

Interview of Mr. Dominic Galante

Interviewer: Mr. Lewis Mladjen

Date: March 18, 2013 at 4:00 P.M and March 25, 2013 at 4:30 P.M.

Recorded at: Office of the University Registrar, LaSalle University. Office of Mr. Galante, 3rd floor, David Lawrence Administrative Center, 1900 W Olney Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19144.

Index created by: Mr. Lewis Mladjen

Recording Equipment: Apple MacBook Pro Laptop using GarageBand software, MP3 format

Abstract

Mr. Dominic Galante was born August 29th, 1944 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The youngest of three children and a first-generation Italian-American, the majority of his life, both professional and private, was spent in Philadelphia. As a child Mr. Galante was raised in a devout Catholic home and attended Catholic grade school in the Port Richmond section of Philadelphia. Upon graduating from Northeast Catholic High School in 1962 he planned on joining the workforce, as attending college was not financially possible. In the fall of 1962, with the help of his high school typing teacher, he was interviewed and hired at LaSalle College as an Administrative Assistant to the Office of the College Registrar. Mr. Galante spent the next seven years attending the evening school at LaSalle College. He received a B.A. in Management in 1969 at which time he was promoted to Assistant Registrar. In 1983 he was again promoted, this time to head the Office of the University Registrar. November 5, 2012, marked his 50th year of employment at LaSalle University but his decision to interview at LaSalle in 1962 also impacted his private life. In the summer of 1963 he met Ms. Mary Walter while she was working in the Admissions Office and on June 25, 1966, they were married. The Galante's raised their three children, Michael, Patricia, and Christine, in the Juniata Park neighborhood of Philadelphia; all three attended and graduated from LaSalle University. In 1990 he and his wife moved to Abington, Pennsylvania. The oral history that follows addresses the many changes to LaSalle University, particularly the Office of the Registrar, over the past 50 years. Other topics addressed include what it was like growing up as part of the baby boom generation in Philadelphia, the influence of the Christian Brotherhood on Mr. Galante's experience at LaSalle, and how his decision to work at LaSalle ended up shaping the majority of his adult life. Mr. Galante's story will become an invaluable piece to the social history of Philadelphia and history of LaSalle University.

Index of Interview #1 – interviewed March 18, 2013

0:00:02

Introduction, permission, and verbal consent from Mr. Dominic Galante to conduct interview. I explain the goals of the interview and the material I hope to cover which includes, Mr. Galante's childhood and teenage years and eventual employment at LaSalle University.

Biographical Information

0:00:26

Mr. Galante was born at Episcopal Hospital, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on August 29th, 1944. He is a first-generation American; both of his parents were from Italy. [A follow up email with Mr. Galante on April 16th, 2013, explained further, "My dad came from a town called Vasto in Abruzzi and my mom came from Naples."]

0:00:59

He is the youngest of three children; older brother Louis Galante [deceased]; older sister Grace Miller (née Galante), presently of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. [Email on April 16th, 2013, confirmed this information regarding his brother and sister.]

0:01:12

Mr. Galante married [Ms. Mary Walter, her name is mentioned in the second interview session however it deserves mentioning here] on June 25, 1966. They have three children, Michael, who is 45 years old, Patricia, who is 42 years old, and Christine, who is 40 years old.

Early Childhood, Growing up Catholic, and the Neighborhood

0:01:43

Mr. Galante was raised in a section of "Philly" [Philadelphia] known as Port Richmond, 2908 Almond Street; neighborhood was predominantly Polish and Italian.

0:02:23

He attended Mother Divine Grace Elementary School for 8 years; proceeded on to Northeast Catholic High School; graduated in 1962.

0:02:57

Mr. Galante thought of his parents as, "...very strict Catholics." Remembers his mother being more religious than his father; recalls his family helping out at the church [Mother Divine Grace] and school, sometimes running errands or even cleaning the church.

