has been at the vigil to stop the war in Iraq early on Thursday mornings that I have come to know him much better. In fact, getting to know him has been one of my joys participating in this vigil. I was surprised that he and Janet became such regulars on the curb of our church where we stand with our signs to end this conflict. He has remarked that Janet is the prime mover in such endeavors, but he has been ever faithful.

Perhaps it was two years ago that Rog mentioned to me that he had very little in the archives from the ministry of Nick Cardell. As our enthusiastic and impassioned historian, this was a problem for him. He implored me to get materials from Nick’s wife Cathy Cardell who had not been participating in our community since her husband’s death. Being a good friend of Cathy’s, I knew I was the one for this assignment. Being very busy and not seeing Cathy frequently, I put the task off for at least a year. When Janet and Rog left for a trip early this year, I resolved that I would get him what he wanted. There could be no vigiling with him until I had bestowed upon him the materials I had promised to get him.

It did take some persuading and support for me to get materials from Cathy. Finally I had several boxes of interesting sermons, papers and miscellaneous items to hand over by the time the Hiemstrases returned from their journey. Roger was so enthusiastic, thrilled, enthralled by the contents of those boxes that it was like I had given him a child’s entire Christmas celebration in those old boxes with Nick’s writings. I cannot remember his exact words but at one point he said something like he’d do a doctoral dissertation on the way Nick thought and developed ideas; but, alas, he was now too old to do so. It was such a fun moment for me. He spoke about these papers like a true research historian, hungry for the information which charts the intellectual/spiritual input at May Memorial. Like a gardener whose spring bulbs herald the coming of spring, Roger was holding forth on the challenge of examining Nick’s thinking and ideas, of stepping into the mind of someone no longer with us, and of having his own thinking about important ideas expanded and enhanced.

For me, it was a wonderful “Roger Moment.”

Vicky Schipper

Happy Birthday, Roger, and may you have many more happy birthdays. You and Janet have been, and are an important part of our activities at May -- and an inspiration!

Bev and George Adams
Roger’s superpower is curiosity. Or maybe pestering. Or maybe openheartedness. He’s a renaissance man of a new generation. His poetry is the science of learning, his music the banter of competition and debate, and his art the intersection of human potential and technology.

He has made me feel completely welcome in his world and enthusiastically shared precious traditions and wisdom. He chuckles at my jokes (even when no one else does). He even lets me win at Scrabble. There’re so many things to love, but I think I love him most for his brilliance and bullheadedness, his humor and honesty, his deep love of family and daringness to always just be himself completely, to everyone, all the time.

Rog, you’re one of a kind. My kind.

Lots of Love, Rachel
Dear Roger,

Happy Birthday—September 15th and welcome to a new decade. I have found being 70 is better than expected. With your knowledge and background of adults, I believe being 70 will be very successful.

Thanks to you I obtained my Ph.D. You gave me encouragement. With my degree, I have been teaching at the 232, an adjunct professor for 23 years. Your feedback has improved my students in my classes.

It was also fun for my family to come together. I still remember going the Railroad from one location to you. I recall it was very hot. I was even planning to visit you. Best wishes—good health—many blessings to a very special friend.

Jerry & Helen

Roger—

The celebration was a 70th birthday with memories of your family and the New Year morning "the noisy and festive party."—

Helen & Jerry
Here are two memories of Roger….

First, I remember Roger getting ready to embark for darkest Africa in, perhaps, 1983. He would be away from family and friends for an extended period, and Janet made arrangements for a farewell party. Guests were invited to bring light-hearted gifts (I dislike that phrase "gag gifts", but that's what they were). Everyone brought imaginative, creative gifts, and we spent a wonderful evening mostly watching Roger open his presents. He sat in a large overstuffed chair with a commanding view of the living room and had already assumed the persona of a tribal chieftain accepting offerings from his dutiful subjects.

We probably enjoyed putting our contribution together more than Roger enjoyed opening it, but he was graciously thankful as he unwrapped each item in the basket. There was a "lion distrater" in case he should encounter one of those ferocious beasts in wildest Africa - large size dog biscuit - and several selections that are now lost to memory. The only other item that comes to mind was the "elephant repeller" - a mouse. It's funny how language changes over the decades. In our present age, the word, "mouse", inevitable refers to a computer tool, but this was a live, white animal that was perloined from a laboratory at Bristol-Myers. (Actually, he was "saved" because he had grown too heavy for laboratory use.) Roger picked the small box up and immediately commented with a degree of apprehension that it seemed to contain something live. It had been carefully packed with a potato cube to provide moisture and sustenance, but, alas, the best plans of mice and men often go astray. When Roger cautiously open the box, the docile laboratory mouse peeked out, took one look at Roger and bit him!

