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**Andrew Huse (AH):** Today is April 25th, 2005. My name is Andrew Huse, program assistant for the Florida Studies Center. Today, we continue a series of interviews in our studio in the Tampa campus library with USF faculty, students, staff and alumni in order to commemorate 50 years of university history. Today we'll be interviewing Dr. Mohinder Jain, who came to USF—when did you originally come?

**Mohinder Jain (MJ):** I—you mean go to school here?

AH: Uh-huh.

MJ: I [started] USF in 1964.

AH: Okay.

MJ: Yeah.

AH: And she came as a student. And currently she's a distinguished alumni, graduate, physician, you name it. So, good afternoon.

MJ: Good afternoon.

AH: Thank you for being with us today.

MJ: It's my pleasure.

AH: Well first, let's just talk a little bit. I was—I was reading over your experiences and everything. And first, let's—in a nut shell, let's try to get you from India-Pakistan<sup>1</sup> to the United States and then the USF area. What brought you here, et cetera?

MJ: Okay. I was born in—at Karachi<sup>2</sup>, which was undivided India. When the country got divided, I [along] with my parents, brothers, sisters, moved to New Delhi, India where I got my—most of the education. [I] came to United States. I have been a Fulbright scholar, as well as a National Science Foundation scholar. And coming to Sarasota area—Manatee [area] is a very interesting story. (MJ Laughs) I was in Delhi University [University of Delhi] and there were two professors, one from Florida State and one from Indiana University. So, we were in a summer institute for biology teachers and while we were talking I told them that, "I'm planning on going to United States." So, the professor from Florida State said, "Why don't you come to Florida?" So I said, "It's not I who decides. It's actually the Washington office." [It] used to be HEW, H-E-W. They decide.

So, he came back and he called [the] Washington office and told them that he wants me to teach at Riverview High School in Sarasota. So, I taught there and during summers I went to Florida State through [the] National Science Foundation's summer institutes to do my master's. So that's how we came to Florida.

AH: Okay.

MJ: And ever since, lived here. (MJ Laughs)

AH: Yeah. You must have liked it.

MJ: Yes. My husband loves it here, yes. And he doesn't want to go to snow. (MJ Laughs)

AH: So, you came down there to teach? To Riverview [High School]?

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<sup>1</sup>Before the division of British India in 1947, the countries of India and Pakistan were undivided.

<sup>2</sup>Karachi is the capital of the Pakistani province of Sindh. It is currently the most populous city in Pakistan.

MJ: I taught—

AH: Okay.

MJ: — I taught biology and physical science.

AH: So, what year did you arrive in Sarasota?

MJ: In '64.

AH: Okay.

MJ: So, I taught at Riverview from '64 to '66.

AH: Okay.

MJ: And meanwhile I went and did my—during summer—my master's in science education also.

AH: Okay. So that was at USF then?

MJ: At USF—we came to USF, but at that time it was a growing university. And also, the National Science Foundation, you know, wherever they had the summer institute, I just went there. (MJ Laughs)

AH: Okay, I see.

MJ: It was not my choice. (MJ Laughs)

AH: I see. So, what was your experience like teaching in the '60s then?

MJ: Teaching in [the] United States, two things stand out. One is that I came from a big capital of the country, so it was not because—in India the schools get girl’s schools, boy’s schools or co-educational.

AH: Okay.

MJ: But, I taught in a coeducational school. So, for me teaching here was not that—I feel students are the same all over. Except two things which stood out. One was the student pairing off, see we used to have, like, five [or] six friends, boys and girls will go out and do things. Here you saw two, mostly. (MJ Laughs)

AH: Okay.

MJ: And another was the football game. See to me—first time they asked, the newspaper reporter [asked], “What do I think about the football game, the homecoming?” And I told them, “Well in our country, if you play for the ball, it’s a foul to touch another player and here [it] seems like everyone is going for the players.” (MJ laughs)

AH: So what—after 1966 then, what—?(Both Talk)

MJ: (Both Talk) Okay. I came to—we visited the University of South Florida, and it reminds me of small building and vast land all over the place, like, big land was there. And you know, only there was one university inn. That was the place where, if professors and other people came, they could stay. No—all this growth you see around, no eating places, no fast food, nothing was there. But when I came to visit, I felt that someone had a vision, really. Because to get so much land, because I had visited all the other public universities as well as private universities in Florida. I felt that every place you have the university and then the town is around it, there’s no place for growth. Whereas the University of [South] Florida can grow and grow. And that really came out—whatever had the vision, came out really true, now.