0:03:39

He states that Mother Divine Grace Parish was an Italian national parish; you had to be Italian to belong to the parish. Each nationality in the area had a different church. Mr. Galante continues on; the school was very small; the grades were doubled, for example, 1st and 2nd grade children were taught together. All of the teachers were nuns and he recalls seeing the Priests walking in the neighborhood wearing their Cassock and Biretta. [In an email on April 22, 2013, Mr. Galante recalled seeing the following Priests' in the neighborhood: Father Chapman, Father Rossi, Father Centrella, Father Ciaudelli, and Father Recapito.]

0:05:13

He does not recall associating or playing with any single group or nationality of children, just whoever lived on the street. Played stickball with a “pimple ball” or even a small piece of hose if they did not have a ball.

Mr. Galante’s Parents

0:06:15

The family could not afford a television. His father was a cement mason; he worked about nine months a year; mother was a homemaker. His father came here when he was 18 years old, trying to get away from his “ordeal”, “his life was threatened.” [Father’s name: Alfonso Carmen Galante. He worked for the DiLemmo Brothers and was in the Cement Masons Union. Mother’s full name: Teodora Galante (née Lobaccaro), confirmed in email on April 22, 2013.]

[Unfortunately I did not follow up with a question regarding the “ordeal” mentioned above. However, at the end of the recording, after I had stopped recording, Mr. Galante and I were having a conversation and the topic of his father came up. At this point I asked if he could explain in more detail what he had alluded to during the interview. Mr. Galante went on to explain that his father had been poisoned by a cousin and nearly died over a property inheritance dispute. Nearly losing his life and fearing for his future he fled to the United States.]

0:07:11

Age 20, Mr. Galante’s father was living in a boarding house [located on Somerset Street, Port Richmond section] in Philadelphia; house was run by Mr. Galante’s mother’s Aunt [Maria Lobaccaro, name and location confirmed through email on April 16th, 2013]. Mr. Galante did not remember why his father came to Philadelphia. [Maria Lobaccaro] showed Mr. Galante’s father a picture of her two nieces and arranged a marriage. The marriage of Mr. Galante’s parents happened in Italy [1931]; his father returned to Philadelphia without his mother, he could not afford to bring her to the United States at that time. Mr. Galante’s father saved money for the next seven years; believes it was 1938 when his mother finally immigrated to the United States.

Growing up in an Italian House

0:09:16

Mr. Galante says that in Italian culture the father was in charge of the house, “he ran the roost.” He was the head of the household; he made the decisions, especially financial decisions. “We kind of trembled when my father spoke.”

0:10:09

Mr. Galante remembers his older brother [Louis] shoveling coal in the basement; describes other chores that he and his siblings were assigned. Family dinners were “treasured” by his parents; they “always” had dinner together.

0:11:10

All three children attended Mother Divine Grace Elementary School; mother felt that it was their [the family’s] responsibility to give back to the church; he describes how the family helped do this growing up; he was not sure if elementary school cost money to attend.

Attending Northeast Catholic High School [1958-1962]

0:13:07

He estimates a total of 30 children in his combined 7th and 8th Mother Divine Grace class; estimates about 900 freshmen at Northeast Catholic High School. (I mention that in 1953 Northeast Catholic High School was the largest Catholic High School for boys in the world.¹) Believes homerooms were assigned based upon entrance tests taken in 8th grade; he describes the size of school as somewhat “threatening”.

0:14:48

Does not recall anyone driving to school. Mr. Galante estimates his commute to school took 35 minutes; he took the “El” [Elevated train] and bus to get there.

0:15:42

The Priests were “certainly threatening”; lay people not as much. “Whatever the nun said or whatever the Priest said went!” Slang name for detention was “JUG” [acronym: Justice Under God]. Recalls one Priest by nickname, “Black John”. He [Black John] taught Religion; he would throw chalkboard erasers at students. At the time he remembers this as “normal”; he reflects that this was violent; continues to describe more examples of physical abuse in school. Mr. Galante also describes the school dress code.

