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USF 50<sup>th</sup> (2006) Anniversary Oral History Project  
Oral History Program  
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**Yael Greenberg (YG):** Today is Tuesday, August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2003. My name is Yael Greenburg, oral history program assistant for the USF Florida Studies Center. We continue a series of interviews in our studio here in the Tampa campus library with USF faculty, students, staff and alumni in order to commemorate 50 years of university history. Today we will be interviewing Joyce Nadar, who came to USF in 1969 as a student. In 1973, she received a BA in communications and French literature. She returned to receive her master's degree in 1975, with a degree in communications. Currently, Joyce has been practicing law in the Tampa area for the past 18 years. Good morning Joyce.

**Joyce Nadar (JN):** Good morning.

YG: Let's begin by you taking us to the year you arrived in Tampa and what circumstances brought you to the University of South Florida.

JN: We arrived in Tampa when I was about two years old, and we, my family, moved from New York, and we came to Temple Terrace, Florida. My first encounter with the University of South Florida (unintelligible; recording distorted) was when I was very young. My parents were invited to the groundbreaking ceremonies at the University of South Florida. And, so my parents, uh, Eli Nadar and Vivinne Nadar, in fact today would have been their 58th anniversary. Ah, my dad passed away a number of years ago but my mom is living in Tampa still. Um, they brought my older brother Bob, myself and my younger George to the groundbreaking ceremonies, and my dad happened to capture that on, um, the eight-millimeter film.

I guess we also, um, came to the first day of classes, which have also been captured—which we can talk a little bit more about later—on eight-millimeter film. But, my first real recollection of USF was coming to the planetarium. I believe I was in the fourth grade, and I just remember being awestruck coming to the planetarium in my fourth grade class and sitting there and seeing the stars and the moon and everything else. And, so that was my first encounter with USF.

YG: You mentioned that your parents were invited to come to the groundbreaking ceremony. Why—was there a particular reason why your parents were invited to the groundbreaking ceremony?

JN: That I really don't know. I have asked my mom recently and she, she doesn't recall. Um, I, you know, (clears throat) we were members of the Temple Terrace community and, ah, my dad was a builder there. He built residential homes, and, um, he was always, a supporter of education. He went to the University of Florida for two years but was taken off to World War II, and um, never got to finish his college education. So he was a real strong advocate of his children going to college. And, so I think he just got tied in real quickly when it was announced that there was going to be a new university here. And, um, and so, we were invited I guess as a result some of his activities associated with the growth of the new school.

YG: What do you remember about the groundbreaking ceremonies?

JN: I think most of what I recall is because we've seen pictures and films. I don't think I have any first-hand recollection. I do rem—you know, from seeing the video and films because I was very young then. Um, just, it was a very sandy area, not a lot of trees, not a lot of grass. Just, I remember, a vast open space and a lot of sand, ah and so that is my recollection.

YG: You came here as a student in 1969. Can you tell me a little bit how you enrolled, uh, what kinds of things you were hearing about the university in high school, being that USF had only been opened for a couple of years prior to you beginning?

JN: In all candidness what happened was, um, I was supposed to follow in my older brother's footsteps and go to the University of Florida and be a Florida Gator, but tragically my father passed away when I was in my junior year in high school. Wanting to stay close to home and be with my mother and my younger brother, George, who is also a USF graduate. In fact my brother, Bob, got his master's here. George got his bachelor's

here, and I have the bachelor's and the master's, um, and we can talk too about our continued affiliation with USF because it did become so important to us.

I wanted to stay close to home, and so we decided that it was best for me to attend, um, the local university. So, at first I was really kind of unhappy about that, and I was unhappy because I liked football and we didn't have a football team. And so I came over here. I do remember the first day of registration, and you had to register in the big gym. I remember it being a very soggy and rainy time, so um, I remember it being wet going into the gym and getting kind of wet up to my ankles, and not getting half the classes I wanted, and sitting on the floor and trying to mark off what you needed to get, and so that was all pretty unnerving. But USF became really important to me very early on.

