

Class of 2009 Reflection – Rebecca Rehr and Andy Duberstein

“So what’s next?” That was the most frequently asked question in the weeks leading up to May 16, 2009, when we graduated from Franklin and Marshall College and entered into one of the worst economies in decades. Never mind that we had just gone through the most rigorous, challenging, sleepless, and outrageously fun four years of our young lives. Now we had to think about entering the real world? Since 2009, we have gotten Fulbright scholarships, gone to graduate school, med school, law school, entered into new jobs, gotten published, celebrated engagements, marriages, babies, and made final payments on student loans! We are here this weekend to catch up with old friends, maybe make some new ones, and reminisce about our time on campus.

Roaming the halls of Hackman, Shad Fack, and Stager, we’re reminded of classes where we learned to articulate our opinions and write coherently, and all-nighters crunching for finals. Walking through the College Center, we remember the days filled with club meetings held there. The absence of Pandini’s is noticeable; a void that may never be filled. Strolling across Hartman Green, we can see our younger selves lounging on

those amazing Adirondack chairs we used to fight over – we'd either be pretending to read, drinking what may or may not be water out of an F&M Nalgene, or hoping to catch a glimpse of the cute upperclassman from that religious studies class we were taking because, you know, we're at a liberal arts college.

We were the first class to enter into the House System as freshman and helped lay the foundation for what it has becoming today, building camaraderie among students and fostering a little friendly competition, of course. We witnessed the establishment of the new Diplomatic Congress and Alpha Phi. Fueled by caffeinated beverages from Jazzman's, we participated in a national election and led rallies supporting social movements on and off campus. We saw physical changes on campus including the Barshinger Life Science & Philosophy building, College Row, the Klehr Center for Jewish Life, Tylus Field, and the Sustainability House. The campus has changed so much since our time at F&M. Heck, we have changed so much since our time at F&M. But we are rooted in the strong academic tradition we experienced here together and the four years that shaped the content of our character.

“We'll give the world our service,

But ever like a gem,

Our hearts shall hold a love untold

For dear old F and M.”