0:20:33

Activities growing up? Mr. Galante was not a sports person; he was an altar server; he liked helping around school [Mother Divine Grace]; says that when he was younger “everyone” thought he was going to become a Priest [an email on April 20, 2013 from Mr. Galante explained that “everyone” actually meant the Assistant Pastor, Father Harry Romano, and a nun in the school, Sister Jane Francis O.B.S.T]. He belonged to the church ministry and helped train altar servers while in high school. He considered becoming a Priest but chose not to “answer the call”.

Teenage Years: Money, family life, and work

0:22:07

Did not take part in many other activities in high school. For fun would occasionally see a “\$.10” movie but realized in high school that his parents did not have a lot [financially]. The family did not have a car, “Couldn’t afford it”, and for vacation they would take the bus to Atlantic City or Wildwood but only for the day. Mr. Galante described his family life as typical of the neighborhood [Port Richmond]. He also describes day-to-day neighborhood life as a child.

0:26:25

Said he understood that his family could not afford college; his older brother [Louis] advised him to take what was called “commercial track” classes instead of “academic track” classes during his junior and senior years at Northeast Catholic. Commercial track classes included typing, shorthand, and bookkeeping.

¹ Information regarding school size found on Northeast Catholic High School website. Accessed 20 April 2013. <<http://www.northcatholic.com/?pid=135>>

0:27:30

In his teenage years Mr. Galante always had a part-time job. Age 13-14 he worked in a neighborhood store [in an email I asked for the name of this store however he could not remember]. Junior and senior year got a job at a trucking company doing billing [name of the trucking company was Charlton Brothers, INC., confirmed in email on April 20, 2013]. His high school typing teacher helped get him this job. Earnings helped pay high school tuition.

Father William Keeley and Job Offers / Hired at LaSalle College - 1962

0:29:56

The trucking company job was only part-time; he took a new job at a realtor's office from June to October [name of company: Kane & Company. Confirmed through email on April 20, 2013]. His typing teacher called him in October [1962] and said that he had a few jobs available if he was interested; Mr. Galante was interested because there was no chance for advancement at the realtor's office. Mr. Galante ranked the three jobs offers in the following order:

1. The Bumper Company, paying \$95/week. Located one block from his parents' home in Port Richmond. [Name of company: Mansfield Bumper. Confirmed through email on April 20, 2013.]
2. Kraft Food, paying \$70/week. Located near Northeast Catholic High School, a commute he was used to.
3. LaSalle College, paying \$50/week. This was going to be a lengthy commute using public transportation.

Mr. Galante was hired at the bumper company but never worked a single day there; the company told him they no longer needed him before his first day. The Kraft Food job was no longer available but his typing teacher reminded him about the LaSalle job. Mr. Galante describes hesitation to work there; eventually decides to interview at LaSalle. Interviews on a Friday; got the job; first day was that Monday [November 5, 1962].

0:33:22

Mr. Galante was interviewed and hired [job title Administrative Assistant] by Margaret Lennon, the Assistant Registrar.

0:34:22

Do you recall the name of your typing teacher? "Father Keeley" [Mr. Galante misspells his name on the recording, leaving out the final 'e'. Upon research I discovered his full name was Father William Keeley]. Mr. Galante states he was one of Father Keeley's top students; Mr. Galante won awards for typing and shorthand in high school. States that Father Keeley regularly helped find jobs for his best students; he just had a "reputation" [with businesses?].

0:36:42

Incentive in taking the job was to go to school [get a Bachelors Degree]; started taking classes in January [1963], spring semester.

The Draft

0:37:20

How is it that you were not drafted? "Funny you should ask." Father Keeley called Mr. Galante; he believes this was his second year at LaSalle [1964]; he was now making \$60/week; says that

each year he received a \$5 raise but he wanted to make more; he asked Father Keeley if he had anything [jobs]. Father Keeley told him about a job with the Pennsylvania Railroad paying "\$110/hour" [Likely that Mr. Galante meant \$110/week] doing clerical work. He is turned down from the job based upon likelihood that he would be drafted; expresses disappointment.

0:39:38

[Mr. Galante jumps around in years and dates during this part of the interview. I do my best in the segment below to align the bracketed dates with the other events in his life that he mentions during the course of the interview. I would advise any future researcher to please use their best judgment in this segment.]

