

What is your favorite or most memorable spot on campus?

My memory goes straight to a carrel by a window in the second story stacks of the old library building. That carrel (evidently not used at night by the graduate student whose books were there) was my haven.

—*Sally McKinstry Hall '50*

My favorite place is the lovely little bedroom on the second floor corner of Mills Hall, overlooking the library and administration building. I shared with close friends, so there was always time for a bridge game when we finished dinner and began studying. I had window boxes filled with cuttings from Dr. Hedley's geraniums.

—*Favour Hazeltine Slater '58*

Perhaps it was the elegance of the bark or the majesty of the beautiful limbs and the leaves with their distinctive aroma, but the mature eucalyptus walk that led from Olney Hall was magical. It created a path to all possibilities and destinations. It was protective and beautiful. It reminded me each day when I traveled to class just how grand and nurturing nature could be. I often enjoyed this route and shared it on wet mornings with the amusing banana slug. I was never a morning person so this was a great way to start the day.

—*Stephanie Miller Koran '66*

My favorite building has got to be Lucie Stern, where I avidly audited Carl Belz's lectures in contemporary art, as well as Alfred Frankenstein's history of American art. In the Language Lab, I learned to pay attention to directions—though I am still learning that.

—*Lynda Laun '69*

My favorite memory is jogging the trail that ran through the woods on the campus perimeter, visiting all the hidden places.

—*Marion Davison '79*

Midnight in the grand living room of Ethel Moore Hall....remnants of a fire in the large stone hearth, the grand piano waiting for someone to play a Chopin prelude, a glowing lamp, the clickety-clack of my vintage Royal typewriter on the table in front of the arched window. Books spread all about...a deadline, an all-nighter, head swirling with allusions, alliteration, thinly-veiled symbols hiding in the literature before me. Perhaps a gentle ghost watching me toil.

—*Deborah Fortune Walton '81*

My balcony room at Olney was the best! I would still love to have such a lovely view of the trees.

—*Jennifer Basye Sander '81*

A balcony room in the quiet section of Ethel Moore Hall, the choicest spot on campus, no doubt. The warmth and scent of dust and eucalyptus on the bay breeze, and true California Mediterranean-style plaster walls that just make things feel right. What a pleasant memory to take through one's life.

—*Flash Stutsman Stepp '82*

In 1965, when I was four years old, my mother was (re)married in what was then the chapel, next to the Seminary Avenue gate. It was a childcare center during my time as a student.

—*Elizabeth Stephenson Norheim '83*

My favorites include all the laughs & snorted liquids at Founders Commons, jasmine tea in the Tea Shop, Lake Aliso, watching Society for Creative Anachronism on the back 40, the MacArthur Blvd. exit (which felt like coming home), almost anywhere on the Mills Stream (the actual stream, not the publication), the art gallery. There are too many!

—*Elisa Cafferata Maser '84*

The Spanish-style courtyards tucked away behind Carnegie and the Music Building Ensemble Room. The spaces within their walls felt peaceful and protected—perfect for a mid-day escape.

—*Dawn Cunningham '85*

The piano wasn't great in my Music Building practice room, but with a window looking out over the hidden Spanish courtyard with fountain, in a hallway of practice rooms, this was one of the most inspiring places I've ever experienced to make music.

Listening to others play was an instant warm-up for the creative process and required me to focus once I had started. And the room was just big enough for one more person to jam with if the spirit so moved us.

—Nancy Moeller-Olsen '85

In my dorm room on the first floor of Ethel Moore Hall, at the end of a hall, I felt like I was in a forest, surrounded by lovely greenery. And I felt like a spy, too, able to watch people come and go without them ever suspecting someone might be looking! I was a transfer student, but it was my first time away from my family, so I greatly cherished my privacy and time alone in my roomy "suite." I can't imagine having lived and slept anywhere else while at Mills.

—Jennifer Lee Timmons '87

Of course it's Lake Aliso! Being surrounded on all sides by roads and highways left me starved for horizons and a nature fix. Before the running path was built, it took some courage to leave civilization and push through the brush, for Lake Aliso was crowded with cattails and reeds, a forgotten place. One day I discovered the ruins of a fireplace on Pine Top, and the history of Mills opened up to me. But the frogs—the frogs! April rains meant concert season all over campus.

—Kristen Baumgardner Caven '88

Ethel Moore living room, doing my homework at the piano. Standing on the Oval watching the bats fly from the Campanil, around sunset. Hiking Mills Creek.

—Angela Noble '90

The stairway of the music building—hearing (and recording) the sounds bouncing around in there, muted rehearsal sounds, hallway footsteps, far off voices, and the pond outside the music building, when the frogs were in full voice. Those are the spots I remember the most from Mills, and the sounds I heard there.

—Heather Perkins, MFA '96

The tennis courts are so meaningful to me: I spent four years playing on the team; it was my solace and my first sense of family at Mills. And the courts took many hours of my time. The library was my sanctuary, and entering along Richards Road always provided comfort and pride that I belonged at Mills.

—Ann Au Anderson '99

Walking back to the art studio after tea, across the bridge, over the creek, and under the sweet eucalyptus, I would breathe in deeply every time. I felt a sense of peace, encouragement, and inspiration.

—Robbin Milne '00

Mills Hall feels so old-fashioned and smells so good...like old books. I felt very much "in college" when I was in that building.

—Michele Roberts '03

I love the Concert Hall, and all the history and mystery that came with it. It has such a romantic air. I enjoyed every amazing performance and student jam sessions so full of talent. I love the new and improved hall, too—it's beautiful!

—Kim Russell-Brown '04

The one and only balcony room in Ethel Moore, overlooking the lovely olive trees. My two friends had adjacent rooms my junior year that shared this balcony. We hauled a couch we found on the side of the road up there and it was our hangout for that year.

—Ana Zamora '05

I've spent a lot of time studying and eating pizza in the courtyard of the Moore Natural Sciences Building. I love the whole campus and will be back for graduate school.

—Patience Narh '09

I love the Commuter Lounge and spend all my extra time in there (I might be partial, because I'm a commuter). The Tea Shop and Adams Plaza is very pretty and relaxing. You can just sit there and be calm. I love it.

—Chelsea Clevers '13

I grew up on campus and lived in Faculty Village from 1974 to 1994 (roughly). Most of my old favorite places have been rebuilt or replaced over the years; but still, for peace and solitude there is no place like Pine Top!

—Alex Wright