

SHAILEEN KOPEC
Marist College
Poughkeepsie, NY
For the Marist College Archives and Special Collections
Index – Shaileen Kopec

Project Name: Marist Heritage Project

Transcript: Yes

Summary: Yes

Photograph(s): Yes

CD#: 009

Name of Interviewee: Shaileen Kopec

Main Topics: Shaileen's comments on her various positions at Marist. This includes: her unique experiences, comments on the Marist Brothers, her opinions of the three presidents at Marist, and how Marist has changed over the past twenty-five years.

Others present?: No

Interviewed by: Gus Nolan

Interview Date: 08 November 2001

Location of Interview: Marist Archives and Special Collections Reading Room

Recorder model and type: Marantz PMD 690

Length of interview: 1 hour, 4 minutes, 14 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: The interview was paused for a short break at fifty-eight minutes and two seconds.

Restrictions on interview access or use: None

Transcribed or summarized by: Jaime Edwards

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

TAPE INDEX:

<u>Time (00:00.00 ~ in hrs./mins./seconds)</u>	<u>Summary</u>
00:00.02 – 00:06.11	Shaileen Kopec reminisces about her past and family history, touching on several different topics. She talks about the origin of her name, where she grew up and went to grammar school, her siblings, and her parents. Her father and her mother were journalists, and her father ran a couple of weekly newspapers, which her mother continued to run for awhile after her father's death. Due to her parent's occupation she remembers there was always interesting conversation going on about local politics, news, etc., which she feels was very beneficial to her growing up. She received a B.A. in English from Emmanuel College and a M.A. in education from Fairfield University. She was married in 1971, and she and her husband of thirty years have two daughters.
00:06.12 – 00:19.05	Shaileen discusses how she came to work at Marist College as the alumni director. She thinks it says a lot about Marist that they hired her for that position even though she was not an alumni and she was a women, because there were not many women in administrative positions at colleges yet. She also discusses the development of the alumni program, which was slow, and the constant support of Linus Foy. She feels that her Catholic upbringing and background was an asset to her working at Marist, and it allowed her to see how extraordinary a college Marist was.
00:19.06 – 00:26.31	Shaileen briefly talks about the introduction of women to the college, however that transition happened before she entered the school, so she really did not know much about it until years later. She also feels that although there have been many changes to Marist over the years, such as the number of women enrolled, and where the students are coming from, that the fundamental principles of Marist are still alive. Shaileen only hires people who believe very passionately about the Marist mission, and she feels that Marist still has the sense of community, and resourcefulness that they did in the time of the Marist Brothers.
00:26.32 – 00:34.22	Shaileen talks about her early years working as the alumni director for Marist College. She believes that Marist alumni are all very proud of their college, and excited about the advancements Marist is making. They don't

feel like strangers on campus, even if it looks a lot different than when they went to college here, which she feels that other colleges do not have. Shaileen talks about her experience as a chaperone on one of the friendship tours to the Soviet Union, which she describes as extraordinary. She also briefly mentions the Red Fox Club, a booster organization for Marist basketball, which she has been a member of for some time.

- 00:34.23 – 00:44.23 Shaileen spends some time discussing the present position she holds at Marist, which is Vice President for Advancement. She feels that Marist has always had to work hard to scrape up the money it needs in order to continue advancement. However Marist has had some lucky breaks, such as Title III grants, which was a very significant gift. She also talks about the fortuitous partnership with IBM, the grants Marist has received, the technology, and the joint study that was done. She believes the whole process was extraordinary and is worth getting the history on in and of itself. Shaileen also mentions the one math class she took while she was at Marist, and how she became involved in it.
- 00:44.24 – 00:56.59 Shaileen talks about the leadership that Marist has had over the years, which she feels they have been blessed with. She spends some time talking about what each president brought to the table and how they each benefited and advanced Marist College. She believes each president was very much needed at the time, and that each is and should be respected. She hasn't thought too much about her own contributions to Marist because she claims she's just been too busy, but one thing she definitely looks back on with pride is the library fund, but she is quick to point out that she was far from the only one working on that fund and bringing in the money.
- 00:57.00 – 01:04.14 Shaileen comments on the Marist Brothers, and what she feels was a successful transition of power. She believes the Marist Brothers' influence will always be on the campus and that their themes of education, excellence, and community are still prevalent at Marist today. She believes that Marist is something special, that people really care, and are there for each other, and support each other, which you don't see at other colleges and universities.