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Yael Greenberg (YG): Today is February 28th, 2003. My name is Yael Greenberg, oral history program assistant for the Florida Studies Center. We begin a series of interviews here in the Tampa campus library with faculty, students, and alumni, in order to commemorate fifty years of university history. We begin with Dr. Schuerle, who came to USF in the sixties as an assistant professor. Good evening, Dr. Schuerle. Let's begin by bringing us to the year you arrived at USF and what circumstances brought you to the university.

William Schuerle (WS): I arrived in '64. I had just finished my doctorate degree at Syracuse University in December of 1963. But Syracuse at that time had only one graduation ceremony, which was in the spring. So, I— we waited into Syracuse until I went to the Modern Language Association meeting in order to go job looking. I was interviewed by quite a few places and so I had to make a decision. And I was offered a job here at the University of South Florida, an institution I really had never heard about. But I was interviewed, I think that was in Chicago that year, the MLA. And Dr. Robert Zetler, who then was director of language literature in the College of Arts and Sciences, interviewed me and we had a very pleasant conversation. And then a few months later I got a telephone call from him asking me if I wanted a job here as assistant professor. At that time, the salary was outstanding for a new assistant professor. People may laugh about the salary now, but it was 7,800 dollars. And that was the best offer for a university that I had. My wife and I had been living in Syracuse, and I was getting very tired of the gray, gray skies. So, I had no intention originally of going to a large university. I wanted to go into a small liberal arts school. But we said, "We'll go to Tampa for about three or four years and warm up, and then we'll look again". Now that was almost thirty-nine years ago. And here I am.

YG: What did the university campus look like when you arrived in 1964?

WS: Very sandy. Very few buildings, I don't remember how many now. Probably, not counting dormitories, probably about seven or eight buildings. But that's it. The library was in what is now the student service building. Not the whole building, just part of that. My office, I had to share. It was in what is now, then called the Fine Arts Humanities buildings. They're all now over there the College of Fine Arts. And no trees. Very, very few trees, a lot of sand, as I said. Not many sidewalks. I think the university was waiting to see where people were going to walk and then they'd put the sidewalks there. But it was a very pleasant place, very pleasant.

YG: What did the surrounding areas of the campus look like?

WS: Not much. Fowler was a two-lane highway. And I hate to use the word highway, let's say a

two-lane road. Very few stores there. There was, I'm not sure when I first arrived, but very soon after, there was one motel called the University Motel or university inn. A Texaco station right on a corner because our daughter was not quite two, and in the next few years, when we were driving around Tampa, when she would see the Texaco station, she would say, "Texaco, we're almost home," because we lived for a while in the area called Campus Park, which is now on Bruce B. Downs. One main restaurant, which was a hangout for people, called the University Restaurant, which was a very, very popular, very, very popular Italian restaurant towards Temple Terrace. I don't remember, tell you the truth, any stores between the entrance at the university and 56th Street. Housing, housing had started to go up on Campus Park, a place called Briarwood and Carolwood, the old Carolwood is what it's called now, had started. Because we lived in a rental in Campus Park for about six months in order to find a place. And then we moved to Temple Terrace in '65, probably.

YG: You came to USF in 1964 as an assistant professor in the College of Arts and Sciences?

WS: I think it was called the College of Liberal Arts, then.

YG: And what was the specific department that you were assigned to?

WS: Department of English. There were —this is a little bit confusing, but at that time there were two colleges dealing with Arts and Sciences, the College of Liberal Arts, and the College of Basic Studies. Russell Copper was dean of liberal arts and Martin—I can think of his first name now—was dean of basic studies. The English department was in because, then called Fundamental English, freshman English, was under basic studies. Ed Martin. Ed Martin. It was interesting, which caused a lot of problems later, when a person was hired in English, he or she was put into either one of those colleges depending upon the line that was available. That seemed to be okay in theory, but in practice it wasn't because the salaries were lower in basic studies than in liberal arts. And so, it caused some strife until it was settled, when Cecil Mackey came.

