

The First Word

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I am pleased to write the introduction to this edition of Drury magazine, which is devoted to “The Value of Friendship.” I have always felt tremendously blessed when it comes to the friend department. From laying awake until 2 a.m. giggling and whispering secrets at childhood sleepovers, to learning how to make a pie crust standing at my mother’s side, to falling asleep with a purring cat stretched out on top of my chest, the love of friends has been a constant in my life.

Sometimes, even tough love.

When I graduated from Drury in 1992, my only goal was to make some money—any money. I settled for jobs that paid the bills but offered little in the way of a professional challenge. After I spent too many years being content with just getting by, a friend took me aside one day and said: “You need to be doing more with your life.”

I was taken aback and a little offended by his candor. But now, five years later, it is clear that I was changed that day. His honesty and concern were the kick-in-the-pants I needed to start taking some risks and to stretch beyond my comfort zone.

In this issue, you will read many stories that will likely reaffirm what you know to be true: the world would be extremely cold and lonely without those special people who are so deeply woven into our lives.

Because of them, we don’t know where family ends and friends begin.

