Dora Gomez ’86 is celebrating her 30th Reunion at the Copacabana on Friday, May 6, 2016.

IN WHAT YEAR DID YOU GRADUATE PACE? WHAT WAS HAPPENING IN THE WORLD BACK THEN?
I graduated in 1986 and I remember how the Mets did win the World Series! (Sorry Mets fans.)

Music was our escape and entertainment. Madonna was a sensation and so was Duran Duran. I still own the yellow SONY Walkman cassette/radio player that I brought with me on my J Train ride during my commute to Pace from Queens to Downtown Manhattan. It was a world without cellphones but plenty of public phone booths, no metro cards, but subway tokens, no CDs, but cassette tapes, no internet, but libraries full of encyclopedias, and we had already had our first female vice presidential candidate, Geraldine Ferraro from New York. Times have indeed changed!

WHAT ABOUT YOUR TIME AT PACE DO YOU REMEMBER MOST FONDLY?
I remember Pace as a place that was truly diverse – as a first generation American, I felt that there were many of ‘us’ that made up that population at the Pace NYC campus. I also remember having great teachers who were experts in the business field, especially in Accounting and Law.

It was also great to be a Disc Jockey for Pace’ WPUB Radio Station during my four years as a student! I still have my collection of vinyl records that I use to bring to play my favorite music. As I reflect back and think about that now, it was an art to know how to spin records, pop an 8-track for commercials and interact with your audience listening in the Snack Bar (which is now the Security Offices.) We also had a Mr. & Miss Pace contest which I will admit being a part of (due to a bet I lost). Unfortunately I didn’t win but it was hilarious going through that experience!

HAVE YOU BEEN TO A PACE REUNION BEFORE? IF SO, WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO ATTEND PACE?
I’ve been a ‘regular’ at Pace Reunions for about the past 10 years! Pace is not only an institution where I received my Accounting degree, but a place where I spent four of my most important years that influenced my career path. Celebrating the institution Pace is each year is my way of saying “Thank You” for continuing to provide education to our diverse generation. I enjoy meeting the most recent graduates and learning where their career is headed.

WHAT’S INSPIRED YOU TO ATTEND PACE REUNION THIS YEAR?
Wow...this year I will celebrate my 30th year since graduating from the Lubin School of Business at Pace! I love it! I never thought about what that meant as far as ‘getting old’ but I feel that I have accomplished so much in my career that I never set out to do. The different paths my work experience has created have been amazing, including an expat assignment in Paris, France. I’ve embraced challenges such as public speaking - which now, funny enough, I enjoy speaking at a number of industry conferences – something I never imagined! I suppose those two Speech classes at Pace weren’t a waste of time after all.
HAVE YOU STAYED CONNECTED TO PACE AS AN ALUM? IF SO, WHY?
Staying involved with Pace is important to me as an Alumni, but especially in a way that I can give back. Some of the other events (besides the Reunion) and programs I like to give back to are the; Pace Annual Fund, Pace ASPIRE, Edward J. Mortola Heritage Society, Pace Mentorship Program, Pace Homecoming, Pace Alumni Holiday Celebration, and many others. To those young students and alumni, my advice is to stay involved with your Alma Mater. Remember where you learned the skills that will become your future, your independence, and follow your ambition that will bring you to unexpected but fulfilling dreams that you never anticipated.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO YOUNG ALUMNI AND RECENT GRADS TO HELP THEM STAY CONNECTED TO PACE AND TO OTHER ALUMNI?
It is so much easier now to stay connected with your fellow alums and Pace given that social media is available. Back in the 80's it was true communication! Either you stayed in touch with phone calls or as pen pals! Now you have LinkedIn, which is a great website on a professional level where you can connect with your fellow graduates, companies, and institutions such as Pace. In fact, Pace has an Alumni LinkedIn page that I subscribe to to stay up to date on news and events!

Social media can be impersonal and I would aim to make an effort to schedule the occasional get together, even if it’s over a cup of coffee, to catch up. If it’s once a year, meet at the Pace Alumni Holiday event where the atmosphere is always nice!