

Reflections of the Class of 1977

By Jerry Halloran '77

When I entered the campus during the fall semester of 1973, I was struck by the beauty of F and M. The classic buildings spoke of the nearly 200 year old tradition of college education. I was hopeful that I had found a home away from home. I was hoping that F and M would be a good place to grow up.

I thought that I might study the pre-medical route and someday become a doctor. Franklin and Marshall whispered to me about all the possibilities that existed for me there. I could take the tried and true course, or I could stretch myself out and see where the college would take me.

I took the standard pre-med courses but decided to become a German major, study in Austria, and hang out with decidedly non- pre-medical friends that were such a great influence on me to this day. You know that I still love all of you. I still count you as my friends. In my mind's eye we haven't aged a bit.

I became a Student Senator, joined the swim team (God Bless Coach George), joined Pi Lambda Phi Fraternity and immersed myself in everything F and M. Franklin and Marshall, its people, the buildings, the faculty, became a part of me. There is the physical plant that is Franklin and Marshall College and then there is the spirit of the college that lives in all of us whether we are on campus or not.

I am married to the wonderful Laurie Halloran for the past 31 years. We have five children now growing to adulthood. Visiting F and M is in all of my children's blood. Bonnie, F and M class of 2011, works at the college museum. Ryan class of 2013 is a junior presently.

Franklin and Marshall is more than a college to me. F and M has become an integral part in the life and education of my family. Franklin and Marshall has moved from college to legacy for the Halloran family. I hope to see all of the class of 1977 at our reunion the first weekend of June this year.