

## Reflections of the Class of 1992

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Much like each of our lives today that may be filled with family, travel or 60-hour work weeks, our time at F&M was a series of unique experiences. Whether in a classroom, fraternity/sorority, playing field or simply while catching up with our freshman floor mates, we all made individual memories which have lasted for 20 years. Looking back on it though, there were many moments beyond convocation and graduation that we all shared. So, here are some reflections for the class of 1992, or at least a few alums' fading memory of our time at F&M...

- Like all successful ventures, it started with a hoedown.
- Facebook was "The Pig Book".
- Despite the incredible inconvenience to those living in Ben Franklin, it took an entire year to build the new Weis dorm ... then they basically put up the Science Library over a summer weekend.
- In a hugely disappointing realization: The Lancaster Train station actually looked nothing like the scene from Family Ties.
- We had our very own ice rink, which doubly served as a beacon for the college with its modernist black on white mural of the faces of Ben Franklin and a guy who vaguely resembled Abraham Lincoln.
- Within days of our arrival on campus, Guns and Roses released the iconic double-set of *Use Your Illusion I and II*. Armed with these CDs, the ever hip class of '92 spent the next 4 years rocking out mainly to *Sweet Caroline* (1969) and *Oh What a Night* (1976).
- Despite appearances by Robert Palmer and The Hooters, the masters of Mayser Center were undoubtedly Johnny Clegg and Savuka.
- For a brief moment, it looked like the 'Fightin' Amish' nickname and the priceless lacrosse logo had a chance of sticking.
- Brendee's Old Town Tavern had the audacity to raise the price of a beer to 50 cents.
- Stahr Hall became Stager. Well at least that's what we think it became. We all called it Stahr for all 4 years.
- Despite the school's attempts to create an F&M vocabulary citing "Fummers" who "Atriate", the only fashioned expression to be heard for all four years was "De-recognition."
- Somehow the seemingly simple job of ringing the bell that announced the new day's arrival required two of our classmates.
- The folks who volunteered to go on stage with that random hypnotist are still not 100% right to this day.
- The "Blue and White" was launched as an alternative to The College Reporter but sadly failed to capture any of the CR's 26 loyal readers.
- Many of us who watched two watershed moments in history – The Persian Gulf War and the "Wide Right" Superbowl – on the same 27 inch television set, now have kids who could not imagine seeing Spongebob on anything less than a 50-inch plasma.

- In what may have been the singularly best and worst idea the college ever had - the outdoor clambake - was a huge success, until the smell of rotting lobster claws wreaked from every bush in the quad for weeks.
- Lancaster actually offered a hotel constructed to scale of a full-sized steamboat resting awkwardly in a parking lot painted to look like water, featuring the sweet serenade of fake birds chirping.
- F&M's march to the championship game of the 1991 Division III Final Four remains ESPN 2's finest moment.
- At one point or another, each of us ordered a Scarlet Ibis with a straight face.
- When we needed to get gussied up and impress our parents, we opted to eat at a place called "The Whore House." Yes, we know the correct spelling is H-o-a-r but that's a lot less funny.
- Why have one Laura Ashley, floral, doily-collared dress, when you can have a sorority house full of them? Although, to be fair, they did photograph particularly well next to a guy in a navy blazer, a tie, shorts and baseball hat.
- The stout Charles Barkley and his taller, leaner teammate Manute Bol, NBA icons, roamed the campus for weeks every fall and yet, the F&M tour guides felt for some reason it was 'cooler' to instead point out two similarly shaped, decrepit water towers to potential freshman.
- Hildy's flexed their moral muscle by making you wait until midnight on your 21<sup>st</sup> birthday before you could enter with your valid ID; however, if you wanted to use your fake ID, you could get in immediately.
- When they built the new college square across the street...oh, how everything changed:
  - The guys from Steak Out, sold the shop and opened the Steak Attack there. Failing to gain anything from competing with the original - they eventually were forced to merged. Four years of business classes had nothing on real life.
  - The bookstore's move made it particularly inconvenient to get F&M apparel which, in a way, foreshadowed today's situation where decent F&M swag is only available in Italy.
  - The new Sports Bar, which I think may have actually been named, "The Sports Bar" featured a full sized working ring; recognizing that there was is no safety issue mixing booze and boxing.
  - Our class picture was taken of us packed on that very bridge maximizing the potential that no one would be recognizable in the photo 20 years later.
- The notable Judge Harry Blackmon used our graduation address as an opportunity to diss Darryl Strawberry
- There were so many memorable moments that can never be recreated: Last Hurrahs, Senior Surprise, Spring Arts weekends and of course the few days when it didn't rain!

One final thought to put our last 20 years in context...

F&M was on the cutting edge of the technology boom in 1988 when it encouraged every incoming freshman to buy a \$2,000 Apple computer...a computer which NONE of us still own. Had they instead recommended we each buy 2k of Apple stock, we would all be \$112,000 richer today!