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HIST-650

Final Interview Questions – Dr. Leo Rudnytzky

1. Can I have your full name please?
2. What is your date of birth?
3. Where were you born?
4. What were your parent's names?
5. Where were they born?
6. Are they living or deceased?
7. How old were you when they passed?
8. Do you have any siblings?
9. If so, how many?
10. What are their names?
11. Are they all living?
12. If they're still alive – do they all reside within the Philadelphia area?
13. When did you leave Ukraine?
14. What prompted emigration from your homeland?
15. Where did you go?
16. With whom did you travel?
17. Did you have any exposure to English when you lived in the displacement camp?
18. Why did you leave Eastern Germany?
19. How old were you when you came to this country?
20. Were you anxious or hesitant about the move across the Atlantic?
21. Did you come directly to Philadelphia?
22. How did your family decide to live in this city?
23. In what section of the city did you live?
24. How has it changed over the years?
25. Where do you currently reside?
26. Right now, are you a United States citizen?
27. Do you maintain or have you ever considered dual citizenship?
28. Are you married?
29. What is your wife's name?
30. Is she also of Ukrainian descent?
31. Do you have any children?
32. If so, how many?
33. What are their names?
34. Did they follow in your footsteps and pursue careers in academia?
35. Did your own parents stress the importance of education?
36. How far did they get in school?
37. What line of work were they in?
38. Can we discuss your own educational background a bit?
39. What school did you attend when you came to Philadelphia?
40. Were you fluent in English at that point in time?

41. Why did you attend Parochial school and not enter the public school system?
42. Why did you not attend LaSalle College High School?
43. Looking back, were the faculty and students at Northeast Catholic welcoming to you even though you had yet to master the English language?
44. Had you any exposure to the Christian Brothers and their mission at North?
45. When did you graduate from high school?
46. Why did you decide upon LaSalle to complete your undergraduate studies?
47. What was your major course of study as an undergraduate?
48. Why did you choose that and not something more pragmatic, like math or science?
49. Did you commute to school or reside on campus then?
50. What were some of your favorite courses from that time?
51. Did you participate in any sports or clubs?
52. If so, which ones?
53. Can you recall any professors that had a profound impact on your curriculum?
54. DO you have a favorite memory that you can recollect from your days as an undergraduate?
55. What year did you graduate from LaSalle?
56. What was your next course of action following graduation?
57. Did you consider going anywhere else?
58. What did you study at the University of Pennsylvania?
59. What were your impressions of the students and faculty?
60. How was your academic training at Penn different from what you received at LaSalle?
61. What were some of the similarities?
62. Did your education at LaSalle adequately prepare you for graduate study at an Ivy League University?
63. What opportunities did you have after completing your MA?
64. What prompted your return to LaSalle?
65. At that point in time, how did you feel about going back?
66. Looking back, what sorts of challenges did you face as a new teacher?
67. How did you overcome them?
68. How many classes did you teach per semester?
69. How did you prepare for your courses in those first few years?
70. How did faculty members relate to one another in those early years?
71. Was there a difference in the relationship between lay faculty members and the Brothers?
72. Have you seen a change in that description over the years?
73. How do you think the relationship between all faculty has evolved over the decades?
74. I know there was a faculty member in the History department for a number of years, Miroslav Labunka, who was of Ukrainian descent, did you collaborate on academic ventures at all?
75. When did you obtain your Ph.D.?
76. Were the LaSalle administrators amenable to you studying abroad?
77. Why did you choose to study abroad to complete your doctorate?

78. Did your education in Europe differ greatly from that of the American universities?
79. Did it prepare you for a life of scholarly research, writing, and teaching?
80. What, in your opinion, were some of the strengths and weaknesses of that program?
81. What was your impression of the faculty and students there?
82. Did your time abroad cause any changes in your own personal identity?
83. Did you experience a “culture shock” upon your return?
84. How did your time abroad affect your style of teaching when you returned to LaSalle?
85. Did you perceive your students in a different way?
86. As a professor of foreign languages and literature, what is your opinion on the notion that American students have an indifference towards the study of languages?
87. I know that you’ve taught at various other institutions, including Harvard, is this trend consistent throughout American universities?
88. How has your time at LaSalle differed from that at the other schools?
89. It was at Harvard that you became acquainted with the future Pope John Paul II, can you give a few words about your encounters with him?
90. Do you think your experience as a Catholic educator and your shared Eastern European heritage had a role in the development of your association?
91. Your connection was renewed in 1990 when you served as an unofficial advisor to ten Ukrainian Catholic Bishops who met with the pontiff as representatives of the Underground Ukrainian Catholic Church – how did you garner that honor?
92. Your affiliation for your native county and its church is well documented throughout your time at LaSalle. You’ve sponsored symposiums, organized conferences, and hosted key political figures at this university, all of which brought attentions to issues of Ukraine and Eastern Europe. Can you explain their significance to you?
93. Why did you choose LaSalle as the forum for these events?
94. What do you feel the results of LaSalle’s involvement were?
95. Did the special events increase interest in Central and Eastern Europe among your own students?
96. You have also made pivotal changes within the dynamic of LaSalle’s curriculum. How and when did you conceive the notion for a Central and Eastern European Studies minor?
97. It is an interdepartmental program, what other departments and with whom did you work?
98. Why did you feel the need to create the graduate program of Central and Eastern European studies in 1993?
99. Has there always been a strong financial support for your academic endeavors at LaSalle?
100. Was there a strong desire on behalf of the students to learn about the shifting paradigms of Central and Eastern Europe?

101. Have you noticed an increase of interest in study abroad programs in that area since the programs inception?
102. What about exchange programs?
103. What do you believe their value is to students?
104. How difficult was it to sponsor students from Kiev University with the political fluctuations that dominated that area?
105. Aside from implementing curriculum changes, have you ever held any administrative positions at the University?
106. Which do you prefer, the administrative role or being in a classroom?
107. What would be your favorite course to teach?
108. You've previously diverged from your typical schedule to teach courses on detective novels, spy stories, and science fiction, what was your motivation behind those courses?
109. Does your ability to adapt your teaching style keep you current and connected with your students?
110. What did it mean for you to receive the Lindback award from them?
111. Could you explain your personal motto towards teaching?
112. What has been the greatest adversity you've faced as a teacher?
113. Can you recall your most cherished experience at LaSalle as a teacher?
114. Were you ready for retirement in 1999 when you, along with 13 other professor that same year, left your full time faculty positions at LaSalle?
115. What prompted your decision to cut back?
116. What significance does the title Professor Emeritus hold for you?
117. Your career has spanned decades here, what has been the most significant transition that you have seen at this University?
118. Can you describe the changes the school underwent as it transitioned from College to University, single sex to co-educational, and also what it was like when the campus became racially integrated?
119. Do you feel as though these changes were for the benefit or detriment of the University?
120. What are your personal hopes for this institution in the future?