The second memory is far more recent. I will always be indebted to Roger for introducing me to a delightful young woman who for the last many months has been my near constant companion. We enjoy traveling together and have made short trips around Central New York as well as more lengthy trips to far-away states. It is typical of Roger's magnanimous nature that he would share this wonderful, intelligent woman with a friend and not keep her selfishly to himself. She is truly a woman of the world and has the most extensive knowledge of geography one could imagine. But, like legendary Cleopatra, it is her mellifluous voice that is most captivating. I am referring of course to Jill, the voice of my new Garmin 350 Global Positioning Device which Roger researched, purchased and recommended.

Our best wishes, Roger.
Cumpleanos Feliz! - and buena suerte para viaje de usted a el Ecuador!

Thanks again, Nancy and Dave for pulling this whole project together. Your dad is a great guy!

Love,
Barb and Dave Kellogg
Roger -

Happy Birthday!

Here are two moments of the fabulous job you're doing for the Motto Collection.

You're a terrific and very loyal volunteer.

A thousand thank you.

Have a Super Day.

Love,

Bobbie
Dear Rog,

I met you twenty-eight years ago when I talked to you about my interest in becoming a graduate student in adult education. I was happy to be caught up in your enthusiasm. You have a great gift for eliciting strengths in people that they may not have known they had; I rose to many challenges from you because you assumed that I could. How fortunate for me that, instead of fading into my memories of graduate school, you appeared with gusto to catch me up again in your scheme to provide worldwide access to Syracuse University's adult and continuing education collections--and I got to work on the proposal and it was funded and we started a brave new enterprise that sprouted multiple mini-enterprises in perfect Roger Hiemstra fashion. Thank you for continuing to appear in my life, and thank you for being who you are. On this, your seventieth birthday, I honor you.

Love,

Mary Beth Hinton

Dear Roger,

Many happy birthday wishes. You are in our thoughts!

Ellen and David Peterson

Bum Paul

When I was a child My big brother to me was “Bum Paul” Where the Bum comes from I haven’t a clue and in no way was an inference to his character I just couldn’t say my R’s. To the contrary he was then as now was the leader of activities and organizer of many adventures. As a family we were always involved in something Rog had organized, games indoor and out, singing, going to North Lake for a swim, activities with 4H and many others. Being only 6 years of age when he graduated from High School and soon departed for adventures and his pursuit of higher education I have known him vicariously for the most part. His travels and residency in numerous locations in this country and abroad, Navel service, higher education and working experiences were always a source inspiration to expand my world and see beyond my surroundings. As far as our family is concerned his departure from home certainly left a void that no one was willing or able to fill, so after a few months of sitting around staring at each other wondering what to do next I was introduced to that which has entertained and captivated my imagination for 52 years hence, My Dad was wise and knew what he had to do to fill the void so he went out and bought a television. So thanks to Roger my life has been irrevocably but not unappreciately altered.

Thanks a million Bro and Happy Birthday!!!! You Bum!!!

Denny

Dear Roger,

Many happy birthday wishes. You are in our thoughts!

Ellen and David Peterson
Happy Birthday!

May your waters be filled with all that you need.

much love - Sean
Dear Roger:

Barb and I extend to you congratulations on reaching your 70th. Happy Birthday! On this occasion I would like to say thanks for all you have done for me as a student, practitioner, and friend.

Twenty six years ago I attended your first Weekend Scholar program at Syracuse University as a student. I started out worrying about the percentage of time it would take to complete the program, never realizing that I was embarking on a career and long term friendship. Since then you have guided me through two degrees and mentored me as an instructor of many courses. Without your patience, understanding, and support I would never have achieved the doctorate.

As an instructor at the graduate level, the examples you have provided have guided me well. You taught me how to be patient, understanding and supportive of all students. In spite of your tremendous achievements in the field of Adult Education you always took time to listen to students and help them achieve.

Over the years I have called you by many names such as Professor, Dr. Hiemstra, Roger, Advisor, Mentor, Role Model, Colleague, and by some titles I might have used the night before a paper was due. Of all your titles and names, the one I feel the most proud of when referring to you is friend.

May God Bless!

John Burns

Local Man Trains Future Consuegros
(from Syracuse Post-Standard)

St. Mary’s City, MD

September 5, 2006

Roger Hiemstra announced yesterday the successful completion of a four day “boot camp” for Joan and Richard Timbie, the parents of his son’s fiancé. The idea for the camp came to Roger when thunderstorms threatened to spoil a get-acquainted visit with the Timbies at their St. Mary’s River, Maryland, retreat. The storms knocked out the electricity and running water shortly after Roger and his wife, Janet, arrived. Hiemstra recalled in an NPR interview: “When the utilities went out, our choices seemed to be to abort the visit or face four days of sitting around making small talk with strangers. Then it came to me that I could use the opportunity to shape them up.”