YG: Where did the early faculty from the College of Liberal Arts and the College of Basic studies come from? Where did they predominately receive their degrees from?

WS: Fortunately, from all over. When I came there were quite a few new faculty members in the English department. One, my officemate, got his PhD at Chapel Hill. And another man got his, I'm not sure, he came from the University of Hawaii, but I don't think he got his degree there. He was teaching there. Another faculty member who came the same year I did received his degree from the University of Texas. And that's all I remember right now.

YG: You said that the way that the English department was organized, and the way that it was split into two different colleges, caused some problems?

WS: Because of salaries.

YG: Because of salaries. Was it a very competitive kind of department?

WS: No. It was very, very friendly. It was fun. It was fun. The Department of English, and I'm going to call it a Department of English even though the faculty members were split, were very social. It seemed as if someone entertained in his or her house at least once a month. Many of us would go out to lunch at the University Restaurant. And I didn't really feel much competition. We were friends. It was fun.

YG: Was there a lot of faculty interaction between different departments?

WS: Yes. I think so. There was a gentleman, Sydney French. John Allen, the president, brought Sydney in. And Sydney's job was to help all of us become effective teachers. So, he would get faculty members from all areas of arts and sciences, and we would meet and discuss effective ways of teaching. I remember one group I was in had people from math, people from history, English, and speech. I remember that. Also, we had, with all of the English sections, freshman English, fundamental English, we had common books. Now, it was set up that someone was chosen to give a lecture on that book. That lecture was always held in the theater. And the students from all of the fundamental English sections would then go there and listen to the professor talking about whatever it was and then the discussions would be carried on in those individual sections. Now, I think a great idea, but USF grew. And we started with one or two main lectures and then we had to do it three or four times. Finally, it led to being televised. And when it became televised it lost the, the closeness of it. And thus, I knew what the other members of the English department were doing because I would go to their big, big lectures.

YG: So, all of the freshmen were reading the same—the idea was for all the freshmen to read the same book.

WS: Or books.

YG: Or books. Do you remember some of those early books?

WS: Yep. *Siddhartha* by Hermann Hesse. *The Quiet American* because I gave the mass lecture on that one. *Fahrenheit 451* ok was one. A Faulkner¹ one, but I forget which one it was now. That's all I remember now.

YG: Who was the president of the university when you came in 1964?

WS: John Allen.

YG: What kind of a man was John Allen?

WS: A dreamer, but a very pleasant dreamer. I think everybody here has to give credit to John for setting up this this university. John would probably be amazed and stunned at what the university has become. John visualized this university as being a liberal arts mainly institution. No collegiate sports. He came from the University of Florida. He was a vice president there. He wanted effective teaching. Research was not stressed at all. Effective teaching. Going back to the old USF motto, "Accent on Learning." We heard that over and over again, ad nauseum. But it was a good creed to follow. John took an interest in people. Example, I had never really met the man except at a distance. I had never really talked much with him. One day I got a phone call at home. And he said, "This is John Allen," or "This is President Allen," I forget what he said right now. I said, "Yes, sir." He said, "I hear you have a fireplace." I said, "Yes." He said, "I just had some trees cut down. And they're in logs. Would you like to have some?" I said, "Well, yes I would." He said, "Well okay. Why don't we meet sometime at my house? Let's set up a date. And you can pick up as many logs as you want." I thought, "how gracious. How nice". I've always remembered that. I like John. Now, John did not like conflict. There were rallies against him at certain times. I forget what now. There were some strict rules, women could not wear shorts. But he accented learning. Then I left on leaves of absences in '69. I was asked to become coordinator of humanities and fine arts for the state universities, for the nine universities. And I had to move to Tallahassee, I was working for the vice chancellor. This was on a year-to-year basis. I had to take a leave of absence without pay because

¹ Referring to American writer William Faulkner.

the board would be paying me. I stayed there for two years. And this, what I'm going to say now sounds very egotistical and I don't mean it that way, but John would have a semester or yearly state of the union or state of the university. And someone told me in the one that he gave in the fall when I went to Tallahassee, he said that my going, he used me by name, that my going up to Tallahassee, the first USF professor to do that, showed that USF was now starting to be recognized in the state. And that was nice.

