

## History of Davignon

Carole Strawn, SNJM '69, '12

In the October 1960 edition of *The Tower*, the Marylhurst College student newspaper, there was an architectural rendering with a short caption introducing the coming construction of two new buildings that would change the face of the campus: a dining hall/commons and a resident hall. Designed by Portland architects Jacobberger, Stanton, Franks, and Norman, the new dorm, the fifth on campus, was scheduled for occupancy by September 1961 and would house 146 students.

In a later article the student reporter announced the name of the new dorm as Davignon Hall, the inspiration for the naming being Mother Veronica of the Crucifix, formerly known as Hedwidge Davignon. In the article the young writer posed the question: "What did Sister Veronica do to warrant the naming of Marylhurst's fifth residence hall after her?" The fledgling journalist went on to answer the question citing "The Hope of The Harvest" which details the remarkable and courageous life of Mother Veronica, a foundational icon in the story of the evolution of the Sisters of the Holy Names as a Congregation. Sent in 1864 to be Superior of the Oregon missions, opened by the Sisters in 1859, Mother Veronica was inspiration and strength to Sisters in the Pacific Northwest and set up a lasting spiritual and educational legacy that endures to this day.

From 1961-1974 Davignon Hall served as a student dorm, home to dozens of young women during their collegiate years of study, personal growth, and camaraderie. With the transition of the college in 1974 to a co-educational, non-residential format, Davignon Hall, like most buildings on campus, entered a new phase.

However, what does one do with a former college dormitory? In its next iteration, Davignon never again was at full occupancy. Since 1974 it has housed offices for small non-profits like Africa Bridge and Help Elevate Learning Processes (HELP) and, for a period of time, space was leased to Clackamas County for social services agencies.



In Davignon's latter years prior to the closure of Marylhurst University in 2018, it continued with non-profit lease clients, but also took on some University-related functions including the departmental offices and classrooms for the Graduate Program in Art Therapy and dedicated space for Marylhurst student leadership and the Alumni Association. Most recently, it has stood virtually empty, serving only to those who remember as a reminder of its original function as a loved student residence.

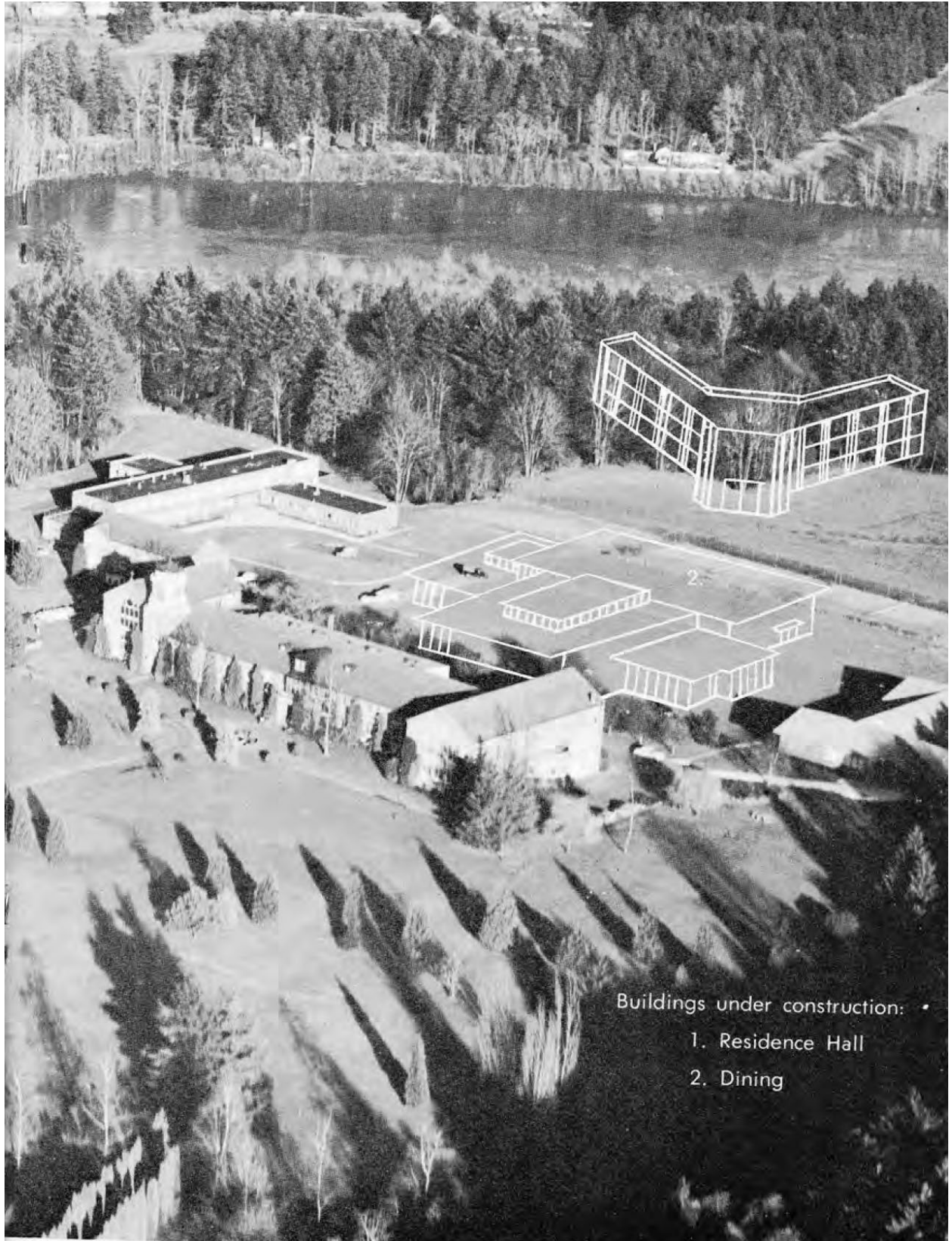


Additional photos of students at the Davignon Hall dorm from the '60s and early '70s:









Buildings under construction: •

1. Residence Hall

2. Dining