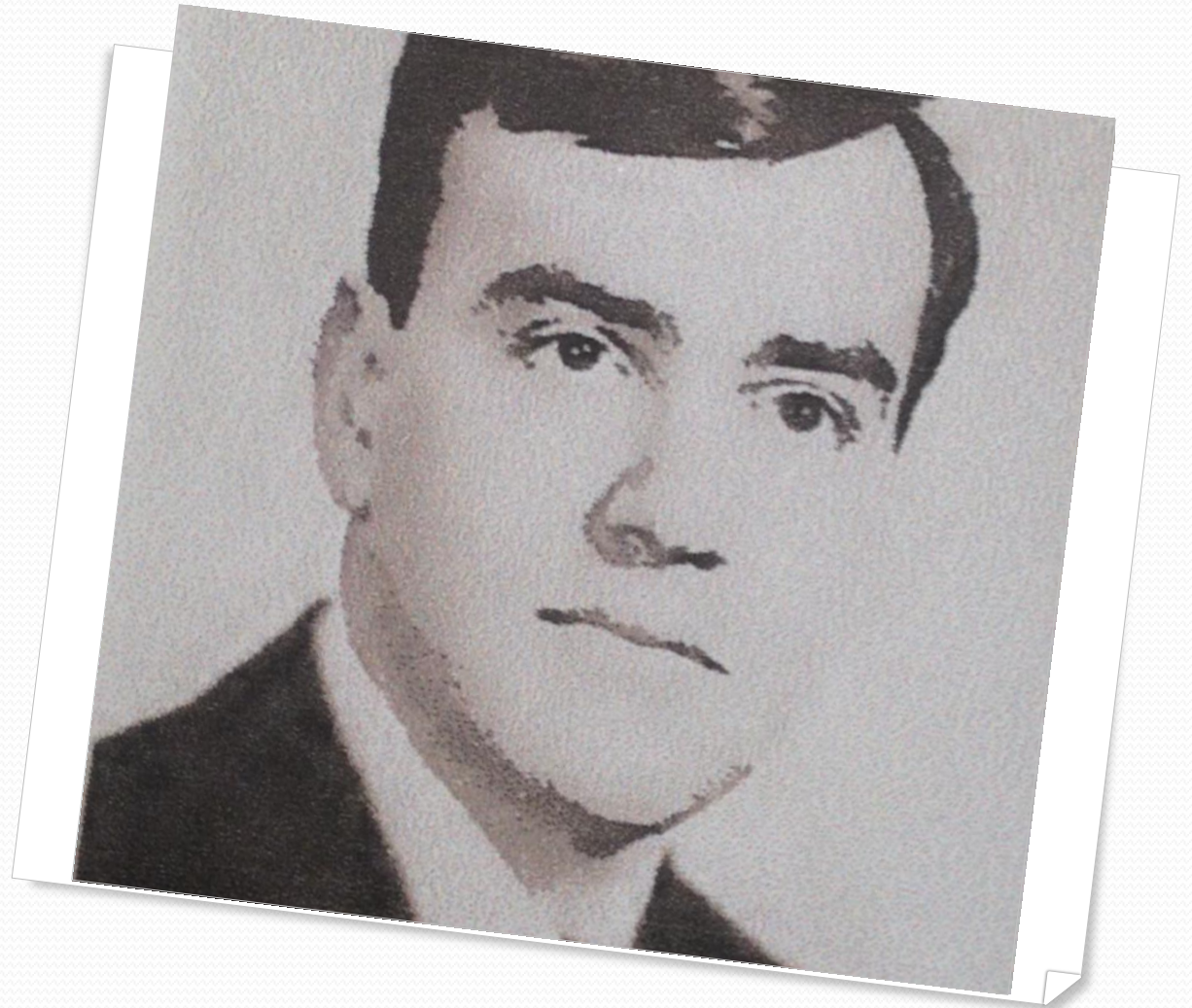


**RICHARD M.
MONASTRA**



THE INTERVIEW PROCESS

- Contacted Rich immediately
- Several corresponding emails & phone calls
- Created questions based on background information
- Yearbooks (LaSalle & Buena Regional High School)
- Other oral history interviews
- LOTS of questions for Dr. Allen!

