Jim Megquier ’61 (chemistry/zoology) loved chemistry and got good grades but wasn’t sure what he wanted to do until University professor, Dr. Fred Ryser, directed him toward dental school, a decision that led to a distinguished oral surgery career of 33 years.

Jim arrived at the University of Nevada in June of 1957 and quickly became involved in campus life. He was actively involved in Sigma Nu, Coffin & Keys (president, 1961) and was men’s senior senator at-large. Jim met his wife, Lynn Walsh, in Dr. Miller’s Speech 101 class as a freshman. Lynn also served as women’s senior senator at-large and was active in Delta Delta Delta sorority. The couple were engaged in the spring of their senior year.

After graduation in 1961, Lynn taught school in Santa Clara, Calif., while Jim finished dental school at the University of Pacific in San Francisco. The couple then moved in 1965 so that the Jim could complete a master of science degree at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. He also completed a three-year residency program in oral and maxillofacial surgery at Michigan’s University Hospital in 1968. Two of their three daughters were born in Ann Arbor: Jennifer and Marné. The youngest, Tricia, was born in Reno after Jim started his oral surgery practice with Dr. David Melarkey.

What is your fondest memory from your days at Nevada?

I was a stranger to Reno when I enrolled at Nevada. I lived at home, so when I decided to join the Sigma Nu fraternity, this integrated me into campus activities and allowed me to meet and make lifetime friends and professional contacts. This also led to my meeting, dating and eventually marrying my wife of 48 years, Lynn Walsh. In fact our wedding reception was held at the Sigma Nu house.

Several professors were directly responsible for my study habits and urged me to continue my education after the University of Nevada. Professors Ryser, Tibbitts, Driggs, Miller, Hume and Kemp all played fundamental roles in my scholastic success.

My four years at Nevada were probably the four most memorable of my life.

What have you done that you are most proud of?

I am proud of my three daughters and the lives they have led. Lynn and I have weathered the various challenges of our lives together and we are both very happy that we have reached this stage together. We dearly love our six grandchildren and spend considerable time together with family activities.

I have been involved in dentistry and my specialty on the local, state and national levels for many years. I am pleased with my career and the many wonderful colleagues and patients I have been involved with over the years. I was fortunate in being awarded a fellowship in the American College of Dentists in 1991.

My main interest outside of family, career and leisure time has been the University. I enjoy serving on the Foundation Board for nine years, two years as chairman. I continue actively as an emeritus member. I also enjoyed being a clinical associate professor of surgery and being active in the cleft lip and palate clinic through the School of Medicine. I enjoy Wolf Pack sports and have seen tremendous improvement in the level of competition, as well as the facilities. The beauty and the quality of the University improve every year and will continue with stakeholder and alumni support, despite the difficult economic times.

What advice would you give someone just starting out after college?

I would urge graduates to take a few months off after college and widen their horizons with travel, volunteerism and temporary work, then implement a long-term career plan. Start retirement planning early! The years go by in a hurry.

One thing I have learned and experienced is we all make mistakes; we’re human. So, forgive yourself, rectify problems and move on.