



Celebrating 50 years of NU Trailblazers!

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The VC-NU Bus Society



When Vermont College and Norwich University merged in 1972, a “bus society” was created for the VC women who lived on the Montpelier campus and traveled back and forth to attend classes in Northfield.

Professor Nadine Nunez-de-Cela (*left, top*), who lived in Montpelier, rode the bus daily with these students. As an academic advisor and professor of Spanish, she advocated for integrating women into Norwich by placing them on campus instead of forcing them to commute. For economic, legal and practical reasons, President Hart endorsed this proposal and in 1974, 71 women found their home in Gerard Hall.



An ad-hoc committee of students, cadets, faculty and staff selected Nunez-de-Cela as Norwich’s first Dean of Women, Assistant Commandant of Cadets responsible for coordinating women’s campus life in partnership with the Commandant’s Office. Senior Amy White ’75 (*left, bottom*) was the “Dorm Fellow” who shared the women’s dorm responsibility with Dean Nunez-de-Cela. Amy saw all sides of coed life in her capacity as an advisor to her peers and as a liaison between the women and the top brass in the Corps of Cadets.

In a November 1974 article in *The Guidon*, Nunez-de-Cela said she saw the presence of women making Norwich better —better academically because of more diversity of opinion in the classrooms, better socially, and in Corps matters. Her goal was to ensure equal

opportunity and justice for every member of the campus community and “to deal with questions that arise over any aspect of the University, any time, anywhere.”



Records documenting women’s history and experience at Norwich are available through the University Archives. <https://archives.norwich.edu/>