I wanted to go to Florida but once I got here, ah, it was a great experience. I developed, um, if—oh, I guess relationships with a lot of my professors early on, and I felt like USF became a family to me. And after the loss of my father, it became a really important family. I signed up for classes in the communications department. Some of my professors were Bernard Downs, and Bill Osborne, and Paul Ferguson. They were all very, very nice and very warm, and um it just ended up being a fun place to go to school. And, um, and so I was happy that I came to USF after all.

YG: You mentioned the idea of having a great experience early on at the university, in part, too, some of these professors. What were you feeling? What were these professors, um, doing for you that made it so exciting to be here? What was unique about the professors here at the University of South Florida?

JN: First of all, I can say I was a very shy person, didn't like to speak in front of a group. What happened was I signed up for some of these communications courses and then the French courses. And, the professors that you got just opened a whole world of new ideas, encouraged you to speak. I ended up in performance communications, which was just an absolute shock to me that I would ever even get up on stage and feel comfortable doing it. Um, I think it was just they created a positive environment of learning. They were fun, they were relaxed, but yet very driving. So it was a time where I think that the teachers wanted you to learn, encouraged you to learn, were very tough on you, but at the same time optimistic and encouraging. And, so I ended up having a double major, like communications and like French literature. Didn't know at first of any practical value that I'd have for a career, but I did know that I wanted to teach someday. They were so inspiring to me that I wanted to end up being a teacher.

And, so my first career out the university after getting my master's—I stayed for my master's because I liked it here so much and ended up wanting to be a professor, to emulate what my professors had done for me. So my first career after having my master's

was teaching as an adjunct here and then also getting a full-time job at St. Petersburg Junior College, which is now St. Petersburg College<sup>1</sup>. And, then I decided to go to law school but always had the teaching in my heart and soul. So, I have remained here as an adjunct over the years and have recently taught in the environmental science and policy program and also have returned to communications and have taught some communications classes. In fact, I have been so involved in USF over the years. My husband works here, but my brothers and I have remained involved over the years, and we have established a scholarship here in honor of our parents.

YG: Okay. I want to go back because you talked a lot about a lot of good things. You mentioned, ah, performance communications as a memorable course that you took. Are there any other courses that stick out in your mind in those early days?

JN: Well, as I mentioned my French literature classes, the communications classes—oh I'm trying to think—oh, some of my music classes. As you can see, I have an affinity for the performing arts, which is kind of interesting because I ended being an environmental lawyer, which is more of a science aspect. Um, but I really enjoyed my music classes. I took a piano course at the fine arts building, and what I recall is the vast open spaces of this campus early on. Um, I would have to trek from one campus to the—side of the campus to other and sometimes between classes with ten or twelve minutes. And, you know, trek from one side to the fine arts building and take my communications—excuse me—my music piano courses.

I'm trying to remember—oh gosh—you would go all over campus, um, from one end to the other to take courses that you wouldn't expect to be in certain buildings. But, at the time we didn't have a Cooper Hall, so sometimes your English classes would be in the Engineering Building, your—you know—social science classes would be in the Fine Arts Building, and so forth. There just weren't a whole lot of buildings at the time that I was here. Um, and I remember sometimes it would be very, very hot or extremely cold, which would surprise a lot of people. And you would wear your hat and gloves when you had to make that kind of cold trek across campus where there weren't, like I said, a lot of trees or buildings or anything to kind of buffer you from the elements, so.

YG: Did you live at home while you were attending the university?

JN: Yes. I lived at home. I was a commuter student, and um, at first I thought that I would join a sorority, um, to kind of give me sort of a place to come when I came to the university because I would pretty much be here all day. But, as I said, I ended up kind of

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<sup>1</sup>St. Petersburg College was formerly known as St. Petersburg Junior College. It was founded in 1927 as a private, non-profit two-year junior college and has grown to become a four-year state college in Pinellas County with 11 campuses and centers.

finding my home in the communications and French department. What I remember was, in the French department, the languages department, they had a room for the students to congregate, and supposedly our—the idea was to ah, practice in the language that you were learning. They had a French room, a Spanish room and an Italian room. It was kind of very '60s, '70s. There were beanbag chairs and um there were incense candles. Nothing bad went on but it was one of those kind places that you would sit around and drink coffee and have something to eat and converse in the language. In the communications department, um, I again found a home there as well and ended up not joining a sorority while I was here.

