

The Joy of Learning Together in our RWU Classroom by Rosalie Franks, Ed.D.

They teach me so much  
Each time we meet  
I in front of the room  
They seated quietly in front of me  
Eager to hear what I have to say.

Every time I see them  
I feel happy, oh so very happy  
To be in their company  
To be part of their learning and life  
Their way of being and sense of promise.

I look at their faces and see tomorrow  
I see who they are now and who they can become  
I see their sense of hope and determination  
I see their possibilities  
And their faith in the goodness of others and their world.

I see my role as their teacher  
What I must do to help them grow  
To help them become the best they can be  
To arouse in each of them their faith in themselves  
To remind them of their gifts, their intelligence, and their future.

I am an old woman now  
In March I will be 85 years old  
Amazed that I made it this far  
And am still going strong  
Refusing to give up, to surrender to aging  
And to the old-fashioned idea that time determines possibilities.

I'm still going strong  
Still designing new courses  
Still reading new books, writing new lessons  
Inspiring myself and others with learning  
Learning for today and for tomorrow  
Learning to grow for me and for you,  
And for our future, our precious 21<sup>st</sup> century future.