

Interview of Mrs. Margaret “Peggy” Emme

Interviewer: Mr. Carlos M. Contente

Date: Thursday, March 26, 2015 at 1:30 PM and Thursday, April 2, 2015 at 1:30 PM

Recorded at: Transfer Admissions Office. Office of Mrs. Margaret Emme, 4th floor, David L. Lawrence Administration Center, LaSalle University, 1900 W. Olney Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19141

Index and Log created by: Mr. Carlos M. Contente

Recording Equipment: Olympus WS-400S Digital Voice Recorder on battery power

Abstract

Mrs. Margaret “Peggy” Walsh Emme was born on August 22nd, 1957 at Nazareth Hospital in NorthEast Philadelphia. Her parents, Marita A. Dunphy Walsh and Richard J. Walsh, Sr, were also both natives of Philadelphia and were of Irish descent. Mrs. Emme was the oldest of five children and the only daughter. Her brothers are: Richard, Michael, Brian, and John. Mrs. Emme attended St. Bernard’s Parochial School as a child and then went on to attend St. Hubert’s Catholic High School for Girls. She graduated from high school in 1975 and married her first husband, Mr. Eddie Laurer. She began working for Film Corporation of America after graduation, but then was laid off on the morning of her wedding. Mrs. Emme also worked for General Accident Life Assurance Corporation of America, Inter Space Interior Design, and Spiegel, before coming to LaSalle University in March of 1998. However, she married her second husband, James Emme in 1984, after he first child, Jamie Emme was born in 1983. She also has a son, James ‘Foz’ Emme, born in 1986. Both Jamie and James “Foz” are alumni of LaSalle University. Mrs. Emme obtained her AA Liberal Arts from LaSalle in 2008 and her BS Business Administration in 2011. Mrs. Emme has worked in a variety of positions during her time at LaSalle University, including for the President’s Office, for the Vice President of Enrollment Services, and for Transfer Admissions. She currently serves as the Assistant Director of Transfer Admissions and is responsible primarily for reviewing applications for any of the business and science disciplines, except for nursing. She worked directly with three separate university presidents: Br. Joseph Burke, FSC; Mr. Nicholas Giordano; and Br. Michael McGinnis, FSC. In addition, she worked directly under two Vice Presidents of Enrollment Services: Mr. Ray Ritchie and Mr. John Dolan. As pointed out in the HIS 650 class, there is a lack of female voices in LaSalle Digital Commons and since Mrs. Emme is a current employee and has been a student and mother of two alumni, her experiences recorded below will become an invaluable piece of the LaSalle University story.

Index of Interview Session I-interviewed March 26, 2015

0:00:02

Introduction, permission, and verbal consent from Mrs. Margaret Emme. Mrs. Emme introduces herself and we begin with the basics of her life narrative. Previously, we had discussed the goals of the HIS 650 course and of the field interview. She was aware of the trajectory I wished to follow with my questioning.

Early Life and Childhood

0:00:38

Mrs. Emme states that she was born on August 22, 1957 at Nazareth Hospital, Philadelphia, PA. She also states that her parents, Marita A. Dunphy Walsh and Richard J. Walsh, Sr. are also natives of Philadelphia. She later explains that her parents are from the parishes of St. Edward's and St. Bartholomew's, respectively. She refers to St. Bartholomew's as "St. Bart's." [I mention that Nazareth Hospital is not too far from where I currently reside.]

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Mrs. Emme states that she has four younger brothers, one of which is a LaSalle Alum from 1983 and went onto Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine. Her brothers are Richard, Michael, Brian, and John. She further states that she is the oldest in the family. Mrs. Emme explains that her family's ancestry is Irish, not Scottish.

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Mrs. Emme attended the Edwin Forrest School and to St. Bernard's for kindergarten and her early grade school years. She further explains that her mother was stay at home and that her father worked for Swift Meat Company and then owned the Welsh Valley Inn bar in Bala Cynwyd, PA. [St. Bernard's Church is located at 7341 Cottage St. Philadelphia, PA 19136.]

