

A LIFE *Transformed* Essay Project



Diana Graham Class of 1969

"For recent high school graduates Schoolcraft College is a gentle nudge from the nest. For displaced Baby Boomers it is a "port in the storm" to learn the "new ways."

Whatever your age, whatever your path, always remember that the view at the top is magnificent but the adventure is in the journey."

Diana's Bio

An alumna of Schoolcraft College Musical and Liberal Arts programs, Diana viewed graduation from Schoolcraft College as a natural progression to move on to four year and post graduate degrees. She attended Western Michigan University and eventually moved to Aspen CO. where she owned and operated her successful business, About Faces Permanent Cosmetics for 27 years. She moved back to Michigan in 2006, and she is currently building Hydrangea House Bed Breakfast and Spa overlooking Lake Michigan in St. Joseph, Michigan. Diana resides in St. Joseph, Michigan.



Read Diana's original essay below.



Alumni and Friends

The Schoolcraft College Alumni Program exists to strengthen and maintain the ties between the college and its alumni. We recognize and celebrate alumni accomplishments and create opportunities for alumni to share in the growth and success of Schoolcraft College.

To learn more about our Alumni Program contact the Alumni Relations Office at 734-462-4501 or vrexius@schoolcraft.edu

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Maps and Circles

I was still in high school when my dad and I joined the Schoolcraft College Community Choir under the direction of a "fresh out of college new kid" named Bradley Bloom. At that time my future professors seemed so much older than I, but in reality they were only a few years my senior. That was in 1969 and our Midwestern society was teetering on the precipice between the old Henry Ford way of the world, "You can have any color you want as long as it's black," the Civil Rights movement, and the Vietnam War.

That was the world outside. Trust me, what was going on in the "real world" couldn't possibly hold a candle to the drama(s) inside the Schoolcraft College Department of Music. Bob Jones, Jonesy as he was called; Brad Bloom; and Don Morelock, none of whom had earned their doctorate degrees yet, were the center of a music major's universe. From Jonsey's hot off the press, never before performed compositions to Vivaldi to Renaissance Madrigals, we dreamed, practiced, performed, and struggled to whatever end we could reach. Take hormonal emotional teenagers, add the new "free love" movement, pour in alcohol (the drinking age at that time was 18), fold in our first time being off of our parents' leash, and stir. OMG (Oh My Goodness, as they say today), the drama and excitement!

Schoolcraft Community College was for some a baby step into adulthood. For others it was a natural progression before moving on to four-year and post-graduate degrees. There were those for whom it was quicksand, never quite moving on or reaching beyond their comfort zone. As for me, it was a face plant.

When the starting gun went off at graduation I had my map and I was out of the gate full speed ahead. Splat! I forgot. I had started cosmetology school somewhere along the way and I had to finish by sitting for my license. I just got caught in the rain with my map...It will straighten out when it's dry...Back on track, cosmetology license in hand...Next stop, Western Michigan University at Kalamazoo studying applied voice and theater with a minor in dance. After two years I spilled coffee on my map and changed my major to fashion merchandising and interior design with a quick side trip into Eastern religions.

A year later I informed my parents they were wasting their money on an education that I was never going to finish. "Stop the madness!" I said. "I'm opening my own business!" Lord, have mercy on us all. Map? What map? Little did I know that I had just enrolled in "The University of Life and The School of Hard Knocks," simultaneously. I went on to pioneer the industry of medical aesthetics (cosmetic skin care), now called "anti-aging" by us Baby Boomers. I took those skills to Aspen, Colorado (affectionately called "Hollywood in the Mountains") and made the beautiful people "beautiful-er" for 27 years. In 2006, I left it all behind and returned to Michigan to care for my terminally ill mother. They say life will bring you full circle and here I am right back where I swore I would never be again.

By the standards of the 1960s and 1970s, as a female from a middle class Midwestern family, I took the road less traveled. Today that road is the road must-traveled. I broke the rules; this generation has shattered them. Going on to a higher education is no longer a choice but an absolute even if you are in a licensed trade. For recent high school graduates, Schoolcraft College is a gentle nudge from the nest. For displaced Baby Boomers it is a "port in the storm" to learn the "new ways." Whatever your age, whatever your path, always remember that the view at the top is magnificent, but the adventure is in the journey

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