AH: Okay. And what were your academic experiences like here?

MJ: My— I did my doctoral work here. And we had classes in Manatee county because we had a cluster-like group of educators in a class. But at the end, after the education specialist degree, there were not many people left, so we came to [the Tampa] campus also.

AH: Okay.

MJ: And [I] had a great experience. I mean, the Department of Education and all were very friendly. They understood people working during [the] daytime and going to school in the evening. And, I think we have carried those friendships even after today.

AH: Okay. So, then what was your next step then? After—

MJ: Okay, after finishing my doctorate, I was still working. But I also had promised my dad, long back. See my parents believed in education. And I'm talking about 67, 68 years back when women did not get education. So—and I had promised my dad that I will get a doctorate. So, he passed away but I did give my dissertation, I dedicated it to my mom and dad, both who believe in education. After that, well I'm a member of the Alumni Association, a life member. In 1985, Joe Tomaino<sup>3</sup> was the director of [the] Alumni Association, and he asked people if they will help out with the scholarship for the students, and 14 families or couples agreed to do it. So we had, I think, two from St. Pete, one from Fort Myers. At that time, we had a campus there. We were from—my husband and I were from Sarasota-Manatee, and the rest were here. And we all said that we'll contribute money for ten years. So, my husband and I both have been on the president's council since then.

AH: Okay. So what—what prompted you to get involved? I mean, I know Joe Tomaino asked but—(Both Talk)

MJ. Yeah. And, I think after Joe Tomaino and Lee Pachioli(??) and others were—no more there. Lisa Lewis is great. So, she kept us informed also of what was happening. But I think the main thing was because [the] three of us—my husband Kailash, our daughter Anila Jain, Dr. Anila Jain, and I—all believe in education. We really believe in education. So, she decided and we decided—she came to USF. She graduated from [the] University of South Florida. So, enrollment was there—first as me being [a] student [to then] being a parent. (MJ Laughs)

AH: Yeah.

MJ: So, it continued that way. And then, once she's now involved—we are all involved a lot.

AH: Okay. Yeah, she returned. She came back to—right? She came to Sarasota around that same time?

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<sup>3</sup>Joseph (Joe) Tomaino was with the University of South Florida since its pioneering days. He retired in 2015 after 50 years of service to the university.

MJ: Right.

AH: Okay.

MJ: Yeah. And, then we are involved here, and we are also involved with the Sarasota-Manatee—(Both Talk)

AH: Of course.

MJ: —campus. And I'm on their community leadership council, also.

AH: Okay. So, when did you get involved with that?

MJ: They started about four, five years back.

AH: Okay.

MJ: So I was with the first group. (MJ Laughs)

AH: Okay. So, what was that like? Starting in a group like that? What were your duties like?

MJ: See, what happened was—you know how the things changed at the state level?

AH: Yes.

MJ: From the Board of Regents to Board of Governors and all that. So at that time, we had the Board of Trustees at USF, and then the Community Leadership Council was formed over there—

AH: Okay.

MJ: —on that campus. So, we have been involved with practically everything from the building of the Crosley Estate, onward to other things.

AH: Okay.

MJ: Technology and all that.

AH: Oh yeah. And, between your daughter and your son-in-law I've heard a lot about the—

MJ: We are on that, but—

AH: Excuse me?

MJ: Can we shut it off for a second?

*Pause in recording*

MJ: Go ahead.

AH: So there's—yeah. Obviously, all kind of exciting developments going on down there. You got the Distinguished Alumni Award, right?

MJ: Yes, I did get the Distinguished National Alumni Association [award] also.

AH: Okay.

MJ: And that was— I was humbled.

AH: Okay.

MJ: And, it was great to be recognized by the university.



