

ROBERT LEWIS
Marist College
Poughkeepsie, NY
For the Marist College Archives and Special Collections
Index – Robert Lewis

Project Name: Marist Heritage Project

Transcript: Yes

Summary: Yes

Photograph(s): Yes

CD#: 029

Name of Interviewee: Robert Lewis

Main Topics: The following interview occurs with Dr. Robert Paul Lewis, former English professor and Chair of the English Department at Marist College. The interview begins with a brief background of Dr. Robert Lewis's educational years, including his college years at Manhattan College where he majored in English. Dr. Robert Paul Lewis describes his transition to teaching at Marist College upon hearing about the school at a Master's seminar at Columbia University. Dr. Robert Lewis speaks of his teaching career as well as his various other responsibilities at the college such as his being a floor proctor, the cross country team coach and also his participation on the Admissions Committee, Academic Affairs Committee, and Library Committee. He also describes his participation as a thesis mentor for the Science of Man program initiated by Xavier Ryan. Dr. Robert Lewis also compares the leadership of the two college presidents during his time at Marist College, President Linus Foy and Dennis Murray. The interview ends with what he hopes will continue to be the future mission of the college.

Others present?: Yes

Interviewed by: Gus Nolan

Interview Date: 06 June 2002

Location of Interview: Archives and Special Collections Reading Room at Marist College

Recorder model and type: Marantz PMD 690

Length of interview: 55 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

Restrictions on interview access or use: None

Transcribed or summarized by: Erin Kelly

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

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<u>Time (00:00.00 ~ in hrs./mins./seconds)</u>	<u>Summary</u>
00:00.02 – 00:09.29	Robert Lewis discusses his personal family history, including where he was born and raised, his parents and siblings, his family history of ironworking, his education from grammar school through college, his wife, and finally his children.
00:09.30 – 00:29.03	Robert reflects on being hired as an English teacher at Marist College, and comparing the hiring process from then to now. He talks about some of the other responsibilities he had when he first began working at Marist such as floor proctor and track coach. He was on a number of committees in the early years, such as the Admissions Committee and the Library Committee. Robert also worked on the Science of Man Program for several years, which he spends some time talking about.
00:29.04 – 00:34.34	Robert talks about some of the developments that happened at Marist College over the years, such as the changes in the curriculum, the creation of the core program, and the parts he played in all stages, mainly as a member of the Academic Affairs Committee. He also briefly talks about the part he played in developing a minor in Catholic Studies for the college.
00:34.35 – 00:40.33	Robert describes what it was like to serve under the two presidencies of Linus Foy and Dennis Murray. He feels that Linus Foy was a very unique president that you probably couldn't find again, because he was very accessible to the faculty, had a very decentralized way of governing, and he, as everyone else at Marist, was learning as he went. He feels that Dennis Murray is a very different kind of president, but that he has also done some wonderful things.

- 00:40.34 – 00:47.38 Robert describes some of the changes that Marist has gone through throughout the years, both for the better, and for the worst. He feels many of the changes are a double-edged sword because the changes have good results, but they also bring problems as well. He also reminisces about some of the people that he's worked with over the years that left some sort of impact on him.
- 00:47.39 – 00:55.16 Robert talks about the future of Marist and where he feels the college will be in twenty years. He believes that technology will be very important for Marist's future, but that it should not be the focal point. The focal point should be educating the whole student. To conclude the interview he reflects briefly on what he may be doing now that he's in retirement, and talks very briefly on the changes that he's seen in the students over the years.