

Interview of Dr. Alice Hoersch

Interviewer: Selena Bemak

Date: March 20, 2019 at 1:00 P.M and April 3, 2019 at 1:00 P.M.

Location: Holroyd Science Center, LaSalle University. Office of Dr. Hoersch, Room 43, 1900 W Olney Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19144.

Recording Equipment: Voice Recorder application on iPhone 6s, converted to wav format

Abstract

Alice Lynn Hoersch was born in 1950 in Abington, PA to Albert and Alice Hoersch. She moved to Honey Brook, located in Chester County, PA at two-years-old. Hoersch lived in Honey Brook until she finished graduate school in 1977. She attended Honey Brook Elementary School. She graduated as valedictorian from Twin Valley High School in 1968. Hoersch studied geology at Bryn Mawr College, graduating in 1972. She received both her master's and Ph.D. in metamorphic petrology from Johns Hopkins University in 1974 and 1977, respectively. The same year she obtained her Ph.D., Hoersch began teaching as an assistant professor of geology at La Salle University. She has served La Salle as a professor of geology, physics and environmental science for 42 years. She also took on additional roles at the University, including serving as associate dean of the School of Arts and Sciences from 1986 to 1993. While in this role, she became one of the founders of the Freshman Year Experience, now known as the Freshman Seminar. From 1993 to 2017, she performed the duties of executive assistant to the president of La Salle University. In this role, she served as the school's liaison to the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, organized and contacted La Salle's honorary degree recipients, and pioneered La Salle's Heritage Week (previously known as Charter Week). Hoersch also participated in a group of women faculty members on campus, named Professional Women of La Salle, which aimed at establishing equality amongst the faculty. She currently chairs the environmental science department (now absorbed into the biology department), though she intends on retiring at the end of the 2019 school year. Hoersch currently resides in Hatfield, PA with her two dogs, Laddie and Dyson. In addition to providing insight on the evolution of La Salle over the past four decades, this interview also sheds light on social and military history, as Hoersch discusses life as a teen in the 1960s and as the daughter of a chemical engineer who worked on the atomic bomb.

Log of Interview #1 – interviewed Wednesday, March 20, 2019

- 00:02 I introduced myself as the interviewer, the interviewee, the date, the time and the location. I also asked and received verbal consent from the interviewer. Hoersch restated her name for the recording.
- 00:28 Alice Hoersch was born in 1950 in Abington, Pennsylvania.
- 00:36 Her parents lived in Hatboro. She moved to Honey Brook, located in Chester County, PA, when she was two-years-old.
- 01:00 Hoersch lived in Honey Brook until after she graduated from college. Returned home for vacation while in both college and graduate school. Moved out of Honey Brook after graduating from Johns Hopkins with her Ph.D. in 1977, the same year she began teaching at La Salle.
- 01:47 Honey Brook consisted primarily of people with Amish, German and Welsh backgrounds. As she was growing up, there were very few “diverse families of ethnic backgrounds.” There were only two African American families in the whole district “so it was very monolithic in that sense.”
- 03:34 She states that as a child, she had a fun childhood with her brother [Albert Richard Hoersch], who was approximately five years older than her. Her father worked for Lukens Steel Company, which is why her family relocated to that area.¹ He worked as a chemical engineer at a variety of places, including the Eastern Regional Research Center, which is a part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, located in Wyndmoor, Pa, before working at Lukens. Her mother was a homemaker at the time. Before World War II, her mother worked as the executive secretary to the president of Consolidated Edison in the Chicago area.² According to Hoersch, her parents married during the Second World War and returned back to Pennsylvania after the war. She describes her hometown, Honey Brook, as a small rural area where “everyone knows one another.” She traveled often as a child because her father traveled for work. Their family also took vacations to places “anywhere from Niagara Falls, to Canada, to Florida, to Chicago.” She claims that they often traveled by train to go to Chicago to visit her grandparents. Hoersch states that she had a fun, “fairly traditional childhood.”
- 05:43 As a child, she played both outside games and inside games. She recalls playing softball and baseball with some of the neighborhood children. Hoersch states she used to play baseball with three other children in her neighborhood. The children’s father used to say, “stay out of the yard and don’t hit the apple trees, you’ll knock the apples off.” She also recalls bike riding in her town, swimming

¹ Lukens Steel Company is a steel mill located in Coatesville, Pa.

