

ROBERT NORMAN
Marist College
Poughkeepsie, NY
For the Marist College Archives and Special Collections
Index – Robert Norman

Project Name: Marist Heritage Project

Transcript: Yes

Summary: Yes

Photograph(s): Yes

CD#: 011

Name of Interviewee: Robert Norman

Main Topics: Robert Norman talks about his life working for Marist College teaching radio, broadcasting, announcing, speed reading and more. He discusses the development of the internship program, which eventually would become the very successful communications internship program, and which he greatly enjoyed working for. He also reflects on the development of the college over the years and what he feels the future of Marist will be.

Others present?: No

Interviewed by: Gus Nolan

Interview Date: 29 November 2001

Location of Interview: Fontaine Building

Recorder model and type: Marantz PMD 690

Length of interview: 41 minutes and 56 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: Nancy Decker

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>
00:00.01 – 00:05.14	Professor Robert Norman discusses his background and his history. He was born in Pennsylvania but grew up in New York. His father died when he was young and he and his sister were bounced around from aunt to uncle while his mother was sick. He graduated from Olean High School and immediately went into the army where he served for three years in the Philippines. When he returned to the states he worked in radio and television for awhile, married his wife who recently passed away, and had three children with her.
00:05.15 – 00:14.30	Robert came to Marist because they wanted someone to teach radio, which he had been working in for awhile at the time. He started out as a part-time teacher and ended up as a full-time teacher. He also has taught courses on public relations, announcing, speed reading, and he taught some English courses. He developed an internship program, which would eventually become the communications internship program, and the first out-of-town placement Marist had was with CBS. Robert spends a little time discussing the internship program, its development, the distance learning component and the people who were against it, and also some of the success stories of the internship program. He also briefly mentions the development of their annual awards presentations.
00:14.31 – 00:24.21	Robert talks about the formation of the Advisory Council and some of its members. The internship program had its share of problems over the years, and Robert goes over some of them, including the students' reluctance to pay to take an internship. He talks about the value of going to a small town or city and working for a small company and getting real experience rather than going to New York City, which sounds glamorous, but where they don't really need you. Robert really enjoyed working for the internship program; he felt it was very rewarding. Robert also discusses the formation of the Lowell Thomas Award.
00:24.22 – 00:34.12	Robert describes what happened when women started being admitted to the college, which he thought was wonderful, but a lot of the male students were at first not so enthusiastic. He talks about Paul Stokes, the Dean of Discipline, and the impact he had on campus. Robert then moves

on to discuss the three presidents of Marist College that he served under during his time here. He pauses in between to mention some broadcasting opportunities that he turned down to stay at Marist, and also some broadcasting jobs that he did for Marist, including a football game in a heavy fog. Robert only briefly mentions Paul Ambrose, but he talks extensively about Linus Foy, and everything that he did for the college during his presidency.

00:34.13 – 00:41.56 Robert talks about President Murray and compares/contrasts Dr. Murray with Dr. Foy. For instance, Dr. Foy was a very shy person, while Dr. Murray is not. Dr. Foy was quietly aggressive while Dr. Murray was outwardly aggressive. Robert believes that they were both the right man for the job during the time that they each served, but they would not have been at other times. Robert believes one of Dr. Murray's strengths was garnering sources of outside income. Robert concludes the interview by talking about the future of Marist. He feels that technology will be a big part of the future of Marist. He believes Marist has a great future ahead of it and he's proud to have been a part of it.