Mr. Galante continues to work at LaSalle [late 1964]. He had met his wife [Mary Walter] at this point [he had met her in the summer of 1963]. She had a summer job working in the Admissions Office at LaSalle. Around the same time that Mr. Galante interviewed with the Pennsylvania Railroad he got his physical for Selective Service. He told his office that it was only a matter of time until he was drafted. "I guess because I was doing so well in the office," and at the urging of "the woman" [Margaret Lennon] in the office, he was given special permission to become a full-time day student and work in the office at night; he did this for a half-year [likely the spring semester of 1965]. As a full-time student he would not be drafted. That summer [1965] he got engaged but he was still likely to be drafted because the half-year exception was over. Since he was going to get married in 9 months, [Margaret Lennon] approached the President of the College [Brother Daniel Bernian] to see if he would extend the exception for another year. This was approved. After he was married he went back to night classes because he was now protected by the marriage law deferment. Soon after this his wife became pregnant, therefore shielding him from the draft entirely. [Margaret Lennon and Brother Daniel Bernian, names confirmed in email on April 20, 2013].

First Impressions of LaSalle

0:42:57

"I knew nothing about the Christian Brothers." Only two people worked in the Registrar's Office in 1962, Brother Joe [Joseph Downing] and Mrs. [Margaret] Lennon. Mr. Galante said he found them to be "old and grouchy"; he was only 18. Mr. Galante loved music and asked for a radio; she [Margaret Lennon] agreed as long as he would "keep it low". Also recalls that although children of faculty received a tuition stipend they had to volunteer four hours of work per week; therefore the office usually had a student helper. Says that he had no idea what a Registrar's office did when hired; job was sometimes "monotonous"; often used Mimeo Machine and Ditto Master as part of job.

0:46:27

Registrar's Office was in College Hall, first floor, presently [2013] where the Entrepreneur's Center is located. He explains that most LaSalle offices were located there in 1962.

Meeting his soon-to-be Wife [Mary Walter]

0:47:31

Although he enjoyed music very much, Mr. Galante never went on American Bandstand; explains that his wife, before he knew her, appeared on American Bandstand.

0:47:52

He had to wear a shirt and tie every day. Relates story that one day he did not wear one and Brother [F.] Christopher, Dean of Admissions, came into the office and reprimanded him. Brother Christopher said, "We'll see a change in Dominic in the very near future, he'll be making sure he always looks dapper." Mr. Galante remembers being confused about this statement until he realized that the Admissions Office had hired a female college student from Holy Family University for summer employment [1963]. This new employee was Mary Walter, his future wife; she was one of the few young women working on campus.

0:49:53

She [Mary Walter] was attending Holy Family University [Philadelphia] seeking her Bachelor's Degree in English.

1969 Sit-in at College Hall

0:50:31

Recalls mandatory ROTC for students and sit-in at College Hall [1969]. Had to climb over students to get into building; this was the only social movement he could recall.

Neighborhoods in Philadelphia

0:52:52

Lived in parents home until he married in 1966. Moved to Juniata Park in the Northeast [Philadelphia] after wedding. Parents remained in Port Richmond for rest of their lives. Mr. Galante does not remember his parents' neighborhood changing much over the years. Says most children married from the neighborhood and remained there. Called their neighborhood "blue collar". Parents wanted children to marry Italian or from the neighborhood but not welcome to stay there if did not meet those criteria. Mr. Galante's wife was German-English [heritage].

0:54:26

Mr. Galante's wife was from Kensington [Philadelphia neighborhood]. He then describes Philadelphia neighborhoods at that time; calls Kensington "rough kids"; Port Richmond was the "nice little section"; pocket in Fishtown known as the "Toughies".

Neighborhood around LaSalle and Campus itself

0:55:17

Does not remember many African-American people in neighborhood around LaSalle when he began working there. As changes occurred in neighborhood he always felt safe.

0:56:38

Remembers a diner on Ogontz [Avenue] that he would get lunch at; park there now [2013]. Very nice neighborhood when he first started working at LaSalle but admits he did not know much about Germantown at that time.

