

Oral History Interview
with
Priscilla Decker

Interview Conducted by
Juliana Nykolaiszyn
October 28, 2011

O-STATE Stories
Oral History Project

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O-State Stories

An Oral History Project of the OSU Library

Interview History

Interviewer: Juliana Nykolaiszyn

Transcriber: Adam Evans

Editors: Joe Myers, Tanya Finchum, Micki White

The recording and transcript of this interview were processed at the Oklahoma State University Library in Stillwater, Oklahoma.

Project Detail

The purpose of O-STATE Stories Oral History Project is to gather and preserve memories revolving around Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College (OAMC) and Oklahoma State University (OSU).

This project was approved by the Oklahoma State University Institutional Review Board on October 5, 2006.

Legal Status

Scholarly use of the recordings and transcripts of the interview with Priscilla Decker is unrestricted. The interview agreement was signed on October 28, 2011.

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About Priscilla Decker...

Priscilla Decker grew up in southern Oklahoma with parents who both worked in education. She attended Ardmore High School where she took a journalism class with a teacher who suggested she try Oklahoma State University for her college career. She enrolled at OSU, majoring in journalism and working on the *Daily O'Collegian* where she eventually became editor. At OSU, she lived in Willard Hall and had the same roommate for all four years. Decker enjoyed activities on or close to campus such as dances, movies, and football games, and she tried pizza for the first time when Hideaway opened.

She began dating her husband-to-be (who she had met several years earlier), and since he was already in graduate school when they began dating, he was on his way to Purdue for his PhD. After she finished her undergraduate degree, the two married, and she joined him in Indiana where she worked as writer and editor for several of the school's publications. In 1965 the couple moved to Weatherford, and Southwestern Oklahoma State University invited her to teach journalism and to be the yearbook and newspaper sponsor. She did that for a year, and then decided to focus on building her family and earning a master's degree in English education. After earning the degree and her teaching certificate, she taught English at Clinton Public Schools for six years, and then became the public information officer in the superintendent's office. Over time, she took on more and more responsibilities within that office, and stayed there for fifteen years until she retired.

In 2011, Decker came back to OSU to celebrate her fiftieth class reunion.

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Priscilla Decker

Oral History Interview

Interviewed by Juliana Nykolaiszyn
October 28, 2011
Stillwater, Oklahoma



Nykolaiszyn *My name is Juliana Nykolaiszyn with the Oklahoma State University Library. Today is Friday, October 28, 2011, and I'm at the Edmon Low Library here in Stillwater, Oklahoma, interviewing Priscilla Decker. Priscilla is back on campus today for her fiftieth class reunion. Thank you for joining us.*

Decker You're welcome.

Nykolaiszyn *Let's begin by learning a little bit more about you. Could you tell us where you grew up and give us a little background into your early life?*

Decker I grew up all over southern Oklahoma. My parents were teachers, and they went from small community to small community in southern Oklahoma teaching, and my father was often superintendent of the school. I ended up, all told, attending like a dozen different schools as I was growing up, so I never had a hometown as most people do. When I was a junior, my parents were teaching at a small school near Ardmore. They were always conscious that we should be in a school where we had opportunities that many of the small schools didn't have, so they made arrangements for me to have a room in a woman's house that they knew in Ardmore near the school. I went my junior and senior year to Ardmore High School and graduated from Ardmore, so that was my graduation school. Actually, about the middle of that year, they bought a house in Ardmore, so we did actually have a house there for the rest of the time I was in school.

At Ardmore High School my senior year I took a journalism class, and I really enjoyed it. When I came to OSU—and I probably would have gone to Southeastern State College which was at Durant, which is where my mother and father had gone to school. My two older sisters had gone

to East Central in Ada. This journalism teacher had been here at OSU, and she was always urging that I should consider OSU. That was, I think, why I decided to come here, really. I had enjoyed that journalism class.

I started out as an elementary education major since I was from a family of teachers, that's what everybody did, but I enrolled in a journalism class first semester. The class had a lab. There was a lecture in one of the old Quonset huts, which are long gone, but there was a lab to this journalism class. That was that you spent some time one day a week at *The O'Collegian*. It may have only been an hour that we were required to do. I don't remember now, but I got very enamored with *The O'Colly* atmosphere and the people there. I continued with my elementary education major but taking journalism classes until the middle of my sophomore year and I changed to journalism major with an English minor. That was how I got into the experience at OSU that probably had the most influence on my life and on my enjoyment of being here was working at *The O'Colly*.

Nykolaiszyn

What was it about The O'Colly?

Decker

Well, I took up the invitation that was on the flyer that I got about the reunion of the '61 class this year to send in something about how my story started or something like that. I don't remember the title, now. I just wrote two paragraphs. I mentioned that as a lab in this journalism class, I had to be at *The O'Colly* for a certain amount of time once a week, I think it was. It was the sound of the linotype operator or the linotype machine over in the corner. It was the smell of the ink down in the print shop. I was fascinated to watch the linotype machine work, the linotype operators, the people that were on the staff, but I suppose the main thing was I liked knowing everything that was going on on campus, sometimes before anybody else. (Laughs) I think it was something about being in on what was happening that I enjoyed. I liked that.

Nykolaiszyn

Do you remember your first story?

