



Western Michigan University  
ScholarWorks at WMU

---

East Campus Oral Histories

University Libraries

---

3-3-2023

## Rosanne Adamache and the Best Year on East Campus

University Libraries  
*University Libraries*

Follow this and additional works at: [https://scholarworks.wmich.edu/east\\_campus\\_oral\\_histories](https://scholarworks.wmich.edu/east_campus_oral_histories)



Part of the Oral History Commons

---

### WMU ScholarWorks Citation

University Libraries, "Rosanne Adamache and the Best Year on East Campus" (2023). *East Campus Oral Histories*. 52.

[https://scholarworks.wmich.edu/east\\_campus\\_oral\\_histories/52](https://scholarworks.wmich.edu/east_campus_oral_histories/52)

This Interview is brought to you for free and open access by the University Libraries at ScholarWorks at WMU. It has been accepted for inclusion in East Campus Oral Histories by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks at WMU. For more information, please contact [wmu-scholarworks@wmich.edu](mailto:wmu-scholarworks@wmich.edu).



WMU Alum Rosanne Adamache

Friday, March 3, 2023 at 12:00 PM

Virtual Meeting via FaceTime

**Cassie:** And okay, so I'm recording the audio now, so go ahead and introduce yourself whenever you're ready.

**Rosanne:** Okay, my name is Roseanne Adamache and that is actually the name I attended Western, I went back to my birth name. So that's how my records are there if they still have records from way back when.

But I came to campus in the fall of 1967 as a freshman, I was assigned Spindler Hall, which was affectionately known as Spinster Hall. (Both chuckle) I'm sure you may have heard that, I don't know, room 303. I absolutely fell in love with East Campus and it's where I spent the majority of my time, that it was one of my best years, I have to say in my life.

It just felt very homey, and I had a great roommate. We shared our little room and everyone shared the community bathroom at the end of the hall. So yeah, there was Spindler, there was a man's dorm, and let's see, well, actually, that was the last year that the campus had a curfew. We were required to be in at a certain time every night. My roommate and I, we like to bend the rules a little bit and we thought it would be fun to try to break them all.

**Cassie:** So there are a few after-curfew nights? (both laugh)

**Rosanne:** There was one all-night out that I recall because we wouldn't be able to get back in until the doors unlocked in the morning.

But we were with a really good group of people and I was telling my friend, so naive at the time cuz you don't know what's gonna happen. We were at a big house party and spent half of the night just playing over and over Sergeant Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band. The album had just come out so it was fun.

Let's see. I started out on a 2-year secretarial program. I just wanted to get my skills the best I could. And eventually, my counselor suggested I finish, stay a couple more years, and get my education degree, which I did get a BS in Business Ed.

So eventually I ended up teaching all of those classes but... so I was in business. All of the business classes were up on the East Campus. We just loved it on the hill. The student union, which I believe it's on Oakland Boulevard or Road or whatever. Yeah, we would spend time there after class and I can still picture myself there just walking in and we went downstairs and it was just a whole atmosphere.

It certainly wasn't as open as the union on the main campus, but it was just great, and we would go down there and we'd be listening to all the rock at that time. They always had Crosby, Stills, Nash, and Young and just sit and visit and listen to the music.

I think I always had a lot of 8 AM classes, which wasn't a thrill for me (both laugh) but just have to climb up another hill to get to the... I think there were three classroom buildings and let's see. We just have so many great memories, of course, no one had a car.

There must have been a couple of buses to take us down to the main campus where I wasn't very often. I may have had an occasional class down there, but to me, East Campus was it. I didn't care if I went past although I think in my second year I worked at the Candy/Cigarette Counter in the student union.

But no, we were up there, we loved it. I ventured down the hill to go to the stadium, to the football games, which is where my absolute love of football started. I'm just a football freak now, but yeah, that's where I'm telling you it was just a great time.

That was a great time, yeah.

**Cassie:** It sounds like you remembered a lot about when you lived in Spindler. Can you talk a little bit more about what the hall looked like? It must have been busy, especially in those bathrooms then, if they were communal bathrooms.

**Rosanne:** Yeah, well, we were on the third floor. Gosh, just your basic slate or tile so we'd go up the stairs to our room. Anyone who's seen Spindler Hall, I mean, I was there recently, within the last couple of years, and I had my daughter there about 20-some years ago, when she was a teenager I wanted to show her.

It still looked the same to me, I'm sure the buildings were built in the early 1900s. That's what it looked like, it wasn't, I don't know, it was comfortable, probably it was cold. And the bathroom, I don't know how many sinks or showers were in there, maybe 6 to 8. There was a huge dining room, just that feel for that era building I guess. They were all like that, the union, the classroom buildings...

**Cassie:** Right, yeah. And what were some of your earliest memories or earliest thoughts of East Campus when you first got to WMU?

**Rosanne:** Well, it's quite a change. I graduated high school early when I started Western, I had just turned 17 in the summer.

Yeah (chuckles). But I was always up for a new adventure and my roommate and I clicked right away, so we just had that connection and just a friendship formed. She was not a business major, but I don't know, it was just close-knit with everyone there.

And I wish I could even remember more people because we'd congregate in the union like I said, but I just don't remember other names. I know my sophomore year, I was in French Hall.

