



Just a Kid Who Started in Gallucci Hall

Greg Dieringer

Like many prospective college students, my introduction to college came through my older sibling. I was a sophomore in high school when my older brother, Brian, was a freshman at The University of Akron, and I knew in my early visits taking my brother to Akron, as well as attending Little Sibs Weekend, that The University of Akron was the place that I would eventually go to college myself.

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I embarked on my college career at the University in the fall of 1990, and I had the amazing opportunity to reside in Gallucci Hall my freshman and sophomore year. While some students struggle with being away from home, my residence hall experience provided a sense of community and comradery that made me never want to leave campus. I still remember the mantra, "Three West is the Best," and I will never forget the friendships and memories.

As a typical college freshman, I was somewhat undecided on a major, but I ultimately chose secondary education. What impressed me about the College of Education was the expertise of the faculty and experiential learning, which began in your introductory courses. I still use the knowledge I gained from my undergraduate courses in my career as a higher education professional today.

In addition to my classes, one of the most impactful experiences I had was working as a student assistant in the Office of Admissions my last two years as an undergrad. Our office manager, Gayle Templeton, instilled the values of a professional work ethic, and the admissions officers inspired me to pursue the field of higher education as a profession. By amazing good fortune, I was able to become an admissions

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officer at the University after I graduated in 1995, and I can't think of a better way to begin your career than working at your alma mater and educating prospective students about the amazing opportunities waiting for them.

As an admissions officer, I quickly learned that I had a passion for working with college students, so it was an easy decision to pursue a master's degree in higher education administration at The University of Akron. The higher education program was comprised of new and experienced college professionals as well as graduate students. You learned so much from such a diverse mix of students, but I learned the most from my advisor and professor, Dr. Robert Dubick. What I remember the most about Dr. Dubick was his sense of humor and his knack for inserting his personal stories from decades of working in higher education into his classes.

Looking back, it's hard to believe I have now been employed at The University of Akron for almost twenty-five years. Over the course of that time, I have progressively taken on higher level positions, and I even met my wife, Stephanie Davis-Dieringer—another Akron alum and employee. I wouldn't be where I am today without the many academic, professional and personal experiences at The University of

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Akron. I am proud to not only serve my institution but to be able to help students achieve their own academic and personal goals. Not bad for a kid who started as a freshman in Gallucci Hall. I guess you can say that I started as a freshman and have never left.

Hail We Akron! Forever a Zip!