

3-26-2011

Interview of Thomas Lorandean, M.B.A.

Thomas Lorandean
La Salle University

Eric Lorandean
La Salle University

Follow this and additional works at: <http://digitalcommons.lasalle.edu/histdeptohall>

 Part of the [Business Administration, Management, and Operations Commons](#), [International Business Commons](#), [Oral History Commons](#), [Social History Commons](#), [Sociology Commons](#), [Tourism and Travel Commons](#), and the [United States History Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Lorandean, Thomas and Lorandean, Eric, "Interview of Thomas Lorandean, M.B.A." (2011). *All Oral Histories*. 69.
<http://digitalcommons.lasalle.edu/histdeptohall/69>

This Interview is brought to you for free and open access by the Oral Histories at La Salle University Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in All Oral Histories by an authorized administrator of La Salle University Digital Commons. For more information, please contact careyc@lasalle.edu.

FIELD NOTES

Interviewee: Thomas (Tom) Lorandean

Interviewer: Eric Lorandean

Interview date: March 26, 2011

Interview location: Thomas Lorandean's home in Yardley, Pennsylvania

Field notes written on March 30, 2011. Edited on April 24, 2011.

The Interviewee:

Thomas Lorandean was born on February 26, 1952 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. For the first four years of his life, Thomas lived in the Wissinoming section of Philadelphia, directly across from Wissinoming Park. When Tom was four, he and his family moved to the Juniata Park section of Philadelphia. Tom has four siblings, all brothers; he is the second child in the family. Tom, and all of his brothers, attended Holy Innocents for elementary school and Northeast Catholic High for Boys for their secondary education. In 1970, Tom began his undergraduate studies at, then, La Salle College (University). During his time at La Salle, Tom's main focus of study was sociology. He also studied education and philosophy for a period of time. Tom was also an active member of the Sociology Club and was the president and co-founder of the Sociological Society. As part of the Sociological Society, Tom was instrumental in developing the La Salle College Journal of Sociology. In 1974, Tom graduated from La Salle and immediately began his graduate studies at the University of Pennsylvania, earning his MBA. During Tom's professional life, he had worked at International Paper Company from 1976 to 1987 and then began working at Heraeus, a German based chemical company, until recently. During his time at both companies, Tom has traveled to every continent as part of his duties as manager. Tom presently does a lot of consulting work for his wife, Kimberly who is a clinical psychologist. Tom has three children, Carla, Candice and Timothy. Tom currently resides in Yardley, Pennsylvania with his wife and son.

The Interviewer:

I, Eric Lorandean, was born in 1985 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. I grew up in the Juniata Park section of Philadelphia, attending Holy Innocents for elementary school and Northeast Catholic High for Boys for my secondary education. From 2003 to 2007, I completed my undergraduate work at La Salle University, studying secondary education and social studies. Since 2007, I have been teaching in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. For three years, I taught at Lansdale Catholic High School (Lansdale, Pennsylvania) instructing courses in World History, Theology, English and American Government. I presently teach World History at Saint Hubert Catholic High School for Girls (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania). I presently live in Feasterville, Pennsylvania.

Background:

This interview was a requirement for the History 650: Oral History: Theory and Practice course at La Salle University as part of the graduate program. For the course, we were given the option of interviewing a U.S. war veteran, a Christian Brother, a La Salle faculty member or a La Salle

alumnus/alumna as part of the formal fieldwork component. I knew that my uncle, Thomas Lorandau, is a graduate of La Salle University and I saw it as a great opportunity to get to know my uncle better while conducting research for the La Salle Library archives. My uncle is a very proud alumnus of La Salle and I wanted find out more about his years at La Salle.

In addition to conducting research on La Salle University's history, I had a very personal interest in choosing my uncle, Tom Lorandau. Tom has conducted a great amount of family history and has visited with relatives all over the country. I was very interested in what he knew about the Lorandau name and the family's history. My uncle and I also attended the same elementary and secondary schools. My hope was to also investigate some of the history of those two schools. Lastly, my uncle has had a very successful career in international business, traveling all over the globe. I wanted to find out more information about his career and his travels, especially in countries such as China and Japan.

