

FROM A LATE BLOOMER

I was compelled to write because I am an alumnus — class of 1980 — who felt unprepared for the freshman experience when I came to Appleton in 1976. I questioned whether I belonged with all of these “smart people” and nearly dropped out of college after that first year. Elizabeth Forter was one of the professors who gave me positive feedback about my writing and I gradually grew out of my insecurities. I studied in Mexico and Chicago on ACM off-campus programs under the caring guidance of Professor Martinez and Professor Markham. Professor Bremmer taught me the love of learning.

After I graduated, I worked for one of the oldest and largest charities in Chicago as a grant writer and development professional. Currently, I speak and write on the subject of grief and loss and facilitate a Grief Recovery Outreach Program (affiliated with The Grief Recovery Institute, Sherman Oaks, California) in Chicago’s western suburbs. I benefited tremendously from the positive and individual attention from a number of professors at Lawrence. They nurtured my skills and my confidence. To any student who questions his/her ability to hold up to the rigors of the Lawrence experience, I suggest that it is never too late to be a “late bloomer”. I believe that you will find people at Lawrence who are more invested in your success than you are.

— *Lynne McCollum Staley '80*
Naperville, Illinois

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