YG: Absolutely.

WS: Then he left while I was gone. And Harris Dean became interim or acting president. Harris was academic VP.

YG: How were their styles different from one another?

WS: I didn't work under Harris because by the time I came back, Cecil Mackey. Harris was, I think he acted in the same way John did. They were of the same mold. I knew Cecil. When I was at the board, he was, I think, executive vice president at Florida state. And there were some humanities matters that I had to deal with. And one of them involved Florida state. So, I had worked with Cecil. And also, in February or March of 1971, the then Chancellor Bob Mautz, called me into his office and Cecil was there, just to introduce me, or reintroduce me, to my new president. I think Cecil started in February or March of 1971. So, I decided then not to extend for a third year. And I came back to USF in the fall of '71 as a faculty member. I had been promoted by that time up to associate professor. And then in January of 1972 I became assistant vice president for academic affairs here.

YG: How did going from an assistant professor to a faculty member now, specifically to the vice president for academic affairs—

WS: Assistant vice president.

YG: Assistant vice president. What were some of your responsibilities as an assistant vice president?

WS: Oh, my. The registrar's office, admissions, what was called educational resources, the television and radio stations. My office was the final say on all academic matters. If a student appealed and went through the committee and got turned down, my office was the last court of appeal. Community college relations. And I had my veto behind my back, and I had them all written down, but don't remember all the rest right now. And then I helped with tenure and promotion. Carl Riggs was vice president. Carl and I became very, very close friends. Very close friends. I kept that position, well it is changed from assistant vice president to associate vice president, until '81. Carl had gone by then to a different position here on campus. And in '81 I then became dean of undergraduate studies. And what I did then was take a lot of the, well I was given, I didn't take it. I was given a lot of other responsibilities that were under the associate VPs. And they were all placed then, under the new dean because there had never been a dean of undergraduate studies. It was set up to be a counterpart to the graduate dean.

YG: Now, over the years you've had a lot of interaction, it sounds, with not only faculty but students.

WS: Oh, yeah.

YG: I'm very interested to know what were, in 1964, what were some of what was the motivation of your students? What were your students like?

WS: Very interested. Many of them were children from families who had never attended college. They were first in their families. USF gave them an opportunity to go to college. They could not afford to go elsewhere, of course, I don't know what percentage, high, high percentage, eighty, ninety percent, were commuter students. Apartments started to be erected around campus. I think when I came here there probably were no apartments around USF. These students wanted knowledge, they wanted to learn. Very polite, even though this was in the sixties. There were some, —not riots, there were some demonstrations on campus about things, but no uproar as up north. I remember once, Claude Kirk, who was the first Republican governor since Reconstruction. He came down to USF. He put a lawn chair on the quadrangle and sat there without any guards or anything like that to hear comments about student problems. Not just about USF, but what students wanted. I thought that was rather nice, but he was a PR person anyway. It was nice. I enjoyed the students. The students, all ages. That's what I liked to. I had people in my classes who were seventeen, eighteen, and fifty, sixty, maybe seventies too, I don't remember. I found the students then much more motivated than I find the students now. They seemed to enjoy life. We had heavier loads then, teaching loads. I think I taught three, I'm not sure. But then when I went into administration again in '72, I never left the classroom. From that time, up until now, I always taught at least one class per year. Just so I could say I'm faculty. And to keep in touch. So, I always went back to the department, at least for one class per year. Even when I quit that deanship in '94 and I was going to go back to the faculty at that time. But Andy Paloumpis², who was then president of HCC³, talked to President Castor, and I was loaned to HCC as interim district vice president for academic affairs. It was supposed to have been for a four-month period because of some confusion at HCC to hire a new person. And I stayed there for fourteen months. It was fun. But even while I was there for those fourteen months, I always came back up here to teach a course.

YG: You mentioned that the students, your early students, were extremely motivated, in tune with learning, but occasionally they demonstrated.

WS: Oh yeah.