0:57:47

"This [David Lawrence Administrative Center] used to be the library when I came here."

0:58:04

Mr. Galante mentions that LaSalle College and High School were both located on campus until around 1960 [LaSalle High School indeed left campus in 1960]. Northeast Catholic was a rival school; if you went to LaSalle High School you were “from a more affluent family”.

The LaSalle ‘Family’

0:58:36

The college helped Mr. Galante’s father get a blood transfusion for free; cannot remember how it all came about; explains his mother was always very grateful for that. “This [LaSalle] became like your second family.”

Early years working in the Registrar’s Office

0:59:40

He explains that the Office of the Registrar was only a records office when he first started working at LaSalle. Did not do the things they do today [2013]; for example the Registrar had no involvement in registration, the Dean of Arts/Science and Dean of the School of Business handled all registration. In early years of working at LaSalle Mr. Galante would type all report cards on typewriter. Eventually technology began to change job; would use “key-punch” cards to copy transcripts and data; would send these cards to a company that would compile data for LaSalle.

Conclusion of Interview

1:01:17

I explain that this is a good place to stop before we get into too many details about his job at LaSalle. I give Mr. Galante a brief preview of the material we will cover in the second interview. Primarily the second interview will cover his time as a student at LaSalle and also his 50 years of employment in the Registrar’s Office. I thank Mr. Galante for his time and candidness.

END OF FIRST INTERVIEW SESSION AND RECORDING

1:01:51

Index of Interview #2 – interviewed March 25, 2013

0:00:02

Introduction, permission, and verbal consent from Mr. Dominic Galante to conduct interview. I explain the goals of the interview and the topics I hope to cover. Topics include Mr. Galante's 50 years working at LaSalle, his time as a student at LaSalle, and what his overall experience has been.

What did \$50/week get someone in 1962?

0:00:32

Part of Mr. Galante's \$50/week went to his parents for room and board; his parents determined how much this amount would be. Explains that not much money was left for him.

0:01:58

He has no idea why pay was low however the incentive was that you could get your Bachelor's Degree for free.

0:02:26

Mr. Galante went to dances and had a few friends in other colleges; would occasionally visit his friend in a fraternity [Jim Behan, attended College of Pharmacy and Science, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; confirmed in email sent on April 22, 2013]. Did not have to spend money; fraternity would buy the alcohol.

0:03:20

Mr. Galante did not have his license in the summer of 1963. Met his wife, Mary Walter, that summer while she worked in the Admissions Office at LaSalle. This job was only for the summer; in the fall Mary Walter returned to Holy Family University [Philadelphia] for her senior year. Mr. Galante explains that he had enough money to take her out for dates; she had a car, when they went on a date she drove.

Getting his Bachelor's Degree from LaSalle College [it was not yet a University]

0:05:18

It did not cost any money for Mr. Galante to take classes towards his Bachelor's Degree.

0:05:42

Mr. Galante did not take the SAT exams in high school. He states the evening college had a battery of tests that looked at grammar, writing, and mathematical concepts. He was admitted based upon those tests. He was a little reluctant to begin school, spring 1963, because he was not sure how long he would work at LaSalle. In hindsight felt fortunate to have an accounting class with Jack Reardon who was in his first-year of teaching. Mentions that Reardon was eventual Chair [of Business department] and did a lot of recruiting for the day school; remembers this class as a great experience.

0:07:11

Mr. Galante received his B.S. in Management in 1969.

0:07:30

Remembers having Christian Brothers for Religion classes only; all other classes he remembers having lay teachers.

0:09:18

Most influential professors Mr. Galante had as a student:

- Joe [Joseph] Mooney – Economics
- Joe [Joseph] Kane – Economics and Statistics
- Ugo Donini – History, describes him as a “fabulous teacher”

0:10:20

He explains there was a comprehensive exam in Writing courses for evening school; he was nervous because this was not his strongest subject. Two professors from the English department would score your writing sample. If you failed this exam you would have to repeat the course. Believes policy changed in the early [19]70s; unsure if day school had the same requirement.

