



Confession time: I've only just joined Facebook.

Normally, I'll phone or text a friend, and I've got the websites of my favorite hobbies bookmarked. (Go Yankees! Go Top Chef!) So there seemed to be no compelling need to establish a presence whereby everyone who cared to know what I was doing could know. But then, the Alumni Association established its Facebook page, so in the interest of work, I had to make an account and become a fan of, well, myself. Sort of.

Soon after, the itch hit. Could I really just type a few names of old pals and instantly zero in on where they were now, and what they were doing this minute? Surely it doesn't work that easily, and even if it did, would I want to know what my high school arch nemesis was up to these days? Darn it, yes I did.

I began my search with high school friends. Not having a clue as to how Facebook – rather FB, for those of us power-users - really worked, I typed in names and searched the now more than 300 million accounts. I seriously thought there was zero chance of success. But, voila, on my first try, a hit. Cautiously, I sent an email saying hello, dropping a nickname I used to call this person, and hoping like heck my intentions would be received appropriately, without being labeled a cyber-stalker. To my utter amazement, he responded about 30 minutes later with (virtual) open arms. I had made my first FB Friend.

Over the next week, we exchanged emails to catch each other up on what we'd been doing since the late 80's. He's in Afghanistan now, working with an engineering group, and will be stationed there until the end of the year. He's married with 2 wonderful little girls, and couldn't be happier.

Oh, and did I mention he just happens to be an ODU Alum?

You see, it wasn't until my email back, catching him up on my life, did he know that I worked in the Alumni Office at ODU. Turns out that after starting his college career in one place, life came along, and he had to turn his energies elsewhere. When the time came for him to finish his degree, he did so at ODU and is now a proud member of the class of 2005. So as it turns out, I not only reconnected with one of my closest friends from high school, but also one of my constituents. Who knew?

So after some initial hesitation, I'm now a big fan of FB. In fact, I've found another friend from the past who has been living only a few short miles from me. And with our Alumni Association presence, I've been able to hear from alumni daily about their excitement for all things ODU. It's been great to get feedback so quickly, and I have to admit that I check to see the number of fans we have on a daily basis.

So if you haven't had a chance to be a part of our Facebook page, take a few moments to go on and become a fan. And while you're there, see what happens when you go to look up that fellow Monarch that was in your Political Geography class. You never know when you might cross paths again. In fact, I'd love to hear any stories you have about finding your ODU friends through FB or our online community, the Lion's Den. In the meantime, Shroom, if you're reading this – and as a good ODU alum, you'd better be, stay safe, and we'll see you back on campus soon.

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A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dana".

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