

## F & M Reunion Reflections – Class of 1965

“65 Has Arrived !” We heard that chant on a warm September day over fifty years ago when we began our years at F & M. We saw during our studies so many changes, celebrations, events, and yes, even tragedies as well. We arrived at a time when college President Bowman had instituted a remarkably well chosen new curriculum that gave us the extraordinary opportunity to have a modern classic liberal arts education that prepared us extremely well for all our future endeavors and especially for those

who would continued higher leaning. The young men of '65 were presented with the opportunity for a priceless basis of academic learning and discipline. We came from an era in American history that now seems “retro” to our present younger generation.

Our sleek portable typewriters and transistor radios have now given way to lap tops, smart phones and note pads. Today, media and technology is king and the pay phones of our dorms seem as antique now as the spinning wheels did to our parents in 1965. Arriving at F & M in the Kennedy years, we lived through the rise of Camelot in Washington, witnessed the Cuban Missile Crisis and saw both a change in our college presidency and the tragic the death of President Kennedy. That loss rocked the college, our nation and the world. An era closed, but a legacy of support for science, culture and the arts by government continues still.

During all these college years we studied, acquired knowledge, made mistakes, chose our majors, studied hard, played sports, learned new skills, joined clubs, organizations, and fraternities. We went to memorable parties and gatherings, saw the Beatles invade the US on national TV, heard Dave Brubeck play at the College, listened to Martin Luther King speak and made lifelong friend. We left F & M wiser, inspired and energized to meet our individual challenges, pursue careers and go on with the rest of our lives. It was an experience that will stay with us always and we owe a huge debt of

gratitude to our Professors and Instructors who dedicated their lives to teaching and to a college that continues an amazing tradition of academic excellence.

“All Hail Nevonia !” Tom Parker '65