



UNIVERSITY OF BRIDGEPORT



LOVE Story



It was September 7, 1973, and the student center was filled with nervous students at the mixer capping off Freshman Week. A DJ was playing 70's hits, and a young man with brown hair and blue eyes approached a petite green-eyed blonde and asked her to dance. The song was "China Grove" by the Doobie Brothers, and they danced most of the rest of the evening. He was rather persistent in trying to see her the next few weeks, but she was getting over a breakup at home and wanted to explore college life on her own. He kept trying, and by the spring of '74 they became a couple. Paul and Karen stayed together until the middle of their senior year, when they parted ways over a silly argument. Paul moved back to Massachusetts after graduation in 1977, and Karen moved to Atlanta to get a change of scenery. He wrote her letters, but she didn't answer any of them until the fall of '79, when she found one of his old letters and decided on a whim to write back. Paul got on the phone immediately, and after a number of long calls he invited himself to Atlanta for a weekend in November. She picked him up at the airport and they went to the top of the old Peachtree Plaza hotel for a drink, and the magic was back. They were married on August 2, 1980 in her aunt's backyard, then packed up her apartment into a U-Haul. They drove it to Reston VA, where Paul had been transferred to a new sales territory with a roofing manufacturer, and Karen got a job in her field as a medical technologist. Fast forward to 2022: after successful careers and several relocations (Herndon VA, Chapel Hill NC, and Germantown MD), Paul and Karen Tamul have retired and are enjoying life in Kennebunk ME. Paul keeps busy ice fishing, planting flowers, and indulging in his baseball obsession (he has seen games in 103 stadiums); Karen has rediscovered crochet and volunteering. Both are on the Board of their condo association in their new neighborhood and revel in exploring the Maine coast.

Karen (Wissig) Tamul '77

Paul Tamul '77