² Consolidated Edison, often referred to as “Con Ed” is an electric company based in New York.

in a local pond, and collecting raspberries. She remembers playing Monopoly, Hearts, Pinochle and Parcheesi. Hoersch recollects doing jigsaw puzzles during Christmas time while off from school.

- 07:31 While growing up, she did chores around the house. She helped with spring cleaning and dusting around the house, although her mother employed an Amish woman who cleaned for Hoersch's family. However, she would still help around the house by assisting with the laundry, doing yardwork, shoveling snow, and mowing the lawn. She inherited the lawn mowing job from her brother, who left for college when she was in seventh grade. Hoersch received an allowance of \$2 per week as a child.
- 08:35 In her youth, she attended two different churches in what she referred to as "an odd situation." Her parents were both Lutheran, but there was no Lutheran Church in Honey Brook, so the family attended an Episcopal Church. However, she attended a Presbyterian Church for Sunday school before attending the more formal church service at the Episcopal Church. She is a confirmed Episcopalian.
- 09:42 When asked about her ethnic heritage, Hoersch claims she just performed a 23andMe ancestry test.³ According to Hoersch, "it contained no surprises, as it is what I knew," which is three-quarter German and one-quarter Swedish. Her father's side of the family was full German. Her Swedish ancestry is from her grandfather on her mother's side of the family. Her Swedish ancestors immigrated to the United States in the 1800s. She claims that through genealogical research she learned that her grandfather worked as a tailor in Chicago when the Great Chicago Fire occurred.⁴ According to Hoersch, he realized the fire was going to consume his shop, so he buried his equipment. After the fire went out, he dug up his items, became the only tailor in the area and made a lot of business because he saved his equipment.
- 10:59 She never knew her grandfather on her mother's side, as he passed away before her birth. Her grandmother on her mother's side lived in Algonquin, IL. She visited her occasionally, but when Hoersch was in high school her grandmother moved to Honey Brook. According to Hoersch, "she was quite the character," though Hoersch's brother "was the apple of her eye." On her father's side, her grandparents lived in Philadelphia in a neighborhood not far from La Salle's campus. She remembers coming to their home in the summertime as "a great adventure." She recalls her grandmother taking her on the subway to visit Horn and Hardart automat to eat lunch and Wanamaker's to shop. She also visited Leary's Book Store, stating "I always knew I could get a book out of my grandmother." When leaving in the city they would take the trolley back, "so that

³ 23andMe is a genomics company which sells ancestry testing kits through saliva-based genetic testing.

⁴ The Great Chicago Fire was a mass conflagration that swept across the city of Chicago, Il. in October 1871.

was a grand adventure for a rural kid to do that.” Her grandfather worked at the Navy Yard as a draftsman. She recalls her grandparents visiting her family in Honey Brook almost every week, bringing “goodies from the city.”