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The neighborhood she grew up in NorthEast Philadelphia was primarily Roman Catholic and she relates an anecdote about her father telling her that she could not marry her best friend Nancy because she was "public," meaning that she attended a public school. Many people in the neighborhood were involved at St. Bernard's and all of her brothers served as altar servers and her mother later became involved in church plays as her children became older.

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Mrs. Emme states that religious environment in NorthEast Philadelphia has changed over the years, but that she has noticed it much, except in the age group of the attendees at Mass. She then describes a her time at St. Bernard's stating that the St. Joseph Nuns were "rough" and "could be

physical at times.” She states that this is part of the reason that she left the Catholic Church for some time.

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When asked about “good memories” from her time at St. Bernard’s, Mrs. Emme explains that her good memories of that school are of her friends and points out Sister Loretta Dolores and the lay teachers as stand outs as opposed to the Sisters of St. Joseph. She states that, with regards to the lay teachers, Ms. Mallard stands out and that her husband had spent time at LaSalle as the Associate Vice President of Development. [Her husband is Fred Foley and currently serves as the Director of Grants at LaSalle University].

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States that Sister Loretta Dolores grew up impoverished in “mining country” and brought candy that her parents had sent her in for her students.

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Mrs. Emme’s mother had an influence on her since she was always at home to provide lunch and that she helped with her homework. All students at that time had an hour to go home, eat lunch, and then return to school. She states that her mother was the most influential person, while Mrs. Emme was still young

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Her father worked double shifts at the bar while Mrs. Emme was still a young child and she recalls seeing him little, save for Sundays which she states “were fun days.” She states that the kids would stop by the bar and play “shuffle bowl” or videogames. She then explained that her father would take her and her brothers on picnics to places such as Bell Mawr Lake or Wissanoming Park. Her father retired from the bar and bought a boat and would take the children water skiing and camping.

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She got a long very well with her four younger brothers growing up and said that she served as “the referee” breaking up fights and disagreements between her siblings. She states that once John was playing hide-and-go-seek and her brothers locked him in the dryer and turned it on. She states that when she was 16 years old and learned to drive she chauffeured them down the shore and to Great Adventure.

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Her maternal grandparents moved in next door when she was in the sixth grade and the two generations broke down the archway between the houses, allowing Mrs. Emme and the rest of her family to travel freely between the two houses. She refers to her maternal grandparents as “Mammy” and “Poppy,” respectively. Their actual names were Samuel A. Dunphy and Margaret M. Cashman. Mrs. Emme is named after grandmother. She has memories of staying over with grandmother before they moved in next door. Recounts stories of how her grandfather took on

the Good Ship Lollipop and took her horseback riding. Mrs. Emme states that her grandfather was “wrapped around her finger.”

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Mrs. Emme discusses receiving the sacraments via her parochial school education and received First Communion in second grade and First Penance and Confirmation in Third Grade. Her brother, John, received it in sixth grade, which is now considered the standard for American Catholics. Mrs. Emme recalls having to memorize the answer to a host of questions to receive her sacraments and states the Bishop could ask her any question and that she had to be prepared to answer it correctly.

High School Years

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Mrs. Emme mentions attending St. Hubert’s Catholic High School for Girls in the Tacony section of Philadelphia. She states that it was only about 8 or 9 blocks away from her house, but that the walk to get to school took longer than it otherwise would have because she had to stop at multiple girls’ houses along the way to “pick them up” so that they could all walk to school together. Mrs. Emme mentions that back then, students had no choice as to the archdiocesan high school they would attend and that her mother was member of the first graduating class.

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Discusses that she wanted to attend public school, but that her parents made sure she attended St. Hubert’s. She states that she is glad for this because out of the friends she had at the time, none of the ones that went to public school ended up graduating because attendance was not as strictly enforced. She states that it was easy for the students from public schools to come home and snatch the truancy notice from the school out of the mail before their parents noticed it.

