

THOMAS WADE
Marist College
Poughkeepsie, NY
For the Marist College Archives and Special Collections
Index – Thomas Wade

Project Name: Marist Heritage Project

Transcript: Yes

Summary: Yes

Photograph(s): Yes

CD#: 017

Name of Interviewee: Thomas Wade

Main Topics: Thomas recalls is many positions he held at Marist College and the roles he played. He also remembers fondly the mission of the Marist Brothers and the influence they had on the college when it went co-ed. In the sixties and early seventies the tremendous conflicts with the country and the church. Thomas believes a hallmark for this institution is that the students come first. He also believes in the familial spirit of the Marist Brothers.

Others present?: No

Interviewed by: John Ansley

Interview Date: 23 January 2002

Location of Interview: Archives Room, Cannavino Library, Marist College

Recorder model and type: Marantz PMD 690

Length of interview: 1 hour, 8 minutes, 47 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 – 00:12.04	Thomas Wade discusses what attracted him to Marist College and briefly reviews the chain of events that led to him working at Marist. He reflects on what it was like to work at Marist when it was small and just starting out, and then dealing with the rapid growth spurt that they had during the sixties. He attributes a lot of Marist's early success to Linus Foy giving the lay faculty and staff responsibility for the college along with the Marist Brothers. They also relied a lot on the students, to monitor themselves and to help the college grow.
00:12.05 – 00:18.25	Tom describes what the campus and the surrounding area used to physically look like when he began working at Marist College. He also reflects on the tradition of the college which he believes is putting the students first, nurturing them, and encouraging them to make their own decisions, which he believes Linus Foy was instrumental in encouraging.
00:18.26 – 00:26.25	Tom recalls the process of women entering the college for the first time, how it went, and how it was received by faculty, staff, and students. He also talks about the interaction between the student Brothers and the lay students, the Brothers reaction to the lay students coming, and the changes that the student Brothers had to go through as the college grew and developed.
00:26.26 – 00:33.07	Tom discusses some of the programs that they had at Marist, including the Little People's Summer Workshop in theater, a summer camp, and a volunteer program, all of which primarily existed because of the students themselves, and not the administration or faculty. He also discusses the flow and ebb of the size of the graduating classes, and he briefly summarizes the program redirections that took place over the years.
00:33.08 – 00:53.08	Tom describes some of the social events that he and his wife attended on campus because he was the Dean of Students. He also describes what it was like chaperoning parties and mixers to keep the students safe, as well as some of the steps he took to deal with students who were getting out of hand in their social life. Tom reflects briefly on the college actively recruiting minority students, and on dealing with all of the changes that

were going on in the world that were effecting life on campus, such as the Vietnam War. He spends a great deal of time talking about the students' rights movement, Kent State, and their effect on the campus, which was a very difficult time period.

- 00:53.09 – 00:58.35 Tom talks about the sports program that developed at Marist College, and how it evolved from being just something that the students participated in for fun, to recruiting students to play, to giving out scholarships so students could play, and finally joining the Division 1 basketball league.
- 00:58.36 – 01:05.06 Tom compares the presidencies of Linus Foy and Dennis Murray. He only worked for Dennis Murray for one year, while he worked for Linus Foy for seventeen years, so he knew more about what it was like to work for Dr. Foy, who he has nothing but praise for, however, he believes that Dennis Murray has built the college into a great institution.
- 01:05.07 – 01:08.48 Tom concludes his interview by emphasizing the uniqueness of Marist College and how other places could learn from it. His advice to future students would be to keep the spirit that has been a part of Marist alive, to understand and appreciate its history, and to become an integral part of the community.