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My Post-Grad Journey:

As I look back at graduation from Fairfield, what is remarkable to me is the number of events in my life since then that were not planned, or expected, or even imagined. The list started shortly after graduation when I ended up at medical school in Guadalajara, Mexico. I can assure you that the four years of French at Fairfield (and four years before that in high school) did not prepare me in any way for this. Good planning, right? After four years there, and another year to get oriented to the American system, I started my medical residency at Mountainside Hospital in Montclair, NJ. Once again, I had not anticipated or planned on meeting Elizabeth McCarthy on that first day; she was the head nurse on one of the med/surg floors at that hospital. Twenty-six and a half months later, we were married, and still are, 43 years later.

Shortly after that, we found ourselves on I-80, heading West, in a Datsun wagon, in a snowstorm; our destination was South Dakota, where I would start my career in the US Air Force as a Flight Surgeon, which involved flying in B-52's and KC-135's. You might at this point think that all this seems to involve a whole lot of major life events in a short period of time, and you'd be right. But we just did what everyone else does: hold on (to someone else, if you're lucky), keep on going, call it "life", and enjoy it.

We left the Air Force in 1984, but not before our first child, Joseph, was born in California. Our other son, Patrick, was born in 1985 in NJ (the children were, actually, "planned"). I worked for the next 23 years in the private practice of medicine, self-employed. In 2007, for a variety of reasons, I closed that practice and moved to Richmond, Virginia; I have now been retired for 4 years. We bought a small plot of land in Hollywood Cemetery, here in Richmond, so we're not planning on moving too far from here any time soon.

At Fairfield, pretty much my only extra-curricular activity was the Glee Club, all four years. In addition to the chorus, I got involved in four-part a cappella singing, which led to joining the international Barbershop Harmony Society; I am still a member. Most important of all, I was lucky enough to meet and then stay in touch with three other Glee Club members (and their spouses) since graduation. In fact, we will all be at the Reunion. And we are "planning" on having a great time.