Decker

Oh, it's on one of the sheets here. I kept a scrapbook, so it has clippings. I was just thumbing through. The cover of this scrapbook has disintegrated, but the pages are here. On one of them, I have noted that it was the first story and my first byline. At some point, probably the beginning of my sophomore year, I think, at that time *The O'Collegian* was, and it said so on the mast, the official publication of Oklahoma State University. We were considered a real official arm of the college. There was a Board of Education that oversaw us, and we had an advisor. He was an advisor for both the *Redskin* and *The O'Colly*. They were

both put out in an old two-story building. (Laughs) It probably was condemned. It had been built in 1904. It was very creaky and had wooden stairs. *The O'Colly* was upstairs, and the *Redskin* was done downstairs. The print shop was in the back for *The O'Colly*. I think it was just being a part of that. There was sometimes an excitement about it, to be in on what was going on.

Back to my first story, the note I had on that clipping was that it was the first story and the first byline and on the front page. We were set up like a regular newspaper was run at that time, which is what would be assignments for staff members. We covered those. We were required to either go to the meeting we were covering or go do an interview if we were covering a department. We had different assignments.

The first one I was given when I was on the staff—and this is before I was paid. These were paid positions if you got to a certain point, but if you were just a reporter, you weren't paid. Mine was to cover the International Relations Council. There may not be such a thing now. That was my assignment, and they met once a week on Wednesday evening. This was a story covering whoever the speaker was. They had really kind of important people talking about international problems. There are several clippings where once a week I covered the International Relations Council, and I usually got a byline. So that was my first byline and first story, was covering the International Relations Council. Then I became the first paid position I had, which I think paid twenty dollars a month. I was glad to have it.

Nykolaiszyn *That's a lot of money back then. (Laughter)*

Decker It was very helpful at that time. I was the society editor. We had a society section. It wasn't a whole page because we would get a makeup of each page and, of course, the ad counselors got it first. Their job, first, was to sell the ads, and they would fill in all the ads. Then the pages would come upstairs to the newsroom, and we would then have whatever space to fill up that was left. It was always all of the front page and parts of the other pages. There was usually one page that was for the society news.

Nykolaiszyn *Like dances or...*

Decker Oh, yes, there was particularly a column about who was going steady and who was dropped...

Nykolaiszyn *Wow.*

Decker ...and who was engaged. You identified them by their sorority or

fraternity affiliation or if they were independent by usually their residence hall. That was called the Social Whirl. People would have to come up, and there was a basket, and you would drop in this little bit of information, (Laughs) and also about various meetings or, yes, dances or things like that that were going on. Usually wasn't too much room, but the Social Whirl was in every time. You know, of course, what it was to be dropped?

Nykolaiszyn *I'm taking it that you were no longer together.*

Decker No, no, no.

Nykolaiszyn *Okay. (Laughter) I was thinking, like, "Dropped? Man!"*

Decker This was on the other side. This would be where you were wearing the drop of whoever. This was kind of a precursor to being engaged.

Nykolaiszyn *Oh, okay. Like getting pinned.*

Decker Yes.

Nykolaiszyn *Okay. I was thinking something totally worse!*

Decker (Laughs) In the jewelry store in the Student Union you could get little drops that would be your sorority or fraternity affiliation. Again, those of us who didn't belong to a sorority or fraternity, there was one that said GDI, and that was for the independents.

Nykolaiszyn *What did that stand for?*

Decker God Damn Independent. (Laughter)

Nykolaiszyn *Oh!*

Decker Sorry, but that's what it stood for!

Nykolaiszyn *That's great! That's wonderful. (Laughter)*

Decker I never wore one of those, you understand, but there were people who did. You could get around specifying that in the Social Whirl, which you wouldn't want to do by just giving their residence hall. If it was a sorority or fraternity, you mentioned those. Some of them did wear that kind of drop...

Nykolaiszyn *Interesting.*

Decker ...and were proud of it! (Laughs)

Nykolaiszyn *I can tell from that time that there was definite lines in the sand drawn.*

Decker Right. Yes. You know, I think a lot of that probably is passé anymore, which is probably a good thing.

Nykolaiszyn *Well, did you yearn for another assignment, or were you fine with...*

Decker No, because I knew that it was a matter of working your way up. I was still sent out on other things, but that was my regular job. These were treated like jobs on a newspaper. The advisor, who was Elmer Woodson, would be like the publisher of the paper if you were working for a real newspaper. He served that purpose. We didn't come to work until early afternoon. Everybody who was actually on staff, at least the paid staff, had to take one night a week when we were night editor to get it ready to be printed, which was late at night. The next morning, Mr. Woodson would tack *The O'Colly* up on the bulletin board in the newsroom, and it would be marked with red for any mistakes we had of all kinds, any grammar, punctuation, spelling, even comments about how the writing was done. He didn't give compliments much. He was kind of a droll man, but he took his job very seriously, and we learned from him.

I remember the first time I got a red "Good" written across something, a feature story I'd done. He wrote "Good" across it, and that was probably the only time I got that kind of compliment on something I had done from him. I thought he was a tough taskmaster, but my advisor told me one time when I was kind of complaining how hard it was to work for him—it was like working for a boss, and that was his job. He said, "When you graduate from here, you will have all kinds of different jobs, but no matter what you're doing, you will have a boss. You will have someone in that position." And he said, "What you need to learn now is how to deal with that and how to make the adjustment of how to work with somebody who is over you in authority and over what you're doing and trying to give you advice." That was a good piece of advice. I thanked him many times. I went back and sucked it up.

