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Students I remember

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EDITOR'S NOTE

About four years after I graduated from college, I went back to my alma mater to request copies of my transcripts to accompany applications to several graduate schools.

This was my first time back to campus since graduation night, and since I was there, I thought I'd walk around a bit and see how the place had changed. Eventually, I made my way to the building that housed my major's department. It was around noon, and the halls were quiet, as was typical during lunchtime. I decided I'd look around for a few minutes and then leave, but as I walked down the hall, I was surprised to hear my name called out from behind me.

I turned around and saw one of my former professors. She taught an American literature survey course that I had taken the first semester of my freshman year. It was the only class I had ever taken from her.

We talked at length about my graduate school ambitions, and she offered to write a letter of recommendation for me. I thanked her for the offer and started to leave, but by this time, my curiosity had gotten the best of me. I had to ask how she remembered me from so long ago. Her reply was simple, and it sticks with me to this day: "You always remember the good ones."

I was sincerely impressed that this woman, who had interacted with thousands of students over the course of her career, remembered not just my face, but also my name. To her I had been more than a number on a roster—she remembered me as a person.

It wasn't until I taught my own classes as a graduate student here at Northern that I understood how and why this professor had remembered who I was. Teaching is an incredibly personal endeavor. Someway, somehow, students become a part of who you are.

So when I asked NMU faculty members to write about one or two students they remember fondly, I knew that I hadn't given them an easy task, but I also knew I could count on a tremendous response. I wasn't disappointed.

If you don't see your name as you read through these pages or see it on the *Horizons* Web site (www.nmu.edu/horizons), where we've placed the full, unedited text from all the submissions we received, it's probably not because you're not remembered. It's simply because there's not enough space or time in the world.

—KW

Alumni Association Services Survey

What do you think about the programs and services the NMU Alumni Association provides? What programs and services would you like to see the Alumni Association offer? Log on to www.nmu.edu/alumni and fill out our online Alumni Association Services Survey. All of the information collected will be anonymous and confidential. This is your chance to tell us your ideas and let us know how we're doing.



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We asked NMU faculty members to reminisce about students they have worked with over their years of teaching. This is just a sampling of the students, classes, and memorable moments that have made teaching at NMU so rewarding.

11 Laughing matters

Make no mistake, retired criminal justice professor Bill Waters is no tramp—he's a hobo through and through. Waters has adopted the hobo as his clown persona of choice and has traveled with well-known "laughter is contagious" guru Patch Adams and crew on several goodwill missions around the world.

ON THE COVER AND ON THIS PAGE

Various NMU students from the 1950s to the present. Photos courtesy of the NMU Archives. Composite image photographed by Bill Sampson.