AH: Yeah. What do you think prompted that recognition? Was it your involvement in the community?

MJ: I think my involvement in education in the community. See, I have two degrees. I have the one [degree] in education, which is interdisciplinary education curriculum and instruction and also [a] minor in early leadership.

AH: Okay.

MJ: And then, also I have a degree—MD.

AH: Okay.

MJ: And that's—I worked in preventive medicine.

AH: I see.

MJ: And all my life I have worked in [a] social kind of setting. [It] means work[ing] with underprivileged children mostly. So, I spent ten years of that with the Head Start program<sup>4</sup>.

AH: Okay. Yeah, so tell us about that. How did you get involved with Head Start?

MJ: What happened was that I have always been involved in the community where we lived. And then I was thinking about going for Peace Corps<sup>5</sup>. And then, the thing is when you have a family you think twice. Plus, I have been in education all my life, like, I got the first college degree at age 18 and my last degree at 51 years of age, okay.

AH: Wow.

MJ: Then I set to go away again. So, I have been looking around to do something and everyone was saying, “Oh you have too many qualifications. And we can't pay you.” So, I was sitting at an

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<sup>4</sup>The Head Start program began as part of President Lyndon B. Johnson's Great Society campaign. Today, Head Start provides early childhood education, health, nutrition and parent involvement services to low income children and their families.

<sup>5</sup>Peace Corps is a civilian organization sponsored by the US government that sends volunteers to instruct citizens of underdeveloped countries in execution of industrial, education, agricultural, and health programs.

American Association of University Women Leadership luncheon and I said, “No, I’m not looking for big bucks. What I’m looking for is to do something. What I feel that is needed in the community.” So, by chance the director of Head Start was sitting there. So, she says, “Mona I have a job for you. But I can’t pay you.” (AH Laughs) But she was good enough to tell me that I can have my own hours, you know? Working and all that. So that’s how I got involved and worked with them.

AH: So, for ten years, right?

MJ: Ten years.

AH: Okay.

MJ: So, I retired first from educational institution, then retired from Head Start. And again, I’m working with the mature women and men—

AH: Okay.

MJ: —who want to go back to school. And I’m talking about like, who went to school, like, in ’50s, ’60s and ’70s.

AH: Yes.

MJ: So, I’m helping them out to go back to school. And I work part time with Bethune–Cookman College<sup>6</sup> in Daytona Beach, but we have a site at Bradenton.

AH: Yeah. I want to talk more about that. But before we leave Head Start behind—what did you do there? Did you teach? Did you advise?

MJ: Yeah. You are talking about Head Start?

AH: Yes.

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<sup>6</sup>Founded in 1904, Bethune-Cookman University (formerly Bethune-Cookman College) is a private, historically black university located in Daytona Beach, Florida.

MJ: Okay. [At] Head Start, I was the director of Health Services.

AH: Okay.

MJ: And [it] being a small program to start with, I was doing all the health services: mental health, physical health, vision, hearing, dental, plus nutrition. And then I was also doing disability services. So, I had quite a few—

AH: You sure did.

MJ: —areas. (MJ Laughs) But [the] only thing is, I had lived in the community and worked in the community—that I could get the best health Headwise recouncil.

AH: Okay.

MJ: In the whole nation, it's known that we had the best advisory. See sometimes it's hard to get busy people like physicians or gen [general practitioners] to get on. And my health HeadWise committee had from parents, to staff, to physicians, nurses, OT/PT. So—

AH: Wow.

MJ: And, I feel that they really help out the children a lot.

AH: Oh sure.

MJ: And that—and also [the] Head Start program has children and families, see? So, the parents can go to school also.

AH: Oh okay.

MJ: And Head Start pays for it, so it's not—it's like educating the whole family. And like you know, I know if children are healthy they can learn. So, the first thing [that] comes is the health —

AH: Okay.

MJ: —nutrition, then comes education.

AH: I see. And then, Bethune- Cookman. How did you get involved over there?

MJ: Bethune-Cookman. What happened was that a friend of mine who went to Bethune-Cookman at the time of segregation when she was 14 years old—she's from a very well-known family in Bradenton, Rogers family. She started the site, off site, you know? And she twisted my arm. She was working in [an] elementary school. I was working at Bayshore High School at that time—to teach.

