HOMECOMING 2012 WAS AN EVENT TO REMEMBER
for the College of Arts & Letters! Even the wet, chilly weather couldn’t dampen the spirits of the more than 200 alumni, faculty, staff, students, friends and family in attendance.

Open from 9 am to 12 noon, the Homecoming party tent was packed for much of the morning. A special appearance by the MSU Pompon squad was a big hit, as was the announcement of the winning song in the College of Arts & Letters 50th Anniversary song contest from 1962-63: Bob Dylan’s “Blowin’ in the Wind.” CAL Professor David Stowe, whose idea was the song contest, announced the top 10 songs and the winner, and then joined the band on drums to play and sing the winning song.

But that’s not all. There was a scoop of CAL’s 50th Anniversary ice cream – Arts & Letters Golden Apple – for everyone; a TourGuide project prototype kiosk including recognition of CAL alumnus Henry Timnick, BA, MA,1957-58, who is sponsoring TourGuide in honor of his mother, Ottilie Schroeter Timnick; colorful TriviCAL Pursuit game cards on every table with questions about the College focusing on the five decades since its formation by the Board of Trustees in 1962; a giant Operation game board; and of course, a breakfast buffet of hot and cold foods, beverages and CAL 50th cookies.

Two enlarged cheerleader photos with head cutouts for people to place themselves in the photos were a big hit for individuals and families alike. One had two male cheerleaders holding up a female cheerleader, and the other was of a cheerleader yelling into a megaphone.

Also in attendance was CAL alumnus and Homecoming Week guest speaker Jack Epps, who, with MSU Professor Jim Cash, was half of the most successful screenwriting team of the 1980s. Epps and Cash wrote numerous outstanding screenplays including “Top Gun,” the largest grossing film of 1986, “Legal Eagles” with Robert Redford, “Turner and Hooch” with Tom Hanks,’ and “The Secret of My Success” with Michael J. Fox. Epps spoke to several film-related classes during his stay on campus, and was guest of honor and led a post-film discussion following a special showing of “Top Gun.”

Unfortunately, the Spartan football team was not as successful as the CAL Homecoming event, falling to the Iowa Hawkeyes in double overtime, 19-16.