

When we arrived on campus...

Like my esteemed colleague I also arrived at a Porter Hall temp double my freshman year - 1979. Like many of us, I viewed Mount Holyoke as my opportunity to transform my life. Being shy in high school I decided to become outgoing – so I went through the dorm and knocked on every door to introduce myself. My mom wasn't feeling well and left early so I was on my own attending the freshman reception at President Kennan's home. I was floored when she referenced my older sister upon meeting me. What a memory she had. My junior class big sister took me to the big welcome to campus in the amphitheater and I knew life was transforming in an amazing way and we were all now part of the MHC family.

During our time on campus we experienced these historical international and domestic events...

Freshman year was all about the hostages in Iran. Keeping track of news updates was hard because the evening news aired during our sit down dinner every night – we never saw it. This was before the 24 hour news cycle. In 1980 we all celebrated John Lennon's Double Fantasy album and grieved at his assassination. Then a year later I was walking across campus and ran into a friend who said the President was shot. After a four hour biochemlab all I could say is "Why would someone shoot President Kennan?" I ran to the dorm to join everyone around the TV as we watched Alexander Haig declare that he was in charge. We had to ask the Poli Sci majors to explain who he was.

This is how we spent our free time while we were on campus...

Free time was in short supply. A study freshman year said that MHC gave more hours of homework than any other college – an estimated 24 hours/week. My friends and I were enthusiastic members of the film society and weekend nights we could be found watching movies old and new. We enjoyed outings to Amherst for shopping. Dorm parties were always a highlight with great music and dancing. Winter term was for exploring new activities and hobbies – one year I read and watched Shogun and learned to needlepoint. And of course the one thing we all watched was General Hospital. My dorm had a full blown party for the wedding of Luke and Laura.