

# Professor still jamming after 25 years

■ *Tom Farley lives life as an accomplished guitarist outside Wesleyan walls*

By LYNDSEY TRIPP

Tom Farley, adjunct professor of geography and education at Virginia Wesleyan, is a high school teacher by day and a rock star by night.

Farley has been performing in acoustic bands for the last 25 years. He began playing guitar when he was an undergraduate student at Virginia Tech. After graduation Farley taught at Indian River High School for a short time before he decided to pursue a career in music full time. Farley got his start playing acoustics at a local Holiday Inn.

"I was playing in a part of town where not many people want to hear acoustic music," said Farley. "The only reason I was there was because the hotel manager liked my music."

After six years Farley left the Holiday Inn to form his own band called Cimarron. At that time he also went back to teaching high school.

"This is the lowest paid area on the east coast for bands so it's very difficult to make a living playing in a band full time," said Farley.

Farley stayed with Cimarron for eight years

playing in local clubs before the band broke up. After that he formed The Tom Farley-Cam Head Band with his wife Tania and long time friend Cam Head.

"Tania has been associated with every group I have been a part of for the last 25 years," said Farley.

The Tom Farley-Cam Head Band stayed together for six years until one of the band members left the area. From that point on Farley performed with his wife as The Tom Farley Band.

"It's been a really nice experience," said Farley.

Since Farley has been performing he has had the opportunity to open for Bruce Hornsby and play with Clarence Clemons, the saxophonist for Bruce Springsteen. He was awarded PortFolio's Best Acoustic Musician in Hampton Roads in 1983 and Best Rhythm Guitarist in Hampton Roads in 1985. He has also cut two CD's called "The Calm Before the Storm" and "Songsmyth and the Basement Cuts," which are available at the VWC bookstore and at live performances.

Farley has been teaching night classes at VWC since 1986. He has taken some time off from per-

forming this year but plans to continue performing locally with his wife this coming summer.

"It has been a fun experience," said Farley, "and I hope to continue having fun."

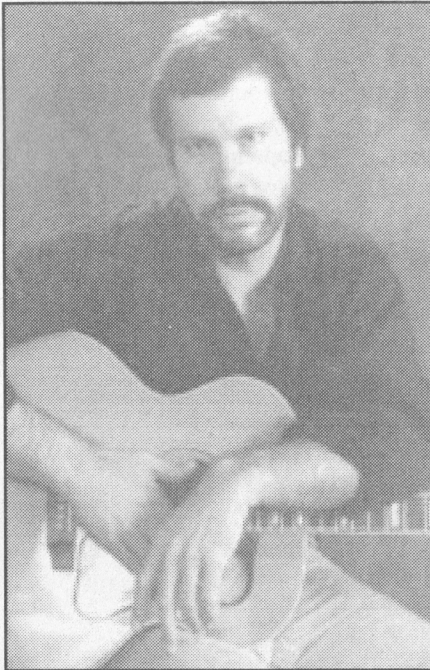


Photo courtesy of Tom Farley and Tania Farley website  
Farley's "The Calm Before the Storm" CD cover photo.

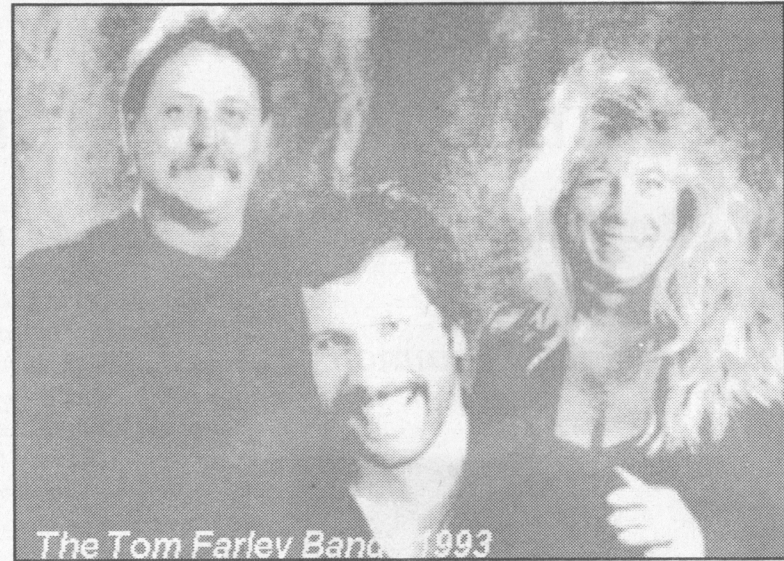


Photo Courtesy of Tom Farley and Tania Farley website

Members of the Tom Farley Band from left; Gerry Herndon, Farley and wife Tania.



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Farley playing a gig at the Jewish Mother in 1983.