Nykolaiszyn *Did you advance up the ladder?*

Decker Yes. I was eventually the editor my last semester, so I did move up.

Nykolaiszyn *Take me through a typical day as an editor.*

Decker Well, none of them were typical. (Laughs) That's why it was fun. If there was not a whole lot going on, all I had to make sure was that people were doing their assignments and were on the job. There was a

sports editor who was covering the sports, and then as I said, at the time, there was a society editor. I think there was someone who even did the religious news that was in the Saturday paper. I don't know how *The O'Colly* is done now, but we put out an *O'Colly*, it came out every morning, Tuesday through Saturday except in the summer. The summer term, it was twice a week. I did work on it two summers, I guess. The main thing that the editor had to do was write a column, not every day, but you were supposed to be knowledgeable enough to make some interesting comments about what was going on at some point or another, particularly if there was a controversy, and to cover the student senate. That was the editor's assignment.

Other than that, the nitty-gritty of the daily work was done by, there was an associate editor and an assistant editor. There were two desks right inside the front door. They were the ones who really got the paper put together because the reporters would go out and turn in whatever they had. The sports editor would make up their own page, but the two editors (sometimes there might only be one there) they would make up the front page, dummy it in, and assign the stories.

We had an AP wire, so we often had national news. That was another thing. You could stay on top of what was happening nationally because that teletype was going all the time. I think I may have called it a linotype a while ago. I meant teletype. The teletype was always going. If there was some big news the bell would ring, and we'd all go over and see what it was because often it was something that affected Oklahoma State in one way or the other. Sometimes it was just some big national happening. We would tear off the wire, the editors would, the associate or assistant editor, whoever is on the desk, and decide what to do with the wire stories. Often one of them was on the front page but not always. They would mark up the page where these stories were going. Then they would put on what size headline needed to go on it, depending on where they put it on the page. That would go over to the other person, and they would write the headlines.

Once it was ready, that'd be trotted down the stairs and back to the pressroom. The linotype operators came on about, seems like maybe three o'clock. I don't know. There was an older fellow who was the main linotype operator, and I loved to watch him do that. It was hot type, and you would see these little letters that would come down the chute and make a line, and then they'd make another line. I don't know. It was just fascinating to watch. He was very good, and he was a lovely man. Sometimes if it was late and you wanted to get something in that night, I would watch him do it. I'd take it down there, and I'd just stand there and watch him type it all in.

Well, back to what the editor did. They did cover the student senate meetings. They wrote columns. They handled letters to the editor that came in. They did not accept a letter unless it was signed and the person identified, but you could have the name withheld on request. Sometimes there were crisis situations. I remember, I was not the editor at the time when there was kind of a problem with the choral festival that was held here. I don't know whether that was like in February or some time. High school choirs would come, and there would be a massed choir with a director who was a guest director that would come and take them through their paces and so on.

Anyway, one time for the choral festival, it seems like it was right before Thanksgiving. It was that time of year. I can't remember for sure. Anyway, a bunch of these high school students just started fainting, and there was this mass confusion of students keeling over. They took some of them to the armory, and I don't know where else, but I remember that Mr. Woodson and I went to the armory to try to get the news. Other members of the staff were sent out to other places, maybe some to Gallagher Arena. It was held in Gallagher Arena. We were very late because all of us then had to come back and put our stories together and make some sense out of all of this. It was very late getting done, but Mr. Woodson did not think we did a good job of combining all our different—I remember the next day, he had some advice about how we could have coordinated all of these stories together a little better.

They thought (at the time, it was cold weather) that the buses the students had come in, the drivers had gone out and turned them on to heat up, and that the air intake had pulled in the exhaust. They thought that's what the problem was. There weren't any serious illnesses. I don't think anybody was hospitalized. It was probably partly a mass response. When some of them started fainting, others went down. That was a big deal. That was something we went out and tried to have pretty thorough coverage. I think that was the one that the papers like the *Tulsa World* and the *Oklahoman* picked up our story on it.

Nykolaiszyn

What were some of the other big issues of the day going on when you were in school?

Decker

Well, just looking back over the clippings, I saw two or three things. One was I found a clipping that I had kind of forgotten about. There was a controversy about a young man who was African American. I don't remember the organization now. It was maybe a business kind of club or something. Anyway, they were having a convention, state convention, in Tulsa. The headquarters for the convention was some hotel in Tulsa, some big hotel. He had been given a room at the YMCA. He was running for an office in the state organization, and it was someone who

was well-known on campus. The name was well-known, familiar to me anyway. He left the convention and had lodged a protest because they had set up his campaign booth in the lobby of the hotel. He said the other people who were running for office had suites in the hotel because they were staying there. Since he wasn't staying there, they had set his campaign headquarters up in the lobby. He felt that that was unfair, and so he had resigned and come back, and he was protesting that. That was on the front page of *The O'Colly*. That story was on the front page. I think students today would be surprised to know that that was an issue. Whoever was president of the group said they felt like they had treated him equally to other people, and he felt like he wasn't. I think that would be something that students today wouldn't understand.

Nykolaiszyn

Sure.

