

# Barbara Beard Hansen



## Family:

Married to Ward with 3 children:

Jens Andrew - 26, a loan officer pursuing his MBA, married to Sumer (just one "m") and living in Casper, Wyoming (he was named for his great, great grandfather; "Jens" is Danish for "John")

Hunter William - 24, just out of the Marines, where he served in Iraq and Sri Lanka; now a college student

Hayley Rose - 19, college freshman

## Anything you would like to share about your family:

My brother, Bill, class of '76, has returned to Asheville with his family after years in Texas, Atlanta and Florida. He regularly attends his reunions and organized a "guys only" weekend at Hilton Head recently.

## Your profession/vocation/occupation:

A year in a law firm, then technical writer for a high-tech company until our 3rd child was born. At that time, stayed home to raise children, and Ward supported our lifestyle! (He is a pharmaceutical consultant and has his own company in Boulder.) Am currently considering a new career.

## College; degree(s):

William Smith College, Geneva, New York - B.A. in English

## Military service:

None, but son served in Marines

## Your avocations:

Lots of work with our church youth group (hosting retreat weekends, cooking for summer camps, and a long list of various activities you'd never believe!)

## Your hobbies, interests:

gardening, hiking, skiing, spelunking (caving), visiting national parks, interior design, animals (Humane society volunteer in the past), Italian greyhounds (we have 4!) and 2 cats

## Your greatest contribution to the betterment of mankind:

3 great kids!  
Leading Bible studies in my community

## What has your time and education at Asheville School meant to you:

Aside from great memories, I would say discipline, perseverance, communication skills, study skills, life skills were all gained from my years at Asheville School

## What are your most vivid memories of Asheville School:

I plead the 5th! No, seriously, Gene Legg's English class; Mr. Fisher's Latin class; biology labs with Mark Harrison; Mr. Butler (pro-JECT!) and great times in theater with Dori, Jan, Mark McPherson, and "Mah-shall" Bassett; Jan's Elton John renditions on the piano; the girls' dayroom; the library and Mrs. Coxe; the smell in the air (Enka); the beauty of the campus in spring; Doc; football games and cheerleading; bonfires; Mrs. Walton; magic nights at Asheville School dances; the misery of Don Wilson's U.S. history final; the cave; Charlie's "Stairway to Heaven"; a certain stairwell; a surprise visit from Pop Hollandsworth.

## What else would you like to share:

I don't need to boast, but I was struck during this last reunion of how fortunate I was that my parents chose to send me to Asheville School. From my perspective (and I know I was only a day student), I wouldn't trade my years and the opportunities I had there for anything. As a college freshman, I watched those around me struggle in their classes, most with no idea of how to study nor the discipline to figure it out. I was ridiculously well prepared for college. As I have watched my own children attend public schools--and seen the totally different environment, misdirected priorities, and issues they've been surrounded by--I am so thankful that Asheville School focused on character, excellence and integrity as much as on academics. These are the traits that have gone with me for a lifetime, not that I exhibit them perfectly, but that they are consistently the goals in front of me that matter most.

