

2008

## Interview of Marc A. Moreau, Ph.D.

Marc A. Moreau Ph.D.  
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## FIELD NOTES

**Interviewee:** Marc René Moreau

**Interviewer:** Elizabeth Mary Wagner

**Interview Dates:** April 7, April 14, April 21, 2008, 1:00pm-2:00pm

**Interview Location:** Dr. Moreau's office on the third floor of Wister Hall on La Salle University's campus

Field notes were formally compiled on April 24, 2008

### **The Interviewee:**

Marc Moreau was born on December 30, 1948 in Lewiston, Maine. His family is French Canadian, and the part of town where he grew up was a pocket for French-speaking people. It was referred to as a "Petit-Canada." Lewiston's economy centered on textile mills, and subsequently all of his grandparents and both of his parents worked in the mills during their lives. His mother later became a nurse during WWII, and his father served in the army during that time but later returned to the mills. Moreau has a younger sister and brother. He delivered French newspapers as a boy and attended a grade school run by Dominican nuns. He attended Brothers of the Sacred Heart High School. He became an avid trumpet player at a young age and received a full scholarship to study music at the University of Connecticut. However, he realized that his musical skills did not match those of the other students, so he began to look for a different interest. He found one in philosophy, and proceeded on to Temple's doctoral program for philosophy. While at Temple he fought the draft for Vietnam and met his first wife. They divorced after six years and he met and married his current wife, Juliet. Juliet has two children from her first marriage, but he considers her children's children his grandchildren. He is currently the chair of the philosophy department at La Salle University.

### **The Interviewer:**

I, Elizabeth Mary Wagner, was born in the Lehigh Valley Hospital in PA on October 18, 1988. I have lived just outside of the borough of Slatington, PA for my entire life, though neither of my parents originated from there. My mother is from Quakertown, PA, which is a town 20 minutes north of Philadelphia. She worked in numerous banks as an auditor but terminated that career to when she became pregnant. She now keeps track of financial end of my father's business. My father is from Orefield, PA, which is a town about ten minutes south of Slatington. He dropped out of high school near the end of his senior year to take over his late father's auto body shop. He continues to own and manage that shop to this day. I attended Northern Lehigh High School and graduated from there in June of 2007. I now go to college at La Salle University in Philadelphia, PA. I am a communication and English major.

## **Background:**

I chose to interview Dr. Moreau as part of an oral history project requirement for my honors history class. Dr. Moreau is a teacher in my philosophy class in my honors triple, and he had always seemed like an interesting, engaging person in class. When my class was assigned this oral history project I asked Dr. Moreau if he wouldn't mind being the subject of my interview. He accepted the offer.

A few weeks later after class I went down to his office and formally set up our first interview. Though this interview ended up falling through, we set up another interview for the following week, which became the first segment of my interview.

## **Description of the Interview:**

Our first interview session was supposed to take place on March 31<sup>st</sup>, but due to a prior work commitment I had to reschedule for the following weekend. We had originally agreed to divide the interview into two one hour sessions because we both have very busy schedules. We agreed to meet at 1pm in his office to conduct the interview in his office.

I arrived on time to the interview on Monday, April 7. His office contains several chairs, his desk, which is scattered with papers, a few shelves of books, and an additional door to the entrance that connects to the room adjacent to the office. This door remained open during each of our interviews, and occasionally another faculty member would step into that room to look for a paper or use the computer. However, those distractions did not negatively affect our interview. This section of the interview covered his early life and time as a young man.

The next part of our interview, which took place on April 14, was in a similar circumstance. In this segment of the interview we discussed his family life and his time at La Salle.

We ended up doing a third interview so I could finish up my series of questions. During this particular interview, which lasted a little over half an hour, we were interrupted once by a student and a brief phone call.

Throughout the interviews Dr. Moreau always had something in his hand to fiddle with while he spoke. Sometimes it was a pen, sometimes it was a paper clip, or sometimes he just played with his hands on the desk. There were long pauses in his speech that I omitted for the sake of the flow of the conversation.

**Note on recording:** I recorded the interview sessions with an Olympus Digital Voice Recorder WS-300M. I did not use any additional microphone. After the interview was completed I inserted my iPod ear buds into the appropriate outlet in the recorder and changed the playback speed of the files to slow play. I began to transcribe. I listened to the interview at normal speed to edit it.

## **Editing the Transcript:**

**My editing decisions included:**

- 1) eliminating most false starts, unless the false starts were important to the interview
- 2) placing information about sounds in brackets
- 3) placing empty brackets [] when I could not make out what was being said in the interview
- 4) providing limited additional explanation in footnotes
- 5) writing in a time stamp when there was a break in his speech
- 6) Eliminating "and," "so," "ah," "um," and pauses to keep the writing flowing
- 7) using a dash to indicate a break or interruption in the original sentence
- 8) using quotation marks to indicate remembered speech