- 13:50 Hoersch remembers her grandparents telling stories of her father breaking his arm and being made to walk over to the hospital by his parents, though she does not recall many other stories her grandparents told. She remembers her great-grandmother who lived with her grandparents in Philadelphia, whom she recalls visiting and hearing about.
- 16:10 Hoersch was named Alice after her mother, although her mother initially wanted to name her by her middle name, Lynn, which “has created all kinds of difficulties because my mother’s middle name is Louise.” According to family lore, Hoersch’s mother was originally named Alice because after she was born, her mother stated in German, “das ist alles,” which translates to that “that is all,” in English. Hoersch claims her mother’s name “Alice” was derived as a play on words from this statement.
- 17:34 Her brother [Albert] passed away in 2001. She and her brother used to play a lot together as kids, but she felt like an only child for a period of time since he entered college while she was in seventh grade. He attended Franklin and Marshall College. She recalls him taking her to the college’s football games and teaching her the rules about football. He also took her for rides on his motorcycle. After college, he enlisted in the air force during the Vietnam War “so he was really gone for a lot of my childhood.”
- 18:59 During her childhood, Hoersch excelled in school. She was the valedictorian of her high school class. Even in elementary school, she was ahead of the other students, which often frustrated for her. She attended Honey Brook Elementary School and Twin Valley High School.
- 20:13 She states that she loved going to school. “Even in the summertime I would play school as a kid. I would pretend I was a teacher and look what happened.” Her parents also encouraged reading and her mother would buy her books from the grocery store. Hoersch claims that she would use reading as an excuse to ignore her mother when she was called to do chores. Her parents also kept cultural and scientific magazines around her house. As a chemical engineer, Hoersch’s father worked on the atomic bomb project at Oak Ridge, TN during World War II. She decided in eighth grade that she was interested in geology because she had an influential earth and space science teacher. When her father learned of her interest, he took Hoersch on field trips to mineral collecting and fossil collecting sites.
- 22:55 She states she was “fortunate” because although her parents “weren’t academics, they were interested in academic things.”

23:15 In her teenage years, Hoersch had a lot of girlfriends. She and her friends would have pajamas parties and play sports together from seventh grade through twelfth grade.

In school, she was placed in a group with other high-achieving students in her classes. Her school was very divided, however, as only one-third of students attended college, and many students came from business and agricultural backgrounds. Hoersch states that she remembered being frustrated in high school because she was not allowed to take certain courses since she was placed in the academic track. She was unable to take a course on drafting, despite her interest in surveying. Hoersch states that her uncle, a civil engineer, gave her drafting equipment and she surveyed her family's property as a child. "It was kind of the unspoken thing then too that only men could take the drafting course."

27:06 Although not overt, Hoersch experienced some discrimination in high school. as a member of the women's basketball team, she was forced to practice at 7 a.m. in the morning because the men's teams received preference of usage of the school gym.

28:26 Hoersch still keeps in contact with some of the women she was friends with in high school.

29:15 Her first job was as a waitress Howard Johnson's restaurant on the Pennsylvania Turnpike when she was 16. She worked dipping ice cream at the counter, but eventually had to quit after contracting contact dermatitis on her hand from having her hands wet all the time.

30:24 Going to school as a teen in the 1960s, Hoersch claims it was a "tumultuous time" because of the ongoing Vietnam conflict. The male students were drafted into the army after graduation so there was lot of "discomfort and anxiety that existed at that point."

"I remember that one of the high school teacher's son died in Vietnam so that really brought it home to all of the students who were there." Despite this, Hoersch claims that they were "still able to have a good time."

She claims it was very "clique-ish" at the time, but she had her own group of six girls whom she hung out with. She was also friends with a boy who she always thought was the "world's worst speller." Hoersch would correct the spelling in his papers, though much later he was diagnosed with dyslexia, "but back then they did not diagnose anything like that. You just thought he was a bad speller."

Hoersch states that although schools at the time at guidance counselors, they did not really treat special needs children.