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Discusses that her brother school was Father Judge Catholic High School for Boys and that the main interaction between the schools at that time were the dances, primarily held at Father Judge. She states that she stopped attending these dances by sophomore year because she had a boyfriend who had attended Abraham Lincoln High School, but was out of high school by that time. His name was Edward Lauer and that she met him by “hanging out with friends.

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St. Hubert’s began at 8:05 AM and ended around 2:30 PM. States that she is still friends with many of the girls that she attended St. Hubert’s with and that her best friend, Marie Herwick-Carsell, was her Maid of Honor and is her son’s Godmother. Mrs. Emme did not participate in any sports or extracurricular activities at St. Hubert’s.

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Mrs. Emme mentions that she had to come home from school to keep an eye on her four brothers and that her mother had opened a dress shop in the basement of their home. Her mother started the dress shop around the time Mrs. Emme was in 7th or 8th grade. The shop was called Marita Fashions and Mrs. Emme clarifies that the shop was located in the basement of her grandparent's house, not the one in which Mrs. Emme resided at the time with her parents. She discusses helping at the shop when she got older.

0:24:45

Mrs. Emme states that she did not help at the dress shop on the weekends unless there was an appointment scheduled. She states that on the weekends, every Saturday, in fact, she would go to Concord Roller Skating Rink and that she would attend the cinema on late Sunday afternoons. She believes that the roller skating rink is now the Police and Fireman's Hall and that it was located between Princeton Avenue and Tyson Avenue in Frankford or between Princeton Avenue and Wellington Street. [Subsequent research indicates that there is no Police and Fireman's Hall at this location, but that there is a Police and Fire Federal Credit Union branch located there.] She then explains that this was all in grade school. In high school, she spent a lot of her free time "by the river" in Pleasant Hill.

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Mrs. Emme worked while in high school, collecting for the handicapped. She said there was a gentleman who had licenses and would drop her off at different malls with the cans to collect for the handicapped. She explains that sophomore of high school, she began working in a call center for a credit card company. She also states that she babysat, but that she did not start a "real job" until she graduated high school and that this job was with Film Corporation of America.

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Mrs. Emme states that the call center was in the heavily Russian neighborhood of Bell's Corner, but that it was specifically on Castor Avenue. She states that all of these jobs were "an ends to a means" and that she was more interested in the paycheck than in the work itself. She states that the difficulty with the job at the call center in Bell's Corner was that she had to take the 66 bus to get to the Bridge Street and Pratt Street to catch the subsequent bus to take her to work. [This area is now the Frankford Transportation Center run by the South East Pennsylvania Transportation Authority. It is located specifically at 5200 Frankford Avenue in Philadelphia and is between Bridge Street and Pratt Street.]

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With regards to high school teachers, Mrs. Emme states that one of her history teachers, Sister Mildred, stands out in her memory. She states that she was an IHM nun and that she would hold "open forum" classes where she would answer questions about anything. [IHM Nuns belong to an order known as the Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.] Mrs. Emme relays an anecdote about a student asking whether or not virginity was a requirement to become a nun. Mrs. Emme states that Sister Mildred instilled in her a "passion for history."

First Marriage and Full-Time Employment

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Mrs. Emme graduated from high school in 1975 and then began working for Film Corporation of America as a “film checker.” She states that the work was very boring and that she had to check the photographs to ensure that they were not lewd and then cut them and put them in envelopes to be sent out. Mrs. Emme states that she was getting married in September, 1975 to the previously mentioned Edward Lauer. He proposed to her on her sixteenth birthday and she explains that it was rather typical to get married younger at this time. Mrs. Emme rolls her eyes when discussing her family’s feelings about the marriage and that she was happy “going up the aisle” but that “reality had hit” her on her way back down the aisle.

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The marriage is described as the “dream wedding” claiming that her mother and grandmother looked beautiful. The ceremony itself was celebrated at St. Bernard’s Church and the reception that followed was at Polanka Park. [Polanka Park is now the Polish Army Veterans of America-Post 12 and it is located at 3258 Knights Rd. Bensalem, PA 19020.] The newly married couple rented an apartment in January of 1975, though Mrs. Emme did not move in until they were married. She places the apartment at Solly Avenue and Frankford Avenue, near Father Judge High School.