Drawing upon his expertise in adult education, he improvised a series of classes in elementary coping skills—including “Navy” showers by the pool, cooking without a stove or running water, and basic outdoor hygiene skills. Although nonplussed at first, the Timbies soon saw the value of the training. Said Richard when the power went back on, “I’m going to miss my secret spot in the woods.”

Dick and Joan Timbie
Dear Roger:

Congratulations on your 70th Birthday. I don’t know where the time has gone so the thought of you reaching 70 is more a personal reminder of my own advancing age rather than you reaching another milestone in your life. You have always had great role models to emulate in Howard McClusky and Malcolm Knowles who lived long lives and your interest in gerontology must have had something to do with your success in reaching the milestone.

I have many fond memories of you that sustain my admiration and high personal regard. Your contributions to the knowledge base of adult education are legendary and your colleagues saw to it that you were suitably recognized for these contributions by electing you to the Adult Education Hall of Fame. Your innovative teaching practices using technology and distance learning were way ahead of the change curve well before the current rush to offer such programming at the collegiate level. Your leadership in advancing the educational opportunities of working adults has inspired countless others to make common what was once uncommon in educational practice. Your work with graduate students is unparalleled as is the record of getting everyone through his/her doctoral program. That’s quite a record of accomplishment and something you should be justifiably proud.

On a personal side, I look to you as a mentor, friend, and professional colleague, someone who has always been “there” if needed. I can still see that deadly Dutch stare, quiet silence and sobering resolve that could melt even the most strident critic. Yet, you could laugh with the best, harmonize like an Irish tenor, and dance like no one was watching. You didn’t take the easy road letting politics carry the day. Rather, you always took the high road believing in the goodness of human nature, that fate was the product of hard work, and that things happened for a reason. These core values are uniquely you Roger, and have made all the difference.

In closing, I wish you all the best as you celebrate your 70th birthday. I hope you have slowed the multitasking, taken time to fish, play bocce ball, and bowl that game of 300. But most importantly, I hope you will continue to embrace the joy of living a well-lived life. May you celebrate another 70 birthdays!

In loving admiration, gratitude, and respect, I remain

Yours truly,

Burt Sisco
Mickleton, NJ
Dear Roger,

It seems like yesterday when our paths crossed for the first time. As you'll recall, Bill Milbrath and I came to Kalamazoo on July 1, 1956 as County 4-H Agents. Bill was to be the Urban 4-H Agent and I the traditional Rural 4-H Agent, but it didn't take us long to realize that it would be best to work together rather than differentiate between rural & urban. We were fresh out of graduate school -- Bill from Minnesota and I from Iowa State, so we didn't know much about how things worked in Michigan. We still really appreciate your having been there & ready to help facilitate Kalamazoo's involvement that busy summer in 4-H Camp, Club Congress, and the State 4-H Show. At that time the upper age limit for 4-H was 18, & you were just aging out so you knew the ropes, and were ready for more responsibilities -- & we were glad to share them with you!

Do you remember when our four kids nicknamed you "Roy Rogers", even though you rode a motorcycle instead of a horse? They really looked forward to your periodic visits when we lived in married student housing at MSU in East Lansing. They still mention those times... 

We've enjoyed keeping up with your career over the years, too, since it paralleled ours so closely, and you were on the cusp of great new ideas, like the electronic journal, among others. Like you, we stayed busy professionally after our retirement, but now that you're entering your 7th decade, we'll give you permission to slow down a bit!

Have a wonderful & Happy Birthday! Cheers!

Maurie & Ellen Voland

Congratulations on your 70th birthday! It seems like just yesterday that I was taking graduate courses at Syracuse University and you were encouraging me in my pursuit of a doctorate in Adult Education. The doctorate that I labored so diligently for has been the basis for the success that I have achieved in life since then: teaching and administrative positions at numerous colleges, career advancement in the nuclear industry, the establishment of my own consulting firm, presentations around the globe, and my current work with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Whenever someone inquires as to where I studied I am always proud to say...at Syracuse University...under Dr. Roger Hiemstra!

Thanks Roger...and Happy Birthday!

Jane LeClair
It’s clear from the pages in this book that my dad is a distinguished teacher and scholar. I am proud to be his son.

But seeing all the accolades and knowing how hard he has worked to build that long list of publications, something else makes me even prouder of my dad. It’s the realization that he has done all that while keeping his family at the center of his world. I don’t think of him as locked away in his office publishing-or-perishing. I think of him as my teacher, role model and playmate—a man who has always been there to listen and advise, say “Great job!”, toss the football to me in the backyard, play a game of cribbage, take the family out with the pop-up camper or just ham it up at the dinner table.