- 34:42 After high school, Hoersch attended Bryn Mawr College. In her teenage years, her father was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis (MS), so she wanted to go to a school in the area with a geology program. She planned on applying to four schools, though she fell in love with Bryn Mawr. Hoersch received an early-admission acceptance, so she did not apply to the other schools, although she was “pretty sure I could get into the University of Pennsylvania,” which she considered a backup school because she would have been a legacy.
- 36:10 At Bryn Mawr, she met two professors who were a couple and became her mentors. Hoersch states that they took her on field trips, advised her honors thesis and allowed her to stay with them while she conducted research.
- Hoersch also thought Bryn Mawr, as a women’s college, provided opportunities for women to assume leadership positions, which did not occur at some of the co-ed schools.
- However, she also claims that some male students from Haverford College took classes at Bryn Mawr and vice versa. In her sophomore year, both colleges created co-ed dorms on their campuses.
- 38:49 While at Bryn Mawr, Hoersch lived at school but kept a car on campus during her last two years of undergraduate in order to travel home to visit her father. The college did not allow most students to keep a car on campus, but Bryn Mawr made an exception for Hoersch, which made her popular among classmates.
- 39:46 As an undergraduate, Hoersch played sports, though she notes that this occurred before Title IX established athletic scholarships for women. She also worked in the college’s library and on the switchboards in the residence halls. Another job she held was working as a “payday mistress,” which included tracking bills and collecting debts from students in the residence hall. She received one percent of whatever the charges were for each month as compensation. According to Hoersch, “it was like an accounting job in a way.”
- 42:07 Hoersch still maintains close connections to Bryn Mawr. Since graduating in the early 1970s, she has served as the reunion manager for her class.
- 42:38 She also remains in close contact with friends from her undergraduate years.
- 43:23 After graduating from Bryn Mawr, she continued her geology career by obtaining both her Master’s and Ph.D. from Johns Hopkins University, though she had the option to attend Princeton or Penn State. Hoersch states that she chose to attend Johns Hopkins due to its location in Baltimore as relatively close to home. She also preferred the geology department at Johns Hopkins because of its relatively small size in comparison to Penn State.
- According to Hoersch, there is also a connection between Bryn Mawr and Johns Hopkins because both were founded on the same higher education academic model, which featured a transfer of knowledge through faculty members teaching

both graduate and undergraduate students. Other connections to Johns Hopkins include Bryn Mawr High School in Baltimore and the second president of Bryn Mawr College's [M. Carey Thomas] relation to the acceptance of women in Johns Hopkins Medical School. Thomas, a controversial figure due to her racist past, was great friends and possibly lovers with a woman named Mary Garrett, heir to the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. Garrett made a sizeable donation in exchange for Hopkins' acceptance of women to their medical school. Hoersch knew of these connections so felt it "a natural step" moving from Bryn Mawr to Johns Hopkins.

48:13 Despite connections, move from women's college to program that recently started accepting women proved to be a challenge for Hoersch; she was the only woman of 12 graduate students in the department. Had issues with advisor due to communication gap. Returned to mentors at Bryn Mawr for advice. Hoersch almost quit graduate school but mentors convinced her against that. States she "couldn't quite mesh" with advisor. Advisor never gave encouragement but complimented her thesis.

49:56 Hoersch faced several occurrences of sexism and prejudice in graduate school. (Refers to the discussion we had in class on previous day). Worked as teaching assistant for mineralogy course. No women in class [though Hopkins already co-ed] and professor was male. Took field trip to Pennsylvania mine [Grace Mine] with class but was not permitted in mine due to mine workers. Sat in van while undergraduates and professor went into mine.

50:55 Did not do much when these situations occurred. Hoersch states "as a woman you didn't feel like you could protest. I mean what were you going to say to all these men who were there." She notes that it's changed since then. Heard from people at Geological Society Meetings that women would use heavy equipment in mines. States that some of the men told her that women take better care of the equipment than the men did. "After all of that discrimination, it turns out having them was a good thing for some of these companies."

52:15 Hoersch asks interviewer about Earth Science background. I recall learning of the types of rock in third grade. She explains types of rocks and their formation. Studied alternation of rocks at different temperatures and pressures for Ph.D. thesis [layer formations on chert nodules]. Also performed geophysical techniques to examine underground area in Scotland [on the Isle of Skye].

54:25 Spent two semesters in Scotland. Hoersch's mother stayed with her for a few days the first time she went to Scotland. Did not have a car so would walk four or five miles. Would walk there in morning and walk back at night with full bag of rocks. Had to pack all of the samples to send back. Went to local post office and had to find scale at hotel in order to weigh boxes. Kept taking boxes to post office and postmaster finally said to her, "what do you have in these boxes, rocks? And I said yes. The funny thing is, you measure the weight in stone. I thought it was

really appropriate.”

Hoersch rented a car for the second summer in Scotland. Took samples back to Glasgow and went to shipyard. Hoersch was told it’s cheaper to wrap samples herself rather than having staff do it. Stayed at shipyard one afternoon to pack rocks and group of women were fascinated by what she was doing “so I wound up having help anyhow.