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The morning of the wedding, Mrs. Emme received a telegram informing her that she was going to be laid off from her job at Film Corporation of America, specifically while she was getting dressed. She states that she was actually somewhat happy because she was not too fond of her job, but she wishes she could have left of her own accord when she found a better job. She then discusses how she spent the subsequent months taking care of her grandmother who had taken ill. She passed away in February, 1976.

0:38:38

Mrs. Emme states that although she worked with a friend, they were both bored at Film Corporation of America and she states that she was a good employee who was never late. Her relationship with management was amicable, but that the work life there was extremely regimented. She relates anecdotes of finding lewd photos and passing them around, particularly one of a “naked man on his motorcycle.”

End of First Marriage and Work at General Accident Life Assurance Corporation of America

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After her maternal grandmother passed away, Mrs. Emme began working for General Accident Life Assurance Corporation of America. Specifically she began in March, 1976 and worked

there until May, 1983. She started as a Draft Clerk and was then promoted to Cashier and then to General Accounting by the time she left the firm.

0:40:39

As a Draft Clerk, she had to take the checks from insurance payments and stamp it and log it. She states that her coworkers were kind and friendly, but that the work was once again boring. She sarcastically refers to it as a “boring.” However, she states that she enjoyed her work as a Cashier, when she balanced thirty nine bank statements from General Accident’s different branches. In General Accounting, she learned about profit and loss and states that she did whatever she was taught to do.

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While she was working for General Accident, Mrs. Emme was still married to Mr. Laurer. She explains that their marriage came to an end in 1983, the same year she left General Accident. She states that she “made a clean start with a job and a life.” [Mrs. Emme seemed physically uncomfortable discussing the events surrounding the end of her first marriage and I, Carlos M. Contente, decided not to press the issue.] She states that she was happy at General Accident until new management came in and wanted her to take a pay cut since she did not have a college education.

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With regards to her statement of making a clean start, Mrs. Emme states that she realized she was 25 years old, but was not happy. She did not have “the 2.5 children” and did not own a property “with white picket fence.” She further explains that she did not want to take a pay cut, and was referred to Inter Space, an interior design firm, by a head hunter. She was hired and states that the salary was better than that she made at General Accident. She states that she owned a duplex and that her employment at Inter Space permitted her to pay the bills for that property on her own.

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Mrs. Emme states that she bought the duplex together with her first husband in 1978. She states that it was located at Allengrove Street in the Lawncrest neighborhood of the city. She lived there from 1978 to 1983. After their divorce, Mr. Laurer left and Mrs. Emme kept the duplex.

Second Marriage, Children, and Inter Space Interior Design

00:44:16

Mrs. Emme states that Inter Space was located at Market Street and 5th Street. Both Mrs. Emme and I enjoy a laugh as I mention that I had thought Inter Space was a corporation devoted to work in outer space before she had stated that it was an interior design firm. She was hired there as a receptionist. She states it was a wonderful experience as there were many events at lunch time and after work. The major law firms in Philadelphia were renovated by Inter Space.

0:45:00

Mrs. Emme explains that she worked with around twenty interior designers and that she was their support person; for example, she was responsible for making their travel arrangements. She further states that she had a big reception desk at the front of the office.

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When asked about whether she has any memories or funny stories from all of the parties hosted by Inter Space, Mrs. Emme retorts by stating that she does not have any that she can tell. She mentions a credit reporting firm, TRW, based in Chicago. Inter Space was in charge of renovating the headquarters of TRW and Mrs. Emme states that she had been promoted from receptionist to project manager and oversaw the interior designers handling the TRW project. [TRW was officially known as TRW Information and Services and has since been acquired by Experian, plc. It is now headquartered in Dublin, Republic of Ireland¹.]