Decker

That's why that was a controversy at the time. I noticed as I walked in and saw the Edmon Low name—I actually interviewed him. I came here to the library and interviewed him in his office about students putting soap in the fountain. That may not sound like a big problem, but it was because he said it clogged up the filter. They would just pour, like, a whole box of some kind of detergent in it, (Laughs) and it clogged up the filter. Actually, it would flood the basement, and they would have to go in and completely take all the mechanism apart and clean it and put it back together. It cost money, and the fountain would be down for two or three days while they were working on it. I guess he had called and wanted to talk to somebody about it. I was sent over here, and I interviewed him and wrote the story about that. I noticed in the clippings it wasn't but a few days later that it happened again, so I had written another one about it. He said, "We don't know that it's the students that are doing this, but whoever is doing it, they don't understand what a problem it is and how expensive it is." He said, "If it doesn't stop, we'll just have to shut the fountain down."

Nykolaiszyn

Wow.

Decker

So that was a big deal... (Laughs)

Nykolaiszyn

Sure.

Decker

...at the time. Apparently it's not a problem now.

Nykolaiszyn

Apparently not because it still happens occasionally.

Decker

Does it?

Nykolaiszyn

Oh, yes.

Decker Really? So that didn't have much effect.

Nykolaiszyn *No, we still get suds in the fountain, but not so much of the...*

Decker Does it shut it down?

Nykolaiszyn *No.*

Decker They've probably upgraded the equipment. (Laughs)

Nykolaiszyn *Oh, yes, I think so.*

Decker By now, it's computerized or something.

Nykolaiszyn *Students will be students.*

Decker Of course, even then, the engineers put green in it, dyed it green during engineering week. It was green. I noticed today it's orange.

Nykolaiszyn *Every Homecoming.*

Decker I don't think at Homecoming, then, it was orange, but it was green for engineering week.

Nykolaiszyn *That's interesting.*

Decker I was visiting with someone about the class fifty years ago being here, graduated fifty years ago. I think things that I found in my box of memorabilia, students don't know anything about now. We had, for instance, the Mortar Board calendars. I'm sure you paid something for them, but it wasn't much. That's how Mortar Board, I think, made money. I don't know. Is there still a Mortar Board organization?

Nykolaiszyn *I think there still is.*

Decker Okay. That was outstanding women on campus. I couldn't have lived without my Mortar Board calendar. I don't know what we paid for it. I guess it wasn't very much or I couldn't have afforded it. I found the ones from '59 and '60. It's like having a diary because I noted things in there like when I had dates, what we did and where we went. I'm glad I have those. I don't know where the other two are, but I did find those two.

Also in those days when I started here, we enrolled by hand with an envelope. Actually, that was about, I don't know, four-by-five. Maybe it was bigger than that. It might have been like five-by-six. We had

columns where we put the room number and the—what am I trying to say? I can't remember now. (Laughs) I'm sure you don't even use that. Sections. There were sections. You put the room number, the section number, the name, the instructor, and what room it met in. I have those for all the semesters I was here. I'm glad, because then I would know who the instructor was. I have noted even who my instructors were.

Nykolaiszyn *Would you have to turn that in or stand in a line, or...*

Decker Yes, you did. You filled that out and usually with your academic advisor because there was a place for them to sign down here. Yes, you would stand in line and get cards for each one of those, which we'd put in the envelope. I think when you went to the class, you gave the instructor the card. That's kind of my remembrance of that. I know there were envelopes, and I have the envelopes. I think that you had to stand in line for each one of those and get a card. If you got up to the head of the line and there were no more cards, you had to redo the enrollment packet. You'd have to change. I didn't enroll early. I just enrolled when I got here that freshman year. My freshman English class was a five-hour class. Since I was among the last to enroll, it was at four o'clock in the afternoon (Laughs) because nobody wanted an English class five days a week at four o'clock in the afternoon.

Nykolaiszyn *Tell me where you lived on campus.*

Decker Willard Hall.

Nykolaiszyn *The whole time?*

Decker Yes.

Nykolaiszyn *What was it like living in Willard?*

Decker Room 207 on the second floor. I had the same roommate for three and a half years. I graduated in January and got married and went with my husband where he was in graduate school at Purdue. She and I also lived together in the summer before our senior year over at (where were we?) North Murray, I think, which was just across the street. We were in room 207 of Willard. I liked living in the dorm. I was fine. It was great having the same roommate the whole time. That was good. In fact, she's here today. She and her husband are here. We've maintained contact all these years. It's been a long-term friendship. We happened to be next door to the floor monitor. You've heard about those?

Nykolaiszyn *Sure, yes. That couldn't have been good.*

Decker (Laughs) It didn't bother us. We were on our best behavior, and we were okay. We weren't wild and crazy. Your freshman year, you had to check out to go to the library. She had kind of a stenographer's notebook hung on her door, and you just had to put your name in and when you checked out. She did do a hall check at ten o'clock to make sure everybody was in.

Nykolaiszyn *So what happens when you're late?*

Decker Well, you were seen by the housemother, I think. I don't know that that ever happened to me. I wrote in my little thing about my story ("where my story began," I think that was it) that another advantage to working at *The O'Colly* was that, as I said before, I had to be night editor, once I was really on the staff, one night a week. Sometimes I would fill in for somebody who was ill, or I would trade off with somebody, so sometimes it was twice a week.