Describes the area as “gorgeous countryside.” References countryside where Scottish rebellions took place. States she was always interested in history so traveled around [to Loch Ness]. Traveled overseas before but first time to England and Scotland. Notes that no longer ferry but bridge to get to the Isle of Skye; “takes all of the romance out of it.”

57:58 Discusses dissertation defense; Johns Hopkins had two-fold process. Passed two tests [one test with three faculty members from department, other test with two faculty members from own department, three faculty members from outside of department.] Picked some faculty from chemistry, geography and environmental engineering. Day before defense, pre-medical students of chemist Hoersch chose “hung him in effigy the day before my oral exam.” Describes panic over his potential attitude in exam. Hoersch states that in defense exam, she discussed her research and results. Chemist asked her question to which she did not know the answer and tries to lead her through the question. He tells her that she clearly does not know the answer. According to Hoersch, her faculty advisor said he did not know the answer. She exclaims to me, “I could have kissed him at the time. So, in the end he stood up for me. I passed the exam.” Also had to present seminar to department which faculty signed off on. Claims that while in graduate school, the Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences at Hopkins liked to recruit students from liberal arts schools because “they said they were better writers” than some of the students who came from engineering and state schools.

1:01:03 Interviewer decides to stop recording for day and thanks Hoersch.

1:01:10 **END OF FIRST INTERVIEW SESSION AND RECORDING**

Log of Interview #2 – interviewed Wednesday, April 3, 2019

- 00:03 I introduced myself as the interviewer, the interviewee, the date, the time and the location. I also asked and received verbal consent from the interviewer. I thank her for granting permission.
- 00:34 Discusses father's work as chemical engineer in Oak Ridge [Tennessee]. Father enlisted in navy as reserve officer at start of World War II. He was sent to California and placed in charge of plotting boards in Pacific [which kept track of ships]. Claims he pestered navy into moving him to Mare Island Naval Shipyard in order to use his degree. Then he moved to Oak Ridge and purified uranium into material used for atomic bomb in Japan. His unit conducted steam separation of components. Hoersch's father [a lieutenant] realized that work was not safe and told the army general that what they were doing was not safe. He received orders the next day to go to the Philippines [after most of the fighting ended].
- Hoersch states that her parents married in San Francisco at the beginning of the war.
- 02:22 Does not remember her father talking about his work too often. Ponders whether he was under confidentiality agreement, though she knew he worked on atomic bomb. Says she knows stories of accommodations at Oak Ridge. Recalls story of parents' neighbor who used to say Hoersch's mother never cooked her vegetables long enough.
- Father used to tell stories about things that went on, such as construction project from which friend stole a wheelbarrow. Also recalls that area did not permit alcohol, though they would hold parties in which guests dumped liquor into communal drink, which were referred to as "block and fall" because "you would walk a block and fall."
- 04:40 Hoersch's parents did not attend these parties often but referenced them.
- 04:48 Father never directly spoke to her about working on atomic bomb. Hoersch expresses yearning to visit museum in Oak Ridge.
- 05:11 Interviewer asks if there is anything not covered in last session that Hoersch wished to revisit. She recalls childhood games in winter, sledding on hill in a farmer's field. Also played in woods and collected animals from streams. Fondly remembers it as an "interesting, fun childhood."
- 06:25 Interviewer transitions to Hoersch's career as an assistant professor of geology at La Salle University. Began teaching at La Salle in 1977. Only other jobs include part-time as a student in the summer. Worked for the Chester County Library covering books in the basement of library [in 1969]. Remembers watching the moon landing in the library. Also worked on circulation desk, which was much more enjoyable. Experienced gender discrimination at this job because men hired to unload books and were paid higher salary than women. Wanted to unload

books but not allowed because of her gender.

07:48 Hired at La Salle because of mentors at Bryn Mawr College. Founder of geology department at La Salle [Brother Nicholas Sullivan] hired some people from Bryn Mawr as professors [adjuncts and one-year appointments], which evolved into the department. Mentors from alma mater suggested Hoersch apply as La Salle because her mother still lived in area and her father recently passed away.