And at home was, um, every Wednesday afternoon they would have—I guess they would call them—the coffee hours. They would have these readings from great novels or short stories, and students would come and hang out on Wednesday afternoon and go to these coffee hours. It was called Reader's Theater. And then once a month they would have chamber theater productions that were a little bit more elaborate and students all over would come and watch these absolutely wonderful productions that were put on by the communications department. One that I recall was *To Catch*—the uh—*The Catcher in the Rye*. It was again such an outstanding production that it made me want to stay and learn more and ended up being in a few plays after that.

YG: Living in Temple Terrace, coming here to the university, was there a sense that the university was trying to work with the community, sort of a town and gown feeling? Or in those early days, was USF just so focused on getting themselves started up that they didn't really pay attention to the community?

JN: My recollection is it was—USF was trying to get going, and so it was just almost like it was a place out here unto its own. I don't really think there was a tie-in with the university and the community like there is today. Quite frankly, I think a lot of that started, um, you know more in the '80s and '90s under the various, um, you know presidents like Borkowski<sup>2</sup> and Betty Castor<sup>3</sup> and, um, you know the current president, Judy Genshaft<sup>4</sup>. So there has been much more of a tie-in to the community than there was back then.

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<sup>2</sup>An interview of Francis Borkowski is available as part of the USF 50th Anniversary Oral History Project collection.

<sup>3</sup>An interview of Betty Castor is available as part of the USF 50th Anniversary Oral History Project collection.

<sup>4</sup>An interview of Judy Genshaft is available as part of the USF 50th Anniversary Oral History Project collection.

YG: Being that USF was not a UF in regards to football and other sports, were students in those early days complaining to the administration about USF not having these big intercollegiate sports?

JN: There was really—I didn't see a whole lot of what I want to call real student activism in those days. There were some because it was during the Vietnam War and Civil Rights movement, and so there were some activism in the form of student protest, but it really centered more around political type issues. I was, as I said, kind of unhappy with the fact that we did not have a sports team because I grew up in a family of sports. I used to play golf with my dad at the Temple Terrace golf course. My brothers were really involved in sports and kind of being the only girl in the family you grew up on sports.

So I was unhappy about that but, you know, I said I got really involved in the liberal arts. It kind of took the place of that, but I always felt like it would be a good thing for the university because I think it brings alumni back to the school. I think it helps generate money, um, that you might not ordinarily have access to because I think it creates a spirit that people need to have to bring them back to their—ah you know, where they went to school. I think we were real excited when we found out we were going to have a football team. My husband and I are very ah—we are green jacket supporters. We have season tickets and we are real happy about that, and think it has brought us even closer to the university because it gives you a tie-in every single year. Even though I have remained involved with the scholarship and teaching, that's just an extra added attraction, and it's a good one.

YG: Let's talk a little bit about your father and him taking photographs of not only the groundbreaking ceremony but the first classes at USF in September of 1960.

JN: My dad was one of these people that loved to have his camera around. He—you know as kids, we were born in New York, but we came here when we were very young. You know there—my dad just recorded all kinds of things on his 8mm camera. So growing up, we always remember it was big deal when he bought a projector and the screen, and we would watch some of the films that he would take—have taken of us in New York and his hometown of Saint Augustine, and then growing up in Temple Terrace.

So, he recorded a lot of family history, and he even a lot of early history of old Tampa. I mean, we have pictures of what Busch Boulevard looked like a long time ago when it was two lanes and the old Tampa airport. In fact, my parents, my mom, Viviane Nadar and my dad, Eli Nadar, were asked to meet up with Danny Thomas when he started raising money for St. Jude here. So, we pictures of my younger brother George and I at the old Tampa airport meeting Danny Thomas. That's kind of an interesting diversion,

but, so dad was a recorder of history of family and old Tampa and certainly the first days of USF.