AH: Okay.

MJ: That's how I started. So, I was teaching it and when she retired and another coordinator left, then I became the coordinator. So, I'm now managing the program, both in Manatee and Sarasota counties.

AH: Oh really? Okay. Wow, you have kept really busy, haven't you?

MJ: But, we work with USF also. Like whenever they need minority students or they ask for something, we are always building to do things.

AH: So one of my questions, I guess, I have for you too is this: you know, being brought up originally in the society where education of women wasn't encouraged. I mean, it really had the opposite effect on you, right? I mean, it really seems like it—it sent you on a course of—

MJ: Yes.

AH: —of constant education. And not just education for yourself but for others. Others who might not normally have it.

MJ: See, when you're talking about the education, I'm talking about education when it was nowhere, [not] even in [the] United States, India, England, and other countries for women, you know?

AH: Yeah. Yeah. You're absolutely right.

MJ: And, at that time also—and plus, I think the turning point was that we were very well off in India. I mean, when it was undivided. My dad was chief of police, my mom was [a] housewife, [I had] seven siblings. We all were going to school and then all of a sudden partition happened, and we had to leave everything. So, when you have only the clothes you are wearing and nothing else, you don't know where the next meal is going to come.

AH: Yeah.

MJ: So, that was the turning point where we said, "What is the most important thing? Education." Like my mom used to say, "No one can steal it."

AH: That's right.

MJ: If they borrow it, it becomes—it gets spread more. (MJ Laughs)

AH: Yeah, that's right.

MJ: So that, I think, was the most influential thing that happened in my life, really.

AH: Because even if you're left only with the clothes on your back, you still have—

MJ: I still have that. And coming to United States, the same thing happened. See, India being a developing country, the Reserve Bank of India<sup>7</sup> will only allow you [a] few hundred dollars. So, when we came here I had [a] hundred dollars and nothing else, except [an] education. But people were very wonderful. Mr. John Woolever has been my local guardian. I still respect him. He found me a place to stay and told them that I'll pay them at the end of the month when I get my first salary. (MJ Laughs)

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<sup>7</sup>The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is the central institution of the country which handles monetary policies of the Indian Rupee. It was set up in 1935 during British rule in accordance with the provisions of the Reserve Bank Act, 1934.

AH: (AH Laughs) Okay.

MJ: That kind of things. So, all of this and every time I thanked him he [would] say, “No. Just spread it.”

AH: Yeah. Well you’ve definitely honored that promise.

MJ: Yes. I think. He’s still living, both he and his wife. And then Mr. Fordyce, who was in India, I still have it—keep in touch with him.

AH: Oh excellent.

MJ: Professor Fordyce, yeah. So—

AH: So, what haven’t we covered here?

MJ: Okay. I met Mother Teresa<sup>8</sup>. That was another— (Both Talk)

AH: Oh yes. Please tell us about this. Yeah.

MJ: I think Mother Teresa—because when I went to have [an] audience with her, I was thinking, “Should I stay in Kolkata<sup>9</sup> and do something.” And while we were talking, she says she was opening two centers at that time: one in Miami and one in New York for homosexual people. And HIV was—she was very much involved in that. And she asked me, she says, “Well there are things happening in [the] United States and the community. [The] United States is a great country, but there’s a need.”

AH: Oh yes.

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<sup>8</sup>Mother Teresa was born Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu in Skopje, Macedonia on August 26<sup>th</sup>, 1910. Mother Teresa was the Founder of the Order of the Missionaries of Charity, a Roman Catholic congregation of women dedicated to helping the poor. Considered one of the 20<sup>th</sup> century’s greatest humanitarians, she was canonized as Saint Teresa of Calcutta[Kolkata] in 2016.

<sup>9</sup>The capital of the Indian State of West Bengal, near the Hooghly River. In 2001 the government of West Bengal officially changed the capital city’s name from Calcutta to Kolkata in order to reflect its original Bengali pronunciation.

MJ: Okay? So that's how I got more and more involved in that. And—

AH: And you just happened to see her on the street, right? You were just walking down the street.