Also had interview with Owens Corning [insulation company]. Work would be doing research on best way to produce fiberglass and teaching employees at fiberglass plants. Explains scientific process behind the production of fiberglass. Chose not to work there because it was not geology and was also interested in teaching. She also came to La Salle because of its reputation as being a reputable place to teach, unlike research-based institutions. Notes that other job paid more, but she wanted to teach.

Faced gender discrimination in interview with Owens Corning; was asked “we have all men in our research lab. Do you have a problem working with men?” She answered, “No, as long as they don’t have a problem working with me.”

12:27 Hoersch states that entering the male dominated La Salle faculty did not faze her that much, as she was used to it since the field of geology was also male-oriented. She notes that even geology students at La Salle at the time tended to be male but goes on to say that now there are as many if not more women who are environmental science and geology majors. Hoersch found support in the person who hired her [Dr. Henry “Hank” Bart], who was also the chair of the geology department and somewhat new to La Salle himself. Bart had fired the man who previously held Hoersch’s position and wanted to make sure she had the support she needed to succeed. As a result, Hoersch felt better braced for some of the sexism and discrimination she faced from other faculty in Holroyd and in faculty senate meetings.

13:46 Hoersch describes the kinds of discrimination she faced while in her position such as being talked over or thoughts and observations not being listened too. She recalls one senate meeting where she would suggest something, and it was ignored and then a man would make the same suggestion and it was considered a good idea by the group. Hoersch says a business professor [Dr. John Reardon] supported her by saying that the idea sounded good when she said it too.

Hoersch remembers that some students were not enamored with some of the male faculty members because they didn’t want women on the campus. Hoersch says there were maybe 6-7 women faculty members at the time.

15:11 Sometimes Hoersch spoke out against discrimination but other times felt it was not worth the fight and hoped things would change. There were women faculty who would get together and hold potlucks. There was a group of women faculty

called the Professional Women of La Salle, whose name, Hoersch recalls, was a bit controversial because women who were in assistantship roles (such as secretaries) felt that they were professional women as well. The group would get together and discuss events that would happen on campus and try to find ways to make life better for women on campus. She remembers there was an accreditation visit by Middle States and the group of women had not been consulted about what was happening on campus, and so the group submitted a report they had written to the committee. The incident resulted in more support for women on campus as other community members became more aware of the discrimination and issues faced by women.

- 16:38 Says the Professional Women of La Salle did not represent all women on campus, only the faculty. Hoersch recalls that Dr. Barbara Millard, a professor in the English department and later the first woman Dean of Arts and Sciences, brought her husband to a faculty Christmas party where the wives of male faculty members were given boxes of candy by president of La Salle [Br. Patrick Ellis]. Millard's husband asked if he could get one too when the pair was not offered the candy.
- 18:04 Hoersch feels that cases of discrimination and prejudice against women got better over time. Feels that the addition of many more women faculty members, especially those that came with the addition of the nursing program, promoted this change. She says that today there are more women on the faculty senate than men and also more women than men who are students at La Salle.
- 19:20 Says there were quite a few women that were students on campus before Hoersch arrived in 1977. Notes that some nuns took classes on campus before 1970 so there was some essence of co-ed before women were officially admitted. Says many universities also were going co-ed around this time.
- 20:10 Hoersch had a neighbor who was a Chestnut Hill College student in the night division classes before 1970. Says the neighbor had a professor who said to her, "I don't like having you in class, first of all you're not from La Salle, you're a woman and I don't approve of women in my classes, and also you're wearing a Villanova sweatshirt." Hoersch believes that was the one and only class her neighbor took at La Salle.
- 21:03 Says that the role of women on campus has changed a lot and is especially evident by the composition of the officers of student organizations. Notes that all the presidents of SGA were men when she first arrived on campus but in the past 20 years there have been women who held the position. Mentions the editor-in-chief of the Collegian [Selena Bemak] is a woman when previously there had been many men. Notes the introduction of sororities when the campus became co-ed. Says there are now many more senior award recipients who are women and other ethnicities than before and that it is now expected that award winners come from those groups.

