

Where Will the Memories Go?

“The importance of having a yearbook.”

Brittnee Reed

Think about dedicating 16 plus years to an education and never once receiving a yearbook. How would there be documentation of those special memories created along the way? Receiving a yearbook at the end of the year is something that is valued by all students. Whether it be grade school, high school, or college, yearbooks serve as a keepsake for all. They open the pages to students’ most memorable moments, such as going to school dances, participating on sports teams and clubs, competing in the talent shows, winning special awards, and most importantly building lifelong friendships along the way.

In the beginning of this year’s fall semester, many budget cuts were made at Holy Family University; however no one would have guessed that the yearbook would be included in these cuts. In September, students received an email stating that the *Familogue*, the school’s yearbook, would be taken away. In the email, students were reassured that the school is currently looking into other options, perhaps online outlets, to create a substitute yearbook. However, losing the hard copy version was difficult news to take in for many members of the Holy Family community.

When alumnus Jack Monari, 22, class of 13’, heard about the news his reaction was as expected. "When I had found out about the school cutting the yearbooks, I was surprised. I think they're a great way to memorialize the school year, and I still love to page through yearbooks that I received at Holy Family. I know the school has been going through transition, but I think cutting the yearbook is regrettable." he explained.

However, many underclassmen expressed slightly different feelings. Current student Rachel Helkowski, 20, class of 15' explained, "I think yearbooks were more important to me in high school. I really don't know if college yearbooks have the same meaning. However, if I were in my senior year, I think my feelings would change and I would definitely want a yearbook."

After dedicating three years of her education to perfecting the *Familogue*, former editor, alumnae Jenna Spadaccino, 22, class of 13' did not take the news lightly. "Personally, I was upset when they cut the yearbooks because I was part of the committee. Last year I thought it was good that senior Sara Szymendera and I could at least be the last editors to put together a yearbook." As Spadaccino continued, she began to explain how she truly values having access to yearbooks throughout her education, "I've always purchased a yearbook since high school because it's a great way to capture memories during your school days. There has been many times, now more recently, I find myself pulling out my high school yearbooks in a nostalgic sense, to just bring myself back to "those days". I think it's important and a keepsake of everything learned and friendships made along one's academic career. I found it hard to believe that not more people paid attention and took a Holy Family yearbook because one, they were free and two, it's your college years and why wouldn't people want to remember that?"

Yearbooks are more than just paper bonded between two hard covers, they are memory preserves where students can relive amazing past experiences that occurred throughout their education. Having a yearbook in arms reach at all times means that 50 years from now, younger generations can get a glimpse into the world of their grandparents schooling. For some students, a yearbook is just another book to add to the dusty pile on their bookshelves, yet for others, it is a treasure. It isn't until having the option to sit and reminisce through the pages of the past is taken away from us that we stop and think, "I really wish I had a yearbook."