Dad, whatever praise you deserve as a professor, you deserve twice that as a father. You’ve done a fabulous job balancing your passion for your work with your passion for your family. When I am a father, I will hold that lesson above all the other wonderful things you have taught me.

Happy 70th, Dad. I love you.

Your Son,

Dave
HI Rog:

Congratulations and welcome to the big 70!!! It is a great age to remember, reflect, and consider what you are going to do next!

I well remember when you joined me at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln. Finally, I had somebody who understood Adult Education and could talk sensibly and rationally about conceptual theories and potential research in the field. Do you remember the long discussions we had about McClusky’s Load Power concept and the time we had him out as a visiting scholar? I remember the give and take discussions on “expressive versus instrumental education.” We both went on to contribute to the development of both of those ideas in our later lives. I also recall us beginning to talk seriously about David’s naming of the “Educational Gerontology” field and the future of that discipline.

I also vividly remember the two of us jogging out by the football field in both the freezing cold and snow and later in the heat of summer. Humm,..... those were long ago days when our bodies (forget our minds) could take the pounding on our legs, knees, and back.

I also remember well your early discipline and dedication to the research and scholarly process that stood you in great stead in your future years. You were really a good role model and someone I could talk with as I began my writing. Although our paths took different directions in other universities, I was always happy to see you at CPAE, and AAACE, read your latest contributions to the field, and meet your newest and brightest doctoral students whom you were mentoring.

Rog you have the significant realization that in your professional career you have contributed immensely and far beyond the norm to conceptual ideas, research agendas, and especially to equipping several generations of practitioners and professors to the field of Adult and Continuing Education. It is an honor to be associated with you in the International Adult and Continuing Education Hall of Fame and to see you occasionally at professional meetings; and when you and Jan stop by in the RV in your many wanderings. It is a greater honor to have known you as a friend as well as a colleague............by the way, do many people know you were once an “Ag Agent” and a heck of an MC in your “Iowa days?”

Warmly,

*Carroll Londoner*
1979(??)
Roger and Jerry Chase set in a window frame on a new project.

1980
David and Nancy Hiemstra with Chase children (Jeff and Elizabeth) after attending Roger’s concert with the Amestones. Roger enjoyed singing barbershop harmony with this group.
Dear Roger,

I don't think I will ever live down the embarrassment of lumping you and Nate together and labeling you both "cheap". (We had just met as I recall...) I would now like to correct that assumption and add some new thoughts on the occasion of your birthday!

Although we don't know you well - and thus have few memories or stories to tell - we have now many impressions of you and Janet that we have gathered over the last three years since Sean and Nancy have married.

First, you are an exceptionally kind and gentle man, something I/we appreciate very much. That is particularly evident when you are holding our new grandson, Kian, in your arms. I love the fact that you are open to new experiences and ideas, though you have strong values and ethical stances of your own. You are wonderfully easy to talk with despite the fact (or maybe because of it?) that you have a PhD to your name and know much more about life in academia and a professional career in adult education than we will ever know. We like the fact that you love and support your grown children with every opportunity that comes your way. We like your comfortable and lovely home in Syracuse, NY where you raised those children. And we appreciate your work with the UU church in your community and with Habitat for Humanity in so many other communities.

We love that you always appear slightly laid back (but alert!) and relaxed. We love that you have such a great relationship with Janet (and relieved that, like us, you bicker on occasion...) We are glad that we are related, and that you have accepted us as part of the extended family...And finally, we love your website!

Have a great birthday, Roger!!

Love,

Susie (and Nate in absentia in The West Bank)

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Dear Roger,

I hear that you’ve reached yet another milestone in your life. I recall your surprise 50th while at the Kellogg Project. You seemed to really enjoy that Belly Dancer. I’m not so sure about Janet, but I think it was fun for all and certainly memorable.

These are some of the things I recall over the last 25 years of knowing you: It was my first opportunity to grow as a professional; I watched your children become adults and now parents and potential parents; I’ve seen you with and without a beard many, many times; there were the barbershop quartet events, which you thoroughly enjoyed participating in; the many scavenger hunts and volley ball games at your house during our Kellogg get-togethers (I wasn’t very good); your very generous heart, using Albert and his family as only one example.

It has been a pleasure to know you and be your friend all these years. I wish you another 70 years of happiness, “Grandpa.” Enjoy your birthday and your family.

Love,

Irene Quinlan
First Large Fish

One summer, Roger Hiemstra came to Bob Wemer’s farm near Montezuma. I (Harold “Skip” Boehm) was fishing Bob Wemer’s pond, which was a couple hundred yards east of Bob’s house and buildings. Joining me fishing that summer morning was my son, John. The pond had a particularly good place to fish along its southwest cove which for a number of years had a dying tree marking the spot and overspreading the cove.

