

## **“Ein Herz Gefühlt in Heidelberg”**

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In 1989, for my summer break from attending a university in Florida I traveled to Germany to visit family and friends. While in Heidelberg Germany I was in my usual running shorts and dropped off my resume with the University of Maryland European Division headquarters in Heidelberg, Germany. While there, Franny Kollenz asked if I had time for an interview. I was a bit puzzled since I was not dressed appropriately for an interview. However, she insisted, and I spoke with Herr Dufke about a position with the mailroom. The interview went well, and Herr Dufke asked me to meet with the mailroom staff. Late that day I was asked if I could start immediately, and my University of Maryland European experience began.

I enjoyed working in the mailroom during the summer of 1989 traveling to various European countries mostly by bike. While in Heidelberg I met my best friend and future wife Melanie. We spent a lot of time playing racket ball, running, biking the Alps and enjoying many festivities in Europe. Before I left my summer job with the University of Maryland, I made some great friends and had an opportunity to return to the University of Maryland to work full-time for Linda Traenkle in the Financial Services department. I returned to Florida only to decide to pack up my things and return to the University of Maryland to work full time and become a full-time student.

Linda was a great leader and I enjoyed working for Linda in the Financial Services department. We had a great team that worked there. At times it was a bit crazy in the office, but it was enjoyable and fun. I spent my days providing financial assistance support to students in Europe and then riding my bike to the various locations to attend university classes after work. At times I would ride my bike over 50 miles traveling to and from classes on weeknights and/or weekends. Following my time in Financial Services, I was offered the opportunity and took a position in the print shop working for Pierre Corre on the CompuGraphic machine and performing darkroom work developing photographs and layouts for publishing many university publications for the university and students in Europe and Asia. We transitioned to a new desktop publishing computer and software shortly afterwards to allow us to perform computer graphics, layouts and designs electronically instead of doing it all manually.

During this time at the university my relationship with Melanie blossomed and we decided to move in together. We traveled many countries to ski, hike, mountain bike, road bike, scuba dive, see music festivals and historical sites. It was a wonderful and breathtaking experience. After we graduated, we hit the glass ceiling and decided to return to the US to begin new careers and life in Virginia. While in Virginia we also started a family and many new adventures stateside.