

Matt Deininger
Formal Interview Questions
Interview with Brother Emery Mollenhauer

Part 1 – Biographical and Family Information

1. Do I have your permission to record?
2. What is your full secular name?
3. When and where were you born?
4. What are your parents' names?
5. Where did your parents come from? What did they do for a living?
6. Were you named after someone else? Is there a story associated with your parents' decision to give you this name?
7. Who are your siblings?
8. Who is the oldest? Youngest? What do you siblings do (work)?
9. In which neighborhood did you grow up? What street did you live on? What was the neighborhood like in terms of appearance, safety, occupations, residents, etc?
10. Did your family move often? Did your family make any major moves and if so, why?
11. Can you remember what it was like growing up as a child in the Depression Era?
12. Can you describe your house?
13. Were there any special belongings your family owned?
14. Did you have any family pets?
15. What were the rules of the house?
16. How important was religion and faith in your family?
17. What church did you attend? How frequently?
18. Where was the church located?
19. Who was the pastor? Did he influence your eventual decision to enter the Christian Brothers?
20. Is the church still there today?

Part 2 – Educational Background

1. What elementary school did you attend?
2. Where was the school located?
3. How far was the school from your house? How did you get there?
4. How many years did you attend this school?
5. Can you remember any influential teachers from this school?
6. Do you have any special memories about attending this school?
7. Is the school still there today?
8. Which high school did you attend?
9. Where was the school located?
10. How far was the school from your house? How did you get there?
11. How would you describe your academic performance?
12. Did you receive any special acknowledgements for your academic achievements?
13. Did you participate in any extracurricular activities?
14. Did you receive any special recognition while participating in these activities?
15. Did you have a favorite subject?
16. Can you remember any influential teachers from this school?
17. Do you have any special memories about attending this school?
18. What attracted you to Catholic University?

19. Why did you select English as your major?
20. Did you always want to be a teacher or professor?

Part 3 – Christian Brother

1. In your own words, who are the Christian Brothers?
2. When did you choose to become a Christian Brother?
3. Why did you choose to become a Christian Brother?
4. How did you receive your religious name?
5. Were there any significant events that helped you decide to become a Christian Brother?
6. Please describe briefly how one becomes a Christian Brother? How long does the process take?
7. How much input did you have in your assignments? Were you given a choice of where you would go?
8. What is the essence of the Christian Brothers' philosophy on education?
9. Why were you sent to Rome?
10. Describe your year in Rome. What kinds of activities were required of you?
11. What did you learn about the Christian Brothers that you did not know before visiting the mother house?
12. What lessons did you take away from your experiences in Rome?
13. What message or example of the Christian Brothers, if any, do you hope students take with them when graduating from LaSalle?
14. How do you believe most people perceive the Christian Brothers?
15. Can you think of a time when being a Christian Brother may have conflicted with decisions you had to make as an administrator?
16. On June 3, 1995, LaSalle University celebrated your Fiftieth anniversary as a Christian Brother. What do you remember about the event?
17. What is the state of the Brotherhood today?

Part 4 – Career

1. What did you do between graduating from Catholic University and becoming a teacher at Central Catholic High School?
2. What were your first impressions about moving to Pittsburgh and the city itself?
3. Describe the environment at Central Catholic High School.
4. What were your teaching responsibilities?
5. How did you become involved with moderating the school publications? What were these publications?
6. In your opinion, what is the value or importance of Catholic Education? Based on your experience and career, how has that importance changed?
7. What place does Catholic education have in our society today?
8. You have been published in the past by the Macmillan Company. Briefly identify and describe these publications.
9. Describe your experience writing compared to editing. Which do you like more? Why?
10. You have also published a variety of articles. Which article are you most proud of? Why?
11. Have you had any recent publications or are there any future publications in the works?
12. How and when did you find out you were being assigned to LaSalle University?
13. How much knowledge did you have about the school prior to arriving?
14. What were your initial feelings about LaSalle?
15. What were your initial feelings about returning home to Philadelphia?
16. Describe the neighborhood surrounding LaSalle when you first arrived.
17. How has the neighborhood changed during your tenure at LaSalle?
18. Describe the physical campus upon your arrival. How large was it?
19. Describe the makeup of the student body when you arrived.
20. How has the makeup of the student body changed during your tenure?

21. How did you become a candidate for Dean of the Evening Division?
22. Do you recall how many candidates were considered? Who were they?
23. When were you selected as Dean of the Evening Division?
24. Describe your responsibilities as Dean of the Evening Division.
25. What were some of the challenges you faced early on as Dean?
26. What were some of the goals you had for the Evening Division?
27. What ideas did you have for expanding curriculum and academic rigor?
28. How has curriculum and rigor changed over your tenure at LaSalle?
29. How well were your ideas implemented?
30. Do you recall the demeanor of the first women students admitted to the Evening Division?
31. What was the student body's reaction to enrolling women in the Evening Division?
32. What challenges were presented by allowing women to enroll at LaSalle?
33. What were some milestones reached by the Evening Division during your tenure?
34. What special programs were created during your term as Dean?
35. What were the circumstances that led to your promotion to Academic Vice President?
36. When was the title changed to Provost? Why?
37. What were your responsibilities as Academic VP/Provost?
38. What were some of the challenges you faces as Academic VP?
39. What role did you have in bringing women faculty to LaSalle?
40. What was the reaction to the introduction of women faculty members?
41. Which early women faculty members stick out and why?
42. Which majors were introduced during your tenure?
43. When did you become Corporation Vice President?
44. What were your responsibilities as Corporation Vice President?
45. How difficult was it to juggle the responsibilities as Academic VP/Provost and Corporate Vice President?
46. Discuss the progress of the Graduate School at LaSalle.
47. Describe the circumstances that led LaSalle to university status?
48. What were the circumstances surrounding your resignation as Provost in June of 1990?
49. What courses have you taught as a member of the English Department?
50. What has been your most favorite course to teach? Why?
51. Were there any crises financial or otherwise that you witnessed during your time at LaSalle? How did you deal with them?
52. How did the physical campus change during the course of your time at LaSalle?
53. Which changes to the campus did you have involvement with?
54. What was LaSalle like during the Vietnam War?
55. How was LaSalle affected by the Civil Rights Movement?
56. How did you become involved with St. Charles Seminary?
57. What were the circumstances that led to your participation on the Board of Advisors of St. Charles Seminary?
58. What were your duties as a board member?
59. Do you still serve on the Academic Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees of St. Charles Seminary?
60. What is the point of the Middle States Associations?
61. How did you become involved with the Middle States Association evaluations of universities?
62. What were the circumstances of the separation of LaSalle College and LaSalle College High School?
63. How did you become involved with the first board setup for LaSalle College High School?
64. What was the extent of your involvement with LaSalle College High School?
65. How did you become involved with Hahnemann University Hospital?

66. What responsibilities did you have as a member of the Hahnemann Board of Trustees?
67. What brings you enjoyment as an educator?
68. What personal honors have been distinguished upon you by the university?
69. What do you think your legacy will be? How do you think you will be remembered by your peers?