Roger came up to us that cool and bright summer morning with Bob Wemer’s fishing pole in his hands. He definitely looked the part of a city boy who had never been down on the farm; sort of a fish out of water. He sat down next to John, who was smoking a cigar to keep the bugs off of him, and Roger asked for some assistance baiting his line. We quickly determined that Roger’s line was set up to catch catfish; the catfish rigging had a weight on one line to take the bait/hook, which was on a shorter line, to within four inches of the bottom of the pond. I showed Roger how to bait the hook with a big, fat, juicy, squirming night crawler and cast my line off to the east of the tree.

Roger cast directly north of the tree barely keeping from getting caught up in it. We all laughed and joked about his near miss and how he needed to get out farther to catch a real fish, when his pole almost jumped from his hands. Roger had a monster on the line. He fought it by walking toward the west and then back to the east, and finally landed it near the tree; it was a large catfish, which was perhaps five or six pounds.

That was when the bragging began, and it continued during the walk up the hill to Bob’s house where we cleaned and filleted the fish. A little later, we all sat down to a catfish dinner in Bob’s kitchen with Roger, the great white fisherman, beaming from ear to ear as he announced that the catfish was his first large fish.

Skip Boehm

Dear Roger,

Here’s to a fabulous birthday celebration on your 70th!!! I hope you have a wonderful time and enjoy this surprise 'publication' of your biggest fans around the country! Thanks for being such a wonderful father in law to my brother - its been great to be part of the extended Bowditch-Hiemstra connection.

Have a great year!

Much Love,

Windi Bowditch

Congratulations, Roger, on this milestone birthday. You certainly have "aged" well--much better than any good cheese or wine (and definitely better company). We’ve enjoyed some fun and varied roads and adventures with you and Janet--excellent memory-makers. Since you (and we) are hardly ready for the laprobe/wheelchair-set yet, we look forward to sharing many more good times.

Sending our love—

Carl and Jan Boller
Dear Roger,

Congratulations on reaching that magic age of 70 years. Once again you have reached the goal ahead of me. But the good thing for me is, for the next 11 days I can call you an old man. Or, I suppose, if I wanted to be a little more respectful I could say that you are one of my elders. However, 11 days gets lost in the big picture. The bottom line is, we have become the people we used to laugh at when we first met, oh those many years ago in the hallowed halls of Otsego Junior High School. You came from the bustling metropolis of Alamo and I found my way to Otsego from a really small place on the outer fringes of Kalamazoo.

I'm not exactly sure how you and I first met but I am ever thankful that we did. It must have been in some class when I was looking on your paper for the right answer to a question. I wasn't all that good at getting the right answers, but I seemed to have a knack of hanging around with the kids who did. Of course, we all had to be mindful of wandering eyes in Miss Vickery's English class. Even in her classes I was pretty good at the literature part but never did master diagramming sentences. I thought I was pulling the wool over her eyes until the day she came to our house in between marking periods and caught me reading a library book which she confiscated and told me not to get any more until I brought my grade up in English. Those were the good old days!!!

Over the years our paths have crossed from time to time, but there never has been any length of time when you haven't been in my thoughts. I really value our friendship. I am really proud of your many accomplishments, such as being a published author, world traveler, family genealogist, but most of all, the educator of adults.

Again Roger, friend, congratulations and happy birthday. Just remember, 70 is the new 50, so we are just turning middle age, and it gets us a discount at restaurants.

Always,

Myron Frasier

Hiemstra ski bums!
Dear Roger,

Happy 70th birthday!

At this point you are supposed to have mounted the ramparts of time, and you should be able to survey the past and peer into the future. The past contains many experiences shared with a multitude, mostly friends, but it is likely that some of the experiences included a few grouches also. I hope I fall into the former category.

So much of life is about the connections we make with others. Therefore this glorious celebration of your life presents a great opportunity for me to review our connections of almost 40 years. Thanks for the memories.

In my review of my life I have been impressed by how it has shadowed yours in many ways. Either those experiences caused me to admire you so much, or because I admired you so much the connection exists. We may ponder the cause and effect later.

Anyway I have been amazed at how two young professor from seemingly different backgrounds: one from the deep south and the other from the upper mid west could develop strikingly parallel lives. I'll admit, however, that I never developed the milking muscle that you did... I could barely strip a half-pint of milk from my grandfather's most productive cow.

Let me review the parallel for you in case you've missed it:
1. We both completed our PhD. degrees in out early 30's.
2. We both had a close connection with Howard McClusky. Howard and I talked for many hours late into many nights as we worked on community development issues.
3. We both developed interests in research design. The issues we faced during the writing and publication of our first joint book were burned into my physic while your peaceful attitude was just right.
4. We both developed an interest in gerontological issues.
5. We share a long interest in self-direction in learning. Perhaps this is the juncture of interest that has sustained our relationship.
6. We both married lovely women who have shared in our lives and made better men of both of us.
7. We both have been blessed with wonderful children whose love and support we appreciate more each day.
8. We share a common interest in things spiritual and moral. This common interest is probably the foundation for all of the rest.

