

DR. JOHN DOHERTY
Marist College
Poughkeepsie, NY
For the Marist College Archives and Special Collections
Index – Dr. John Doherty

Project Name: Marist Heritage Project

Transcript: Yes

Summary: Yes

Photograph(s): No

CD#: 045

Name of Interviewee: Dr. John Doherty

Main Topics: Dr. John Doherty discusses his life-long association with Marist College, from being a student here in the 1960's, to a City of Poughkeepsie police officer and member of the Marist Alumni Board, to a Marist College Professor which he still is today. He gives a wonderful description and comparison of the academic and cultural life of Marist College both then and now.

Others present?: No

Interviewed by: Gus Nolan

Interview Date: 6 December 2007

Location of Interview: James Cannavino Library, Marist College

Recorder model and type: Marantz PMD 690

Length of interview: 56 Minutes, 3 Seconds

Number of disks: 1

Recording medium/format: Microdrive

Brand of disks: IBM 1GB Microdrive

Archival copy made: Burned to a gold alloy CD (MAM) and is held in the Marist College Archives and Special Collections. Saved as a .wav file at the highest resolution possible. CD copy is available for researchers.

Quality of original recording: Good

Describe any interference or interruptions: Less than a minute into the interview there is a noise interruption that sounds as though the microphone is being moved, and it briefly masks what Dr. John Doherty is saying. This is the only interruption in the interview.

Restrictions on interview access or use: None

Transcribed or summarized by: Kimberly Wilson

Brief summary of interview context and recording contents: The interview was held in the James Cannavino Library on the Marist College campus.

Other: Note: the spelling of proper names was verified with the interviewee.

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<u>Time (00:00.00 ~ in hrs./mins./seconds)</u>	<u>Summary</u>
00:00.40 – 00:03.12	Dr. John Doherty provides some background information, such as when he was born and where, as well as briefly mentioning his early school years and how he came to be at Marist College as a student.
00:03.13 - 00:06.00	John reflects on his early years at Marist College and the effect the Vietnam War had on him and his fellow college students as well as the City of Poughkeepsie. He also briefly describes dormitory life at Marist and his job in the Post Office.
00:06.01 - 00:12.50	John discusses how he became a City of Poughkeepsie police officer following his graduation from Marist College. During this time he was also a member of the Marist Alumni Board. His strongest memory from that time period was participating in a show of force for the police department during a major demonstration in Poughkeepsie following the incident at Kent State University.
00:12.51 - 00:19.50	John explains how he received his two Masters degrees, and how he first became involved with teaching at Marist, substituting and guest lecturing for Dr. Barbara Lavin, which eventually led to him teaching as an adjunct. He goes on to explain the promotions he received as a police officer, ending as head of the detective unit, which is the rank he retired at when he applied for and accepted the job as a full time Marist Assistant Professor.
00:19.51 - 00:23.15	John discusses his early years of teaching at Marist as an Assistant Professor, the classes they had him develop, his request

to teach an Introduction course, and the administrators at that time. To him, it was not difficult to switch from being a police officer to teaching about being a police officer. The hardest part was continuing his education and receiving a Ph.D. while teaching.

- 00:23.16 - 00:26.39 John reflects on the academic differences at Marist College between when he was a student and today. While he feels that he had a wonderful education, he also feels the standards today are much more rigorous, and that the college has grown substantially academically. One area that he feels Marist has lost in a little is the friendships that formed between the professors and the students when he was attending Marist as an undergraduate. He also briefly compares the courses and the pre-requisites that he had to take to the courses of today.
- 00:26.40 - 00:31.40 John goes on to discuss what dormitory life was like while he was an undergraduate. The vast majority of students lived on campus, and many of the ones that didn't were attending Marist's evening division that was primarily students from IBM. He remarks that because of the evening division, his graduating class has a higher death rate than would normally be expected, because the evening division students were so much older. John compares the technical and computer ability of students in his day to the students of today as well.
- 00:31.41 - 00:32.59 The demographics of Marist is briefly compared from John's time until now, focusing on the number of students from outside of New York, the number of female students, and the number of minority students. Marist is much more diverse today than it was in John's time, with the exception of ethnicity, which is a concern to Marist's administration.
- 00:33.00 - 00:40.22 John describes the social life of him and his friends while they were attending Marist, the bars they visited, the dances they held, the colleges they tried to meet girls from. He discusses River Day, how it came about, what it was about, and the problems that occasionally sprung up because of it. He talks about the cultural aspects of college life, the bands and musicians that came to play, the theater guild, and the foreign films that were shown.
- 00:40.23 - 00:48.40 John moves on to compare campus growth between his day as a student and now. The campus was much smaller back then, with fewer buildings, parking lots, and a gymnasium so small there was no room for spectators to sit during basketball games. There was also a swimming pool and a cemetery on the campus which no longer exist today. Over the years he has seen many buildings built

including Lowell Thomas, Fontaine, and the McCann Center. He also discusses projects to come for Marist including a new academic building, townhouses, and a dining facility. However, he does not feel that Marist is going to grow much larger than it is right now. They have all of the requirements to be a university, but he believes Marist will always remain a college.

00:48.41 - 00:53.33 John discusses the strengths of Marist College, which include the dedicated faculty, the location along the Hudson River, the quality and decency of the students, technology, and finally the small size of the college, student body, and classrooms. He then moves on to mention some weaknesses of Marist, such as faculty salary, which he believes should be raised to aid the recruitment of great professors. He briefly takes some time to speculate on where that extra money might come from.

00:53.34 - 00:56.43 John briefly discusses some measures that are being taken to increase the amount of male students at Marist. He then reflects on his life-time association with Marist, how great it has been, and how it will not be ending anytime soon.