



# Celebrating 50 years of NU Trailblazers!

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## Latina Entrepreneurs: Andrea Moreno '16 and Katarina Wabrek '17 & M'18

Rook Week 2012: the blazing August sun beat down on **Andrea Moreno** and **Katarina Wabrek** as they heard the 5:30 a.m. cannon fire for the first time, setting their hearts racing and altering the trajectory of their lives forever. Endless hours spent squaring off the Upper Parade Ground, reciting knowledge from the infamous Rook Book, and enduring piercing morning bugle calls gave both women a sense of purpose during their time at the Military College of Vermont.

Their Norwich experience was not just a chapter in their lives but a time that forged personal growth and a lifelong friendship. It also fostered a vision to “pay it forward” through the nonprofit organization they launched in 2020, Dos Rosas.



Andrea Moreno (l.) and Katarina Wabrek (r.)

From Michoacán, Mexico, to Alumni Hall's third-floor deck, Andrea flourished on the Hill where she received her bachelor's in international studies and French in 2016. The drive and determination instilled by her cadre motivated Andrea to attend Vermont Law School following graduation from Norwich. She earned her Juris Doctorate in 2019 and was admitted to practice law in Pennsylvania. Norwich's introduction to the U.S. military lifestyle established a strong foundation in her life as she now serves as a Captain in the U.S. Army JAG Corps. She is currently the Brigade Judge Advocate for the 65th Medical Brigade in South Korea.

Massachusetts-raised with Dominican roots, Katarina grew up with close ties to Norwich. She is the proud daughter of two alumni, Michael Wabrek '88 and Mary Adams Wabrek '91. The bricked barracks, upper parade ground with the iron Plumley gates were a second home growing up. Katarina pursued her passion for architecture in Chaplin Hall. She earned her bachelor's in architectural studies with a minor in engineering management, and a master's in architecture the following year. She currently works at a prestigious contemporary architectural firm in Boston, where she plans to obtain her architectural license, delve into interior design, and enhance her design skills.

Andrea and Katarina founded Dos Rosas to advance Latinas through professional development and mentorship while helping bridge opportunity gaps and economic disparities within the Latin community. The organization encompasses all aspects of a Latina's development that will influence and assist her educational and career aspirations. Within four short years, Dos Rosas has expanded to more than seven states, hosted over fifty professional development events, and provided thousands of dollars in grants to Latinas committed to positively impacting the Latin community.



Katarina Wabrek (l.) and Andrea Moreno (r.)

As President Schneider said at the 2012 Rook arrival ceremony, "This is not for the faint of heart, and many of you will not make it." The leadership qualities, persistence, and effective teamwork Norwich instilled in Andrea and Katarina continue to allow their female-founded coalition to advocate for the integration of Latinas within all aspects of the classroom, community, and corporate structure.

Their home will always be the Hill, with its freezing-cold Paine Mountain morning fog. That is where Andrea and Katarina learned discipline, determination, and most importantly the value of giving back. Thanks to Norwich University and its Corps of Cadets, the founders of Dos Rosas have achieved distinction and are eager to inspire others to do the same.

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



### **Attend the Homecoming Women Kicking Glass Gala!**

Friday, September 20, 2024 - [Women Kicking Glass Gala](#), Plumley Armory, Norwich

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