MJ: No. It was not. Actually, yeah, the way that it was written was that I just met her on the street. No. Actually, I had corresponded with the home.

AH: Oh okay.

MJ: You know, they call it the Missionaries of Charity<sup>10</sup>, yes? And we—I went to Kolkata and wanted to meet with her. But she was so busy, that it was getting—so one day we just found out that [at] four o'clock she gives—she comes on the balcony to welcome and wish people. So, we just showed up. And then I went up there and we started talking—

AH: Oh great.

MJ: —about different things.

AH: Okay.

MJ: Yeah.

AH: Let me see— and you were recognized by the United Negro College Fund<sup>11</sup> [UNCF]?

MJ: Yes, I was.

AH: In 2002?

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<sup>10</sup>Founded by Mother Teresa, the Order of the Missionaries of Charity is Roman Catholic Congregation established in 1950. The Order is dedicated to help the poor, sick, elderly and those who have become a burden to society.

<sup>11</sup>The UNCF, also known as the United Fund, is an American philanthropic organization that funds scholarships for black students and general scholarship funds for private historically black colleges and universities.

MJ: Yes.

AH: And, for your career and education. And was that with—was there a connection with Head Start there or was it just an overall—?

MJ: No. It was overall.

AH: Okay.

MJ: Yes. Overall educational. And plus, I was helping. See, Bethune–Cookman is a historically black college.

AH. Okay, yes.

MJ: So, it's one of thirty-nine colleges where the United Negro College Fund money is used. (MJ Laughs) And, I am on their steering committee also.

AH: Oh okay. For the whole—?

MJ: No. Not the whole. The Sarasota–Manatee—

AH: Okay. And then I see another thing here. You received a proclamation from the County Commissioners of Sarasota?

MJ: Right.

AH: And so, you have your own day? You had your own day. (MJ Laughs) Dr. Mona Jain Day, at Sarasota.

MJ: Yes. Thank you.

AH: So that was an overall, kind of a lifetime achievement award too?



MJ: Yeah.

AH: Because you've done so much in that—(Both Talk)

MJ: Yeah, I did.

AH: —local area.

MJ: The City of Bradenton also recognized me. But I think, when they recognized me, I feel they are recognizing all the people who were involved. It's not one person doing it.

AH: Oh, of course not. Yeah.

MJ: Yeah. And the interesting thing is [that] the publisher of *The Bradenton Herald*<sup>12</sup>, she always called me “the conscience of the community.” (Both Laugh) Because, I have built up a trust where I can walk in any ethnic group, you know, and we can talk openly and say, “These are the good points. These points need to improve.” And there is a trust there, you know? Which makes a lot of difference to build bridges, you know, rather than walls.

AH: Oh sure. Yeah. So it's—do you think it's just because you dealt with all these other groups through education?

MJ: All these groups—education. Plus, I think when you believe human beings are the same and you are genuine, you know? Then it really shows up.

AH: Yeah.

MJ: And then the thing happening with American Medical Women's Association<sup>13</sup>. (Both Talk)

AH: Oh yeah. Yes. (Both Talk)

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<sup>12</sup>The hometown newspaper of Manatee County, Florida since 1922.

<sup>13</sup>The American Medical Women's Association or AMWA was founded in 1915 by Bertha Van Hoosen. The AMWA is an organization that functions at the local, national and international level to advance women in medicine and improve women's health. It provides and develops leadership, advocacy, education, mentoring and strategic alliances.

MJ: And that was surprising, that they recognized me—

AH: Yeah. The American—(Both Talk)

MJ: —at the national level, yeah.

AH: —Medical Women— the national level? Okay. And there's [the] community service award?

MJ: Right. And then, Delta Kappa Gamma<sup>14</sup> which is a key women educators—I think I'm the only one. Maybe it might have changed within a year or two. I'm the only one who got the local, state and international fellowship when I was doing my doctorate at University of South Florida.

AH: Oh wow. So—

MJ: I think that was something also.

AH: Yes. It's just amazing. And you're on a—well, you've served on the governor of Florida's Commission on Education—

MJ: Yes.

