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I have had much good fortune since graduation in 1969. There has been more than my just share of good luck involved, and a fair amount of hard work.

Deborah Laipson, whom many from Trumbull College will remember, and I were married soon after graduation. Deborah received her degree from Simmons College in 1971 and later her master of arts in teaching from Colgate University. During graduate school years at Yale she taught mathematics at Amity Regional High School and later, after our move to Hamilton, New York, at Morrisville-Eaton Central School. With the advent of children, Deborah has taught part time in a number of capacities at Colgate, private schools in the Philadelphia area, and most recently at Hamilton College. She has also directed tutoring services and has done a good deal of private tutoring.

Two wonderful children have enriched our lives. Jonathan was born in 1975 and will be going off to Williams College, where he was accepted early decision this past fall. Samuel was born in 1978 and will be off to Milton Academy in the fall.

My own trajectory has been a bit more complex than I intended, having long presumed that I would teach and write history for a lifetime. I stayed at Yale Graduate School, studying mostly with Peter Gay, doing work in various aspects of European Intellectual History.

I left Yale in 1973 to become an Assistant Professor of History at Colgate University, where we stayed for twelve years. At some point during that time, while 1 taught many aspects of European History and wrote a fair amount about eighteenth and nineteenth century cultural history, I discovered a vocation for that suspect activity called “administration.” A stint as Acting Dean of the Faculty in 1980 convinced me that I might want to move in that direction at some point. That point arrived in 1985 when I became Provost of Haverford College, where I served for three years before leaving in 1988 to become President of Hamilton College.

The writing of this note catches me once again in transition. I will be leaving Hamilton College in June, taking a wonderfully inviting sabbatical, and then will be moving to Williamstown to become President of Williams College on January I.

Somewhere during that first year in Directed Studies at Yale, I discovered a passion for learning and ideas, and at some later point I discovered a yen for public affairs and activity. It has been my great good fortune to be able to combine these yearnings on beautiful campuses, surrounded by bright people, in companionship with the woman I have loved for thirty years.