YG: What kinds of things were they concerned with?

WS: You know, I don't remember. Sometimes I think they demonstrated because other students were demonstrating on other universities. There was a big rally about something, I'm not sure what it was, but they had big signs, "Eat John Allen." That's when I was, before I went to the board. One thing, yes, I do remember. There was a hangout called The Wild Boar. Have you ever heard about The Wild Boar?

YG: No.

WS: It was over on Florida. It was a pub, a bar. It was run by a former member of the speech department, a faculty member. John did not like controversy. You know, we were still then under censure by AAUP⁴. And he and others canceled a lecture, and talks used to be given on the quadrangle, right by the student union. And a controversial person was supposed to speak. It was sponsored by the English department. And it got canceled because people were afraid there might be some problems. That was one thing the students rallied against. But you have to remember the times, you have to remember the conservatism of this area. So, John did not like that controversy. And also, I think many students saw him as being very aloof. But he was a gentleman of the old

² Andreas "Andy" Paloumpis.

³ Acronym for Hillsborough Community College.

⁴ Referring to the organization the American Association of University Professors.

school. I think if one goes through all of the presidents, not just here, but at any universities, each president has his or her good points and bad points. Each president does some wonderful things and each president some stupid things. And John, in being aloof probably and being, following his moral principles did some things the students didn't like. Then another controversy, which I have to be responsible for, but the students rallied against it, the radio station. This is when I was assistant vice president, and Cecil Mackey was president. There was a program that came on at eleven o'clock at night, or midnight, I'm not sure right now, called the Underground Railroad. And it got rather raucous. And also, for that time, it was, the tone was not what many people liked. I tried to curb it. It was curbed for a while and then it built back up. I cut it off the air and fired the director of that. And that caused problems, a lot of editorials against me. I think it was the right thing because I think that the program, the station should be all classical. And it is now.

YG: You mentioned that the university at the time was under AAUP censor. Why?

WS: You know about the Johns Committee? Okay. There was a man. Oh, what was his name? Fleming, I think, who was going to be hired as a faculty member. There was much controversy about him because people said one, or some, of his books were communistic. Thus, after I think, I don't know whether a contract was signed, I don't remember that John decided not to go through with that hiring. And we got censured. It finally was settled, and I don't remember what year now, and the outcome was AAUP negotiated with USF, and Fleming was brought in as a lecturer to give one or two lectures. And we got off of censure. But that was the age of the Johns Committee when the universities were being investigated for communists and at that time homosexuals, not, not gays. Now John, I think, handled it well, not the Fleming thing, but the Johns Committee. The Johns Committee came without any notice to the university. This was before I came to USF. Settled in that university motel or whatever was called. When John found out they started to call people up to that motel to testify, when Allen found out about that, he invited him on campus. Let's bring this out into the open. And then, as you know, some faculty members did leave at the time. And others were criticized for being too liberal in their teaching, too liberal in their vocabulary. We lost some good, good people at that time. Some in the English department, some in the history department, if I remember correctly. And then the Johns Committee published this, and I think very stupidly, with purple covers. It was called a purple pamphlet. And people started to buy it as a pornographic work (William Schuerle laughs)

YG: You mentioned, I'm going back to your students for a second, was there a dress code for students and faculty in the early days?

WS: I believe the females could not wear shorts. Slacks, I don't remember that. No, not really. I always wear a coat and tie to class. But even, and probably more people, more men, wore coat and ties then than they do now. But no, there was no, we were supposed to be professional.

YG: Was there great diversity in your department when you first came here?

WS: You mean sex and ethnicity? The year I came, a female was hired in '64, she's still here. There were two or three others in the department that I remember right now. Oh, no, there were quite a few, yes. Race? Not when I came. Another demonstration that you mentioned, not at the university, but the University Restaurant would not accept blacks. And the students went and picketed the University Restaurant. And soon after that the doors were open. But Tampa was the deep south. I'm not condoning it; I'm just making a statement. Now, in the student body. Male and female, yes. I don't know. I didn't notice, I guess. I didn't pay that much attention to race. I see a student as a student. Isn't that interesting. Even now if you're asking—I really would have to think. Okay.

