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### Different experiences, same ending

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**Different experiences, same ending**

*Summary: Katie Haberkorn '06 and legacy parent Jeff Haberkorn '73 compare experiences as students at the University of Minnesota, Morris.*

(June 15, 2006)—Listening to Katie Haberkorn '06 and her father, Jeff '73, share their University of Minnesota, Morris stories, one might first suspect they have little in common. One can't imagine honors student Katie skipping class. Jeff admits with a smile that Cougar golf "took up all of Spring Quarter each year, 36 holes a day, to the exclusion of classes." Katie followed the traditional housing pattern—first a residence hall, then an on-campus apartment, and a year off campus with friends. Jeff never lived on campus. Their tales, separated by 30 years, are different, but both daughter and father's stories share an important ending: UMM was the perfect place for a college experience.

In 1968, UMM was expecting more freshmen than the dormitories could hold, so the two top floors of the Merchants Hotel, downtown Morris, were rented as additional housing. That is where Jeff lived his first year. As an attorney, Jeff knows that the statute of limitations has expired, so he's willing to share a few details: "The expected student surplus did not materialize, so about 10 students had the run of 40 plus rooms. Students used one room as a refrigerator (opened the windows in the middle of the winter) and one room as a sauna (removed the regulator from the steam radiator). Some damage may have occurred to these rooms due to these types of uses."

Jeff also lived on the "Funny Farm," a "shack" near Chokio, above a butcher shop in downtown Hancock, and in a house on West Fifth Street. Katie astutely comments: "Dad showed me the house he lived in, and he's told me about their barbecues and their cat. I think we had fairly different living experiences."

Living arrangements varied, but both loved Morris' small town atmosphere. Jeff, a native of West St. Paul, shares that his family lives in Aitkin today because of his years in Morris. "Going to school in Morris with long hair during the Vietnam war could have been a bad experience," Jeff reflects. "Stevens County was full of farmers and small town people. But, in fact, the trust, warmth, and honesty that I found in those people convinced me that I wanted to live in a small town the rest of my life. As soon as I got my license to practice law in 1976, that's exactly what I did! It's been a great life in Aitkin, and to a large part, I attribute that to my experience in Morris."

Jeff hadn't planned on being an attorney. Like his daughter, he was considering education. A few missing credits determined his future: "I intended to be a high school history teacher," he remembers. "I took a number of history courses, but it wasn't until Fall Quarter senior year that I learned I still needed to take a number of educational courses. I was gathering up courage to tell my father that I may have to attend school an additional year, when out of the blue my father asked me if I had ever thought about becoming an attorney. He convinced me to take the LSAT by offering to pay for it. Since this also relieved me from telling him about my lack of educational credits, it was an easy choice."

Katie, on the other hand, finished all of her educational credits on time and did her student teaching in El Paso, Texas. But her career path is taking a slight turn, too. "I chose elementary education as a major because I love children and enjoy watching them grow and develop," she shares. "However, my long-term goals have evolved during the last two years at UMM. My love of kids has led to my desire to become an adoption counselor." Katie will pursue a master of science in social work at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill this fall.

Even though she chose a different major, Katie shares her father's passion for history and politics. Both Katie and Jeff took a course on imperialism taught by Professor Roland Guyotte. As a UMMer, Jeff's interest in politics led him to travel to Washington, D.C., with 11 other students to attend a war moratorium. Of course, he has an anecdote about that

happening, too: “The faculty took a collection to help us defray the cost of the trip. One of the students was promptly arrested in Tomah, Wisconsin, for driving without a license. We used half of the money to bail him out.”

After sharing many UMM stories with each other, the Haberkorns have made a few observations. “I think classes were cancelled more often when my dad attended UMM,” comments Katie, “because the snow plows didn’t get out as fast. The technology at UMM is different, and some of the buildings have changed, but the spirit of UMM has remained.” Adds Jeff: “I don’t think UMM has changed much. It still is windy. It still has a safe and homey feel. There continues to be close and personal contact between students and professors. On the other hand, we weren’t considered to be one of the top schools in the public Ivy League then—although we knew we were.”

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