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Mrs. Emme corrects herself and states that it was in 1981 that she left General Accident, not 1978, as previously noted. She then left Inter Space in 1983 and did not work for a while. Her daughter, Jamie, was born in 1984 and Mrs. Emme. Mrs. Emme had re-married to James L. Emme. She states that she met him by playing shuffleboard and softball at the Princeton Tavern. Mrs. Emme was attracted to her future husband “because he could dance.”

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Mrs. Emme goes onto discuss subsequent issues she then had with her first husband, namely losing a property they had joint owned to sheriff sale. Mrs. Emme had moved back in with her mother and thought that her first husband was going to take care of the property and that she would no longer be responsible for it. This is part of the reason that she left Inter Space, saying that once again she needed to regroup and start over again.

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Mr. and Mrs. Emme were married on August 22, 1985 at City Hall in Philadelphia. Her mother was more supportive of this marriage, though her father was not as supportive right away. Because both of them were divorced, neither of them were permitted to marry once in the Catholic Church again, which is why the ceremony took place at City Hall.

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Mrs. Emme states that she stayed at home to take care of Jamie and did not work again until 1988. She had her son, James “Foz,” in 1986. She took care of them during the day and would go work at night, when Mr. Emme came home. She states that she returned to work because she once again wanted to have her own income.

Watching the Children, Returning to Work at Spiegel, and Service as a Lunch Mother at St. Matthew’s

¹ <https://www.experianplc.com/about-us/>

0:50:20

Spiegel was an upscale mail order company where Mrs. Emme returned to work after her hiatus. She stated that she worked as a customer service representative. She states that Spiegel sold “everything” including livestock and tractors, before she started working there. By the time she arrived, they focused primarily on clothing and housewares. The call center was located in Bensalem, PA.

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Mrs. Emme states that she made “a lot of good friends” during her time at Spiegel and points out that during her time there she trained Cheryl Hoffman, currently the Technical Assistant at the LaSalle University Office of the Registrar. She remained at the Spiegel call center until it closed in 1997 and she states that she was taken out “kicking and screaming.”

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Regarding the nickname “Foz” given to her son, James, Mrs. Emme explains that it is due to the confusion of having two James’ and one Jamie under the same roof. She further expands that “Foz” had fur for hair as a child and that her daughter called him her “Fozzy Bear.”

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Mrs. Emme explains that her children attended Mayfair Elementary for kindergarten and then St. Matthew’s for grade school. Jamie went on to St. Hubert’s and James to Father Judge. [St. Matthew’s is located at 3040 Cottman Ave. Philadelphia, Pa 19141.]

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Mrs. Emme states that a typical evening at Spiegel had her working until midnight. She would then come home and do some laundry quietly, catch a few hours of sleep, take the children to school, catch a few more hours of sleep, serve as a “lunch mother” at St. Matthew’s, start dinner, pick the children up at school, help with homework and then go off to Spiegel.

0:59:00

Mrs. Emme explains that she came to LaSalle University on March 9, 1998, after Spiegel closed. She explains that this was opportune as it occurred after she had had an unpleasant encounter involving a student and a juice box at St. Matthew’s [55:00].

Conclusion of Interview Session I

0:59:27

Pleasantries are exchanged and Mrs. Emme is thanked for her time during this interview session. I explain that during the next interview session, we will discuss her experiences at LaSalle University as an employee, student, and mother of students.

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Recording ends.

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0:00:02

Introduction and verbal permission to record the interview. Review the end of the first interview session, with Mrs. Emme just having left her job at Spiegel in 1997. Mrs. Emme spoke to me in person after the first session and stated that she had forgotten to mention that she had done some modelling for John Robert Powers, a modelling agency.

Modelling

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Mrs. Emme explains that she modelled around the age of twenty one, around 1979, while she was employed at General Accident. She states that it was primarily camera still work for photography students. Mrs. Emme states that she was a little older than the other models and that, while she did it for fun, the industry itself can be extremely cut throat.

