



Celebrating 50 years of NU Trailblazers!

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White Glove Inspections: Karen Brown '77



"I still laugh about the three-minute showers," says Karen (Brown) Clark '77. "They actually had a stopwatch so you had three minutes to soap up and get out, and then five minutes to get dressed."

Raised in a military family, Karen's oldest brother went to North Georgia Military College and her other brother, Walter '72, chose Norwich. She transferred from Western Maryland College as a junior to join the first class of women in the Corps. "I was pretty proud to be the third woman to graduate from the Corps. I liked the discipline. You knew exactly what was expected of you and everyone was in the same boat. You didn't have a lot of time to get into trouble."

Outside of the Corps and classroom, Karen was in the hunting and Spanish clubs, intramural flag football, softball and volleyball teams, and was on the Dean's List. From her room in Patterson Hall, Karen could see the Norwich ski hill. A student pass was about \$30 and when classes were over, she simply crossed the street to ride the chair lift to the top of Paine Mountain.

Like their male counterparts, women marched in the gutters, saluted upperclassmen, precision-ironed their uniforms, and dreaded room inspections.

"I had a few demerits for failing the white glove inspections," Karen says. "The clothing bars in the wardrobes were metal and we were given wood hangers with metal hooks that left a gray residue on the bar. Every time we had white glove inspections, I would get in trouble for not catching that."

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