



BREAKOUT SESSIONS

One-hour-long discussion groups are scheduled from 2:15-3:15 pm and 3:30-4:30 pm. (There is a 15-minute break between sessions.)

Choose from these topics:

MY DETROIT: THE REMEMBERED PAST

Whether it was Vernors ginger ale, Sanders hot fudge, egg lemon soup in Greek Town, bebop at the Minor Key jazz club on Dexter, the Symphony, the DIA, the churches, synagogues, theater venues, newspapers, universities, hospitals, ethnic communities —come share your reminiscences of the Detroit you knew and loved and explore in discussion what Detroit of today retains, toward the making of a renaissance.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE ARTS AND HUMANITIES

Focus on music, poetry, writing, performance, visual arts, and architecture. Share what you took from your involvement in the arts and humanities during your Monteith years into your subsequent life. A few poems might be read and a few songs sung.

COMING OF AGE: THE FUTURE

Our first class convened in 1959 and the first graduates have now qualified for Medicare while many more are already signed up for Social Security benefits. Others are solidly occupying the Third Age of boomer life. How are you preparing for the upcoming “next chapter” of your life — whether that means full retirement, continued employment, volunteering your service, or some combination? Share plans and exchange ideas.

SCIENCE: YOUR OWN SEQUENCE

Here’s an opportunity to explore how the two-year Natural Science sequence at Monteith may have inspired you in your career. Did Monteith influence a different breed of scientist? Physicists, physicians, IT experts and other techies may reflect on their influences, here, and develop some ideas about the future.

LIFE ABROAD

Some Monteith grads have lived for many years in other countries; have spoken other languages besides English—and some currently live outside the United States. Share your story of life in another country and culture – including the Peace Corps, Foreign Service, or international business stint, compare notes with kindred spirits.

As a corollary to this discussion, Maria Rydstedt will provide information on the Global Volunteers organization.

EIPHANIES AND QUESTS

Share those singular moments in a life when sudden insight or a vision impelled or impels you to make a dramatic change in how you live your life. Learn of others’ life journeys. The hero has a thousand faces, as Joseph Campbell wrote.

WHAT WAS THE MONTEITH EXPERIMENT AND HOW WAS I PART OF IT?

Funded by the Ford Foundation to promote greater creativity and leadership among college students, Monteith was considered an “experimental college” whose innovations would enable “ordinary” college students to excel. How do you remember your Monteith experience? How do you feel the experiment contributed to shaping your life? This session might be of interest to any former Monteith student as well as those who became educators or facilitators in all walks of life. (Consider the Monteith concepts of Cooperative Self-education, Senior Colloquium, small discussion groups, interdisciplinary studies, etc). Monteith faculty are also welcome.

WAR, LOSS AND DESPAIR

Served in Vietnam, Iraq, Kuwait or some other theater of war? Suffered losses of family, home, job, physical strength and health? You represent a key sector of the population. Here’s an opportunity to exchange experiences, find support from the cohort of your college years, and form new connections.

ANARCHISTS, OUTSIDERS

Here’s a session for those who are not attracted to any of the other sessions, who often feel like outsiders (even as Monteith students), and have a strong anarchistic streak. This session will not be facilitated. Participants will have to create their own order (or chaos).

CAN WE HELP SAVE DETROIT?

Deepen your understanding of life in Detroit today and offer your ideas about how the city might recover from its downward spiral. Prepare in advance by watching films such as “8 Mile” and reading works like Jerry Herron’s After Culture: Detroit and the Humiliation of History.