YG: When you first came, what was the, your building like that you worked in? What did it look like? Where was it housed in relation to other buildings in the university?

WS: We taught mainly, Cooper Hall was not here in '64, our offices were in the fine arts humanities and many of our classes were there. I taught, also, classes, and I don't remember now whether it was life science or chemistry, I forget now which was building. But we went all the campus to teach, mainly though we stayed in humanities and fine arts. But I do know that I taught, it was in life science. This side of campus really did not have much at that time.

YG: Did you mainly lecture, or what kind of different teaching methodologies did you utilize?

WS: It depended upon the class. In freshman English, and I had to teach freshmen English then—I don't lecture in freshmen English because I haven't taught freshmen English now for years. No, discussion, even blackboard work. In the survey courses, half and half, half lecture, half discussion, as I do now. And we didn't have a doctoral program in '64 when I came. And so, I—we had a masters if I remember correctly. So, I probably lectured in that. I have not changed my teaching methods. I maybe should have, but I haven't.

YG: Were there opportunities for—did USF sponsor picnics or other social gatherings for faculty and staff?

WS: Yes. Picnics. All university parties. I remember attending quite a few things at the University Center. I don't want to use the word "teas", but they were like "teas," they would be in the afternoon. Also, remember movie theaters were not around here, there would always be the film club or something like that, and many movies were shown on campus. Yeah, I remember some picnics. I don't remember any trips or anything like that off campus. It was a very congenial place to work. People liked people. I can't speak about USF from 1960 to 1964. But when I came here, my first thought was, this is not a new institution, it's a teenage institution. The hormones are just flowing throughout campus. And that's what it was. Everyone—we had new PhDs. We had faculty members who had taught in older institutions, and they wanted to try something else, and they got jobs here. They wanted to concentrate on teaching. In fact, I published, I sent one of my publications to a supervisor, and he read it, commented on it, and sent it back, and he said, "All right, Bill. This is fine. But remember, do not take a lot of time for things like this, concentrate on teaching." And that's what the faculty members did. That's one reason, when Cecil came, Mackey, and started the university on the research field, many people really disliked him. I think he was a necessary president at that time. But people did not like him, and their valid criticism, when they got penalized with razes, or lack of, because they didn't publish, they said, we weren't hired to publish. And they were right. When they were hired, they were told to do teaching. And there were problems.

YG: In terms of USFs early philosophy of Accent on Learning. How was this different or similar to neighboring universities?

WS: Very different. Well, first of all, the only neighboring universities were Florida State, the University of Florida, and Florida A&M. I think Central Florida probably was the next one. And that was not called Central Florida, it was Florida Technological University. And so that institution was going to concentrate only on technology. And then the other universities that started, which are now called Florida Atlantic and West Florida, and Florida International, were not four-year institutions. They did not have freshman and sophomore classes. Upper Division. And thus, they were supposed to take the community college transfer students. Ideal on paper, but as you can tell it didn't work. But we had no real competition. We called ourselves, not putting myself there, not the Harvard of the South, but Harvard was the University of South Florida of the north. Just

snobbishness, because we were going to work with students, and we were going to help them learn. Everybody was interested in making this institution work. What went against us was, it grew, and grew, and grew, and grew. And the initial concept could not keep pace. It would be impossible to keep pace. If we had remained small, I think it would have been. Well, we couldn't remain small. We couldn't because the population was here. Probably in those early years, a handful if that, of out of state students. I would probably say that during my '64 to '69, eighty to ninety percent were from this area, or Pinellas, or Polk, or something like that.

YG: What was your typical class in terms of students. How many students approximately were there in a class?

WS: The freshman English class were kept small. Mostly, at that time, we did not have large student body, we had probably fifteen in freshmen English, something like that. Other class would go up to twenty or thirty. See now, this semester, in my undergraduate course, I teach two courses a semester, that's my load, I have thirty-five in my undergraduate and I have thirteen in my Dickens seminar. And that's a graduate course.

