

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Relishing Accomplishments

By Karen Doss Bowman

For 24 years, David McQuilken had the catbird seat of offices at Bridgewater—on the 2nd floor of Flory Hall, right at the top of the stairs. From that vantage point, he could watch for students he needed to see about assignments, registering for class or other matters. Sometimes he invited them to stop by simply to chat.

“I had the best office on campus,” said McQuilken, Professor *Emeritus* of History and Political Science. “I had newspaper clippings and cartoons posted on and around my door, and people would actually stop by and read it.”

A member of Bridgewater’s faculty between 1985 and 2009, McQuilken still enjoys keeping a watchful eye over his former students, following their career paths and successes.

“I just stand in the background and watch from afar,” said McQuilken, who lives in Bridgewater with Charlette, his wife of 52 years. “I enjoy seeing how my students have become successful people, good people and contributing people. That gives me a quiet satisfaction.”

David McQuilken Takes Pride in Watching Former Students Succeed

McQuilken always cherished the many opportunities to interact with students and to get to know them personally. Through academic advising, he was able to mentor students in his department. But he also enjoyed spending time with students outside of class, playing racquetball and other sports with them. He led numerous Interterm trips to Australia and Russia during his tenure.

“I hope that during those times I became more real to my students than I might have been if their only experience with me was to see me lecturing at the front of the classroom,” said McQuilken, well-remembered among BC alumni for smoking a pipe. “As a professor, you meet students when they are green freshmen, not certain of who they are or what they want to do. And then you get to watch them grow during their four years as students, becoming more confident. And then you watch them go out and succeed in so many different ways. It’s such a rewarding experience to watch all of that take place and to be a contributing part of all that. That’s what I enjoyed more than anything else, and that’s what I miss the most.”

An avid golfer, McQuilken serves on the Board of Zoning Appeal for the Town of Bridgewater and was campaign manager for Charlette’s successful run for the School Board of Rockingham County Public Schools. The McQuilken family enjoys traveling and in recent years have visited France, England, Belgium and Australia (Charlette’s first trip Down Under). They are going to China this fall. They also enjoy spending time with their two adult children and two grandchildren.

For his former students, McQuilken noted that Paddington the bear still sits on his desk, keeping a watchful eye over his comings and goings. Always fascinated by politics, McQuilken expects to give several public talks on the upcoming presidential election this fall.

“Elections are always exciting,” he said. “But this year, the world has gone wacky. I will be following it closely.” —

