

Linda Marine Spock • South Bristol, Maine

I only attended Westminster for my junior and senior years in high school after my public high school, Dykes, closed. Because I had a car accident the summer before starting Westminster, I spent my whole first year wearing a neck collar and was very self-conscious about it. To my amazement, a number of classmates at a reunion decades later had no recollection of that. Perhaps it would surprise people to know that I became a serious runner for many years, given that I was not able to participate at all in sports at Westminster because of my neck injury.

The two teachers with the biggest impact on me were Mr. Drake and Mr. Goff. Mr. Drake's mother Kitty was a teaching colleague of both my grandmother and mother at elementary school so went out of his way to make me feel welcome. Mr. Goff volunteered to work with me after school so I could take the AP English exam despite not taking the AP English class. I was always grateful for Mr. Goff's faith in my intellectual abilities.

However, my connection to Westminster was actually deeper and more significant after my graduation. My mother moved back to Atlanta from Colorado in 1979, eventually became principal at the elementary school and lived in one of the faculty houses on campus. Visiting Mom was like going to summer camp. We ran the trails and played tennis and family football games with our kids. I attended graduations for my sister Jan Marine Robinson's (class of '76) three kids. Near the end of Mom's tenure as principal, we endowed a Marine garden at the elementary school with benches in memory of my grandmother and my late brother Ray (class of '83, who died of a brain aneurysm at age 32) and in honor of my mother. Today, my nephew Tom Marine teaches fifth grade at Westminster, so the Marine connection now spans four generations.

I began college at UNC-Chapel Hill (overlapping with MJ Young) but transferred to University of Colorado at Boulder in my sophomore year. There, I took yoga classes from Westminster classmate Liz Haverty and discovered skiing. After college, I moved to the Washington, DC area where I met my husband, Tom Spock. He and I attended business schools 3,000 miles apart, but ultimately moved together to New York City in 1983. We spent over 36 years in various places in the New York area where we raised our son Randy. The highlight of my professional career was while working at the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey where I played a key role in creating E-ZPass, the electronic toll collection system that grew from three states during my involvement in the early 1990s to 20 states today.

Since graduation, I've enjoyed seeing Westminster friends in Atlanta and elsewhere. MJ Young Thorne, Margy Bowers Ayres, Martha Topol Stolzer and I had a mini-reunion at Martha's Portsmouth, NH home in 2022; I hosted MJ and Martha at my midcoast Maine home a few years earlier. I have also seen classmate Jennifer MacFarlane with our mothers who taught together at Westminster for many years.

I never could have predicted 50 years ago where I would be today. My life has unfolded largely in reaction to external events – I transferred to CU because my parents moved there; I left Colorado when my parents divorced; I gravitated to business after meeting my husband; I ended up working on E-ZPass as a part-time job after returning from maternity leave; I've ended up being a full-time Mainer because of the pandemic. So I think it's important to realize you can't always control your own destiny but you can make the most of what life throws at you and find happiness in unexpected ways and places.



With Dot MacFarlane, Jennifer MacFarlane and Judy Marine



Tom Spock, Alex Manick with Ramona Manick Spock, Randy Spock with Maxwell Thomas Manick Spock and Linda Marine Spock



With MJ Young Thorne and Martha Topol Stolzer



With Margy Bowers Ayres, MJ Young Thorne and Martha Topol Stolzer



With Tom Spock at Machu Picchu on my 67th birthday