YG: How did you get to work in the early days?

WS: Drove. Well, first of all, I lived in Campus Park, which I probably could even have walked, and then Temple Terrace I drove. I lived in Temple Terrace until '77. So, I drove. Parking was not a problem, initially. We didn't pay to park. Everything was free. Everyone knew everybody. I went to a memorial service on Saturday, for a faculty member emeritus who came, probably a couple, —I don't think he was charter, I think he probably came in '62. And it was old home week. Grace Allan was there, Margaret Fisher, who is the woman with student affairs, charter faculty members. And it was fun seeing them all. And not a single one had aged. (William Schuerle laughs)

YG: You talked about growth, and how ultimately the original philosophies of the university were difficult to apply towards this growth. Do you think that ultimately this growth is going to sort of backlash at us, or do you think that this growth is overall, I mean it's something that's necessary?

WS: It's necessary, and the concept of the university has changed. How often each day do you hear we're a research one institute? Can't turn on the radio without hearing it. The idea, and I'm not saying that it's wrong, the university now, and not just USF, I don't mean that, is a business. USF was not a business. It was a university. It was a college or a university. I get a gas when I read that a president or a person in charge of a campus is called a CEO. That just doesn't fit in with my academic philosophy. But that's what universities have become. What dictates the university? Money. USF went through many rough times because it did not start as a research university. And I remember, either, well, I was at the board and I'm the one who worked in, and people like me, we processed the applications for graduate programs. And I remember the PhD in English and the PhD in psychology, I forget about chemistry maybe, too, crossed my desk when I was up there. Well, we had a difficult time getting those because other universities in the system fought against USF. There were policies the board set up, never voted on, that USF basically, in different language, would never be a research institution, would not get more PhDs, unless the PhDs were applied PhDs. And that's how we had to get a few of the PhD programs through, as applied PhDs in English. And I understand this. Money was now being divided, instead of among three institutions, among four, five, six, seven, eight, nine. Also, Florida State and University of Florida, two great schools. Did not want the competition, and I understand that. And they fought, well Gainesville mainly, fought tooth and nail to keep USF from getting things. One thing I think that really helped USF succeed is that, and I give a lot of credit to Carl Riggs, Carl was very active in the council of academic vice presidents. He became well acquainted friends with the vice presidents at Florida State and University of Florida. And one on one, they worked together, I think for the benefit of USF.

YG: Some of your early students. I'm sure you had many discussions with them as to why they wanted to come to a university and especially such a new university. Did they ever speak about why they came to USF?

WS: Some, it was their only choice. They were not allowed to leave home. Or they did not have the money to leave home. They did not want to go to HCC, a community college, they could not afford the University of Tampa. Also, many of them at that time saw the University of Tampa as a school for out of state students. And it did have a lot of out of state students. And other ones wanted to be pioneers. They were—if you could talk, as I can still with people who graduated in the first graduation class, they were thrilled to be the first graduating class of a university. Very happy. Mrs. King and Mrs. O'Neill, who were the first two graduates, and give money every year to a student at graduation. I was a university marshal for about twelve or thirteen years here. And I would meet with them at times. And how thrilled they were. See what we started.

YG: You mentioned the University Restaurant that was off campus. But as the university grew, I'm sure that they started providing food service on campus.

WS: For the students, yes. And for faculty, everything initially was in the university center. A cafeteria and then small snack places opened. I don't know exactly when. And then, before I went to Tallahassee, so about '68, was about '68, the top floor of the old library had a snack bar. I wouldn't call it a restaurant, sandwiches and things like that, and many faculty members ate there.

YG: What was the early student workload like?

WS: Well, that's difficult for me to remember right now because we went from trimesters, semester, quarter, back to semester. And so, it would depend upon what system we were under. Let's say, probably they took between four and five classes. It depends, under the quarter that would have been different. And many of them worked, as they do now. But they couldn't work close to the university because there wasn't anything here until they started to grow. I'm always sorry I didn't buy property on Fowler when I first came.

YG: Did your students live near the university or the majority of them lived out?