It has been a pleasure to be involved in several writing projects and professional activities over the decades. Our common experiences in Tanzania qualify as life altering events that probably simultaneously rounded and sharpened our viewpoints.

All of the above things, however, are not as significant as my deep appreciation for you as a person.

But we do not share all things. Unfortunately for me, despite a musical heritage. I never learned to sing very well. Your barbershop harmony is a special gift and a source of envy. So, I hope you have a group near you as you read this, and hopefully they will they you in many songs.

May your next 70 years bring happiness to others and satisfaction to you.

Marie joins with me in wishing you a very happy birthday and many more.

Sincerely,

Huey and Marie Long
Hi Roger,

Wow! Seventy years old. Doesn’t seem that long ago that you were bushy-haired youngster stuck on a mud road not far from Janet’s childhood farm home. Wasn’t that the day that your relationship with Janet almost ended? But it survived and now you and Janet have two great children with spouses and a new grandson and a former very successful career – can’t beat that!

Congratulations on a life well-lived and hope you have many years to go.

Love,

Your brother-in-law

Bob Wemer
Roger was our semi-official MC for the various singouts that the Limestone Harmonizers performed throughout the years. Here is one of Roger's best barbershop jokes (this will give you an idea of the standard to which barbershop jokes are held). "We are part of an international society called the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barbershop Quartet Singing in America, or SPEBSQSA. There are some people who think SPEBSQSA stands for Some People, Especially Baritones Should Quit Singing Altogether (Rog is a baritone). This is of course entirely different than the organization known as SPEWTS, or the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Wooden Toilet Seats, also known as the Birch John Society." It was hilarious at the time, trust me! Happy Birthday, Roger!

Best wishes,

Corky
Happy Birthday, Rog!

The good times just get better as the grey hares multiply.

Happy Birthday!

Dona

Carol and Juan
Dear Roger,

Achieving my Masters in Adult Education at Elmira’s extension program at OCM Boces (1998) has been a most beneficial experience in my professional development. It has been awhile since I sat in one of your classes, yet there are many things I recall about them as if it were yesterday. However, one stands out the most …

During opening remarks to the AE Program, you indicated you were going to share your expertise and experiences, but that you were also there to facilitate group discussion where you would personally continue to learn and grow. How humbling, I thought – this great wizard thinking he’s going to learn things from students. You demonstrated how we could all learn from each other – but only if we were open to diverse perspectives.

I’ve tried to model that same behavior from that point on. Whenever I facilitate a train-the-trainer session, I share your remarks in hopes that others will learn the value of continuous learning and reflective listening. Your leadership and excellent behavior modeling are factors that continue to help me succeed as an organizational and human resource development consultant. I thank you, Roger! I hope your 70th birthday celebration is as memorable as you.

All the best,

Crystal Jacobson

---

Rog is the man to go to
There’s nothing that he cannot do
Upon him we call
No order to tall
He tames our unruly zoo

All things from the past he ponders
Through ledgers and archives he wanders
Lessons he finds
To challenge our minds
Sharing the thoughts of our founders

He’s had himself a fine life
With minimal stresses and strife
He made a good choice
In a strong and sure voice
When he asked Janet to be his dear wife

Happy Birthday! Alexa Carter
Happy Birthday, Uncle Roger!

I look back on the days I spent with Roger Hiemstra with a great deal of gratification. The days to which I am referring are those spent in graduate school at Iowa State University. Since Roger was an old hand at ISU Extension work, and I was a rather novice, he sincerely was my mentor. He had done some really outstanding things that meant a lot to many Iowans.

Along with our academic and other serious pursuits, we had some fun too. Racquetball was a diversion for us, helping to keep in good (acceptable?) physical shape. It was no exaggeration to say that Roger was a bit competitive and assertive……….along with me, he really did not like to lose. Therefore, Rog would like to make sure he knew where his opponent was on the court. So, he was constantly on my heels, crowding me so that I wouldn’t have a clear, open shot to the front wall. One time, he got a bit too close, right on my back (so to speak). Thus, I was raring back to put up a ceiling shot up, and guess what? Here was Rog right behind me and I hit him in the front tooth with my racquet.

Well, after a bit of inspection, we found that he only had half of a front tooth where a few minutes ago, it was 100% there. Well, after a session with the dentist, he was on the road again as well as ever.

We didn’t think a lot of that episode until later that year, when we (Roger’s cohort and I) presented him with a little outhouse and mounted on the seat inside was his one half tooth. Truly, that gave us a big laugh, contrary to the day when that poor tooth “bit the dust”.