We have pictures of the groundbreaking, and like I said, it was kind of a big sandy area. There was the governor of Florida that was there and—oh gosh—I can't remember whether it was LeRoy Collins<sup>5</sup>, but I think it was LeRoy Collins then, and then Congressman Sam Gibbons<sup>6</sup> and other—you know—notaries from the area, and then of course, my parents and brother George and my brother Bob and myself. I do remember, and for whatever reason we can't seem to find those pictures, but my brother George who was about three years old at the time ended up being asked to stand with the, I think, the governor and put his little foot on the shovel. We haven't been able to locate those pictures and when we do we will donate them to the university.

But the first day of classes, we also have pictures of the opening day. I believe the administration building was here. Interestingly enough, I went to high school with Mona Testa-Secca. Her uncle was Joe Testa-Secca<sup>7</sup>, who did the wonderful artwork on the administration building. But anyway, we were at the opening day of classes as well, and there are wonderful pictures that again my dad took of—you could see the cranes in the background building some of the buildings. Again, it was pretty sandy and there wasn't a whole lot of pictures but, um, there good shots of my mom and my dad in that too. I believe we had some family friends with us but I don't recall who they were.

I think the interesting thing about those family videos is after my dad died in 1968, nobody took up the camera after that and did any more recording of any family or Tampa history. The films laid around in some storage bin in my mom's house in Temple Terrace for years, and my brother Bob, as a Christmas present this last year, had all of the 35mm restored and put on DVD. As a Christmas present to the family, he surprised us all and showed us the film. We were so excited to see it because we hadn't seen it in years and um, were really excited when we saw the groundbreaking pictures and opening day classes. When I heard about the oral history project, we decided to contact the university and decided to see if we could get involved in, you know, donating those film clips to the university and providing an oral history. By the way, my husband's name is Adrian Cuarta<sup>8</sup> and he works at the physical plant as the director, so. I keep saying my husband (laughs).

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<sup>5</sup>LeRoy Collins was the 33rd governor of Florida.

<sup>6</sup>Sam Gibbons served in the Florida State House of Representatives as well as the US House of Representatives.

<sup>7</sup>An interview of Joseph Testa-Secca is available as part of the USF 50th Anniversary Oral History Project collection.

<sup>8</sup>An interview of Adrian Cuarta is available as part of the USF 50th Anniversary Oral History Project collection.



YG: Okay, we were talking about, um, your father's passion for photography and him capturing not only, um, family events but historical events around the community as well, and I want to move on a little bit and talk about your master's degree here at the university. Why did you decide to pursue a master's degree in communications and how had the university changed because when you first came to USF as student it was the late '60s and now we're already heading into the mid '70s.

JN: I decided—it was one of those things when I got my degree in 1973, got it in communications and French, like a lot of students during that time, you sit back and think, what am I going to do with my degree? Quite frankly, I think universities and colleges have changed a lot. There is a lot more career counseling and mentoring that there wasn't then. And, so um, it's not anybody's fault, but I just think that people have learned a lot over the years.

So, I didn't know what I was going to do, and I was trying to decide do I want to go to law school or do I want to become a college professor. I was really, as I said, inspired by some of my professors, and so I decided to go the college professor route. The college professor route required you to go for a master's and a PhD. I had done very well in undergraduate school. I had a high grade point average and graduated with honors, and um, so I was offered a fellowship to stay at the university and continue my studies in communications.

In those days, not having a whole lot of money, boy it was great to get a fellowship. Pretty much you were getting paid to go to school, and I thought, boy this is really kind of a nice thing. So, I came on to the university to get my master's in communication. I started, um, you know taking courses in performance communication, which I loved. I also got into organizational communication, and um, really the study of political rhetoric and uh, being a child of the '60s it was kind of, it kind of fell right into my personal interests as well. I ended up signing on as a graduate teaching assistant and that gave my first experience in teaching courses, and because I was interested in being a college professor I felt it was important to have that experience.

