

## A Reflection

I was 15 the 1<sup>st</sup> time I came to Xavier. We were bringing my brother, Pat, to campus for his freshman year. I remember walking into the University Center and he was checking in for orientation (I don't think it was called Manresa in 1984) A nice girl was trying to include me, and asked me my name, I told her Jennifer Hogan, she replied "Jennifer K Hogan born August 26, 19XX", I said "No, Jennifer J Hogan born August 26, 19XX" I felt like I belonged here even before I knew it. It was some sort of sign for me.

We left Rochester on my 18<sup>th</sup> birthday for Manresa, I still did not know what that was. I asked my brother, he told me "it is a hug-gy, Kumbaya thing" (he was a hot shot ROTC guy at that point)

We were split into groups, and had dances at the Sports Center Parking Lot, in front of Alter Hall, and lots of talks, and a great retreat someplace that we were bussed to and had Mass outside. Such a great week, or weeks as I was on Staff for Manresa a few years. People tell me I was in their classes, I don't really remember my classes. What I really remember about being at Xavier and is working at the Office of Residence Life.

Sandy Schubert, was the secretary for the Office of Residence Life, she was my On Campus Mom. I think she was AFMIX even before AFMIX was a thing. She listened to me, she helped me through problems, taught me how to work in an office. She taught that we take care of each other "Jenn if I have food in my teeth, you need to tell me, so I don't walk around all day like that". Forgiveness, I am sure as an 18-21 year old I needed forgiveness from the office staff. She cared about me. I am sad that she retired before I got here as an adult. Another person in the office who taught me about Xavier and the mission was the Assistant Director of Residence Life Lori Lambert. Bert, always cared about the students. She always listened and let you know that everything would work out. Some days she would be in her office, always filled with toys, and the RA's would come in with whatever the students were doing, she always helping them discern on what should be done. This was always done with kindness and laughter.

We, as a work family volunteered at the Free Store Bank before Christmas or Thanksgiving and packed food bags for others. Me not knowing at the time that we were living the Jesuit Values. These Xavier employees, their work ethic and their love of Xavier gave me a love of Xavier.

Others speak of professors that they had here, or the Jesuits that lived in the residence halls with us, but the Office of Residence Life, these were the people and who gave me my love of Xavier and ingrained in me the Jesuit principles, but I don't think they even knew they were doing that at the time.

As an adult living in Cincinnati, I took Xavier for granted. My brother would come into town and HAD to get to campus. We would come down for Mass, or volunteer at Xavier games for the Boy Scouts or my kids would volunteer at Volleyball games. My dad had his funeral at Bellarmine. Xavier was/is always there for me.

From that 1<sup>st</sup> day that I found out that there was 2 Jennifer Hogan's born on the same day 3 years apart, Xavier has been a part of my life, Student, Alum, Volunteer, Parishioner, Employee, Mom...the Ignatian values have been ingrained in me and I hope I am passing it on the next set of Xavier students.

AFMIX has taught me that we all need to review our day, take in account of what has brought us joy, that God Loves us just as I am right now, to pause and remember why I think things out as I do.

Respectfully Submitted by Jennifer Thornton