

Class of 1984 Reflection – Steve Price

The year 2014 has finally arrived. It is hard to fathom 30 years have passed since the class of 84 received its degrees at Hartman Green.

When we graduated, fax machines and IBM Selectric typewriters were cutting edge office technology.

Cities such as Lancaster, Scranton and Philadelphia still had morning and evening newspapers. \$18,000 was the starting salary if you were lucky enough to get hired by a big 8 accounting firm. In 1984 there was no doubt about the value of a liberal arts education at schools like Franklin and Marshall. Although the job market was tight, an F&M degree went a long way.

Times have changed. Most of us probably read the newspaper online. The news magazines and other publications which filled our parents' homes and offices are gone and the value of a liberal arts education is under attack. The curriculum and philosophy that has educated F&M students how to think since 1787 is considered antiquated and useless. That is why today's gathering is so important. It reminds us of the common thread which binds successive generations of F&M alumni and reinforces the need to keep our college strong for future students.

I closed our 25th remembrance with a quote from Professor Athey. As our world continues to speed up and deprive us all of time to reflect, I find it even more appropriate today. Professor Athey said a liberal arts education taught us "to doubt, investigate and decide". If we apply this teaching, we can continue as a class to make a difference at F&M and as individuals in our homes, businesses, and communities.

I wish you all well.