



Friends for Life

Mary (Oen) Poindexter

It was August 23, 1979, when my parents helped to move me into Grant Residence Hall, Room 501. Grant was an apartment building before the University of Akron purchased it and turned it into a women's dormitory. I was the last of six to arrive at Room 501, so my bedroom was the old living room, and all my clothing had to fit into a four-foot-wide by six-foot-tall locker, or under the bed.

Back in the good old days, dorms were either for men only or women only. A girl could check a guy into the dorms, but he had to be checked out by ten p.m.! There was a curfew in the dorms, too. During the week, we had to be checked in by

eleven p.m., and on the weekends it was two a.m. If you missed the curfew, the doors were locked, and you had to buzz the resident assistant on duty. They were never happy about having to come down and let you in.

Our resident assistant, Barb Allyaud (who went on to work for the University for many years) came by to welcome us to our first meeting for all floor mates later in the afternoon. There I met my lifelong friends—Rhea (Neuser) Jagodzinski and Kristine (Koons) McCully—and among other floor mates, we quickly became good friends who had a lot of fun together. In the second semester, Susan (Carnabuci) Yehnert joined our merry group. We still keep in touch, too. The rest of the girls we have lost contact with, but every year at our girls' weekend gatherings, we often wonder what the rest of them are doing. Rhea, Kris, and I have gotten together for family or girls' weekends every year since we all graduated. They are my friends for life.

I especially remember parties at Sumner Hall, which was a men's dorm, and the Townhouse Apartments across the parking lot, which was also men only. Robertson dining hall was a very far walk from our dorm, and we always walked together as a group to eat dinner. We had to cross three very busy streets to get to Robertson or the rest of campus, and all students my age will remember the "UA Crosses," or stopping in the middle to wait for traffic to pass. Due to the popularity of the movie *Animal House*, there was a food fight one day at Robertson.

I also met my husband Michael Poindexter at the University of Akron. He worked in the Chemistry Lab's supply room. Although he handed out test tubes and chemicals, he never gave out the answers to the lab tests, which would have been nice since none of us ever knew what we were doing. He proposed to me at the supply room window, and we have been together for thirty-five years now. Michael graduated with a mechanical engineering degree in December 1983. I graduated in May 1983 with a bachelor's degree in education.

We had great fun on campus with parties and dances, and the May Day celebrations were awesome. Football games were at the Rubber Bowl, and we were bussed out there and back. The fraternities always had fun disguising a keg of beer as some sort of decoration, even though everyone knew what was being carried into the stadium. Those were the good old days, when you could stop by the Chuckery between or after classes for a cold beer and a card game or two of euchre. Zips Varsity bar was also a favorite place for students.

I look back fondly on my years at The University of Akron. We had excellent teachers, the tuition was low, and the university really tried to make campus fun but also a safe and memorable experience for all. Go Zips!