



From Buchtel Hall and Back Again

Laura Wolf

The assistant Zips coach, Tim Wolf, flashed a smile at me as he rushed through the football office in the basement of Memorial Hall, where I was a secretary for Head Coach Jim Dennison. Later that night, I was teaching in a classroom on the bottom floor of Carroll Hall, and outside at the ground level windows, that cute coach was peaking in. We discovered we were taking the same graduate level classes, and during breaks, we sat together on the steps of Buchtel Hall, where he eventually proposed to me. We celebrated our wedding reception at Quaker Square. Now, thirty-eight years later, I still work for The University of Akron as an adjunct English

instructor, and I've enjoyed working outside the classroom at the Polsky Zip Card Office and Wayne College Smucker Learning Center.

For over four decades, our calendar lives have followed that of The University of Akron—first as students, then employees, a coach's wife, a house mother on Carroll Street, and also as Zips parents. Our sons took classes from the University, and one received his bachelor's and master's here. I was the first college instructor to hundreds of students for three decades, and as such, I considered it a duty and honor to create a positive classroom climate at The University of Akron. The campus changed, classroom technology exploded, student diversity was impactful—and yet, some things remain a sustaining constant: that cute football coach presented me anniversary ring back on those steps of Buchtel Hall.