So, I taught basic communications courses. I think one of them was called Introduction to Speech Communication, um, and the second one was a phonetics and diction course. Those were kind of wonderful experiences. I remember some of my first students. I was scared to death because I wasn't much older than most of them but it was a nice experience. Most of the students were really hard working, and I think they were kind of happy to have a young teacher. So, that was my first experience teaching.

YG: Changes in the university that were taking place, um, particularly I would imagine with the growth of the physical structure of USF—.

JN: Yeah, in fact when I went for my master's, all of a sudden we did have a home in Arts and—it was called the College of Art and Letters, and then I think it became Language and Literature. I don't remember which was first, but all of a sudden we did have a new building, a new home. Now it's, I guess it's called Cooper Hall. So that was exciting to have a place to go, and I remember the French department languages were on the second floor and communications were on the fourth floor. We had our own little snack bar. You could go during the middle of the day and get something to eat. I remember the chili and the deviled crabs and hot dogs. Probably not very good dietary, uh in today's standards, but we certainly liked having something to eat and not having to eat out of the vending machines.

But yes, the growth of the physical facility was becoming apparent at that time. I am trying to remember some of the other additions. The new library, where we are sitting today, was something that I recall being developed and opening while I was in graduate school. I think it might have been here '75, so it might have been in my second year of graduate school. I stayed on to teach as an adjunct in '76, '77, and so at that time I do know that the new library was here. It was exciting to have, again, a lot more available to you doing your research and your studies—a lot more, a lot larger collection. So, that was one thing that I recall as well, was the new library.

YG: What do you remember about some of the students that you went to school with? Why were students, do you think, why were they coming to USF?

JN: I think probably different today than it was then, but I think a lot of it was access and convenience. I mean, were known then as a commuter university, and I think that is how a lot of metropolitan universities do start. I think there were probably a lot of students like myself that, for whatever reason, needed to stay close to home, whether it was for family situations or financially. You know, it was nice to have that access to a major university.

So, I think a lot of the students I went to school with were commuters. There were very few students that lived here quite frankly. There were very few dormitories. There was no sorority/fraternity housing. So, a lot were commuters. I remember some of the students here. I remember one student in particular; her name was Marilyn Coleman. I just—she was such a bright light intellectually. She was a very funny student. I always found her kind of fun and interesting because she knew a lot about old movies, was a real fan of *The Wizard of Oz* and would go to class and kind of impersonate every character before classes started. So, it was a real kind of, um, light-hearted spirit in the students at the

time, but also the students were extremely serious because they were wanting to get their education.

YG: Did you ever read the—did you read the *Oracle*?

JN: Yes, read the *Oracle*. In fact, interestingly enough, my picture appeared in the *Oracle* a number of times because I ended up wanting to earn a little bit of extra money so I became a, um, fashion model for learner shops. So, there was a learner shop ad, and I think there were four different pictures of me in the *Oracle* during my undergraduate days. I had hair very long and straight, and it was so long that I could sit on it. So, that made me—and I hadn't thought about that until you just asked the question.

Um, I'm trying to think, but yes, I read the *Oracle* because there were a lot of interesting articles about what was going on at the university. But, it was also a lot of articles about what was going on in the nation at the time. As I said, we were here during the Vietnam War and the Civil Rights movement. We used to have these, um, focus debates on Monday nights that the speech department—speech communications sponsored, so we had a lot of interesting speakers that came to the university during that time.

We had Dan Rather<sup>9</sup>, we had Bob Woodward<sup>10</sup> from *All the President's Men*. I'm trying to think of some of the others. We had one of the great Russian poets who became a dissident and defected. Oh, I'm not sure if it was Solzhenitsyn or what but we had a lot of interesting speakers than came to the campus. So there was a lot of involvement. Students would come to campus for, as I said, the Reader's Theater, chamber theater, and the focus debates that we would have on Monday night. So, I think students read the *Oracle* and I did too to get news on—about the campus, what was going on, but also, ah, the articles were very well-written and there was a lot of interesting discussion about political issues during those times.

YG: Did you participate in any student organizations throughout your career at USF?

