

When we arrived at F&M in August 1991, a new life stretched out in front of us. In the steaming summer heat, we kicked off our college years with a picnic at Baker Campus and a Circus on Hartman Green. We were as ready as we could be for the growing pains: our first mid-terms, our first all-nighters, and our first pledge duties. These trials were balanced by the good things: our first parties, our first winter break, and our first Spring Arts. The world around us was changing as quickly as we were. The First Persian Gulf War had drawn to a close and the Soviet Union was collapsing. That November, Arkansas Governor Bill Clinton won the U.S. Presidential election.

The next few years were full of opportunities. We selected our majors, and with that, found some direction in our lives. The faculty and coaches challenged us in ways we'd never experienced, and we grew. We joined clubs, played sports, performed in shows and studied abroad. We hung out at the Common Ground, in Buchanan Park and off campus at Hildy's, the Village and the Grandstand. Gradually, we left the dorms and the dining hall behind, and took on the responsibilities of our own apartments, Greek houses and special interest houses. We survived the Great Blizzard of '93, which brought record snowfall to the East Coast from Cuba to Quebec.

During our college years, DNA fingerprinting and the airbag were introduced. The World Wide Web was first available to unrestricted commercial use. The North American Free Trade Agreement was signed. Brett Favre played his first start with the Green Bay Packers, and Prince Charles and Princess Diana announced their separation.

On television, we enjoyed Cheers, Seinfeld, Friends, The X Files, Baywatch, and L.A. Law. Jay Leno became the new host of NBC's *Tonight Show*, following the retirement of Johnny Carson. At the movies (or on that brand new format called a DVD), we watched *Wayne's World*, *Schindler's List*, *Sleepless in Seattle*, *Forrest Gump*, and *Clear and Present Danger*. And as the cassette tape gave way to CD's, we listened to U2, Pearl Jam, Nirvana, Eric Clapton, Def Leppard, Color Me Badd, Boyz II Men, Van Halen, Janet Jackson, Whitney Houston, and Blues Traveler.

Before we knew it, it was senior year. As we prepared for graduation, the world around us looked promising. The Dow Jones Industrial Average surpassed 4000 for the first time. Sammy Hagar smiled when the 55 MPH speed limit imposed in the mid-1970s was ended. Cal Ripken beat Lou Gehrig's record for most consecutive baseball games. The Space Shuttle Endeavor had a successful maiden voyage. And, the country was steadily climbing out of recession.

That year, Homecoming featured Fummer Games and Everyday@Six on the quad. York's hometown band, Live, appeared in Mayser Auditorium. Ben's Underground introduced "Comedy Down Under" and "Studs." On Valentine's Day, Love Central took over the Steinman

Atrium. Students Against Multiple Sclerosis hosted "Rock-A-Like," a lip-syncing contest featuring songs like Ini Kamoze's "Here Comes the Hotstepper" and Janet Jackson's "Black Cat." And in the spring of 1995, F&M baseball won more games than any other school in history. The team was F&M's first ever representative to the NCAA tournament, and finished third in the Mid-Atlantic Regional Championship.

As the year progressed, we took exams, wrote term papers, and spent long hours in the library. We wrote resumes, applied to grad schools, and searched for our first jobs out of college. We enjoyed great friends and traditions like the Senior Masquerade Party, Last Hurrah and Senior Surprise at the ballpark. Then, on Saturday, May 21, 1995, we crossed the stage on Hartman Green to receive our diplomas and were honored to hear from Commencement speaker Mary Shapiro '77. Over the past 15 years, the members of the Class of '95 have had journeys as unique as the individuals who make up our class. Wherever we go, we carry a bit of F&M with us, knowing that our lives wouldn't be nearly as rich without the formative experiences we shared here.