

Class of 1992 History

By Rob Teplitz '92

For the Class of 1992, our world both inside and outside of campus was in the midst of great transition during our four years at F&M. Most significantly, we entered the College as the first class to experience the impact of derecognition of the Greek system. The first two pages of the very first *College Reporter* that we received (Volume 25, Number 5, dated August 29, 1988) foreshadowed the story of the next four years – the headline on page 1 read, “Student Interns Evaluate Social Life, Recommend Diverse Improvements,” while the full-page ad on page 2 read, “The Alumni Greek Council, Panhellenic Council, and Inter-Fraternity Council welcome the Class of 1992”!

In other words, while the administration – led by a new President, Dick Kneedler; a new Dean of Students, Alice Drum; a new Dean of Freshmen, Kent Trachte; and two beloved young women as Director of Student Activities, first Patti Meyer, and then Tammy Green – promoted and supported many successful efforts to strengthen student activities on campus, the Greek system was still alive and well for those who chose to participate in it. To the College’s credit, each of us could make our own decision, which, for many, meant active involvement in *both* Greek and non-Greek activities. During our time at F&M, those activities included square dancing during Freshman Orientation, being entertained by George Carlin during our sophomore year, rooting for the men’s basketball team in the NCAA Division III Final Four during our junior year, and enjoying the sight of President Kneedler and Dean Drum arriving by elephant to Senior Surprise at Hersheypark.

Another individual launched a presidency in the face of a different kind of Greek threat during our freshman year, as Vice President George H.W. Bush defeated Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis in the 1988 presidential election. For most of our class, that was our first opportunity to vote for the highest office of the land and, when we graduated, the next presidential campaign was in full swing. (In fact, former California Governor Jerry Brown brought his insurgent campaign against the Democratic front runner, a little-known Arkansas Governor named Bill Clinton, to a packed Hensel Hall.) The intervening four years saw the fall of the Berlin Wall, the end of the Cold War, an attempt to create a “new world order,” and the first Persian Gulf War.

Changes were visible on campus as well. Just a few examples: our class saw the opening of Weis Residence Hall, International House, Martin Science Library, and College Square; the replacement of Hallmark with Woods Food Service; and the introduction of new technology called “e-mail” that allowed us to communicate with friends and family beyond Lancaster.

Our final time together as an entire class was at our commencement in May of 1992, when we had the privilege of listening to sage advice from U.S. Supreme Court Justice Harry Blackmun. Many things have changed on campus and in the world in the fifteen years since then. After all, when we were in college, Bush was President, the United States was at war in Iraq, a Clinton was running for President, the College itself had a new President, and the

College was navigating a new relationship with the Greek system! Well, maybe things haven't changed all that much, but our love for, and appreciation of, our alma mater has only grown stronger. Welcome back, Class of 1992!