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After stating that he had met interesting people as a model, Mrs. Emme explains she met Phillipe, the Indian, from the Village People. She mentions working an anniversary party for WCAU FM radio station and that the party was held in Emerald City, New Jersey. She explains that it came to an end because her ex-husband was extremely jealous of the work she was doing.

Coming to LaSalle University, Back Up Secretary to the President

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Mrs. Emme explains that the first position she held here at LaSalle University was Back-Up Secretary to the President, under the direction of Ms. Maryanne Taylor, who is still with the university. Mrs. Emme states that hiring her was a chance, since she did not even know how to turn on a computer, but that she could type around ninety words per minute. She further explains that she found the opening at LaSalle via a former co-worker at General Accident.

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Mrs. Emme states that she was supposed to meet with Ms. Taylor as the first step in the interview process and then with the president at that time, Br. Joe Burke, FSC. However, Maryanne was extremely nervous due to the fact that she had just found out that Br. Burke was going to step down as president of the university. Mrs. Emme was still able to work under Br. Burke for about three months.

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Mrs. Emme's duties were to fill in for Ms. Taylor when she was on vacation, out at lunch, or otherwise unavailable. With regards to a typical day in the position, Mrs. Emme states she would

go in and check E-mails, voicemails, but that there was no such thing as a typical day. She would make sure that the president knew where and when he had to be the next day.

President Clinton Comes to LaSalle

0:07:59

Mrs. Emme states that the day that stands out the most in her memory from her time in the President's Office is the day that a police officer sat in the office with her all day long, which was the day that former US President William "Bill" Clinton came to speak on campus. She explains that there were death threats from Christian people and that she was surprised by the language some of them used.

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Mrs. Emme explains that Ms. Taylor was off the day President Clinton came to campus because it was the Monday after commencement ceremonies. She states that she would put voicemail on just to use the bathroom and that she would have several threatening messages upon her return. She explains that the anger arose because the decision was announced in the former Archdiocesan newspaper *The Catholic Standard and Times*. Mrs. Emme states that while nothing in fact happened, the university could not permit "the threats to be idle." Finally, she states that the interim president of the time, Nicholas Giordano, wrote a letter that explained that LaSalle served as nothing more than a venue for the former President and that the university did not necessarily endorse the beliefs held by President Clinton.

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Mrs. Emme states that she served in her role as Back Up Secretary for eighteen months and in that time she served under three separate presidents: Br. Joseph Burke, FSC, Mr. Nicholas Giordano, and Br. Michael McGinnis, FSC. With regards to the differences amongst these men, she explains that Mr. Giordano "brought corporate to academia." She relates that Mr. Giordano began the President's Cup golf tournament during his brief term and relates an anecdote about him keeping the university's mail room open later to send out around 500 letters announcing his presidency.

Relationship with the Christian Brothers

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Mrs. Emme states that her relationship with the Christian Brothers has always been friendly and that she is actually rather close with Br. Joseph Burke, FSC. She also mentions a close relationship with Br. Gerard Fitzgerald, FSC. [Br. Fitzgerald, FSC is currently an Assistant Professor of Accounting at LaSalle University.] Mrs. Emme claims that Br. McGinnis, FSC was much more of a boss and her relationship with him was professional. She explains that it was easy to clown around with Br. Burke, FSC, but that she would never think of doing so with Br. McGinnis, FSC. She also refers to Br. Edward Koronkiewicz, FSC, who is the Associate Registrar at LaSalle University. She states that he is "a mean dancer."

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Mrs. Emme discusses LaSalle recently hiring its first non-interim lay president, Dr. Colleen M. Hanycz, Ph.D.; Dr. Hanycz will also be LaSalle's first female president. Mrs. Emme states that she is surprised that a female was hired as the first lay president, but that it does serve as a "sign of the times." She states that Dr. Hanycz will again "bring corporate to academia" and Mrs. Emme believes that this will be beneficial for LaSalle, because "corporate" gets things done more quickly than academia. Mrs. Emme states that the Christian Brothers love teaching, but tend to lack the business background that many university presidents do have.

