

### **Class of 1955 Reflection**

The years 1951 to 1955 witnessed many changes, both on campus and in the world, which shaped the F&M experience for the Class of 1955. In the early 1950's, the Civil Rights Movement was beginning to gain momentum, the Polio vaccine was created, Cold War tensions developed, and concern over the draft resulted in most of the class participating in ROTC. Close ties with the Reformed Church required chapel attendance for those wishing to earn Dean's List and eleven fraternities emphasized academics, athletic prowess and hosted parties on special all-campus weekends.

Members of the Class of 1955 remember summer shiftwork at Armstrong Cork Company ("what's that God-awful smell?"), U.S. Mail Delivery over Christmas Break, and work-study awards that easily covered the cost of books and tuition (student debt, what's that?).

Television was a new commodity during those years at F&M. While the Class of 1955 was in school the medium was being enlarged and improved right in Lancaster at the RCA factory on New Holland Pike. When the Class of 1955 came to F&M, everything available on TV was black and white and on tiny screens. As they left, it was possible to see TV in color on small screens.

In the early 1950's, three F&M professors were creating the Pennsylvania Folklife Society which published "The Dutchman" to celebrate the magnificent arts and folk beliefs that flourished in central Pennsylvania. The Green Room productions were also a significant part of the Lancaster cultural scene. Our F&M experience becomes more important in retrospect as the years pass by.