0:12:08

Says evening school and day school had about same number of students in late [19]60s. In the late [19]50s and early [19]60s he believes the largest evening programs were in Electronic Physics, Criminal Justice, and Accounting. Remembers classes as lecture only; no group projects; no public speaking; usually only a midterm and final exam.

Balancing School and Work

0:15:27

Was it difficult balancing school and work? “Yes.” Living at home, Sunday was “the Lord’s Day” and he had to follow parents rules even though he was an adult; strict rules as a first-generation American.

0:16:44

Mr. Galante worked a 40-hour week at LaSalle; he describes in detail what the evening course schedule was like. On nights where he had class he often would not get home until after 11:00 p.m.; in these early years at LaSalle he was still taking public transportation.

0:18:08

Shortly after marrying, 1966, his wife became pregnant; she was teaching at Hallahan High School [Philadelphia]. They decided she would stay home to raise their son [Michael]. Mr. Galante took a second job at his wife’s parent’s sandwich shop at the corner of G [Street] and Tioga [Street] in Kensington [Philadelphia]. Worked there for three years to supplement income.

0:20:12

It took Mr. Galante seven years to finish his Bachelor’s Degree.

Promotion at LaSalle and other job offers - 1969

0:20:33

Interviewed for a few positions since he now had a degree; one interview was with a company called Ethicon; he would have to relocate to Somerville, New Jersey; his wife did not want to

leave her family so he declined. Also offered a job at First Pennsylvania Bank. Was also offered a job at LaSalle. He took this job. Salary was \$7800/year [this works out to \$150/week].

0:21:50

Mr. Galante's new title was Assistant Registrar; he was now considered a "Professional". This was important because after three years he could apply for TIAA-CREF, this was only open to "Professionals". He mentions that now [2013] any employee can apply for a 401K after one year.

0:23:01

Mr. Galante states that a major reason he stayed at LaSalle and did not take the bank job was to take advantage of the tuition remission for their children; he gives credit to his wife for thinking about this. Other perks that led him to stay at LaSalle included having Catholic holy days off and that LaSalle was closer [to Juniata Park].

Diversity at LaSalle

0:24:38

Mr. Galante took two Master's Degree courses; gives explanation why stopped after two.

0:26:10

Mr. Galante does not recall any African-Americans in his evening classes; never had any females in class as they were only admitted in 1970; never had a woman teacher; believes that Dr. Minna Weinstein may have been the first woman teacher at LaSalle.

0:27:31

Recalls a program in the [19]70s that allowed women to be admitted on a high school degree and a writing sample; if they successfully completed 15 credits with a certain GPA then they would be admitted as degree candidates; says that this encouraged bringing women into LaSalle. He thinks it was the early [19]80s when he first began seeing African-Americans on campus; he cannot remember for sure.

Growth in the Office of the Registrar to 1970

0:29:09

Mr. Galante states that the Registrar's Office did not really interact with professors during his early years in the 19[60s]. Only time he was engaged with professors is when grades would be turned in. Reiterates that it was still a records keeping office at this time. The two Deans, the Dean of Arts/Sciences and Dean of the School of Business, in conjunction with the Director of Rosters, were in charge of registration. "We were not truly a complete Registrar's Office."

0:30:48

Did the admission of women change your office? "Yes". In 1970 Christian Brother G. Joseph Downing stepped down as Registrar; David Smith was the Assistant Dean in the evening college and Registrar [for the evening school?] at LaSalle and he was asked to take over the Office of the Registrar for the day school; that is when it started to become a "true" Registrar's Office. "We started building the roster with the Chair people. We never had interaction with the Chair people before."

0:32:01

Mr. Galante gives detailed description of the course registration process in the [19]70s.

Registering for Classes in the 1970s

0:33:00

Recalls Department Chair persons completing registration with individual students; these lists would be submitted to Registrar's Office; Registrar's Office would fill students into times and assign teachers to students; students did not pick teachers and times, only the class they needed. Over time this changed as students wanted more say in selecting the time and teacher.