WS: There were dormitories. John, let me see—. As you know USF was chartered in '56, opened in '60. I wasn't here then so I may be giving you not totally erroneous information, but it had to be fine too. John did a fund raising. It was Dollars for Dorms. And he got money from the community to build the first dorms because there was no money in the state budget for dorms because USF was—in fact, when USF was established, initially the legislatures wanted to call it a college. Also, John's salary, by mandate or legislation, I don't know, I don't really know, but it had to be lower than the salary of the presidents at Florida State and University of Florida. He told me that. Because John and I got rather close to him later, but not initially. What did you ask me for? What was the question?

YG: I asked about the movement of students and—

WS: Okay, okay. So, some of the students lived in dorms but very, very few. And the other ones commuted. I remember, and why I remember this I have no idea, but during that early part I know I had a student from Sebring. Why do I remember that? Because he talked to me endlessly about racing, car racing. And I said, "Why are you so interested in car racing?" He said, "I'm from Sebring." And he came up here to take classes.

YG: I'm going to stop the tape real quick to change it.

WS: Oh, my.

Track 1 ends; track 2 begins.

YG: We were talking about dorm life in the previous tape. I wanted to know if you participated in any college organizations or groups besides those associated with your job.

WS: No, I don't think I did. I became very involved in the city of Temple Terrace. And the fact when I left, in '77, I was chairman of the library board in Temple Terrace. But most of my activities were off campus.

YG: Did you read the Oracle?

WS: Oh, yes.

YG: On campus?

WS: Oh, yes. I still do. In fact, I saved some, I'm retiring in May, and I've saved so much over the years that I'm starting a scrapbook. And when I was associate vice president and dean I would, I was in the Oracle quite a bit. So, I've saved all of those. But yes. Yes. I think the Oracle is a very necessary newspaper.

YG: What were some of the major issues that the Oracle was writing about when you first came here? Or things that stick out in your mind?

WS: Oh, when I first came here, I can't answer that, because then the Oracle was part of the Tampa Times, the evening newspaper. I'm sorry, I don't remember.

YG: When you first came here, of course, the sixties was a pretty revolutionary time period. What was the political climate on campus like?

WS: Divided. The town thought, first of all—I believe there was not much harmony between town and gown at that time. Many people did not want to go north of Kennedy. And they saw all this as a hotbed of liberalism in the north of Tampa. Okay. That's, that's one view. But if you looked at the students, students range the same way today, would one call our student body liberal or conservative? I don't know. There are liberal students, there are conservative students. I think it was then. But I think the whole atmosphere, even with what was going on in the sixties here, was much more conservative than it is now. Yeah, I do. For example, do you think any group today would rally against a professor who said a few "Hells" or "Damns" or other four-letter words in class? No. They did, to a history professor. Who was a brilliant, brilliant professor. But he did use profanity in his lectures.

YG: And they rallied against him. Did you participate in any kinds of sit ins or demonstrations on campus?

WS: No.

YG: Race relations, especially when you came in, started becoming a hot topic.

WS: Yeah. John was a Quaker, I think, I think he was. I don't think John distinguished among any

racers. The town did, Tampa. As example, I told you about the University Restaurant. There were probably very few Asians on campus. Probably a handful in the early sixties of Afro-Americans. I do know that starting when I came back in '72, the university started to make the shift, and today it's a shift, of trying to recruit and increase the diversity on campus, because I remember scholarships that were set up. And then, later on, Carl Riggs, for example, set up special assistants. Assistants, a different title, I don't know what it is now, for women. Special assistants for Afro-Americans. Also, Cecil Mackey, because I was very involved in this, and this is not for students, it is for faculty, we did sex equity for faculty salaries. We did various things. We tried to equalize the faculty members salaries, faculty members who were originally in basic studies with their counterparts in liberal arts. We did that early, in '72. And then very soon after that Cecil looked at the list of full professors and found ne'er a woman on it. And we worked, and I think within two or three years, which sound like an awful lot of time, but we had at least four or five full professors, women full professors.