Executive Secretary to the Vice President of Enrollment Services and 9/11 Terrorist Attacks

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Mrs. Emme states that she applied for the position of Executive Secretary of Enrollment Services, because the incumbent had retired. The Vice President of Enrollment Services at the time was Ray Ritchie. Mrs. Emme did not move into her new office until September 10, 2011. She remembers this because it was the day right prior to the 9/11 Attacks.

0:22:19

The most memorable day for Mrs. Emme while working in Enrollment Services was September 11, 2001. She states that there was very much activity at the university. She states that "it was total mayhem" and that there were a whole host of families calling the university to check on students, but that cell phone towers were overwhelmed. She states that the employees were permitted to leave work early. She heard about the events second hand from a co-worker and hurried to find information online. She states that when she heard about the plane hitting the Pentagon, she "just wanted to be close to her family." Mrs. Emme explains that her children were dismissed early from St. Hubert's and Father Judge, respectively. [The co-worker who informed Mrs. Emme of the attacks was Michael J. Roszkowski, Ph.D. He is currently serving as the Assistant Provost for Evaluation Services and Institutional Research.] Mrs. Emme states that it was not until the second tower was hit that "it began to hit home" that the USA was under attack. She thought it was an accident when the first tower was hurt. Mrs. Emme states that there were memorial services and remembrances, though she does not recall them very specifically. She states that "you just felt like you should do something."

0:26:54

Mrs. Emme worked for Mr. Ray Ritchie until he resigned in 2007. She then worked under Mr. John Dolan until 2011, when she moved to her current position in the Transfer Admissions Office. [The current Vice President of Enrollment Services is Mr. George J. Walter.] Mrs. Emme states that the differences between Mr. Ritchie and Mr. Dolan were "night and day." Mr. Ritchie was "old school," but that Mr. Dolan was more relaxed with letting Mrs. Emme take time off. However, she explains that Mr. Ritchie kept his cell phone in his glove box, while Mr. Dolan used his frequently and would contact Mrs. Emme on weekends asking her to pull together some facts and figures for a presentation he needed to do or something else of the sort. She relates an

anecdote of Mr. Dolan contacting her during the Baccalaureate Mass one year because he had left his gown in the bookstore, which was then locked. Mrs. Emme contacted Physical Facilities and they opened the bookstore for Mr. Dolan to retrieve his gown.

0:30:28

Mrs. Emme discusses that prior to moving to the Transfer Admissions Office, she was actually responsible for doing the “legwork,” such as contacting community colleges, to help “sell” the Transfer Admissions Office. As such, she explains that Mr. Dolan did think it would be a seamless transition for her into that office.

Life as a Student, Mother, and Employee

0:30:57

Mrs. Emme began as a student in 1998 by taking a university studies class, a mandatory continuing education class. She began in the Associates of Arts program. She explains that she was inspired to become a student because her pay had been cut at General Accident because she did not have a degree behind her name. It took her ten years to complete here Associates and graduated in 2008. She went right in to a Bachelors of Business Administration program and she states that she is quoted in the *NorthEast Times* as saying that she hoped to complete her BSBA in three years.

0:33:31

Mrs. Emme states, in a joking manner, that it was “horrible” balancing work, family life, and class work. She explains that at this point she was also helping to run her father’s business, which at this point was 74 storage spaces in North Philadelphia. Mrs. Emme handled the billing and other administrative duties. However, she states that she knew it was going to be a stressful couple of years, but that it would only be a couple of years. Her father lost the garages in 2008. She then explains that her son dissuaded her from pursuing her MBA because of how stressful her years pursuing her BSBA had been for her.

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Mrs. Emme received her AA in 2008, as aforementioned, this was the same year that her son, James “Foz” Emme, received his BS from LaSalle University. Mrs. Emme states that she knew that LaSalle enjoyed such “warm and fuzzy stories.” She explains that the *NorthEast Times* sent a journalist to interview them and follow them around campus and take pictures.