THE INTERVIEW

- Saturday, March 2, 2013
- Rich's home in Wallingford, PA (an hour drive from my home)
- One, two & a half hour interview

BACKGROUND

- Born on June 30, 1946 in South Philly
- Baby boom generation
- Italian-Catholic
- Oldest of two children (younger sister)
- Attended St. Edmond's Elementary School
- Bishop Neumann High School
- LaSalle University 1964-1968

“Growing up in South Philly was magical”

- Great childhood
- Lots of neighborhood friends
- “The streets were our playground”
- Neighborhood was mostly Italian, Irish, Polish, and “one Jewish family”
- Large extended family
- Very defined gender roles
- Very close with his maternal grandmother (audio)

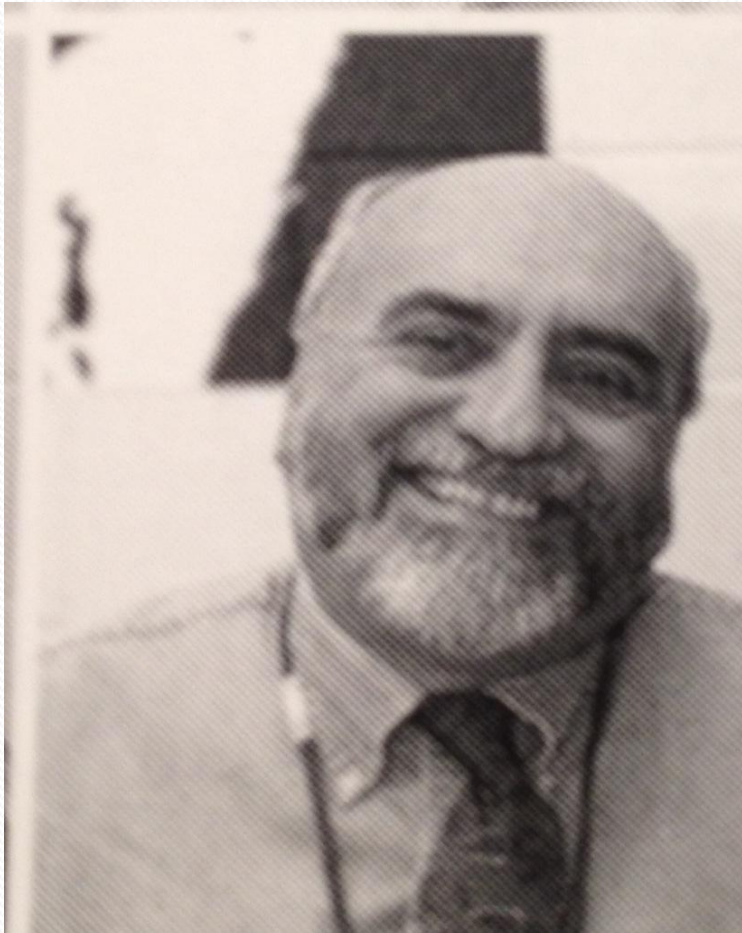
Life at LaSalle

- Applied because his friends did
- Parents paid for the first semester
- First one on either side of his family to attend college
- Worked part-time
- Was a “day hop” as the “dormies” called those that commuted
- Credits the Christian Brothers for opening his eyes
- Taught students to question everything, even their own faith
- A great, well-rounded education (audio)
- All male
- Graduated in 1968

College in the turbulent 60's

- Some anti-war rallies on campus (he was “very much” opposed to the war)
- Some pro-war advocates (mostly business majors)
- Most supported civil rights
- Anti-war protests in the city but LaSalle was the “calm in the urban storm”
- Student teaching when MLK was assassinated

Teaching Resume



- Collingdale High School
- Glassboro Middle School
- Interboro High School
- Haddonfield High School
- Buena Regional High School until his retirement in 2009
- Delaware County Community College
- Camden County College
- U.S. History, Sociology, Psychology, Film Class

Strengths

- Great rapport
- A friend
- Great memory for names, places & dates
- Background information
- Informative
- Great conversationalist

Weaknesses

- Too impersonal?
- Too many comments on my part
- Tends to go off on tangents
- Some controversial information given