By then, my fiancé and I probably took advantage of that. I had established a reputation in Willard that I went by the rules and I hadn't caused any problems. They locked the back door at ten o'clock. When I was working late and if I was putting the paper to bed, it would often be eleven, maybe midnight if there was some big story coming in late or if I had covered the senate and had to write the story and do all that, so my fiancé at the time would come often and walk me back to Willard. Sometimes we would take advantage of the fact that all I had to do was buzz the doorbell and the gal from the desk would come and let me in, and never any questions asked because they knew I was working at *The O'Colly*.

Nykolaiszyn *Well, there you go. Benefits of the job.*

Decker Yes. We didn't do that all the time, but that was one of the perks for working at *The O'Colly*.

Nykolaiszyn *Did Willard have any traditions that you can recall?*

Decker Oh, I'm trying to think if we even did a house decoration for Homecoming, and I guess we did, but since I was working at *The O'Colly* and was often working late, I didn't get in on that sort of thing. I don't know about that. Our cafeteria was a public cafeteria, which was different from Murray and Stout, the other women's dorms. I liked that because we had people, particularly from Whitehurst, that would come over and eat there. That was just across the parking lot.

At the time, I guess, I don't know whether that was the case all the time I was in Willard or not, but I know about the first two years, North

Murray was for graduate men. Most of them were foreign students. They came and ate in Willard. My roommate and I made some good friendships just visiting with them and doing things with them.

When we passed the sign for Lake Carl Blackwell, I mentioned to Joy, I said, "It says, 'Fee required.'" We didn't have to pay a fee when we went to Lake Carl Blackwell." She said, "No, we didn't." She said, "I have a picture that somebody took of me out there." I said, "I don't have that picture. I have a picture of when some of us went out there for a picnic all day with these guys from North Murray, and we had a good day at Lake Carl Blackwell, just hanging out."

Nykolaiszyn *What countries were they from?*

Decker One of them was from Iran. This was the time of the Shah over there. One of them was Czechoslovakian, but he had lived in Portugal. He spoke whatever they speak in Portugal. (Laughs) He spoke Por—

Nykolaiszyn *Portuguese?*

Decker Portuguese. He spoke Portuguese because his family had fled Czechoslovakia at the time of the takeover there, the Soviet takeover. He had lived in Portugal, so he spoke that language. Then they had immigrated to, seems like maybe, Brazil or one of the South American countries, I think. He was actually here having come through that route. These were graduate students, mostly in engineering. Through them, we met probably—those were the two I remember most. There were others, but they ate in Willard regularly, and we'd visit with them.

There was a professor here who was Dr. Petrzelka who was Czechoslovakian, and if we went to some event, he would be there. Sometimes we'd just meet in the Union or something. He was such a sweet man, learned and very friendly and kind. I noticed in the pictures, there's one of them with him, and I just remembered. Somebody had written an article in *The O'Colly* about him with a picture. I look at those now, and I wonder what happened to those people and where they ended up. I don't know. I liked that about the Willard cafeteria because there were other people there and we did meet people that we probably wouldn't have otherwise that we were friends with, so that was good.

Nykolaiszyn *How was the food?*

Decker You know, I didn't complain about dorm food. I know that's heretical, but I thought the food was good. (Laughs) I did. I thought Willard had good food. That was probably partly because it was a public cafeteria and they fed people from all over the campus, especially from

Whitehurst, who came over there for lunch. That probably had something to do with it.

Nykolaiszyn *You mentioned Lake Carl Blackwell. Did you go any other places for fun?*

Decker I didn't have a car, and most of the people I knew didn't have a car. Nobody had a car in those days on campus, so you're pretty much stuck on campus to do what was going on here. We went to dances. I have pictures. There was a Howdy Dance. There was a Sadie Hawkins Dance. There was a Junior-Senior Prom Dance. I do have pictures of dances, one or two. The Howdy Dance was held on what was then kind of a patio on the east side of the Student Union, long gone with the addition, I'm sure. That was right at the beginning of school. We went to football games. My roommate played in the band, and I enjoyed watching the band.

Actually, my husband played in the band, but I wasn't dating him until he was a graduate student. He wasn't in the band, I think, after he was a graduate student. One of our sons came here to OSU and graduated in December of '89. He played in the band, so we would come up and watch football games. That was when Barry Sanders was playing, and I was telling my roommate coming in that our youngest son would come with us, then. He was younger than Joel by about seven years. He has been a dedicated fan of Barry Sanders ever since.

Anyway, back to activities we did when I was here. I don't know. I just remember the dances. There was a movie house on the corner. Hideaway has now taken over that corner, Campus Corner. It showed sort of older movies, and you could go real cheap. I think it was like a dollar or something. (Laughs) We went to movies there quite a bit. Although, I did have dates at the movie downtown. I can't remember the name of it now, but there was a movie downtown.

Nykolaiszyn *The Leachman?*

Decker Yes. Yes, that's it. One of the interesting things for my husband and me was that we had—I don't know if it was our first date or not. I wouldn't say that for sure. I had never had pizza before, and the Hideaway opened in 1957, which was the year I came. I think I had probably gone there with other friends, but I remember that's where he and I would go for dates.