Assistant Director of Transfer Admissions

0:37:42

Switching back to Mrs. Emme’s time in working as a transfer counselor, Mrs. Emme explains that she was “an orphan with a binder” and that Transfer Admissions did not have their own office yet, so she had to work out of the offices of different undergraduate counselors when they were absent. She explains that it was a hassle and that they were “disconnected” until they received their own offices. She was intimidated in the beginning because they were relying on

the counselors to help them achieve their dreams. Mrs. Emme expands on the “legwork” she did to “sell” the need for a Transfer Admissions Office and that she was heavily involved in the creation of the proposal to present to the “powers that be.”

0:40:41

As the Assistant Director of Transfer Admissions, Mrs. Emme is responsible for Business majors and the majors under Nursing, such as Speech, Public Health, and Nutrition; as well, as all of the Science majors. She is responsible for making decisions on application of those majors and she travels to New Jersey and attends the Phi Theta Kappa New York and Mid-Atlantic Region fairs. Phi Theta Kappa is the international honor society for two year institutions.

0:43:24

Even though the Transfer Admissions Office has grown from a small subset of the Undergraduate Admissions Office, she states that they hope to meet their numbers each year, but that the office is “perfectly paired” the way that it is and that the office does not need another counselor at this point in time. She emphasizes once again that they simply hope to meet their numbers each year. [At the time of this interview, Mrs. Emme worked alongside Mrs. Melissa Yogis, Director of Transfer Admissions; Mrs. Christina Foley, Assistant Director of Transfer Admissions; and Ms. Ashley Strobel, Administrative Assistant. Ms. Strobel has since left LaSalle University.]

0:47:07

After discussing some of the differences between Undergraduate Admissions and Transfer Admissions, Mrs. Emme discusses the role she believes that her office will play in the future of the university. She states that she thinks it “plays a big role, and that’s what John foresaw.” She thinks that while the Transfer Office will not grow, she does believe the number of transfer students will go up. She states that she believes that Undergraduate Admissions will gradually lose students and claims that their targets have been falling ever so slightly.

Changes to Campus

0:49:15

Mrs. Emme discusses the changes she has seen to campus since she has been here. She particularly mentions the various capital campaigns and the construction of Holroyd Hall and the new business school down by St. Benilde. She explains that the capital campaigns and the “shoulder-to-shoulder campaign” and that the new high tech buildings help to attract higher quality students. She discusses taking a bus to visit the business schools at Drexel University, Temple University, and St. Joseph University and do some homework for the construction of LaSalle’s new business school. However, she points out that this took place about ten years ago.

0:52:08

When Mrs. Emme is asked about negative changes she states that there are none that come directly to mind, but that she will spend some time thinking on it. She states that she thinks all of

the changes has come out positively, even if at first they are not seen as being positive. Mr. Emme does explain that she thinks the decision to bring in Aramark was not necessarily the wisest one. She claims that the food is now of lower quality than it was previously and is more expensive. She states this as the reason that she no longer buys food from the Student Union. When asked about a “hidden gem” on campus, she immediately states that she considers the Art Museum to be one. She claims that it is “amazing.”

0:55:31

When asked about her different experiences at LaSalle University, as a student, an employee, and the mother of alumni, she states that she uses them “all the time” as a selling point when she meets with prospective students. She states that it has provided her with a “wealth of information” and that she uses it to ease the transition for both parents and students when coming to LaSalle.

Future of LaSalle and Personal Plans

0:56:43

Mrs. Emme states that she is excited for the new leadership coming into LaSalle and is excited for convocation, when the new President addresses LaSalle as a community for the first time. Mrs. Emme says that she “expects nothing but good things” from the new leadership coming to LaSalle.

0:59:05

When asked about what the future holds for her, Mrs. Emme explains that he “just hopes to keep on admitting transfer students” and that she truly loves what she currently does. She did not have any final thoughts.

Conclusion of Interview Session II

0:59:20

Mrs. Emme expresses thanks for taking her “on a trip down memory lane.” Pleasantries and thank you’s are exchanged between myself and Mrs. Emme

0:59:50

Recording Ends

[Total Recording time is 1:59:25]

