

# Franklin Pierce Sweethearts

By Christina Young, Director of Alumni Relations

Spring is upon us, Valentine's Day still lingers in the air ... so why not take a look at a few Franklin Pierce couples whose romances started right here on campus?

HELEN (AMENT) '69  
LLOYD ASTMANN '69



**Q: How did you meet your spouse?**

**He:** Early in my sophomore year, I saw Helen at the student union (now DiGregorio), was immediately smitten with her, and asked a mutual friend to introduce us.

**She:** We became friends and dated occasionally because we both had significant others back home, but by spring of 1967 we were a couple. We married during Christmas break in 1968 – the first married couple to graduate together.

**Q: What was he/she involved in while at Franklin Pierce?**

**He:** Helen served on the Judiciary Board.

**She:** Lloyd was a proctor in Monadhock or Crestview Dorm and Junior Class president. He was a sounding board for new ideas relating to student policy that the administration thought would work at our new school.

**Q: What was his/her favorite thing about Franklin Pierce?**

**He:** Hopefully, me!

**She:** The beauty and challenges of the new environment; he loved that Franklin Pierce was a “family,” trying to make it succeed. And that he met me!

**Q: What are your spouse's most significant contributions to Franklin Pierce since graduation?**

**He:** Shortly after we graduated, Helen participated in the founding of the Alumni Association, plus she has been most supportive of my involvement with Franklin Pierce. Over the more than 40 years since we graduated from Pierce, Helen and I have tried to donate back to the institution. We have supported the Alumni Association, the school's annual fund, the athletic department, capital campaigns, the Astmann Family Scholarship Fund, and the Clifford Coles Scholarship Fund. We are most proud of how our assistance has helped to build a home for the Career Center.

**She:** It starts with working to create the first Alumni Association; being its first alum to be elected to the Franklin Pierce Board of Trustees; being the longest serving trustee; being the first alum to serve as Chairman of the Board of Trustees. He has given wise counsel, been very generous financially, and provided humor on a regular basis.

**Q: How has Franklin Pierce stayed a part of his/her life since graduation?**

**He:** We are both very involved with Franklin Pierce. Not only through my work on the Board of Trustees, but Helen has participated by hosting and sponsoring social events at our home and at other venues in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Florida. Also, our daughter, Jill, graduated from Franklin Pierce in '95. So, we are both involved as parents of a Franklin Pierce alumna.

**She:** Besides the aforementioned, we have hosted several receptions for alums, parents, and friends of the University, hoping to spread the word.



## JILL (PETROCELLI) '91 MICHAEL LAMORETTI '90

**Q: How did you meet your spouse?**

**He:** My sister-in-law [Melissa (Petrocelli) Weinbaum '89] introduced us during my freshman year while Jilly was up visiting for the weekend.

**She:** We were at a party, and he looked like a lot of fun! I was right, and he still is a lot of fun.

**Q: What was he/she involved in while at Franklin Pierce?**

**He:** Jilly studied business management and enjoyed photography as well. She also studied abroad in Europe during one intersession and played on the volleyball team for a year; both were great experiences for her.

**She:** Michael studied finance and enjoyed on and off-campus events. He went abroad to South America to study, and we went to Europe together. Both experiences were ones he (we) will never forget. He loved glassblowing and photography; we have many pieces in our house that he did, and we continue to buy pieces because it reminds us of Franklin Pierce.

**Q: What was his/her favorite thing about Franklin Pierce?**

**He:** Me! Jilly loved how small Franklin Pierce was. When she would call the school, the operator would know her name. It was a place where you were able to know most people.

**She:** He loved the people! The teachers were great; it was a fun place to learn.

**Q: What are your spouse's most significant contributions to Franklin Pierce since graduation?**

**He and She:** Our most significant contribution to Pierce was being part of a new building, which meant so much to us and our entire family.

**Q: How has Franklin Pierce stayed a part of his/her life since graduation?**

**He:** Franklin Pierce has stayed a part of Jilly's life because she and I have stayed in touch with so many people who we love so much!

**She:** The friendships that he made will always keep Franklin Pierce close to us. Our college friends are now people we consider family. We believe that is the best part of Franklin Pierce.

## MELISSA (PETROCELLI) '89 MICHAEL WEINBAUM '89



### **Q: How did you meet your spouse?**

**He:** I met Missy in economics class. We would compare our test scores.

**She:** I can still remember sneaking a peek at his paper to find out what his name was because I thought he was really cute!

### **Q: What was he/she involved in while at Franklin Pierce?**

**He:** Missy performed in many school plays – *Our Town*, *God*, and *The Wiz* were a few. I missed seeing her perform in *The Wiz*, and she doesn't let me forget it.

**She:** Michael was involved in intramural sports, including indoor hockey, softball, touch football, and basketball. He majored in Management. One of the highlights of his education was a Finance trip to South America. He was an active participant in many school functions such as spring weekends, concerts, Hockey Bash, and every other party in between!

### **Q: What was his/her favorite thing about Franklin Pierce?**

**He:** New Hampshire dorm, girls Alco-Hall, Pizza Haven, roommate Mindy, having her sister Jill at school with her, school plays, air jams, girls softball team, intramurals, Hockey Bash, and Spring Weekend.

**She:** He loved Franklin Pierce for its "everyone knows your name" feeling and its great education, with professors who always had time for you. Some other favorites were Pizza Haven and Friends Chinese Restaurant. He actually made the newspaper for eating at Friends 14 days in a row!

### **Q: What are your spouse's most significant contributions to Franklin Pierce since graduation?**

**He and She:** We, along with our family, are so excited and happy to have been a part of Franklin Pierce's new building, "Petrocelli Hall."

**She:** My sister Jilly met her husband, Michael Lamoretti, at Franklin Pierce as well. Add on to that our husbands were roommates, and you can imagine all the great memories and what a special place it is for all of us!

### **Q: How has Franklin Pierce stayed a part of his/her life since graduation?**

**He:** Missy has stayed in touch with so many college friends to this day. The friendships she and I made in our four years will last a lifetime.

**She:** Michael has attended reunions and many alumni weekends over the years. He has stayed in touch with so many of his Franklin Pierce friends, but most especially his "Brown Trout" buddies! (They know who they are.) Last but not least, I am the reason college has stayed a part in his life, along with our three kids, Jared (19), Sam (16), and Camryn (12). Franklin Pierce is always in our home. 