22:28

Describes how the University changed from a college to University in the 1980s. Changes include obtaining University status to compete with other schools, adding the School of Nursing and Health Sciences, receiving AACSB accreditation for the School of Business. Hoersch notes, however, that this accreditation split the faculty because professors in the School of Business received market salaries. This led to tension among faculty.

Notes change in size of campus since her arrival at La Salle. Additions of South Campus [including development of Communication Center, St. Neumann and St. Basil Residence Halls] and West Campus contributed to expansion of La Salle's perimeter.

Discusses renovation of Holroyd and temporary move of life sciences to Germantown Hospital property. Had to pack all supplies and instrumentation for move. Recollects geology department temporarily residing in x-ray department. Hoersch states "it was kind of weird because you knew you were in these rooms once occupied by patients." Remembers placement of chemistry department on same floor as operating rooms. Notes "they had a CAT scan over there. And they would pick patients up and wheel them down the hall past students and faculty members to go into this CAT scan."

Describes other campus renovations and developments in her time here, including that of College Hall, Administration Building [formerly known as Lawrence Library], Connelly Library, and Founders' Hall. Notes change not just in campus appearance, but also in general composition of faculty, staff and administration, including first woman lay president of La Salle [Colleen Hanycz]. Knew of Hanycz's appointment as president from working in President's Office as executive assistance. Recalls being hired by Brother Joseph Burke, as well as working for his successors, Nick Giordano, Brother Michael McGinniss, Jim Gallagher and Colleen Hanycz.

Notes significant change in administration, as many women now administrators at La Salle. Hoersch was the only woman on the president's team. Experienced same issues there as with faculty senate. Reminisces how male faculty members would always quote lines and crack inside jokes about the Godfather movies. Reflects on how things got better when other women began to serve on presidents' team. Discusses how ACE fellows [American Council on Education] brought in another woman to team [Sister Ellen Dower]. Later, Dr. Margaret "Maggie" McGuinness joined the team as the Vice President for Mission. The women often got together "and discussed what was happening."

0:32:29

Duties of Executive Assistant to the President include serving as liaison to Board of Trustees for the President's Office, taking minutes for Board of Trustees, creating and overseeing Heritage Week [previously known as Charter Week], hosting major speakers [such as Sister Helen Prejean], handling complaints,

serving as liaison to the honorary degree committee, working on commencement and working as liaison officer to Middle States. In addition to working in the President's Office, she continued to teach classes, usually teaching one course per semester.

0:38:08 Left position in President's Office in 2017 after Dr. Hanycz was hired. Decided to end career at La Salle as faculty member, though her department [geology] was discontinued as part of program prioritization on campus. Then became the program direct for environmental science [formerly under geology]. Hoersch and colleagues [Dr. Jim Church and Dr. Florence Ling] just revised environmental science curriculum, which received approval from the University to begin in fall 2019.

Mentions tenure as Associate Dean of Arts and Sciences from 1986 to 1993. Hired by Br. James Muldoon for this position. States she oversaw academic probation/suspension process and started First Year Experience program [now Freshman Seminars]. Also headed committee which chose book read by incoming freshman every year. Started this initiative because it was felt that orientation was not academic enough.

Before becoming associate dean, Hoersch worked on the Pre-College Counseling Program (PCCP) alongside two other faculty members [Brother Gerry Molyneaux and John Reardon]. This program morphed into Day One, which eventually disbanded and led to the establishment of Exploriation.

Mentions that La Salle also changed from being 75% commuter when Hoersch first started, to more than 75% residential. Notes that they built more residence halls.

0:43:40 Hoersch always knew that she wanted to teach. As a child during summer vacation would pretend she was a teacher. In eighth grade, decided she wanted to be either a middle or high school earth and space science teacher. This occurred due to her eighth-grade teacher and her father. Initially went to Bryn Mawr to become middle school teacher but was eventually convinced to become a university faculty member.