YG: You mentioned this difference in attitude among the community. Some really supported the university, and some really said, I'm not interested, it's too far for me, it's too liberal. Did this ultimately affect the way the university began to grow?

WS: Yes, it did. But then other people realized it. And so different things were done. A town and gown organization was set up. A student, mature student, —I don't know whether I should use her name. Wealthy. She organized people from the university and people from, influential people from the town. And she set up a town and gown organization, bringing people. She was very artistic. So, she would bring people from the town up here to art exhibits, theater, we had a great theater, really, at that time. And in fact, each year still, there's a town and gown award given at commencement. I know because I got it one year. Also, Cecil did his darndest in order to go down into the town. Frank Borkowski, when he came, did the same thing, and I don't have to go up further than that. But it's spreading the message that we're not an ivory tower. Also, the faculty members were urged too mild. They were almost commanded to go out in the community and join things. And then other things happened. Some sad things, affecting some faculty or their children which brought great sympathy from the town. And that brought things together. And also, USF, during those early years, and I'm talking about the seventies too, we had Carl Sandburg on campus. We had John Dos Passos. We had James Dickey. We had all these people coming. That the townspeople wanted, and so they had to come up here. Alma Sarett, who was in the speech department, her deceased husband, was a notable poet. And she knew people. And so, she would bring all these outstanding people to campus and have big parties at her house on the lake in Carolwood. And the guests would be USF faculty and townspeople. So just things like that.

YG: Now you mention that you're retiring at the end of this next semester.

WS: This semester.

YG: This semester. And that'll be forty years?

WS: Thirty-nine.

YG: Thirty-nine years. I know it's impossible to give a favorite memory, but is there something that you want to leave for future generations, something that you can leave us with, of a favorite memory or something that's very dear to you about USF?

WS: Well, on a strictly personal level it was my working with Carl Riggs. I consider him to be my mentor. And I learned so much from him. I guess I have very fond memories of those early years when, this enthusiasm that the faculty had. There's no one time, it was just times. You walk across

campus, smaller campus it was then, and you're meeting old friends, all the time. I enjoyed that. Now it's different. Also, my relationship with some students. Some I still hear from. Students in the sixties I still hear from. Students who came up to me after class at the end of the semester and said nice things. Those are nice memories. But I have had a good life. I've done many things here at the university and with the board. Would I do it all over again? No, I wouldn't, or I wouldn't enter the academic world again. But that's because I know what the academic world has turned into and what it was before. But I would not have given up what I had. But being in it for thirty-nine years, and with changing society, changing philosophies, would I recommend someone to go into it? That's up to that person. But the person should, because that person would not know what it was like when we went into it thirty-nine years ago. I enjoy learning. Graduate students do come in and talk to me because I teach quite a few graduate students and direct dissertations with, Should I go into the academic world? They ask me. I give them pros and cons. But I always say, "But I still think you should get a PhD." And they say, why. I said because it's proved that you can do something but also that intellectual curiosity is so important to a human being. If I were to do it all over again, and not go into the academic world I would still get a PhD.

YG: Are there any people that you would recommend that I should interview?

WS: You want really old timers, don't you? Okay. Yes. He's retired but he's around, Jack Moore. Who was in the English department. I think you may want to interview Fred Zarella, who is retiring also in May, he's in math. Dan Ruttenberg, who's retired, he was in Humanities. In fact, he has just moved back from Riverview. He lives in the Carolwood area now. Some I would recommend just died. Jack came in '62. Ruttenberg and Fred came in '64. Yeah let's, she's on sabbatical this semester. She came in '64. If not in '64, then soon after that. Mary Helen Harmon. I realize they're all in my areas, but have you interviewed Phyllis Marshall?

YG: She's planned for, to do an interview.

WS: Good. She's ill right now, I think.

YG: Well, Dr. Scheurle, we want to thank you very much for your interview and we hope that you have a wonderful end of the semester, and I'm sure you're looking forward to retirement.

WS: Yes, I am.

YG: Thank you very much.

WS: Okay and thank you.

End of interview