



**COLLEGE OF
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Dear Students,

Thanks for a wonderful semester.

In January, I began soliciting letters on your behalf from seniors. (I use the word “behalf” loosely, but hope you don’t mind.) My question to them was simple: What do you know now that you wish you would have known when you were in your 20s? My argument for doing this was that despite being a much more multigenerational society, generations are interacting with each other less and less. It’s a monumental loss on both sides. This project was never meant to bridge that gap, but simply get the conversation going.

The letters I have received have come not only from all over the United States, but a few foreign countries as well. They have arrived in the form of poems, short stories, eulogies, and more. They have shared the wisdom gained from raising a Downs Syndrome child, to surviving domestic violence or breast cancer. Between the lines, they give glimpses into the change that preceded your arrival. When undergraduate girls were required to pass a swimming test to graduate; or when the Marching Band was made up of only guys; or when a 1964 ivy green Mustang cost only \$2,400.

Enclosed you will find one of the many letters written to you and your classmates by someone over 50 years old. In a perfect scenario I would have hand-picked just the right one. But of course that would be impossible. Instead I did the next best thing and simply left it to chance.

While I hope you enjoy the letter you receive, the larger lesson is that someone cared enough to write it. Someone possibly sixty years your elder wanted to tell you a little bit about their life, and what they’ve learned. It feels like a good start.

I sincerely hope you choose to stay in touch. Life’s journeys and lessons can be told in both directions, and I will always be eager to hear yours.

All the best,

David L. Gould
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