



# Celebrating 50 years of NU Trailblazers!

JULY 20, 2024

NU WKG, ISSUE #41

## Women on the UP: Gerard Hall



Following the merger of Vermont College and Norwich University in June 1972, Norwich became a two-campus institution offering associate and bachelor's degrees as well as post-graduate programs to both men and women. Vermont College, in Montpelier, VT, retained its name and operated as a civilian campus for women. Norwich remained a residential campus for men, offering ROTC training and a Corps of Cadets.

Each day students were shuttled by bus between the Montpelier and Northfield campuses for classes, social events, and athletics. In 1973 a group of women petitioned President Loring Hart to live on the Northfield campus and join the Corps of Cadets.

In August 1974, with approval from the Board of Trustees, 71 women moved into Gerard Hall. Twenty of them were freshmen entering a four-year degree program at Norwich. Fifty-one women moved from the Vermont College campus to Norwich to complete their degrees.

Among the 71 were eight women who formed the first female cohort in the NU Corps of Cadets. Four upper-class women became the cadre and mentors to four incoming freshmen. Norwich's acceptance of women in the Corps came two years before the federal service academies admitted females to their programs in 1976 and 25 years before Virginia Military Academy (VMI) admitted women in 1997 by Supreme Court order.

These women—both Civilian and Corps—paved a path for future generations, finding their way through social change, physical challenge, and academic rigor. They are celebrated for overcoming barriers and blazing new trails through their courage and determination.

During Homecoming Weekend (September 18-22), a plaque will be dedicated at Gerard Hall, honoring the first women to live on the Norwich campus. Please join us on Friday, September 20, at 2:30 p.m. for the unveiling. [See the complete schedule of 2024 Homecoming events.](#)

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

---

## **Limited Edition Women Kicking Glass Merchandise Available**

Treat yourself and others to these custom [Women Kicking Glass wines, apparel and gifts](#) to mark 50 years of trailblazing women.



### **Women Kicking Glass Oral History Book**

Stories and photos from 500 NU and Vermont College women spanning six decades of Norwich history. [See more.](#)

[Pre-order your book now](#) for delivery in August 2024.



### **Just Added: Glass Ceiling Brooch by California artist Vivian Shimoyama**

Each one-of-a-kind brooch is handmade with clear iridescent glass and 14K gold trim. [See more.](#) | [Order here.](#)

**[See more Women Kicking Glass items](#)**