It seems funny as we look back at this, and other enjoyable moments, with Roger Hiemstra. Roger and Jan are truly, even though we haven’t been physically close for years, some of our really treasured friends. Thanks for the memories.

Love,

Eric

Ron Patrick
Grant, Nebraska
A Well-seasoned Friendship
[with Pepper, that is]

Roger was once a young prof we knew at ISU.
He flew off to Syracuse -- "out of the blue".
He took his children and wife --
Left these good friends from that life...
Sitting at their card table with nothing to do!

Pepper had become their favorite card game.
We played often. Now life wasn't the same.
The Hiemstras brought new friends to their door --
Taught them how to bid, bluff, and score,
But when a rule was contested, they called Ames.

Though many long years have passed by,
The Hiemstras and Engels still have that Pepper tie.
When possible, as they travel...
They bring cards to the table --
Enjoying quick games in states NY and I.

Now, retirement allows freedom to us and to them,
As Roger approaches the auspicious 3 score and 10.
We, Engels, send wishes -- the best!
May your birthday and all days have zest!
We'll be ready to play, whenever we meet once again!

Love,
Rosalind and Ross Engel

My Dear Brother Roger,

A memory…I’ll never forget that we were together when we found out that Elvis died! I had driven with Kim and Kary to visit you and Jan and the kids in Ames. You and I were watching TV in the basement that night in August 1977, when a news flash came on… “Breaking News! Elvis Presley is dead!” We looked at each other with our mouths open, saying it couldn’t be true.

After you left home, I’d always look forward to your visits. You were always so funny, and could always come up with funny skits for us to do.

I’m glad you’re in such good shape at the young age of 70! Keep it up!

I love you. Happy Birthday!

Love,

Judy
Roger is 70!

My guess is, that with his great sense of humor, Roger would prefer a roast to a tribute, but he’s just going to have to put up with some praise. We’ll start with the professional side. Roger is widely known and highly esteemed as one of the leading scholars and thinkers in adult education. His work in the areas of ethics, individualizing instruction, and self-directed learning are especially notable. I am sending two Powerpoints that I don’t know if you will be able to share with everyone—one was developed by one of my students in my self-directed learning seminar (partly with tongue in cheek, mimicking Roger’s wit). The second documents the achievements that led to Roger’s selection as the recipient of the Malcolm Knowles Award for significant lifetime contributions to the field of self-directed learning in 2006, pictured below.

It is rare to find someone who has such an exceptional ability to get things done WELL--with every detail taken care of-- and who also has a great sense of humor! Roger is a valued mentor, colleague, and friend.

Happy 70th!! Does this mean that you are now historical as well as hysterical??

Have a wonderful celebration! Wish we could be there to laugh and reminisce with you.

All the best,

Lucy and Paul
To my very dearest Daddy.

I take the occasion of your 70th birthday to reflect 
On the richness of your life – 
Or really, on what that richness has given your daughter.

So many beautiful memories in my childhood, 
-of two fish on one hook 
-camping in the cow pasture 
-kissing a boy for your barbershop show 
-a surprise pie in the face 
-playing cards loudly in the pop-up camper 

There are so many things, little and big, you’ve taught me – 
-typing practice before computer games, 
-driving a stick shift 
-whatever you’re doing, do it well 
-A work ethic that doesn’t quit 
-“proofread, proofread, proofread!”

I am buoyed by the constant support you selflessly extend – 
innumerous school concerts attended 
silly (but vital!) tales for the homesick college freshman, 
microwave stands bought for my first apartment 
-roof mending on my first house 
-tireless arms for my first child 

I’ve learned from your example as a parent – 
-steadfast, good humored, sometimes stern, always loving. 
And now I love to see you as a Grandpa – 
-singing dos pajaritos. 
-sleeping in tandem 
-making Kian laugh with funny faces

I’ve been steered by your love 
Fueled by your belief in me 
Inspired by your drive. 
You are a mentor, an inspiration, an advisor, a friend. 
My Daddy, I love you with all my heart. 

Oh yes, one last thing…Want a poke? 

Happy Birthday, Dad! 

Nancy
Rog---HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Can you remember back to our one only winter weekend we shared? Aah, memories!! How long ago was that? 15 years maybe. You haven’t forgotten now, have you?

Remember the cozy cabin, the beautiful heavy snow fall and our cross country skiing, Riley with the snowballs on his feet and watching all the deer in the woods. Our wonderful meals, lots of drinking and the cozy evenings do everything and anything we wanted. Remember how good it felt to climb into bed under all those heavy covers after all that cold fresh air and an evening of drinking and drinking. Those were the days, HUH?

By “Our”, I mean you, Janet, me and Bob, Pat and George and Greg and Robbie!!! Remember don’t you?? Okay, so you are now 70. I have enclosed pictures to jog your memory.

