

IN MEMORIAM

ANNE LOUISE HASSELBACK

*Ann Hodges
Kym Osterbind*

Anne Hasselback began her law school career in the administrative assistants' office on the third floor of the law school, sharing the office with another Anne (Smith). They staffed a place of refuge for faculty, staff, and students looking for a brief escape from studying, writing, or teaching. In the office of the Annes, everyone could find a cup of coffee, a handful of candy, a kind word, and most importantly, a good laugh on a bad day. The work got done, but in fine University of Richmond tradition, the people came first.

Anne found a home at the University of Richmond because she embodied the values that we hold dear. Life is about the people and the relationships we develop. Everyone plays an important role in the success of the university. Everyone matters. Faculty, staff, students, alums—we are and remain a family. That fit Anne to a T. She made friends wherever she went. As she moved to the second floor and then to the Career Services Office (now Career Development Office), Anne continued to develop relationships with faculty and staff throughout the building and with each incoming class of students. In Career Services, she calmed the students nervously waiting for interviews. She provided a listening ear and ready advice. She was supportive and caring during times of stress.

Anne delighted in being part of a college campus and took advantage of the opportunity to take both credit and noncredit classes. She was able to develop her many passions through classes on physical fitness, crafts, art and photography, gardening, and travel. She shared these interests with her family and friends—

thoughtful cards created with photographs she had taken, hand-made crafts, and plants from her garden. She continued her college studies at the University of Richmond School of Professional and Continuing Studies and, shortly before her death, proudly received a Certificate of Completion for achieving eighty-one hours towards her bachelor of liberal arts degree. While taking numerous classes, she expanded her friendships campus-wide.

Anne enjoyed life—it was an adventure, not to be taken lightly. In the face of challenges, she focused on life’s blessings. Many never knew the depth of her struggle with cancer. She continued to work through the energy-draining chemotherapy. She took as little time off as possible, preferring to keep moving forward, fighting the battle yet seizing each joyous moment—hiking, camping, crafting, traveling, and taking pictures. She walked the Monument Avenue 10k in March, camped with her children at Chincoteague on Mother’s Day.

On August 3, 2012, Anne passed away, a few short months after taking leave from the law school for a new and more intensive round of chemo. We honor Anne’s memory by taking to heart the lessons her life taught us and by continuing to ensure that this special place remains the one that became her home. Enjoy life, look on the bright side, cherish friendships, support one another, and put people first. Her spirit lives on in the spirit of this place that we all love.