



# BROOKLYN\_BORN

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## Where have all my old friends gone? Day 15

Sunday, May 22, 2016

"Let the Haters Be Your Motivation" - Persistence and Resilience

Yesterday we attended the HS graduation of grandson #3. He is class valedictorian and made a speech at the ceremony. He's known as "Math Guy" since he enrolled in Calculus at the local Community College at age 12. All his math courses during HS were taken at a local university.

His speech included interesting as well as whimsical statistics and equations. He thanked his teachers and coaches. I particularly remember the 8th grade principal who personally drove him to his Calculus class in the middle of each day.

One of his awards was from the PE Department for the athlete with the highest GPA. That reminded me of a day in September 1989 when I got a call from the Guidance Counselor of his mother.

Did I realize that I had signed the form allowing her to drop one of her AP classes for "Weight Training?" Was I aware that she wouldn't be valedictorian because that class wasn't "weighted" (ironic pun there?)

She wanted to be sure I had agreed because DD had responded to that consequence with "So what!" That was my feeling too. She was always a top student but an athlete as well. So, "so what!"

The quote at the beginning of this blog wasn't from GS's speech but from the keynote speaker - a graduate of the class of 1996. He wasn't honored at his own graduation. By his own admission his life circumstances had made him angry and bitter. Now he had a PhD in Math and a successful career in research. I'm sure his words resonated with many in the crowd, those with many honors after their names in the program and those with nothing at all - those who barely scraped by.

I'm paraphrasing here:  
High School is important but it's not over.  
There will be "haters" and let them motivate you.  
Reaching your goals requires persistence  
There will be challenges and setbacks that require resilience.

It's interesting that graduation included all those math references just as I'm in the middle of my data analysis of spark friends - their motivation and levels of persistence and resilience.

Today I only have time to check in on a group of 10  
Some show remarkable persistence. One is 82 and still sparking!  
One has a serious degenerative disease and is still sparking!

However the last words of one were "I am feeling down because I'm letting things make me feel that I am worthless again." I hope she found support elsewhere.

Persistence and Resilience

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How we do gain the proper levels to be successful?

Today's results

6 Active and 4 Inactive/Missing

Summary so far:

143 out of 270 are still actively sparking - That's 53%

One final note about DD:

Because there were 7 students with GPA's over 4.0 and separated by hundredths or even thousandths of a point, they had all 7 on stage as co-valedictorians.

Some years later DD met her husband at the campus gym where both were pumping iron. I bet the Guidance Counselor never foresaw that consequence.

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**JEANKNEE**

Like your DD we were fortunate to be encouraged academically, physically and artistically. Appreciate my parents!

1845 days ago



**PHOENIX1949**

Your family rocks on many generational levels!!

1846 days ago



**BEESHELL8**

love this, congrats, and enjoying your research project!

1846 days ago



**DOVESEYES**

Well Said! I Agree AWESOME CONGRATS! THANK YOU!

1846 days ago



**CHANGINGHORSES**

I thank goodness there was more after high school! So grateful that my school years did not define my future. We have the power to choose our attitudes and our paths, it's wonderful. Sounds

like you have an awesome family. (I'm a hater.)

1846 days ago



**PHEBESS**

I love this blog! At SO many levels!

Absolutely agree with the keynote speaker - too many people think high school defines who they will be for the rest of their lives. Doesn't have to be that way, and in reality it usually isn't. Those who didn't do well in high school go on to succeed, often more than their higher-achieving peers.

And yes, guidance counselors and teachers and even parents often expect students to focus on the academics and ignore "electives" such as art, music, PE, foreign language, vocational classes. But if schools are preparing students for the rest of their lives, then ALL those subjects are equally essential in the development of well-rounded (intellectually, not physically!) members of the community.

Mazel tov on your grandson's graduation and being valedictorian; mazel tov on your daughter being such a great mom as well as student; and mazel tov to you for being a great mom and grandmother!

(I was supposed to be one of three valedictorians at my HS graduation. I refused. I actually had to get a note from my mother saying it was okay. Yeah, I know, I was an oddity even then.)

1847 days ago





**GINIEMIE**



Congratulations to your DGS. Sometimes life offers some strange twists. My daughter was "demoted" to Salutatorian because of scheduling conflicts which prevented her from taking an AP English class. Even though she took the AP English Test she couldn't take AP Music and AP English at the same time-or some such conflict. She was a college History/English Major and went on to get her Master's at the University of Chicago. She had intended on studying Welsh and Ancient Irish lit, but the program that included that was dismissed after she was accepted. Oh Well, she did well and is now working for AVON on some specialized computer job where she verifies shipping and receiving data. LOL-not

her mom's cup o' tea!



1847 days ago



**LIVEDAILY**



Challenges, setbacks, resilience, and persistence - that's life!  
1847 days ago



**ONEKIDSMOM**



What a great balance of life your family supports. Mine did not, they emphasized academics and de-emphasized athletics. They were, by the way, cool with the musical side of things. And made sure we all learned to swim, though.

I believe your children and grandchildren have been blessed by the balance. I had to find my way to the athlete within and to accepting it later in life, and I would not change the experiences that have brought me here, but I believe you've given your family a great gift by valuing BOTH!  
1847 days ago



**BBEAGAN**



Persistence and resilience - good messages here.  
1847 days ago



**WILSONWR**



That was a great blog. Your DGS should be proud -that is quite the accomplishment! Your family has done quite well! Your DD, in particular, is both smart and athletic!  
1847 days ago



**WATERMELLEN**



Congrats to Grandson#3: he sounds like an absolutely remarkable young man who delivered an important message with aplomb!!

Apple not falling far from the tree? Good values, transmitted down the generations!!!  
1847 days ago



**50YEARSAWIFE**



Great blog. Life is a journey. We each choose our path.  
1847 days ago



**TERI-RIFIC**



Good for your daughter and good for you for not succumbing to AP pressure. Great point

about High School, too.  
1847 days ago



**CD2244567**



KEEP PUSHING! YOU CAN DO IT!  
1847 days ago



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