Memories from NYU

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From Freshman Orientation, with the Ducking Trough (did you know it’s under wraps at the Square awaiting a clean-up job), beanies (I know I saved mine, but remembering where it is will take a bit of effort), Cary Sklaren barking orders, all of us in the Gould auditorium where we were asked to fill out a lengthy questionnaire, and being forewarned… look to your right, look to your left, one of you probably won’t be graduating in four years—impression made!

As those four years unfolded, many more memories were hatched. Freshman year ratio: nine men to every one woman. Dinner time freshman year (two vivid memories): mystery meat of the day in the Silver cafeteria; and before even getting on line, taking a peek when halfway down the stairs in Silver to see if any women were downstairs eating dinner—not yet—go upstairs and wait another few minutes, hoping other women would come along. NYU football games on our own campus. Women’s tennis across the river, near the Stella D’Oro factory. Basketball games at the Garden. Curfew. We women racing back to campus to make curfew. Fighting for later hours. As we got older, the underclass women fighting for no curfew—and then to have men in their rooms—what was the world coming to!

Luckiest feature of the Heights: Our professors, associate professors, and instructors. I was a math major with an English minor. I had the privilege of studying with some amazing teachers. In the math department, my favorite was Mr. Babakanian; in the English department, it was Dan Lawrence; in history, L. Jay Oliva. I’m not sure any undergraduate course I took was better than Oliva’s Russian History. Zimbardo. You didn’t even have to take a psychology course to know the name Zimbardo. I am sure there is many a Zimbardo story to share.

Lunchtime in the Gould Student Center: Which did you prefer, a grilled cheese sandwich, a tuna fish salad sandwich, or a hamburger? Seems this pretty much covered my lunch menu for all four years.

Dancing at the Rathskeller in Gould Student Center. Cartoons at the Gould Playhouse during finals time to help us relax. Leo Tolstoy running for a student government position. The class bun. The Heights Daily News. Etc., etc., etc.