Nykolaiszyn *What did you think about pizza?*

Decker Oh, I thought it was good. To this day, my husband and I thought the

Hideaway pizza was the best and there was nothing better than Hideaway pizza. If it's your first, you always think that's the pinnacle. When we came back for his class' fiftieth reunion in 2008, we had lunch at the Hideaway. We always thought it was the best. You know, there are Hideaways now in Oklahoma City, and it's good. We would analyze why it was better than anybody else. Well, we thought the crust, and then the sauce. (Laughs) In fact, Richard Dermer [Hideaway owner] was in my freshman English class.

Nykolaiszyn *He was an English major.*

Decker Yes. At the time, I recall, he sat on the back row and some days, he was very drowsy. I read later or looked at his interview on the site (I think that's where I saw where he was telling about, or I've read it somewhere) that he was working some other job, and then he and a partner started the Hideaway. He was working all the time. No wonder he was kind of barely there in that freshman English class.

Nykolaiszyn *Falling asleep.*

Decker But you can understand.

Nykolaiszyn *You mentioned your husband. Where did you meet your husband?*

Decker I had known of him when I was in the eighth grade. Actually, my two sisters knew him before I did. He grew up in Ada, Oklahoma, because his dad was head of the Chemistry Department at East Central at Ada. Rolan attended Horace Mann School, which was the teacher training school. At that time, there was six sister state colleges. They had their own teacher training schools, at least East Central did, and I think several of the others did, too, on the campus. That was where the education majors would do their practice teaching. That's what Horace Mann was, so he went to school and graduated from Horace Mann. When I was in the eighth grade, I lived most of that year with my oldest sister who was a senior that year at East Central. She was a double music major. She was in the orchestra, and my future husband, who was still in high school at the time, played cello in that orchestra, so she knew him then.

I can remember hearing her and her friends who were other orchestra members talk about this upstart kid who was still in high school playing in the orchestra. It was because the orchestra director needed a cello, and he knew Rolan had musical ability, so he asked him. He'd give him lessons if he'd play the cello in the orchestra, so that's how he got started. She knew him, and then Rolan also played clarinet in the band. My middle sister, who went to East Central for two years, was a twirler

in the East Central band, so she knew him in the band. Again, he was in high school at the time. Horace Mann wasn't big enough to have its own. That was an advantage he thought he had going to Horace Mann is that he'd had college instructors for some of his classes and he could play in the band and orchestra even though he was still in high school.

So they knew him, and I went to Horace Mann during my eighth grade year because I lived with my oldest sister that year. He was three years older, so I just knew who he was by name. I didn't really know him. Then we reconnected here, actually, through the student religious organizations which are probably not on campus anymore, either. At the time, each religious denomination had a student organization that was functioning in it. I was Presbyterian, and he was Disciples.

During the time that we were in college, those two student organizations merged, and we came together through that. As I said, by the time we were actually dating, he was doing graduate work here. Then he got accepted to Purdue to go straight to the PhD in chemistry there. He was up there one semester, and then I finished in January. Got married and went to Purdue. I was editor of *The O'Colly* that fall semester. That was during the time when the semester ended in January. You had, oh, probably two weeks after you came back to school and then take finals. We were married right after I finished the semester in January of 1961.

Nykolaiszyn

As you're going through school, do you have any ideas of what you want to be when you get older?

Decker

Well, I think some people know exactly. I told my kids, and I used to tell students when I was teaching, college is when you can figure that out. Don't think that you have to go to college knowing exactly where that's going to lead because college is a good time to try different avenues if you're not sure. I think that's what I did. I started out in elementary education and veered off into journalism and English.

Our son who came here knew when he was in the eighth grade he wanted to do something with computers. That's when computers were new, really. He knew from the time he was in the eighth grade that he wanted to do something with computers, so he came to OSU, but it took him three majors to get the right track for what he really wanted to do with computers. He started out in computer engineering and saw that wasn't quite right, and I think he was a semester in computer engineering technology, but that wasn't it either. He didn't want to build them. Then I think he made maybe one other shift, but he ended up finally in the School of Arts and Sciences with a computer major and a business minor, and then he was right on track for what he wanted to do. I think college is the time to figure that out. I think a lot of students

come thinking they're aiming for something and then find other avenues.

Then there was my husband who came and knew he was going to major in chemistry. He ended up teaching, which is what he thought he wasn't going to do. He was pretty clear he wasn't going to teach, and while he was in graduate school, he discovered that that's what he really liked to do. He spent his career teaching chemistry at Southwestern [Oklahoma State University], and he loved it. It was his calling. I think you have to be open to what's—he often said that he could have majored in music or chemistry. He decided that music could be an avocation better than chemistry could. That's really what he did, then. His music was his avocation. He retired sooner than a lot of people do, even though he had thirty-one years. He said, "I don't want to get to the point that I can't do anything else because there are other things I want to do." So he did. He retired, and he did music and drama and things he enjoyed.

I think college is when you can try different avenues and see where you're really happy. I didn't end up doing journalism, per se, but I've often said that I really learned in the practice of working for *The O'Colly*. In that work, I really learned what stood me in good stead in all of my English because I later did some graduate work in English and got a master's in English education. I had to write a paper, you know, in every class. I think that I learned a lot from working at *The O'Colly* that helped me in my English classes.

