



# Celebrating 50 years of NU Trailblazers!

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## Blazing Her Own Trail: Nancy Young '76



In high school Nancy Young excelled in sports and was interested in a career as a physical education teacher. When her father told her Norwich University had its very own ski slope and was about to open its doors to female students, she said, "sign me up."

As a freshman Nancy took a shuttle bus from the Vermont College campus in Montpelier to Norwich. The next year women were given the opportunity to join the Corps of Cadets. Nancy immediately opted in and in 1974 she, along with [Cadet Captain Diane Gionet '75](#), took command of Lima Detachment and the incoming class of female rooks. She was also on the ski and field hockey teams, and Air Force ROTC.



Nancy remembers her time in the Corps this way: "I did it because President Hart wanted women in the Corps. He asked us, and I figured it would be new and exciting. None of us knew what we were getting into."

Nancy went on to a successful career as a teacher, coach and author. "I had some amazing professors who inspired me to become certified," Nancy says. She taught science and math in Vermont, Massachusetts, and at a charter school. She coached field hockey and gymnastics for 35 years and taught piano lessons for 40 years. Nancy has written and published nine books and currently teaches for an online company and Fitchburg State University. "I feel I've lived up to Norwich's motto 'I will try' because I'm always willing to try something new and expand on what I enjoy."

Nancy married Alan Phillip, also Norwich Class of 1976. "My family has been a huge part of my life," she says. "I've been happily married for 46 years and have seven grandchildren. I don't have any regrets and I'm still very busy and active at 69 years old."

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