In February of 2011, I contacted my uncle, via email, about the interview. At first, Tom seemed reluctant to be interviewed partly because I did not fully explain the details of the interview. He was unsure if he could speak for two hours on his years at La Salle University. I sent a follow-up email explaining that in addition to questions pertaining to La Salle I would be inquiring about the Lorandau family history, his childhood, schooling, and career. Once I explained, in better detail, he agreed to be interviewed.

We scheduled the interview for Saturday, March 26th, 2011. Tom coaches for his ten-year-old son's baseball team and they had practice just about every weekend in late March and early April. I was lucky enough to find a day that his son did not have practice. We scheduled to begin interviewing at 9:30 AM. I informed my uncle that I would arrive fifteen minutes early to set up for the interview.

Description of the Interview:

I arrived at Tom Lorandau's house about fifteen minutes before the time we had scheduled to begin the interview. When I entered the house I was quickly greeted by both my uncle and his son, my cousin, Timothy. Tom's wife Kimberly had made cinnamon buns before she left for the day. The scent of the cinnamon buns filled the house. I was concerned about having a young child in the house during the interview but my uncle assured me that he would be playing upstairs, in his bedroom, until we finished.

Before we began the interview, Tom immediately began talking about his four years at La Salle. I tried to kindly stop him and requested that he would wait until we were recording. I originally informed my uncle that the interview would take two hours. I was at Tom's house from 9:15 AM until 3 o'clock in the afternoon. Tom's wife Kimberly came home about halfway through the interview. There are several noises throughout the interview coming from Timothy playing in his bedroom, Kimberly cooking lunch, and the telephone ringing. Nevertheless, the background noises did not interrupt the interview.

Tom and I sat on opposing chairs. I placed the video camera on a table in between the two of us, videoing just the interviewee. The camera picked up both of our voices without a problem. I situated Tom's chair in front of his bookcase, providing a nice backdrop. Tom had placed his

1974 La Salle yearbook on the couch adjacent to where we were sitting. Before we began I reminded him of the topics that we would be discussing. As we started each new topical session, I again reminded him of the theme that the questions were pertaining to.

Throughout the interview, we stopped for several breaks. I stopped the video camera after each session of questioning to provide for such breaks. Tom spoke at lengths about every topic; however, towards the end of the interview, especially when we got to the questions pertaining to his career, his answers became shortened and to-the-point. I would have liked to have stopped and scheduled another day to come back and finish the interview. Because of scheduling conflicts, that was not going to be an option. I told my uncle that I appreciated that fact that he gave up so much of his time to be interviewed, much more than the two hours he had originally planned on.

This was the third interview I had completed as part of the History 650 course, however; it was the first formal field interview. Upon completing this interview, I am eager to interview other, older, members of my family. I enjoyed learning about my uncle's childhood and his years at La Salle. I feel like I know my uncle better than I did before the interview. After the interview I sent Tom a thank-you email. Additionally, he and I have been exchanging emails pertaining to the spelling of various names and locations.

Note on Recording:

I used my Sony Handycam DCR-SX63 to record the interview. After the interview, I uploaded the files to my laptop. In order to transcribe the interview, I used Express Scribe, a product of NCH Software. Because of the interview's length, I had to put the files onto three separate DVDs. I used Microsoft Movie Maker to compile the video files adding a title slide for each DVD. I also included a caption for each topical session.

The topical sessions on each DVD are as follows:

- DVD 1 – Biographical Information, and Family Heritage/Folklore
- DVD 2 – Childhood, Youth/Schooling, and La Salle Years: 1970-1974
- DVD 3 – Work/Career including several concluding questions

Editing the Transcript:

1. I decided to break up the transcript based on the topics discussed. Each topic is labeled in bold on the transcript.
2. I removed most verbal pauses of "uh" and "um" unless it was critical in understanding the interviewer and interviewee's mindset.
3. I kept most of the verbal pauses of "you know."
4. Tom started many thoughts with "and so." After the preceding thought I placed a period and started the next thought with "And so." This was done for most of the transcription.
5. I removed most repeated words.
6. I placed information about pauses, coughs, and background noises in parenthesis.
7. Often times Tom would be mid-word and start a new thought. I kept the portion of the word if I could understand the word he was going to use.
8. I placed time stamps at the top of each page.
9. I used a dash to indicate a change of thought.

10.