JN: The student organizations that I really participated in, um, were really associated with my major: French and communications. I was involved, as I said, in the Reader's Theater and chamber theater in communications, and then the French, like had a French society. So, you would go to the French—the room as I talked about and talk in your own

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<sup>9</sup>An American journalist and former news anchor for the CBS Evening News. During the 1980s, 1990s, and 2000s, he was particularly well established as a prominent journalist.

<sup>10</sup>An American investigative journalist and nonfiction author. His reporting played a key role in the government investigations and eventual resignation of President Richard Nixon.

language. I also worked on campus. I had a job working as an undergraduate. I worked in the bookstore, which was in the basement of what is now the Phyllis Marshall center, and my mom actually worked out here after my dad had passed away. She got a job at the textbook center. She worked at the textbook center, and I worked in the bookstore. I also worked in the Argos bookstore one summer. I sat there and rang up book sales, and that was a nice experience.

I worked in the language department as a student assistant, and then on weekends I would work in the old Maas Brothers department store in the downtown—old downtown Tampa store, which is no longer there. It was full service department store when I was a kid growing up and even through that time: clothing, furniture. So that was—I was ah, recall the old downtown Tampa from having worked down there as well. So, I had a number of jobs. I had scholarships here, loans here, worked on campus and then worked outside. One of the reasons that I was inspired to set up a scholarship was that I wanted to do something to honor my mother and father and, you know, what they had done for us, but also to give back to the university, which had given us so much.

YG: Let's talk a little bit about that scholarship and what department, um, is the scholarship available for students at?

JN: We decided to set up a scholarship, my brothers and I, Bob, George and me, as I said to honor my mother Vivienne Nadar and my dad Elias Nadar. So we started the scholarship when I had gotten out of law school and had, quite frankly, quite a few student loans to pay back, but I figured if you didn't start setting up something at some time, you'd never do it. If you wait until you can afford to do it, um, you may never do it. So, I encourage other people to start whenever you can. And so, you know, we started it in the early '90s. I contacted somebody here at the university. In fact, she went to junior high school with my brother Bob, uh Susanne Moore. So, it was kind of an interesting connection there.

We started the scholarship by working with Susanne Moore and Linda Tutwiler. We set it up and it was known as the, you know, Vivienne Nadar and Elias Nadar Scholarship. We decided that it should be in the College of Arts and Sciences, but we have recently endowed it and with the endowment we made it more specific. Now it rotates between the Department of Communications and Environmental Science and Policy every year. Part of it goes to undergraduate students and part of it goes to graduate students.

We decided to put it in those two places, one because my brothers and I were both involved in communications as part of our majors. My younger brother was in mass communications with Manny Lucoff, and Bob and I both have the degree in communications. He has a masters and I have the bachelor's and master's, and because

communications was so important to us, we decided to put the scholarship there. Then the Environmental Science and Policy came about because I got involved as an environmental lawyer in that department teaching courses, got to know the folks over there, was very impressed with their department and program, started teaching classes, and so, we ended up having it rotate there.

The one requirement is, I think we have some academic requirements, minimum requirements. There is some element of financial need as one of the criteria. Merit is certainly a criteria but, one of the most important things is that I wanted the story of my mom and dad told. Their photograph is on the brochure, and the story of how they met and they came to Florida is on the brochure. Interestingly enough, the photograph that we used is a picture of my mother and dad with Danny Thomas at the Tampa airport because it is a wonderful picture of my mom and dad. Mom looks beautiful and Dad looks really handsome, so we cropped out Danny Thomas. So the picture is Mom and Dad.

YG: What do you remember about the university presidents because I believe, as you were starting USF, John Allen<sup>11</sup> was just finishing up his tenure here, and then we were moving to Cecil Mackey<sup>12</sup>? What do you remember about the university presidents?