AH: — under Lawton Chiles<sup>15</sup>.

MJ: Lawton Chiles.

AH: And then the Florida Commission on the Status of Women<sup>16</sup>, is that current or was that on the—? (Both Talk)

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<sup>14</sup>Delta Kappa Gamma is an international society devoted to promoting professional and personal growth of women educators and excellence in education.

<sup>15</sup>An American politician that served as the 41<sup>st</sup> Governor of Florida from 1991 to 1998.

<sup>16</sup>A nonpartisan board established in 1991 with a focus on providing communication, promotion, and collaboration among hundreds of organizations working in 67 counties that are focused on the welfare of the women of Florida.

MJ: It's current to what happened. I think I'm the longest serving member. Actually, you have to go off after two terms, four years and four years.

AH: Okay.

MJ: So, [the] first time [the] late Governor Chiles appointed me, and then there has to be a staggering term, you know?

AH: Sure.

MJ: So, I served four years. And next time, I told them, "No. Let someone else get the chance." So, I went off, like, half of us went out after two years. So, six years I served, then I'm back again.

AH: So, what are your services like there? What do you do?

MJ: I think what we do is—we talked about women's issues, societal changes. And it's more positive. And every year we write an annual report, which is dealing with different issues. Like, one year it could be [the] legal system; one year it could be healthcare; another year [it] can be, you know, financial. So, every year we submit a report, which not only goes to [the] governor and cabinet and the legislators, but also to the media and others. So, we are involved in this. Then we also have a Women's Hall of Fame. And in [the] Women's Hall of Fame is—three women are recognized from all over Florida.

AH: Every year?

MJ: Yeah.

AH Okay.

MJ: And the former [USF] president Betty Castor<sup>17</sup> is on that wall.

AH: Okay.

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An interview of Betty Castor is available as part of the USF 50th Anniversary Oral History Project collection.

MJ: Outside the education department, yes.

AH: Yeah, I've heard of that before.

MJ: Yes.

AH: It's quite a—it's a great list. (Both Talk)

MJ: It's quite a place to list. (Both Talk)

AH: Yeah.

MJ: I mean the first—can you imagine? The first two had, like, so many thousand babies. [She was a] midwife, who delivered so many babies. The first person who flew an airplane. I mean, it's really a list—remarkable.

AH: Oh definitely.

MJ: It's like women pioneers, you know?

AH: Yeah.

MJ: And, men also helped. I'm the person who says that policy makers were men. Now of course, it's getting combined. (MJ Laughs)

AH: Yes.

MJ: So, it's always those who believed. So, I'm not talking about women only. I'm talking about women and men.

AH: Oh sure.

MJ: Those who believe in these things.

AH: Well, it's like they say, you know, "Behind any great man—good man is a great woman." Sometimes the opposite could be true too.

MJ: True. Yes.

AH: Yeah. So, let me see. What have we missed in all of this? There is just—

MJ: I think I want to say something about the—

AH: Please do.

MJ: —University of South Florida.

AH: Okay.

MJ: I mean, I can talk about international (inaudible), UNA USA<sup>18</sup> member, board member, UNIFEM<sup>19</sup> and others. A lot of—I don't want—I'm not good at talking about myself. (Both Laugh) But I would like to say, I think we are in a transition from the 20th to the 21st century. And I think someone had a vision, and we are putting that in reality. And, I would like to see, really, that there's some sort of a bridge, a connection to display water, air, and land, you know? Something unique, a legacy kind. So, I don't know whether the university is thinking of (MJ Laughs) anything at the central place like [a] mural, or a wall, or a bridge, or whatever.

AH: Okay.

MJ: I think it will be something great. And, I think we have a great university. Not [only] for education excellence, but as a research [institute] also.

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<sup>18</sup>The United Nations Association (UNA) of the United States of American is a non-profit membership organization dedicated to building understanding of and support for the ideals and work of the United Nations among the American people.

<sup>19</sup>The United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) provides financial and technical assistance to innovate programs and strategies that promote women's human rights, political participation and economic security.

AH: Oh yes.

MJ: And I was reading in a paper, just maybe a week [or] two weeks back that [the] University of South Florida education—School of Education was recognized as number six.

