



### **Roommates for a Couple Years, Friends for Life**

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When I walked into my dorm, Thompson Hall, in fall of 1984, I never imagined that I'd be meeting women who would be my friends for the rest of my life.

My roommate was Robin Reed. We didn't have much in common. She liked sports, and I had zero athletic ability. As a biology major, my classes were all in the morning, so it was "early to bed, early to rise" for me. She was an art major, and her classes were all in the afternoon. She liked to stay up late. There were times that she was just going to bed when I was getting up.

Then we started hanging out with Eileen (Gorris)

Harford, an education major, and Christine (Huth) Pyscher, a geology major, who had some beads hanging in the doorway to their room that made a racket every time someone walked in or out of their room—which was often! We formed an intramural flag football team called the Thompson Teasers. I still have the T-shirt. I think that I was invited to join the team so they could laugh at me because I was so awful.

In the spring of 1985, we met Bonnie (Noga) Minnich, who was a social work major. She actually lived in Burns Hall, a dorm behind Thompson. Bonnie worked at the front desk in Thompson and probably spent more time in our dorm than in her own.

During our sophomore year, we all lived together along with a couple of other girls in the townhouses across from Gallucci Hall. Those were great! Robin (who we all call “Bird”) painted an awesome life-size Pink Panther on the wall in the living room. On warm spring afternoons the couches would get pulled out into the courtyard, and on cold winter nights we’d drag down our pillows and blankets, have a slumber party downstairs, and watch David Letterman.

The next two years took us in different directions, but we continued to stay in touch. Bonnie became an RA, and Bird lived on Catherine Place (so we’d have a place to congregate for the epic parties!).

After graduation, life took over for a while. Eileen was the first to get married, and we were all starting our new careers. A couple of years after graduation, we started going to

homecoming every year so we could get our picture with Zippy. We have tried to go to at least one football game every year since, and now basketball games, too. We have also gone away together for the weekend to Cedar Point, as well as vacations along the shore of Lake Erie. Our get-togethers grew to include our significant others and eventually our children. At some point, we started referring to our little group as “The Roomies,” and it’s stuck.

What all of us treasure is that our friendship has taken us through weddings, divorce, serious illness, death of parents, raising children, graduation parties, and now the birth of grandchildren. We try to be there for each other, in good times and bad.

When you have been friends with someone for over thirty years, you know almost everything there is to know about each other. We don’t need to explain. We understand because we were there and we lived it together. Our children have grown up knowing each other and share a special kind of friendship that is hard to describe. Even though The Roomies are very different, we share the common bond of supporting each other, and it all traces back to The University of Akron.