



## **A Love Story Over Fifty Years Later**

*Donald C. Mullen*

During the fall quarter of 1968, I became a pledge at Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity. Our pledge class was “teamed up” with the pledges of Alpha Delta Pi (ADP) sorority for a pledge exchange. One of the ADP pledges was an attractive blonde freshman right out of Garfield High School named Karen Mobley. She immediately caught my eye. I wanted to talk with her and ask her on a date, but I was way too shy. Thinking she was not attracted to me, I walked away feeling like I missed my opportunity to get to know her.

Two weeks later I was visiting my late brother, Professor Fred Mullen, in Shrank Hall. I left Fred’s office and

was walking down the hall when Karen approached me. She asked me to go to the ADP winter formal. I was so thrilled I could hardly speak. After recovering, I grabbed her hand and gently rubbed. I said “*really?*” Of course I would! Since chivalry was still alive in the 1960s, I said, “How about if I take you out for pizza tomorrow night?” In this way, I asked her out on our first date.

In February 2020, we will have been married for forty-nine years. Karen Mullen and I have three grown children, and our oldest, Robert, is a graduate of The University of Akron School of Law.

I have had a wonderful life, all thanks to our fateful encounter at The University of Akron. I will always be grateful and we are both proud alums. Sign me, Karen’s Donnie.