

By Tom Clark, Life Editor

Some of us were sitting in calculus when a bone-chilling announcement was made; some of us were strolling through Benson University Center when we caught a glimpse of the smoky World Trade Center on the television; some of us were just waking up to a beautiful fall morning when we heard our suitemates fretfully talking in the hall.

There are a thousand different stories – a million different memories of how Sept. 11 took place in our own individual worlds.

Two years later, the shock still reverberates around the world and the effects are still felt by those who lost loved ones in the most deadly attack on American soil in nearly half a century.

Two years later, all we can do is look back and remember Sept. 11.

At this point, very few people are not fully knowledgeable of the events that unfolded on that fateful Tuesday morning that changed history.

This story needs no explanation, as it is the same that has been heard time and time again. It is the foundation of the indi-

vidual stories that make up what our generation remembers of Sept. 11, 2001, just how our parents remember every detail of the day Kennedy was assassinated.

We each had our own perspective, our own experience that, 20 years from now, will be recalled from the back of our minds and shared with the rest of the world.

Collectively, these memories make up the “people’s history” of Sept. 11, 2001.

So now we commemorate Sept. 11 with the memories – the flood of questions, the simple bewilderment, and the emotional turbulence that so many people experienced, yet each in a unique way.

What we have left are the words and images that replay through our brain whenever we choose, or are reminded to relive that day.

Two years later, our individual memories of Sept. 11 create a montage of personal history, by which

we’ll remember that day forever.

“I remember having feeling very sick that day when I woke up, so I decided to go to Student Health, assuming at that time they could help. I sat down in the waiting room and looked up at the television. There was a building burning that looked very familiar to me, a lot like home. It wasn’t until about 10 minutes later that I saw a plane (the second one) crash into the building that I realized my brother’s fiancée works there.”

Junior Randy Gray
Randolph, NJ

“At 9:20 a.m. the phone rang and I jumped out of bed before it reached the second ring. It was the phone call we all dread. My mother was in tears, and I swear I could feel her trembling through the phone lines. I remember every minute of Sept. 11, 2001. It was a day that we cannot change and a day that forever changed us.”

Junior Ed Pincar
Staten Island, NY

“I had noon chemistry on Tuesdays, so I was sleeping when my phone rang. I ignored it. Then it rang two more times, and I got a text message. ‘GET UP - LOOK AT NEWS,’ said the message, from my brother. I turned on the television. There was a picture of a smoking building. I changed the channel. It was the same thing on every single channel. Then the caption came up: PLANE HITS WORLD TRADE CENTER.”

Junior David Hanson
Salisbury, MD

“My freshman roommate stopped me in the middle of Magnolia Quad after class, asking if I had heard what happened. She told me that buildings had been blown up both in New York City and Washington, D.C. I immediately felt complete emptiness as I ran to my room, turned on the TV and started tearing up with my roommate. The entire day I was in a state of shock as I repeatedly attempted to reach my mom’s office or cell phone - she works less than a mile from the Pentagon, in the path of the commercial plane before the impact.”

Senior Brigette Pierce
McLean, VA

“Someone Instant Messaged me early in the morning and told me to turn on my TV. I turned it on and was watching the coverage when then all of a sudden, wham, the second plane went through the second building. It was like I was watching a movie, not something that was being reported live.”

Senior Kelli Brown
Greenville, SC

“Driving back to my boarding school, I turned on the radio to check the traffic only to discover, over the three-hour drive, that the veil that protected the United States would slip away. Helpless, we listened to the horrific tale unfold as we watched the freshly-bloodied land pass by at 70 miles an hour.”

Sophomore Jack Raffetto
Church Hill, MD

“As I headed to my freshman seminar in Scales, news of a bombing circulated around the Mag Quad. I had lost touch with any world outside of the microcosm I had just recently claimed and everything seemed very surreal. Arriving to class, we moved into a room with a projection screen to watch the horrors unfold. As each tower was hit and fell, and the Pentagon was hit, I couldn’t help but think, what’s next? When is it going to stop?”

Junior Rebecca Lowry
Statesville, NC

“It is likely true that life will now be different and, in many respects, more difficult. The world and travel in it now seems less commonplace, more dangerous. A new kind of war, not fought warrior-against-warrior, but in offices, airports and apartments, has begun. It is a chilling prospect. But you are America’s future. You will not see your promise diminished.”

President Thomas K. Hearn, Jr.,
in his address to the campus Sept. 11, 2001