JN: I remember that I was here for the first university president John Allen, a man of great academic stature, much admired. You know, just recall that he was known as a great academic and very reserved. The slogan or motto at university at the time was “Accent on Learning.” I think we associate that with John and his wife Grace Allen. The next president was Cecil Mackey. He was a bit younger and I think viewed, what I recall as, you know, uh, a progressive. He was going to take the university to the next level academically and also I think in being more involved in the community. Again, two great starting presidents. I think I was here for the early tenure of John Lott Brown<sup>13</sup> as well, when I was I think an adjunct in '76 and '77. Again, each president taking the university to the next level academically and also involving the university in the community.

The only involvement I had with President Borkowski is that I know he was here when I met my husband. My husband Adrian, and I, met at Leadership Tampa<sup>14</sup>. That is kind of an interesting story in and of itself. My grandmother had passed away, and I had ended up missing the Leadership Tampa class that I was supposed to be in and got moved to the

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<sup>11</sup>John Allen served as president of the University of South Florida from its inception in 1957 to his retirement in 1970. He opposed major college sports programs and used the saved funds on academic needs. This stance brought national media attention.

<sup>12</sup>M. Cecil Mackey served as president of the University of South Florida from 1971 to 1976.

<sup>13</sup>John Lott Brown was the third president of USF from 1978 to 1988. Under his tenure, USF emerged as a research university.

next year because I had missed the application deadline. My law firm promised me that I would be nominated for that class. Adrian was supposed to be in one class but he was told that he would go in the next year because they needed to put somebody that was more senior to him in the year earlier. So, we ended up both getting postponed to the next year, and if that hadn't had happened we may have never have met.

I knew of President Borkowski's tenure here because of having been involved with Adrian when we met in Leadership Tampa. Betty Castor was president as well during my involvement in setting up the scholarship, and in fact, Betty Castor and my husband and I live in the same condominium [complex] in South Tampa. So, we know her and her husband pretty well.

YG: Being that throughout your tenure here at the university, you've been involved in teaching and adjuncting, how was it different from being a student? Now here you are as you're still being—still, ah, finishing your degrees. Here you are in reverse, being the adjunct or being the assistant professor, and can you tell me a little bit about some of your students that you had as well?

JN: I think that the difference that I see is, I think there is a lot more of what I would call energetic pace because I think that a lot of the students have a lot going on in their lives. Some of them are working full-time as well as going to school full-time. I think that the average student is probably a little bit older than when I was here because some of them have raised families and are coming back. I think that there is a lot more that the university offers now, as having grown over the years. There is a lot more programs for students in terms of career and academic counseling. I think there is a lot more disciplines than there were there, majors that I have never had even envisioned when I was in school.

In fact, there was no such program as environmental science and policy. The first Earth Day<sup>15</sup> was in 1970 and that was in my freshman year here at the university, so the whole environmental movement had just gotten started. The first environmental laws really hadn't passed until shortly thereafter, so I think that there is a lot more to offer for the students. I find that the students have a lot more to juggle than they may have had in the past. I have taught since I have been back here at the university teaching on an adjunct basis. I have taught courses in the environmental sciences and policy program and I have taught in communications. I have had some wonderful students. In fact, I often stay in touch with them by email. In fact, a lot of them have asked me for letters of reference.

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<sup>14</sup>Leadership Tampa Bay is a non-profit, non-partisan, non-special interest organization. It brings together upper-management, local and community leaders, and entrepreneurs in order to foster a regional mindset among the individual municipalities.

<sup>15</sup>Earth day is celebrated annually on April 22 by more than 193 countries.

I have a few that have recently started law school and have written me and asked me about what kind of books should they buy in their first year to help them along with their studies. I have had a lot of students contact me that would ah—I offer to do what I call a shadow day at my law firm. If students are interested in a career in law and they want to go, you know, thinking about law school, I invite them to come spend a day at my law firm and talk with lawyers and find out what being a lawyer is all about before they take that step.

I oftentimes offer a shadow day for people that have graduated from law school but don't know if they are interested in environmental law or corporate law. Sometimes they just need that little extra, you know, introduction by spending a day in a law firm. So, the students I find today are just—have a lot to juggle but are equally enthusiastic. As I have said, I have had some wonderful students, and I really enjoy being able to mentor students, much like the mentoring that I got from some of my individual professors when I was here, who inspired me, as I said, to become a college professor.

