John Fry ‘82

John A. Fry became the 14th president of Franklin & Marshall College on July 1, 2002.

A native of Queens, N.Y., John Fry ‘82 studied American civilization at Lafayette College and received the George Wharton Pepper Prize, the highest honor awarded to a graduating senior. In 1986 he earned a master’s in business administration from the New York University Stern School of Business.

During his early professional life, Fry worked closely with some of the nation’s premier colleges and universities, first with KPMG Peat Marwick in its educational consulting practice, and then with Cooper & Lybrand’s National Higher Education Consulting Practice, where he was elected a partner in the firm and eventually attained the rank of partner-in-charge of the national practice.

In 1995, he became the executive vice president of the University of Pennsylvania. As chief operating officer of the university, he was responsible for finance, investments, human resources, facilities and real estate, public safety, information systems, computing, technology transfer, corporate relations, auxiliary enterprises and internal audit and compliance.

At Penn, Fry helped develop and implement the university’s “Agenda for Excellence,” a comprehensive plan that guided the university’s strategic initiatives from 1996-2001. One of the strategies that emerged from this plan was the development of Penn’s nationally recognized neighborhood revitalization initiative for West Philadelphia. In a comparatively short period of time, residential property values around the university have gone up, while the crime rates in the surrounding neighborhood have dropped significantly.

His civic activities include membership on the Delaware Investments Board of Directors, the Lancaster Alliance Board of Directors, the Fulton Opera House Board of Trustees, the Lancaster General Hospital Board of Directors, the Lancaster Country Day School Board of Directors and the Lafayette College Board of Trustees.

In November 2002, he was asked to serve as one of the co-chairs for the transition team of Governor-Elect Ed Rendell of Pennsylvania.

Fry is married and he and his wife, Cara, have three children: Mia, Nathaniel and Phoebe.