Four generations! Grace Cole Jones proudly wearing red and blue, with daughter Grace Jones Vineyard at her right, and Sarah Jones, NU’95 just behind GJV. Photo Credit: Desiree Carr, LPS’10.

My mother, Grace Cole Jones, CW’39, had her very beginning at Penn when she was born on campus as her dad completed his senior year as an engineering student. Later, when she was a student at Penn herself, she met my Dad, Reginald H. Jones, W’39, HON’80. He was working his way through school as a librarian at the Furness Library. When I was a child, I would attend their many reunions and watch all the fun they had wearing skimmer hats and waving the red and blue.
My turn came to apply and I nervously awaited the letter from Penn in April. One afternoon when I returned home, I saw Mom had hung a huge Penn beach towel over the front door. I knew my letter contained the good news that I would join my brother at Penn and continue the family tradition. In the intervening years, I have enjoyed interviewing prospective students and joining the Trustees’ Council of Penn Women. My son and niece have continued the tradition and are Penn graduates.

One coincidence Mom and I share is that we had the same tiny dorm room in Sargent Hall, the first women’s dorm at Penn, and we each have a brick from its demise. I have watched with pride as my Mom carried her class flag through the campus at graduation several years ago and on to Franklin Field. My mother and I have so enjoyed our time at reunions where her friends have become mine, and she has met so many of my classmates through the years.

For more on Grace ’39, watch for the next edition of Red & Blue Online, the Penn Alumni e-newsletter.