I've also often said that my freshman English teacher taught me the most of what was useful when I was writing for *The O'Colly*. She was a real stickler about misspelled words, about not being redundant, about using different words so you didn't repeat a word more than once, choosing words, having a good vocabulary, being concise, being organized. I learned from her the things that really helped me probably the most in the writing, the journalism writing, more than journalism classes, really. I used that, too, all the way through when I had to do papers in English. While I didn't really end up as a journalist, per se, I did for a while work at a radio station which was a new experience. I used my journalism for that. I covered city council meetings and school board meetings and reported on elections. I hadn't ever worked at a radio station, so that was kind of interesting. I considered myself a journalist, part-time. (Laughs)

Nykolaiszyn *It goes hand in hand. It transfers. Those skills transfer.*

Decker Yes. Yes. I got them here, so I was satisfied with my classes and the work that I did here.

Nykolaiszyn *Did you ever end up in the classroom teaching, yourself?*

Decker

I did, finally, at the age of forty. I said, “At the age of forty, I had a midlife crisis and started teaching school.” (Laughs) When my husband began teaching at Southwestern in Weatherford—while he was in graduate school at Purdue, I had worked at the university editor’s office, which was the office for Purdue that published all their publications, catalogs. They had a little in-house magazine. I wrote for that and so on and did a lot of editing of materials and bulletins and publications that were put out through that office.

When he got the job at Southwestern in 1965, I realized that there wasn’t going to be much opportunity in western Oklahoma for me. The only journalism jobs were working for small-town newspapers. The local newspaper wasn’t interested in hiring me, and frankly I wasn’t too interested in working for them, anyway, so that’s all right. The college [hired me] that one year, the first year—they did know I had a journalism degree. The man they had hired to teach journalism left right about the time that school was starting. That was during the boom of Southwestern. They were growing by leaps and bounds. They asked me to come in on a temporary part-time basis and teach the journalism classes and sponsor the yearbook and newspaper, so I did that at Southwestern that one year. In the middle of that year, we adopted our first child, so we kind of started on our family.

I saw that probably there wasn’t going to be much opportunity for journalism work out there, so I started taking classes to get a master’s in English ed, which I did. During that time, I worked. I edited a weekly advertiser paper for a few months, and then I worked at the radio station for a time. In getting the master’s, I worked on my teaching certificate. I didn’t really actually apply until my youngest child started kindergarten. When he was five, I sent out applications, and I started teaching at Clinton Public Schools. I only taught freshman English there for six years, and they opened up the position in the superintendent’s office for someone to do public information for the schools.

Nykolaiszyn

Right up your alley.

Decker

Yes, that was my perfect job. I did really like that. I did that for fourteen or fifteen years until I retired. When it started out, that was really what I was doing. I was doing publicity for them, and I was taking lots of pictures. They bought a camera. I took pictures, and I wrote stories, and they were all in the local paper. I already knew the school system, and I knew the teachers. I would be in all the classrooms, and I knew programs. It was great fun. I did brochures and everything.

Somewhere along the line, the assistant superintendent needed my help to do things like grant proposals and so on. He wanted me to help write

some of his stuff. I began to help him, and I took on more and more, assisting him. When he became superintendent, he kind of divided his job between me and the high school principal. I really became more of an administrator then, and I took on more administrative work. I did enjoy doing that.

Nykolaiszyn

Are there any places on campus that are just really special to you when you think about them?

Decker

Oh, the Student Union. We used to go over to the Student Union for coffee from *The O'Colly*. We'd take a break and go over there, particularly at night if we were working at night. The dance floor up on the fourth floor, there was a jukebox. It was nearly always going because somebody was nearly always up there. I'd go up there with somebody, and we'd dance. Willard, our room at Willard Hall, that was home for the time I was here. Theta Pond, I always thought that was pretty. It was a peaceful place to go. Of course, it was near Willard. The Hideaway for pizza, it was in a little storefront place, very different from where it is now, very small, really.

And, of course, *The O'Colly* offices. I saw in that book about the growth of the campus, something entitled *OAMC* about the growth of the facilities or something over the years from the beginning, that that building was actually torn down just probably a couple years after I graduated, not long after I graduated. It had been the creamery for the dairy herd. That's what it was built for in 1904. (Laughs) It suited *The O'Colly* well because there is a picture in this book that I have that shows the equipment from when it was the creamery, and on the concrete floor there were these huge various kinds of containers and machines and whatever. They needed that heavy concrete floor to put the press on. The press was on the concrete floor at the back of it. It was an old building. I enjoyed the time I was there.

I was gone one time overnight for something. I think they had a shower for us after I was engaged, in Ada, and I was gone overnight. When I came back, there was some kind of a big to-do because there had been some kind of a panel again, I think, in Tulsa. One of the foreign students from OSU had said something that somebody inferred, from what he said, that OSU was not friendly to foreign students. I came back late and went to work, and I was tired, and here was this parade of people bringing letters [and complaints] to the editor. Of course, that was the semester I was editor. That was the most stressful time I can recall. It was the only time that I went into the bathroom, which was at the back of that top floor, and cried because I was so frustrated that all this had broken loose and I wasn't here. I didn't really know what was going on, and all these people were in an uproar over whether OSU was friendly to

their foreign students or not. Of course, I had friends who were foreign students. That was the only time I remember not handling it well.

As I said, I, particularly, didn't have a car, so I would have to bum rides home with people. Nobody wanted to stay until I got out of English class at five o'clock. That was always a problem, (Laughter) so I would either have to cut class or they'd wait on me.