**Cassie:** Okay.

**Rosanne:** And there was a group of us, like kind of on one side of the corridor, and probably ten or twelve of us, and still a handful of those people are still my friends, lifelong friends.

**Cassie:** Did having such good friends, almost right off the bat, did that help with the transition to university, to college life?

**Rosanne:** Yeah, and you know what's strange? I never really, I just didn't look at it the way going to college is looked at now by kids, because my grandsons are that age and friends, what I'm hearing... and of course, the whole atmosphere of the world is different now, but so many kids and my friends' grandkids talk about just this huge transition and the anxiety and stuff that goes on, and there was none of that. It was the '60s. We did a lot of marches, a lot of peace marches up and down West Michigan Avenue also.

**Cassie:** Really? So you attended some of the marches and some of-?

**Rosanne:** Oh, yeah.

**Cassie:** Okay. What was that like?

**Rosanne:** I'm thinking my junior year, a group of us went to Lansing and peacefully, but slept out on the lawn, intents and things, just to protest the war.

**Cassie:** Wow, and there were some then around campus too in Kalamazoo.

**Rosanne:** The protests and marches, yes. We would just converge on West Michigan Avenue and of course, there was traffic at the time. I was totally shocked when I went back and saw that, that was closed to traffic, but yeah.

**Cassie:** Did a lot of students usually attend those things?

**Rosanne:** Yeah, that would have been about '69/'70. I graduated in '71.

**Cassie:** Okay,

**Rosanne:** It was that era.

**Cassie:** Right. And do you remember any of your professors at the time or any of your classes?

**Rosanne:** Well, like I said, I had good secretarial skills as far as shorthand and typing, I don't even know if anyone does shorthand, I still do it.

**Cassie:** No, I don't think so. (Both laugh)

**Rosanne:** And I wanted to get the maximum speeds so I could get a good job as a secretary. And like I said, I probably remember some professors or teachers. I don't know, are they all

professors? You know what, I did have a woman who taught shorthand, I got to a very high speed in that, and I do remember her.

But even my counselor who suggested that I complete four years, I can picture him, I don't remember his name. Obviously, it was a suggestion that sounded pretty good and I loved it. I loved it there, I loved Kalamazoo.

**Cassie:** Right, yeah. And why do you think that these professors, even though I know you don't remember their names or anything, but why do you think these faculty and staff stuck out to you, or why do you think you still remember them today?

**Rosanne:** Well, that's a good question. Maybe it kind of was a full circle thing where when my counselor suggested I get my teaching degree, maybe there was some kind of connection there. "Yeah, I could do that."

I know that one of my best job experiences, later when I was married, my husband was in the army. We lived in Colorado Springs, and I taught the entire secretarial corps at a business college. That was a really great job.

**Cassie:** Wow, yeah, sounds like it. And like you mentioned earlier, with everything that was going on in the late 60s and early 70s as well, how did that impact classes at all, or was it just student culture on campus that it impacted?

**Rosanne:** I don't remember it being disruptive. No, it was just what we were doing. That was around the time of Kent State, students were killed, and I think that might have been around '70. It was an emotional time. And coming out of high school in '67, so many classmates, the boys, were drafted, and we knew of many who didn't make it back.

**Cassie:** Wow.

**Rosanne:** From Vietnam and so that was the vibe at the time. We were just pretty empathetic about that whole thing.

**Cassie:** Yeah, so I just have two more questions for you, and I wanted to ask... this question might be a bit more challenging to answer, so answer it however you'd like, however you can, but what do you think impacted you the most during your time at WMU whether it was something that happened, a person, a place, or something else?

**Rosanne:** Boy, that is, I mean, several things. What impacted me? For me personally, the whole experience, all four years were great. Every year had something different, I met my husband there. I remember when the Tigers won the '68 world series, the main student union at that time was just crazy, I think just being on campus in the late 60s, the combination, I think that impacted me. And like I said, by far my most favorite year was on East Campus.

**Cassie:** Yeah, well, at the end of our conversation now, do you have any last memories or stories you'd like to share or were there any topics that we didn't touch on that you wanted to conclude with?

**Rosanne:** Gosh, I can't think of any now. Yeah, just a great time. And I love Kalamazoo. Actually, one of my future roommates who was an art major did move back to Kalamazoo and actually taught a couple of art classes there, and she still lives in Kalamazoo so when we see each other, I love to go back.

I know we went to the campus, maybe gosh, I wanna say 5 years, it was probably more than 5 years ago, maybe 8 or something, but we took a walk through the main campus and through the student center and we just had a blast talking to people, the kids in there, because 50 years ago... (laughs)

So we were laughing because I think the age that we think we are is what we are in our mind, not... We still feel that connection.

**Cassie:** Right, and did it feel that way when you were talking to current WMU students?

**Rosanne:** Oh, yeah.

**Cassie:** Well, that's really fun.

**Rosanne:** Yes.

**Cassie:** Well, thank you so much for agreeing to talk to me today and for sitting down with me and sharing your stories, I really appreciate it.

**Rosanne:** I appreciate what you're doing,

**Cassie:** Yeah, of course. So I will send you the consent form that I mentioned, and if you have any photos that you'd like to share, then feel free to email or text those over.

**Rosanne:** Okay, and when we finish the recorded session, can I ask you a couple of questions?

**Cassie:** Yeah, of course.