Women Admitted to LaSalle

0:34:59

He does not remember specifically why the decision was made; presumes it was about enrollment; he recalls that other schools were doing the same at the time [1970].

Growth of Registrar's Office in the 1970s and 1980s

0:35:42

Mr. Galante says that in the [19]70s there was a Registrar, Associate Registrar, Assistant Registrar, this was his title, and one clerical person. Believes that things started to change around 1976; probably hired two or three more administrative assistants. The office was now directly working with the Chair people to discuss options regarding rosters; they were especially trying to get better use of space at the University. States there are currently [2013] nine people employed in the Registrar's Office. He recalls there being a total of ten people in the office in 1983 when he became the Registrar; he explains they had more people because the office had many new responsibilities.

0:39:45

In 1983 Colleague from Data-Tel replaced the homegrown computer system; they used this until 1998. At this same time [1980s], Registrar's Office had an I.T. [Information Technology] Department programmer assigned directly to them. Office was asked to start reporting statistics; never remembered doing this before. Data and analysis became large part of office responsibility; he discusses this in depth.

0:43:50

He believes the Registrar's Office moved into its present location [the David Lawrence Administrative Center] in 1986; he is not positive about this date.

What Organizations/Committee's do you belong to at LaSalle University?

0:44:50

Mr. Galante mentions that he is part of the University Curriculum Committee; committee handles recommendations and possible changes to the core curriculum only, not the major's curriculum. He also sits on the Academic Affairs Committee; no description provided. Recalls a "Computer Policy Committee" he belonged to at one point. Also belonged to a committee that

brought together the heads of the major offices; they discussed billing; cannot remember the name of this committee; does not exist anymore.

Record Conversion and Storage

0:48:11

“I have from the 1920s in cabinets in this office till 1980 (trails off on year)”. In 1983 the office began to phase out the permanent record cards as the computer system came online. For student records from 1983-1998 some records were converted into the new system, not all records were able to convert. The new system, 1998-present [2013], is fully digital.

0:50:09

“I should say that LaSalle has from the original, about the 1860s till about the early 1920s. They’re [transcripts and records] in ledger books in Brother Joe Grabenstein’s Archives.”

0:51:13

Mr. Galante states “Brother Joe would love to have them [the hard copy transcripts and records that are presently in his office as stated earlier] as of now but I’m not ready to relinquish them. Everything has been microfilmed so we have a backup. I have a set of everything in a vault off-campus and I also have a set of everything in a bank. Once we started going in [19]83 everything is on these big disk drums. They are in another vault. Since [19]98 with out new system the computer center does back-ups but I don’t have anything myself, everything is digital.”

Interaction with students through the years during Course Registration

0:52:07

Mr. Galante discusses at length how the registration process changed through the years; discusses original system in the [19]60s; hiring extra student help in the [19]70s during registration period; how students one time broke windows from wanting to be the first to register; how in 1983 he suggested a lottery system to student government to make registration more fair; and going to web registration in 1998. System is now first come first served starting with seniors. “Online registration was like an answer to a prayer for the Registrar’s Office.”

0:59:47

Describes that presently [2013] the only time the Registrar’s Office sees students for registration is when special exceptions need to be made. Mr. Galante explains the current registration process in depth.

1:01:42

Your interaction with students has changed entirely then through the years? “Absolutely”. He describes himself as the “conscience” of LaSalle; he explains that all special decisions about registration go through him.

Did you ever consider leaving LaSalle University?

1:03:30

Mr. Galante recalls a time in the mid-[19]70s when his former boss recommended him for the Registrar’s job a Harcum Junior College [Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania]. He went for the interview

but felt like it was a major step backwards; he describes multiple reasons why. When the new Registrar, Raymond Ricci, was hired in 1976, he asked Mr. Galante not to leave; Mr. Ricci told Mr. Galante that he could handle the day school and Mr. Ricci would handle the evening school. Mr. Galante had applied for the Registrar position but Ray Ricci got the position and held it until 1983; Mr. Galante was happy with his responsibilities as Assistant Registrar from 1976-1983 under Mr. Ricci. Mr. Ricci moved into new position in 1983, Director of Planning and Research, Mr. Galante applied for Registrar's position. Job was advertised nationally in The Chronicle of Higher Education. Believes he officially took over as Registrar in October of 1983.