YG: Where do you see USF in the next ten years?

JN: I see USF as a great academic institution. I think that—you know, I've read that we are one of the top 100 research institutions in the country. I see that just growing under the leadership of the current president. I see that we are going to become more and more involved in the community, which is where we should be developing partnerships. You know, develop disciplines that are going to, again, help the community in areas where we need help. It might be in the area of growth management issues, environmental policy, the field of biotechnology. You know we have a wonderful medical school here. It was amazing when it was announced that we were going to get a College of Medicine, quite astounding for a young university. So, [I] just see nothing but positive growth and development and interaction between the community and the university.

YG: You mentioned USF's first celebration of Earth Day, I believe in 1970. Do you recall, can you give us some memories about that?

JN: I don't recall a whole lot except I do believe that there was a—and I wouldn't call it a demonstration because quite frankly there was really not a whole lot even during the Vietnam War. There was really never really a lot of protests or demonstrations like you would have seen at other, uh, universities which hit the newspapers a lot. I think I remember that there were some collections of the students that were outside the, Phyllis Marshall Center, which was known as the University Center at the time. I think that people just sat around and were talking about the fact that we needed to do something to protect the planet, but nothing more than just kind of a vague recollection of that.

YG: Favorite memory of USF—?

JN: Oh boy. There's a lot of good ones. I don't want to even get all teary eyed, but I could get teary eyed because like I said, we had lost my dad, and it was a sudden and tragic death. He had passed away of a heart attack while playing golf, and he was with my younger brother George who was thirteen at the time. So, it was [a] pretty horrible time for us, and coming to USF and, um, getting involved in the communications and French department—.

People were very nice and very warm. I think my warmest memories are going to those coffee houses on Wednesday afternoon, and the professors and the students interacted a lot. Going to see some of the performances of some just great pieces of literature. To this day I'm just still a very much, ah, involved in and love performance—go to the Oslo Theatre and American Stage and come out to the university to see plays—love the theatre arts. I think that really opened my eyes and heart to performance communication. The same with music—currently I take piano lessons, and I think it's because of the inspiration and excitement that I found in the music department here at the university.

So I think just an overall warm feeling about the professors and the—you know—how they really encouraged you to learn in a way that was, um—there was lots of vision and optimism, but yet there wasn't any slack either. I mean, you really had to work hard to earn your grades, and um, but yet there was just wonderful encouragement. And, kind of really, um, I found it an extension of my family. My mother and father were always people that wanted you to succeed, advocated a college education because neither was able to do that. My parents were the children of immigrants who came through Ellis Island, and they valued education very much because they knew what it meant to work hard and to struggle, but yet they were quietly encouraging. There was no meanness about it. It was all very, ah, just again optimistic and, ah, wanted you to be something on your own terms.

YG: My final question, and this is something that I have asked all of my interviewees. If you could leave a statement on camera, either about your previous experiences at the University of South Florida, meetings with colleagues and friends or to future students and colleagues at the university, what would you want to tell them about the University of South Florida?

JN: I think what I would tell them about the University of South Florida is that it is a great place to go to school, um, but I would think that the one thing I would—the message I would want to give is that you need to stay involved. You need stay involved



in, um, whether it's your college program or athletics. You need to—in order for the university to keep growing and to be the wonderful place that it is and has become—we can only do that by the people that went to school here, to stay involved. Become a part of the alumni associations, set up a scholarship, even if it's 100 dollars a year, 500 dollars a year.

You can't imagine what that means to the students. I get letters from students that got our scholarship, and our scholarship is an endowment of 500 a year. My former law firm that I was involved in—my own law firm, Hearn, Graziano & Nadar, we also set up a scholarship as well. I get letters from students saying, you know, that 500 dollars meant the difference between coming to school because they could pay their rent or they could buy books or they had gasoline to commute in their cars. So, to me, I think the one thing I would say is stay involved. That helps everybody: the university, the students and ultimately the community, and the society in which we live.

YG: Joyce, thank you very much.

JN: Thank you very much. I enjoyed this.

*End of interview*