

A L U M N I N E W S

Friends for life

Semester in London 30th anniversary

On Feb. 24 and 25, the London Semester Study Abroad group from 1988 held their 30th reunion in Harrisonburg, with 15 of the original 30 students in attendance. Professor Emeritus of Economics Russ Smith, the faculty member in residence who traveled with the London group, was able to attend the reunion as well. One member, **Joyce Forbes ('89)**, said, "My biggest take-away with our group is that back in 1988 we weren't all friends. Yet, 20 years later, as we reconnected through Facebook and other means, more of the group got to know each other. ... I think that's pretty amazing and equally wonderful because it's afforded us to be able to know about each other's spouses, kids, jobs, vacations, pets, problems and successes. Pairs or smaller groups get together for lunch, brunch or drinks. We're always talking about how and when we can get together."



(Clockwise): The London reunion group, along with their faculty member in residence, Russ Smith (center), at Three Notch'd Brewing Company in downtown Harrisonburg; the official 30th anniversary group photo in front of Wilson Hall; (L-R): Stacy Parker Strauser ('89) and Jenn Naughton ('90) share their British biscuits, Ginger Nuts, with the group.



Jeanne Johnston reunion

Jeanne Johnston ('78) and her college roommates made a commitment in the 1980s to get together every few years, no matter where they were in the world. Over the years, Johnston and her former roommates, **Diana Vigil, Sharon Coletta Raess, Mary Ann Rametta** and **Robin Basford Stuck**, all members of the Class of 1978, have met in Arizona, Washington, North Carolina, New York and Japan. The last time the group was together was two years ago in Asheville, North Carolina. In celebration of their 40-year class reunion, the group is coming back to where it all started in Harrisonburg and will celebrate old times during Homecoming 2018.

Frederikson Hall roommates

Cheryl Sears Stickley ('85) and **Heidi Haase Tucker ('85)** were high-school friends who requested to be freshman-year roommates. They were assigned to C302 in Frederikson Hall, where they met their sophomore-year suite-mates, **Kathy McMahon Honnold ('84)**, **Maria Ku Albin ('84)** and **Kathryn Unruh Verber ('84)**. Over the next three years, the ladies formed an extremely close friendship. After graduation, they all settled in the Northern Virginia area and started getting together monthly. They decided to take turns meeting at each other's homes and cooking dinner for one another. None of the ladies had much experience with cooking, so it was



agreed that if a recipe didn't turn out, then pizza would be ordered! At first, it was just the ladies, but as members of the group married, the group has grown to include husbands and eventually children—10 kids total! The "Suite Dinners" have continued to take place every four to eight weeks for the past 33 years! And pizza has never been ordered.