Best Wishes and Happy Birthday. Here is to many, many more days filled with good friendships and happy memories, adventures and good health.

Janis
August 13, 2008
36 Delaware Xing E
Delaware, OH 43017
Phone: 740-201 3853
Lancog1@gmail.com

from the desk of Charlie and Grace Lang

August 13, 2008
Hi, Dave and Nancy

We are pleased to respond to your request. Roger filled our lives with friendship and great camping experiences. We met him when he was in school at Michigan State, and wanted a summer job some time in the early 1960’s. He was a super song leader at several 4-H camps north of Grand Rapids, MI. His first transportation “vehicle” was a motorized scooter. It was a wonder that it never fell apart. We enjoyed each other’s humor, as you will notice in this letter.

We were fortunate to have met Roger. This year Janet and Roger stayed overnight at our home in Delaware, Ohio. It was an evening full of recalling memories and talking about our families.

We mentioned that he was a song leader at camp. He also was a member of the MSU men’s choir. So he had the campers singing with harmony, and the usual rounds i.e. “Row- row- row your boat,” “My paddle is clean bright - - -”etc. Roger helped the counselors to lead songs.

And now some “stories” about your father – perhaps with a little embellishment – so???

1. There was a song called “Itsy–bitsy teenny–weenie yellow pocka-dot bikini.” It was played and sung many times; over and over and over! Most of the staff was tired of it. So the song was buried.

2. He also enjoyed meeting some attractive young ladies – somewhere about 17 of them. His major problem was his motor scooter only had one seat. So when he had a date, she would have to put on roller skates, tie on a rope, and skate behind his scooter. For some reason most of his dates dropped interest in Roger.

3. He would lead songs at camp fire. He had to use a blow torch to start the fire. Several of campers showed him the way to use paper, sticks, and logs, and introduced him to matches.

4. Roger was able to get a trampoline for camp. With counselors serving as spotters around the trampoline. Records show there were 148 young campers who took their new skills home. Little by little stories began to appear in the papers that parents were reporting that their children were breaking springs on beds and sofas. Some were doing somersaults, and several were adding double twists to their high jumps. Several ceiling lights fell to the floors. Roger said he had to go back to East Lansing in a hurry; no reason was given.

5. His graduate studies were at the University of Michigan. Did you know that he believed the cheer “GO BLUE” meant for the students to hold their breath for the number of points the team scored. Fortunately for Roger the teams never scored more that nine points I am enclosing a copy of the entrance exam for scholars and athletes applying to the University of Michigan. He will recognize it immediately.

And please pass on our love and best wishes to Roger as he enters the seventies, and especially Janet.

Charlie & Grace
ROGER: STUDENT – COLLEAGUE – FRIEND

Congratulations on the big 70. We remember:

Master’s exam on a 12 hour notice due to the death of my father.

Spending the night in our sleeping bags on your Fayetteville living room floor before you moved in. We were on a camping trip. The neighbors eyed us.

Keeping Janet’s dog Sean when we were on sabbatical and she was in college.

Feeling happy when you joined the Iowa State faculty and very sad when you left.

A major impact of your tenure at Iowa State came several years after you left when your rejected proposal for a "College for Seniors" was finally adopted. This concept is now in full bloom at institutions across the country and world wide. An educator ahead of his time—a pioneer. (See current catalog of ISU offerings).

We are happy to have you as a friend.

Pauline & Roger

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Roger Paul Hemstra

Roger is the oldest of us five kids with me being the youngest. There is a 16 year difference between us. I don’t remember Roger much as I was growing up until I was maybe in middle school.

I do remember - either when he was in the service or in college - we would write letters to each other. But we would usually do something silly with the letters, rather if be cut into a puzzle or cut on each line. Something to where we would have to “put it back together” before we could read it.

I remember the day he showed up with a bus load of people.

I remember going to Iowa for his wedding.

There are probably other memories if I thought hard enough. But these are the most memorable.

Anyways, Happy 70th Birthday with many more birthdays to come.

Love Joyce

Roger’s 70th

A Tribute: I think Roger was born with a schedulu attached (not that it’s a bad thing). He was always a determined and goal oriented person. That’s it down and Mr. Roger Hemstra can be very proud of his accomplishments, his contributions to all peoples, family and others, his family...recently extended to grandson. I know that I am proud of his life now and into the future... love Carl.

Memories:

Many that there are. As one of the council would have spent daily improving our softball prowess by standing at our home town yard throwing grounders, line drives, and flyballs to each other and also I had to be his catcher to developed his fast pitch abilities.

With love

Carl Hemstra

Aug 30, 08
Roger
Teacher, Mentor
Encourages, Inspires, Shares
Fake It Like You Know It
Friend

Happy Birthday, Rog!
Ralph