

**S**ign into chapel and sneak out the back door only to secure a lecture from Dr. Ray after being caught. Count pocket change and pray for class end in order to buy hickory burgers with 12-15 close friends. As typical Friends students, C. Bruce Burnett, G'73, and Lana Frederick, G'73, thought more about the day's activities than future's fate.

More than 30 years after meeting in Dr. Hinshaw's class, Bruce and Lana remain close. Their group of "Friends friends," as they call themselves, can be seen reminiscing about their college days at class reunions or cheering on the Falcon teams at athletic games. Bruce in particular donates resources and time to his alma mater, serving on the Board of Trustees and Alumni Advisory Board, and graces events with his welcoming grin and engaging personality.

However, one year ago medical issues suddenly brought Bruce's active lifestyle to a near crawl. Starting dialysis further forced him to seriously consider his future. This gently exuberant man now fell asleep while driving; his steadfast smile now spread across a palette of gray.

Known for unfaltering generosity, Bruce was now in need. Lana asked Bruce one June Sunday about becoming his kidney donor. Bruce's selfless nature had already prompted 11 individuals, including other Friends alumni, to offer, but various factors had prevented a positive match.

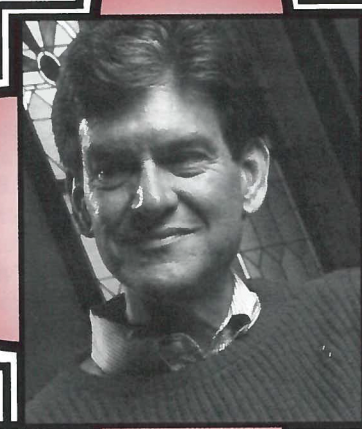
"I think that's the important thing; Bruce didn't have to ask. He's such a neat person that people just came forward, and I think that's a tribute to him," Lana said.

Bruce's need rewarded some with a renewed outlook for their own future. Through the testing process one friend's undiscovered cancer was caught early enough for effective treatment. Another's aneurysm was identified and treated. Lana started her three-month testing process the day after her conversation with Bruce.

"I don't think he took me seriously," Lana said. "I am a giving person; I think it's one of the things God has blessed me with, so it wasn't a hard decision."

Lana finished two testing phases before even telling Bruce she had started. Bruce's wife Terry took Lana to Kansas City for the fourth and final phase – a day of heart and lung tests and a sonogram. Receiving positive results, they contacted Bruce from the car.

"I called him on the way back from Kansas City and asked him for a date," Lana said. "He said, 'That's probably the only date my wife will ever let me go on with another woman.'"



As the sun ascended Sept. 5, Lana rolled into her four-hour surgery. Even though he need not arrive early, true to nature Bruce was there. During surgery, discovery of two arteries leading to Lana's kidney startled the surgeons. If not hidden behind one another in the sonogram, these arteries would have prevented Lana from being a donor.

Facing the risk of his body rejecting the kidney, Bruce entered his own four-hour surgery. With an array of tubes and bandages encompassing their arms,

Bruce and Lana seized hands following the successful laproscopic surgeries. A mere day later, Bruce, who once lacked sufficient energy to make it through the day, was administered a sleeping pill in order to rest.

With only a seven- to nine-year life expectancy on dialysis, the transplant improved Bruce's quality of life in enumerable ways; in fact he no longer consumes multiple medications to regulate the high blood pressure he had fought for 22 years. The 55,000 people on the kidney donor list are told to anticipate a two- to three-year wait. Bruce's rapport with others expedited his match just 10 months after starting dialysis, and he daily considers his fortune.

"I literally think about it every day, especially Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays since I used to get up at 5:20 a.m. to go to the dialysis center," Bruce said. "There are thousands of people across the country on dialysis who are not fortunate enough to have the option of a transplant. The biggest blessing to me is that I had the option."

Gone are the carefree days of college; Bruce and Lana now think about even more than their own future. At his pastor's request, Bruce bestowed details about his blessings upon those attending the Thanksgiving service. As a middle school P.E. teacher, Lana prompts her pupils to consider becoming an organ donor by signing their driver's license.

"Not everybody can donate a kidney, but there might be something else they can do out of the ordinary to help somebody else," Lana said.