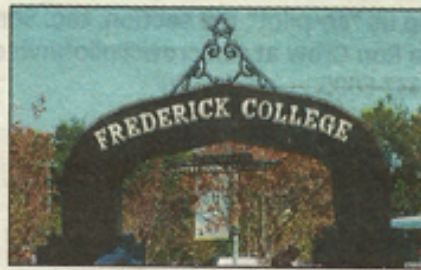


Alumni not short on memories

By Linda Lamm English
Correspondent

Perhaps the memories were made fonder and the friendships stronger when Frederick College closed only a few years after it opened.

Judy Blankenship Naprstek, Ann Byrd Preston and Peggy Kresevich Stoneham are former students, Western Branch neighbors, and good friends



LINDA LAMM ENGLISH

This replica sign at the entrance to TCC-Portsmouth on Campus Drive greeted Frederick College alumni during a recent reunion.

who recently laughed and talked about their time on campus.

Peggy loved watching Frederick beat Old Dominion in basketball. Ann loved the sorority life. Judy loved it all. They remember the beautiful view from Patton Hall, coasting down a snow-clad hill on sheet pans from the cafeteria's kitchen, and the women's red gym suits.

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FREDERICK

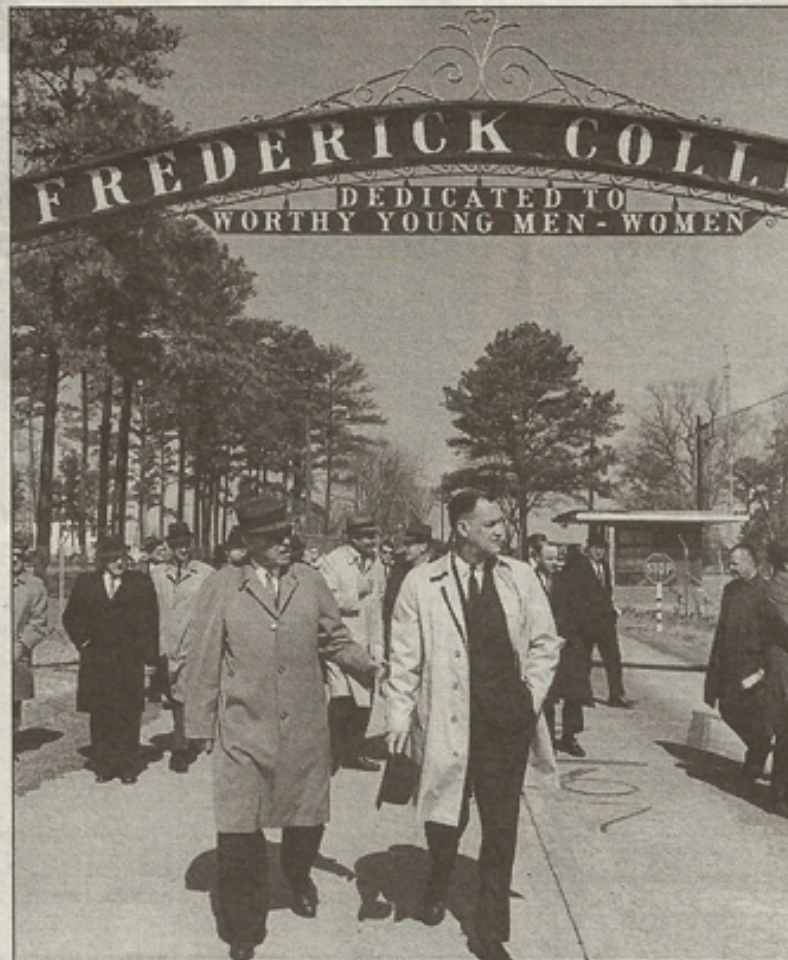
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"They looked like maternity tops with bloomers," Judy said.

Established in 1961 by philanthropist Fred Beazley, the college offered a first-rate education for a cut-rate tuition - scholarships and matching funds were plentiful. Ann's mother had vowed that all five of her daughters would graduate from college. Ann attended, but didn't graduate from there, because it closed in 1968, when she and Peggy were juniors.

Judy was in the final graduating class of 1967, the first in her family to earn a degree. Peggy transferred to Old Dominion College. Ann went to Virginia Commonwealth University, where "I was in culture shock."

Nothing like VCU, Frederick had mandatory Sunday-night chapel services, with men and women wearing their good clothes. Students were obliged to attend classes on the New and Old Testa-



VIRGINIAN-PILOT FILE

Fred W. Beazley, left, escorts Gov. Mills Godwin at the gateway to Frederick College on March 8, 1968, the day Beazley gave the school and \$1 million to the state to start TCC.

ments. Rules were strict and study hours enforced. Freshmen had to wear beanies, and everyone was required to live on campus. Still, they had a great time.

The closing was unsettling for many, but it resulted in educations and careers for many others. The waterfront property donated to the state was developed into the second-largest community college in Virginia.

Tidewater Community College hosted an elegant reception and catered luncheon Oct. 15 at a Frederick College reunion in Virginia Beach.

And at TCC's new Portsmouth campus, a facsimile of the wrought-iron sign once posted at Frederick's entrance on College Drive was erected, a glass-encased collection of memorabilia was on display and old photos flashed on a big screen.

A chorus sang both school songs, which sounded similar. TCC president Deborah DiCroce graciously encouraged them to consider the college their alma mater.

When Frederick closed, Peggy remembers being "crushed, with no sense of belonging, and no alma mater to go back to." She doesn't have to feel that way now.

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