

David Skill

Class of 1964

Fondest Memories of my years at AWHs

The friends that I made and the fun that we had, while at the same time getting a solid educational background to prepare me for college. After graduating from AWHs in 1964, I went on to the College of the Holy Cross where I graduated in 1968 with a bachelor of arts degree in English.

I also loved being involved in the senior play "Around the World in 80 Days," even though I only had one line!

And I felt that the nuns and the lay teachers that we had were always supportive, helpful and really cared about us, not just as their students but as people.

I used to love the Friday afternoon rallies in the gym hosted by Carmen Mariano as we cheered on our sports teams and during football season, the "open houses" where we would all gather at a classmate's house to socialize after the games.

On a more somber note, when our classmate Paul Sullivan died in a tragic auto accident and when President John Kennedy died, the faculty and administration helped us cope and try to make sense of it all.

Keeping in Touch With Classmates

I have always remained close to a half dozen of my classmates since graduation, among them our President Carmen Mariano, who was also best man at my wedding. We socialize on a regular basis and over the years have watched each other's families grow into adulthood. We also consistently attended the five-year reunions to say hello to old friends and classmates.

But since Carmen became president, a group of about two dozen of us from the Class of 1964 have "reconnected" and renewed our friendships. We go out to dinner together on a regular basis and several of us "do lunch" from time to time.

Now 45 years after graduation, we see that it makes NO difference if you were a football hero, cheerleader, homecoming queen, academic superstar, geek or just an average student. In the end, we're all the same because we all shared the same AWHs experience. And, most importantly, we have all truly become best friends!

Impressions of AWHs Today

I have had the opportunity to visit AWHs a number of times over the past few years - once when a college friend of mine who is the author of the Calculus textbook that is currently used at AWHs - visited the school as a "guest lecturer." I also spent time at AWHs earlier this year preparing for our 45th Class Reunion. And, of course, on the proud day when Carmen was inducted as president of the school.

The current students I have met on my visits to the school have been, without exception, polite, eager to help and, most importantly, respectful with adults and each other. That really impressed me. The "family" atmosphere that was so much a part of our lives back in the 1960s is alive and well today at AWHs.

Family

I have been married for 39 years to my wife, Carol, who teaches at Archbishop Williams and is chair of the mathematics department. We live in Canton and have one daughter, Christi, who graduated from Providence College in 1996 and is an accounting manager at Babson College. (Ironically, her office is right across the hall from my classmate Charlie Anderson, the director of human resources at Babson.)

Career

After graduating from Holy Cross (along with AWHs classmate Dr. John Foley, who is an emergency room physician at the Lahey Clinic in Burlington), I joined the U.S. Army Reserve and went to Fort Dix in New

Jersey for my basic training. When I returned home, I did some substitute teaching and then moved on to a career in retail store operations at the old Jordan Marsh Company. After nine years with Jordan's, I was given the opportunity to transfer to the computer systems division of the parent company of Jordan's, Allied Stores, where I started as a technical writer, became a senior technical writer and corporate trainer and, eventually, a manager of systems development and implementation.

Allied Stores merged with Federated Department Stores in the late 1980s and my job vanished. I luckily had the opportunity to pursue a lifelong dream of mine - to be on the radio. I went to work for the Marshfield-based radio station WATD in late 1989 as a news anchor, reporter and writer. I also host a number of music specialty shows on WATD. It's hard to believe I've been there for 20 years and it's still fun!