0:45:07 Describes major research projects, including three major and one minor project. The minor project was undergraduate research featuring chemical analyses of igneous rocks in Pennsylvania. Graduate research included studying chert nodules imbedded in limestone. Involved in a magnetic study to determine shape of granite. As a faculty member, worked on projects with Southeastern Pennsylvania rocks. Also related research samples with another researcher.

0:49:44 Interviewer asks for clarification of spelling of "conodonts."

0:50:07 Describes how she managed to work on research products while still teaching and working in the President's Office. Explains she eventually gave up that work to because the work load of teaching and her other duties made her too busy. Brings

up one project she forgot to mention in, the Institute for the Advancement of Mathematics and Science Teaching (IAMST), which was funded by a \$2.5 million grant. She ran IAMST alongside a colleague [Dr. David Smith], who acted as the director for the institute. The grant funded equipment purchases and renovated labs, among other things. According to Hoersch, she “almost had a three-pronged job: President’s office, teaching, and being the director of this IAMST.” Notes that she also served as grant administrator and did accounting for grant. Explains that Smith eventually left, and the grant ran out. Another faculty member [Joe Merlino] received some grants from the National Science Foundation (NSF) for looking at mathematics teaching in K-12 schools.

0:53:16 Expressed sadness but understanding of elimination of geology department at La Salle due to the lack of majors. Partly blames the University for not marketing the program enough.

0:53:58 Hoersch notes that few remaining geology majors sad over program ending, but she expresses hope for the future of the environmental science program.

0:54:30 Clarifies that geology, environmental science and physics used to be joint program. When they split, she was the logical person to take over as head of environmental science.

0:55:04 Since being added to the biology department, the environmental science curriculum has been revised. Has since picked up quite a few biology students now minoring in environmental science after chair of biology department [Dr. David Zuzga] had Hoersch speak to students at department meeting.

0:56:19 Believes the University will change within the next 10 years based on the state of higher education in general and on funding for student financial aid. Also depends on how federal and state governments are looking at programs “in terms of their being accountable for students obtaining jobs when they leave.” Discusses her belief of trend of students thinking they must get jobs in their major after graduation. Expresses this as problem particularly among liberal arts majors. Afraid that schools are going to become more like trade schools. Believes role of assessment changing how professors are teaching.

Hopes that La Salle will not be a victim of the downsizing of higher education institution in the United States. Variety of factors influencing this, such as reduction in 18-year-olds in the northeastern United States. Also concerned about K-12 educational system as students come into La Salle not academically prepared. This proposes challenges for retaining faculty members. Mentions other issues plaguing the University, such as monetary issues, salary increases, retirement matches, healthcare and others. Believes that maybe a consolidation of Catholic schools in the area might occur. Hesitates to predict what will happen to La Salle in 10 years, but “I certainly think teaching will change,” especially with the role of technology.

1:02:53 Hoersch plans on retiring at the end of the 2019 school year. In retirement, plans

to travel more, do more digital photography, and train her dogs.

- 1:03:41 Office phone rings. Recording pauses momentarily.
- 1:03:47 Recording resumes after pausing for phone call. Interviewer explains reason for break in audio.
- 1:03:57 Discusses her therapy dogs, traveling, photography, being an adjunct professor, and playing golf.
- 1:04:50 Explains how her professional life affected her personal life, particularly how she put off opportunities to establish relationships with men. Says she feels it is tough to establish a relationship now because some men are intimidated by women with advanced degrees.
- Describes how she has many friends from high school, college, graduate school, and many other facets of both her professional and social life. Says she has never been married and has no children.
- 1:06:48 Discusses therapy dogs [Laddie and Dyson] in more detail. Had cats growing up. Tried to have a cat after her mother died, but discovered she is allergic to cats but not dogs.
- 1:07:35 Hoersch got involved working with therapy dogs when she adopted Laddie and took him to obedience training, which led to more classes. She got Laddie trained both as an agility and therapy dog, “but he was always more interested in being a therapy dog.” Explains purchasing Dyson from breeder and how she plans on training him in retirement.
- 1:10:56 Conclusion of interview, statement of gratitude from interviewer to interviewee.
- 1:11:08 **END OF SECOND INTERVIEW SESSION AND RECORDING**