AH: Wow. That's huge.

MJ: (MJ Laughs) I think it's a great— (Both Talk)

AH: Yeah.

MJ: (Both Talk) Yeah. I think we have a unique campus. We have a diverse population of students, faculty, and others. I think that on the whole, this campus is doing great, but we can do extraordinary things also. I feel education is a journey, higher education is a destination, but I still call it a journey-like life.

AH: Oh yes. Well the journey continues even after you get the degree.

MJ: I think the great thing I have seen is grandparents coming here, their children coming, grandchildren coming and great grandchildren. At least I have seen myself—

AH: Yes.

MJ: Parents and their children and grandparents. I think it really gives a good link.

AH: Oh yeah.

MJ: And, not only that, our university has graduated students from all over the world.

AH: Oh yeah.

MJ: Which brings us together for global, you know? Positive—working together. I would like to see also—some programs are here. I know, because my daughter went to Jamaica during summer

time to study their health department. But I would like to see, [a] few more programs, more on the international level. Maybe start small, go during summers, you know? All over the five different continents and then work from there. And nowadays, we are talking about distance learning. (MJ Laughs)

AH: Yeah.

MJ: And, all those things. So, I think a lot could be accomplished, you know?

AH: Oh sure. Yeah. I mean, you—(Both Talk)

MJ: (Both Talk) You can measure—

AH: —you may have summer, you know, summer program. But then, the rest of the year they can stay in touch.

MJ: Stay in touch. Yeah.

AH: Be at distance learning, you know? Yeah.

MJ: Because communication channels are there. And now, with the computers and all that. I think to end it, I say [that] any university or almost none has achieved so much [as] what [the] University of South Florida has achieved in 50 years, you know? And, I think it's a remarkable achievement. Sometimes we are hard on ourselves; we always look for the things we have not done. But sometimes I think we need to pat ourselves at [on] the back also, and say, "What has been achieved also." You know?

AH: I think that's good advice.

MJ: Like, count the blessings. (MJ Laughs)

AH: Oh definitely.

MJ: Like human nature is we always look for—

AH: But, yeah. Your point is well taken. I mean, it's the right—it was the right place, the right time, and the right people.

MJ: Right. Exactly.

AH: And, if you took away any one of those things, it wouldn't have worked. And especially the right people. People like yourself.

MJ: Yes. I think everything is like a circle or a triangle, whatever you want to call it, where the students, faculty, staff, parents, community, you know? Society—everyone is involved. Interdependence on each other.

AH: Well, I know your daughter has been interested—following the fortunes of our football team.

MJ: Yes.

AH: What about yourself?

MJ: Oh, we come to the football games, but can you believe it? My husband got interested in football games only when my daughter was involved. So, you know how the daddies will go wherever children— (Both Laugh). So, he will come to football games. He's now coming to basketball games. (MJ Laughs)

AH: Okay. Well it's another kind of, you know, cultural gap there. It's nothing like the football in Europe, of course.

MJ: Yes. Yeah, it's different now, of course. We have lived [here] what—my husband Kailash, my daughter Nila and I.

AH: About 40 years.



MJ: We have lived here 40 plus years. So, we are more—like my husband even says it. That India is our country of birth. You know? But this is our adopted country, and when you adopt someone, it's very special also.

AH: Oh yes. Definitely.

MJ: Yeah. So, I think we are more in[to] football rather than thinking about soccer. (MJ Laughs)

AH: Yeah, yeah.

MJ: But, soccer is becoming popular also.

AH: Oh yes. Yes. Well, if there's anything you want to add you're welcome to.

MJ: All I'm saying is—I have a saying—two sayings.

AH: Okay.

MJ: One is, when people ask me about education, you know, I always say that teaching and learning stimulate one another. Confucius said that, you know? And another thing is we have a Sanskrit saying or a code which says, "Pride in the past, action in the present, and faith in the future can carry you through."

AH: That's beautiful advice.

MJ: Thank you.

AH: Thank you for sharing with us today.

MJ: It's my pleasure also. Thank you for asking me to.

AH: Oh sure.

*End of interview*