



KHS 1988 grads at the reunion mixer



Memories from Katy High School

RESTORE THE Katy High School Class of 1988 Reunites

“Katy High School taught us how to work hard, be kind, and live well. Katy will continue to grow and change, but it will always be home”

- Will Adams, KHS Class of 1988



Teacher Susan Orr with two former students



Couples enjoying the reunion mixer



KHS graduates of 1988 taking a tour of Katy High School



Leslie Blas



Craig Washburn and Joel Menard

ROAR!

by Gabrielle Browne
photos by Suzi Issa

Katy High School sought to “Restore the Roar” as the Class of 1988 celebrated its twenty-year reunion. Out of 446 class members, at least 294 have remained in Texas, and 142 of those still call Katy home. All saw their twenty-year reunion as a chance to reconnect with former friends and to make new acquaintances.

Class President Kristyn Edney, who helped organize the weekend’s events, says, “When you come back and see everybody, it’s exciting and you realize how important these common bonds are. You can rebuild friendships.

A Year of Planning

Edney lives north of Dallas, and she and a dedicated group of volunteers worked to put the reunion together. “I emailed various classmates for help. We got together in Katy over a year ago, meeting in the summer to outline it to decide how the reunion should look and feel. It was a challenge since I live so far away,” Edney explains. “Soon, we knew we needed help, so we asked GradsReunite.com for help.” GradsReunite.com, a local business founded by Angie Riquelmy, coordinated the two-day event. Riquelmy surveyed the class and encouraged former classmates to share pictures and memories in order to get the ball rolling. “Twenty-year reunions are the best. Everybody has gotten out of their cliques after twenty years,” explains Riquelmy.

Walking Down Memory Lane

A small group of classmates participated Friday morning in a golf outing at Pine Forest Country Club. That night, a social was held at Crowne Plaza Hotel. Saturday afternoon, classmates toured Katy High School to see how it has changed. The main event for the reunion was Saturday evening’s Western-themed dinner and dance, also held at Pine Forest Country Club. As 80s music blasted in the background, classmates entered the banquet room, stopping to look (and chuckle) at the poster-sized senior class photo. Later, the reunited class enjoyed a slide show prepared by Riquelmy that mixed photos from 1988 with those taken at the weekend’s events.



KHS alumni enjoy the Western-themed dinner at Pine Forest Country Club



Enjoying the slideshow of memories



KHS grads with their husbands and wives



Ben Keel, Kristin Schmidt, Todd and Ali Thompson

Will Adams has fond memories of his time at the school. “Katy High School taught us how to work hard, be kind, and live well. Katy will continue to grow and change, but it will always be home,” the local lawyer remarks.

Keeping Katy Connections

Ben Keel has joined his father in the financial planning business after working in Colorado for the past twenty years. His child was born in May with the help of former classmate—now doctor—Kris Schmidt. Schmidt also recently delivered classmates Todd and Alix Thompson’s baby. Keel says, “I’ve been home to visit in the last twenty years, but this is the first time to really come to stay. It’s great

to try to get caught up with everyone and rekindle old friendships.”

Katy High School remains an important part of many alumni’s lives. John Crosby and Romer Austria began Katy Blinds and Shutters nine years ago. Their business stands so close to Katy High School that they can hear the band practicing. Former teacher Susan Orr returned from Franklin, Tennessee for the weekend. She was the senior class sponsor and taught most of the class English. “I got a special invite. I have six to eight students who have kept in contact over these twenty years. It’s so cool to be invited back,” Orr says.


KM

GABRIELLE BROWNE resides in Katy with her husband and eleven-month old son.

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Life in 1988

- A first-class stamp cost \$0.25
- A gallon of regular gas cost \$1.08
- A dozen eggs cost \$0.89
- A gallon of milk cost \$2.30
- CDs outsell vinyl records for the first time
- Album of the Year goes to U2 for Joshua Tree
- Beloved, by Toni Morrison, won the Pulitzer Prize for fiction
- Faxphones are \$1,295 and a Compaq 286 laptop is \$5,399
- Rain Man was the top movie money maker of the year
- Median household income is \$27,225
- Orel Hershiser breaks Don Drysdale’s record by pitching 59 consecutive scoreless innings



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