The spring issue of The Observer featured Julie Jansen ’81 as the subject of “Whatever Happened to…?” Beginning with this issue, Jansen will succeed Paul D. Tieger ’73, ’83, as interviewer and writer. Jansen’s initial interview features her predecessor, Paul Tieger, and his wife, Barbara Barron-Tieger ’82. During 2002, “Whatever Happened to…?” will highlight students who came of age during the decade from 1975 to 1985.

Whatever Happened to…?

by Julie Jansen ’81

Barbara Barron-Tieger & Paul Tieger
JJ: Through class notes in *The Observer*, we have learned to associate you with the writing and publication of books.

BBT: Yes, my husband, Paul Tieger, and I have written four books together and I have promoted each one on tour. Paul is also a University alumnus.

JJ: Are writing and promotion your present occupations, or are you doing something different?

BBT: I am director of the Watkinson Trust at the Watkinson School in West Hartford, Conn. I have been fundraising for the past three years now. I am also the mother of two children. Our son, Danny, is 16 years old, and our daughter, Kelly, is 12.

JJ: What was your major at the University?

BBT: I graduated from the School of Education with a bachelor of science degree in early education.

JJ: What was your greatest achievement in college?

BBT: I was positive that I would become an elementary school teacher and remember feeling upset when I realized I didn't want to become a teacher. Instead, I have chosen to work in advertising, public relations, and special-event planning.

JJ: As a student at the University, what kinds of activities were you involved in?

BBT: I worked in the financial aid office during the summer, and I was a representative to the Council to Exceptional Children, a professional association that works to improve the learning of special-needs students.

JJ: What was your greatest success during your college years?

BBT: Graduating summa cum laude.

JJ: When you reminisce about college, what do you remember most?

BBT: My memory of freshman year is important because I enjoyed being a student and loved the learning process. The program was a great fit for me because I have always cared for children. Most memorable is the intensity of my friendships.

JJ: How did you and Paul meet?

BBT: We met at the University when I was 18. He was my boss and then my friend. We didn’t start dating until the summer before my senior year.

JJ: Whom would you list as having the greatest influence on you at the University?

BBT: Ed Weinswig, Marilyn Schaeffer, Hilda Brassill, and Dean Vinson and his family drew me in.

JJ: Do you still feel a strong association with the University?

BBT: There is a strong relationship between the University and Watkinson School. I look out at the University every day from my office in Watkinson and feel as if my career has come full circle. I continue to support the University by sitting on the alumni board in the School of Education, Nursing and Health Professions.

JJ: If you could be anything you chose, what would you be?

BBT: I'd be a philanthropist.

Little-known facts about Barron-Tieger

She moved around frequently as a child. At one time she lived in El Paso, Texas, and then moved to Boulder, Col., where she attended high school. When she came to Connecticut to attend the University, everyone was surprised to find out that she wasn’t a downhill skier.

She enjoys traveling and loves to stay in hotels. Reading and exercise are important parts of her life.

She is passionate about her relationships with friends and family.

JJ: As we said to Barbara, *Observer* readers think of you as an author and lecturer. Is this how you would describe what you do?

PT: I am a jury consultant, public speaker, and the author of four books: *Do What You Are*, *Nurture by Nature*, *The Art of SpeedReading*, and *People Just Your Type*. My wife is Barbara Barron, and I am the father of our two children, Danny and Kelly.

JJ: When did you attend and graduate from the University?

PT: I was in the “extended program” from 1967 to 1973. I had been a student for so long that I came up for tenure twice—and almost made it the second time. In the middle of my education, I decided to take a break from college so I could travel through the country and “find myself.” Upon returning, I decided to change my major from business to psychology.

JJ: At the University, what were some of the activities that you were involved in?

PT: Tons of stuff! I was in student government and the chairman of the academic commission. As founder of the Referrals for Undergraduates Seeking Help (RUSH) office, I helped my fraternity, Tau Kappa Epsilon (TKE), and I was also the first student ombudsman.

JJ: What was your greatest achievement in college?

PT: Finding creative ways to finance my education while also making a difference on campus. I founded RUSH and invented the ombudsman role, and I’m proud to say that it still exists 30 years later.

JJ: What stands out when you reminisce about your time at the University?

PT: The fraternity antics. I don’t think you can print them. My time at the University was wild and crazy—a great time to go to college.

JJ: How did you and your wife, Barbara, meet?

continued on next page
PT: She worked in the financial aid office at the University. I saw her and had to meet her.

JJ: What people had the most influence on you while you were at the University?

PT: Hector Prud’homme, Jack Addley, George McKinley, Tony Santonicola, Bice Clemow, Jim Mathews, Ray McGivney and Joyce Milliken all had an influence on me.

JJ: What was the most important thing you learned while at the University?

PT: I learned who I was and what was important to me. I also learned how to use gifts to effect change.

JJ: Whom did you hang around with in school?

PT: My friends included Bert Miller, Bob Stern, Gordie Stumpo, Kevin Fahey, Gayle Kelley, Judy Brockman, Joan Moncrief, Jimmy Diamond, and Jack Hardy.

JJ: Out of all of your friends, whom would you like to track down?

PT: I would like to reunite with Lynn Masarsky, Paul Frie field, and Joan Diamond.

JJ: Is your career what you expected it to be?

PT: No, but I’m where I want to be. I came to Hartford because it was the insurance capital of the world, and I was going to make a million dollars in insurance. During my career I have been a waiter, singer, songwriter, fund-raiser, business person, entrepreneur and organizational consultant. I worked in real estate and owned my own silkscreen printing company. I was also the assistant dean of students and an outplacement counselor at the University. Now that I am an author of several books, I spend a great deal of my time marketing them online. I am currently developing an online career counseling program for high school students.

Little-known facts about Tieger

He implemented and facilitated the first faculty evaluation by students.

He helped to select the jury for Jack Kevorkian’s first physician-assisted suicide trial and helped to select the jury for the “woodchipper” murder in Connecticut.

To celebrate his 50th birthday, and the fact that he is a White Castle aficionado, his wife and friends rented a White Castle in New Jersey for his party.

The Connecticut Law Tribune once described him as the “ten million dollar man.”