1:07:29

Interesting story about hiring practices: Mr. Galante believes it was around 1980. The Director of Admissions position opened up. The hiring committee recommended a layperson, the Associate Director of Admissions, for the job but the V.P. of Academic Affairs at the time wanted a Christian Brother. The Christian Brother got the job. When the Registrar position opened up in 1983 he was unsure if he would get the position because he knew a Christian Brother had also applied; thought they might want a Christian Brother instead, as they had a few years earlier with the Director of Admissions position. [Brother David Prendergast was the Christian Brother up for the Registrar position in 1983; confirmed through an email on April 22, 2013.] Mr. Galante stated that if he did not get the position in 1983 he definitely would have looked for a job somewhere else.

Less Christian Brothers on Campus

1:08:50

Mr. Galante said that as time went on it [the university] really became a business; new things needed to be considered; buildings needed updating; faculty had to change for accreditation reasons; needed more PhD's teaching, role of Christian Brothers diminished. Presently [2013], Board of Trustees decisions are vital to school, especially on the financial side.

Cost of Education

1:12:12

He believes the cost for a full-time undergrad dorm student is currently [2013] about \$50,000/year. States this was a major reason he decided to stay; his children would not have this expense; all three children attended LaSalle.

Mr. Galante's Overall Experience of 50 Years

1:13:10

"I think things happen for a reason...and I definitely believe this was part of God's plan." Said he did not know much about the Brothers in the beginning but seeing the Brothers help the underprivileged changed him; thinks it taught him that he did not have to make millions. Mr. Galante explains that the Brothers always looked out for him and "made me who I am today".

1:15:52

States he has met so many great people. Recently had a conversation with Brother Emery Mollenhauer. Brother Mollenhauer thanked and congratulated Mr. Galante on his 50 years at LaSalle University, Mr. Galante then said, "Brother I really want to thank you because you made

me the person I am today.” Mr. Galante received a pin for his 50 years service (shows me the pin on his desk) and a certificate; he is more proud of what he has done over the years however.

1:17:08

Mr. Galante explains that not many men were Registrar’s in colleges and universities in the [19]60s. He says that as technology grew, especially in the [19]70s it seems that more men became Registrar’s. He gives examples of other colleges and university’s in Philadelphia area where women were in charge back in the [19]60s. He believes it was rare for a man to be in charge of a Registrar’s Office like he was in 1983.

1:20:12

He feels that when he came to LaSalle in 1962 the Registrar’s Office was not highly regarded. Believes that the two Registrars’ that came before him did not really “run the office”, instead they acted more like directors. When he took over the office, and he credits his wife for influencing him in this way, that “When you care about people they will also care about you and what they do.” He views his office as a team; he will stuff envelopes with everyone else; he answers phones if he needs too; he wants to see what his staff is going through. He said departments were not run like this when he took over in 1983. “This office is [now] one of the best, highly regarded offices on campus (pride in voice).” Student evaluations echo this. He is also happy to have brought together the different administrative offices to informally meet once a month to discuss how they could make their service better. Mr. Galante takes pride in making sure the little things are done right and believes these little things make a big difference; he provides many examples of this. He keeps a high standard and stresses taking pride in your work; states that people seem to appreciate it and that “people love to work in this department.”

1:30:31

So it seem like you have always treated your office like it was your family? “I would probably agree”. He felt like this is how the Brothers treated him and he felt like he needed to continue to do the same thing. “This has become a family unto itself.”

Conclusion of Interview

1:33:29

I asked Mr. Galante if he has anything else to add and he said no. I wished him the best of luck in the rest of his years at LaSalle University and told him that I think the information we gathered will be very useful in the future. He was very happy to take part in the oral history interview and looks forward to staying in touch with me over the years.

END OF SECOND INTERVIEW SESSION AND RECORDING

1:34:20