

Reflections of the Class of 1993

by Gayle Patterson Withers

We arrived at F&M in August of 1989. Those of us who drove to campus paid a whopping 97 cents a gallon for gas, and we had our handy bag phones in the car that were only used for emergencies. We were in trouble if someone needed to reach us on those phones, because we didn't know the phone numbers, and the phones were never on anyway.

We owned Macintosh SE computers, which were nifty tower/monitor combinations that were 18" cubes and kind of heavy. We were tough, though, and we lugged those cubes to study rooms around campus along with the keyboards, AND the power cords. No battery-operated computers for us! As we trudged through the common areas of the dorms, you could always expect to see a group of people watching *Cheers*. *Cheers* and its song "Where Everybody Knows Your Name" became our theme song. We had yet to fall in love with two new shows that were getting some press—*The Simpsons* and *Seinfeld*.

When we were sophomores, the US went to war in the Persian Gulf, and many of us knew people who were deployed there. It was a sobering experience for us, and didn't seem real.

By the time our junior year rolled around, we learned that we could plug our Mac cubes into the wall and find out if books had been checked out of the library. For many of us, this was our first brush with the Internet, though few had access to e-mail before graduating.

The presidential election of 1992 represented the first campaign in which our class would vote. The Governor of Arkansas, Bill Clinton, defeated George Bush in this election.

We celebrated senior week in Myrtle Beach, where we huddled around the televisions to say goodbye to Sam, Diane and the rest of the cast of *Cheers*, whose final episode aired in May of 1993. After the show, we drowned our sorrows at Ocean Annie's. But even though we were a long way away from Lancaster, we took comfort in the fact that we could look around, and *everybody* knew our name.