Nykolaiszyn *What was Homecoming like when you were a student?*

Decker Oh, actually pretty much, I think, like it is here. I do guess that Willard had some kind of decoration because it was always on that west side of the building and our room was on the west side on the second floor. I can kind of recall that our window would be covered up, I think. As I said, I never got in on that, particularly, because I was working at the paper. That would be a busy time for us, really. I think the house decorations were not as over the top, elaborate as they are now. For one thing, they didn't have all the mechanical stuff that they do now, all the extra power and so on, but there were some pretty elaborate things done. I always went to the parade. Well, I started to say that but, yes, I probably did go to the parade because I knew people in the band.

Nykolaiszyn *You started in '57?*

Decker Yes.

Nykolaiszyn *So you were around when Pistol Pete became the official mascot?*

Decker Yes.

Nykolaiszyn *Was that a big deal?*

Decker I don't recall that, particularly, although I remember we had articles about the original man that it was based on. I kind of remember. In fact, now that I kind of think back on it, I think he was the marshal at one of the parades, probably, while I was here. The carillon was a favorite thing when I was here. I just now was hearing it. I loved to hear that, and I still do when I'm here. I love that.

Nykolaiszyn *Would it play anything different?*

Decker Yes, on Sunday afternoons it would play things, I guess hymns. I don't remember for sure. It seems like it would play a little while on Sunday afternoon. I don't remember other times, although there might have been, when it played songs. I can't remember that for sure, but I know on Sunday afternoons sometimes it would play things. I like the carillon.

Nykolaiszyn *I like it during the holidays. It'll play Christmas music.*

Decker Yes, right. I was trying to think. It seems like maybe special times sometimes it would play things.

Nykolaiszyn *Did you spend much time in the library studying?*

Decker Yes. Yes, I was in the library. As I said, when we were freshmen, we could check out to the library, but you had to say that's where you were going, and you weren't supposed to go anywhere else. (Laughs) We were trustworthy, weren't we? I do think maybe sometimes we went over to the Union for coffee.

Nykolaiszyn *Did the library look much different?*

Decker Well, yes. I was telling my roommate after they got here, I said, "You might want to come over and look at the library." I said, "For one thing, there are computers all over the place." There were stacks. I had a humanities class, and a lot of the things we had to read were on reserve. You'd have to go in the reserve stack and find what you wanted. Do they still have monitors that wander through periodically to see if...

Nykolaiszyn *Not really, not that I know of.*

Decker ...you're doing what you're supposed to be doing and not bothering anything?

Nykolaiszyn *No. We have security, but I mean...*

Decker All right, but do they still check your books as you go out?

Nykolaiszyn *We check books at Circulation, and they only check you if you go out and you make the doors ring.*

Decker Really?

Nykolaiszyn *Yes.*

Decker There was usually a man who was at the desk between the front doors. Or are there two desks between the front doors?

Nykolaiszyn *There are.*

Decker Seems like maybe there was one at each. They wore suits, and they must've been graduate students, I'm guessing. You had to put all your

material up there, and they would thumb through it, books. If you had things in a bag, you had to empty it. If it was just a book and a notebook, they would thumb through them.

Nykolaiszyn

Wow.

Decker

Then they or someone in their group would periodically kind of wander through the floors. [My roommate and I] knew these graduate students, and up on the fifth floor, there were study carrels for graduate students. I think they were assigned certain ones. We'd go up there with them, and it was quiet, and there wasn't much activity. We would use one of the unused study carrels. One time, one of the monitors said we shouldn't be up there, that we weren't graduate students and we didn't belong up there. (Laughs)

Nykolaiszyn

Do you remember if you could wear pants in the library? Women?

Decker

I guess so because I don't remember that being—I'm sure I must've worn pants some. I don't remember that being anything. Was that at some time?

Nykolaiszyn

At some point. At some point you couldn't wear pants.

Decker

Boy, I don't remember that being a thing to bother about. I really don't, but we did wear skirts a lot more then than they do now. Isn't that interesting? I can't remember that.

Nykolaiszyn

You probably would've remembered.

Decker

I think so, but I came from a high school where you couldn't wear pants to school. On Fridays at Ardmore High School when I was a senior, you could wear slacks but not jeans. Couldn't wear jeans, but you could wear slacks. I think that was only on Fridays. I think I'm right about that. So that wouldn't have been a big deal, I guess, if that was the case.

Nykolaiszyn

Looking back, how did attending Oklahoma State really impact your life?

Decker

Oh, well, I think my life would have been very, very different if I hadn't attended Oklahoma State. You know, we were the first class that graduated when it was OSU for all four years. My husband had been in the first class that graduated as OSU. It had been OAMC when he started. Our class was the one that was OSU for the whole four years. We all had to adjust at the football games because OAMC doesn't fit the wave. I mean OSU. I'm sorry. OSU does not fit this as well as OAMC, so that was kind of an adjustment for him. I wouldn't have had the

experience of working at *The O'Colly*, which is my most significant, I suppose, memory of being here. Really, probably impacted what I did later a great deal, whatever it was. I did date my husband here. I didn't actually meet him here, but we started knowing each other here. That would probably not have happened if I'd gone somewhere else. So it was a major impact on my life. I've always been proud of it.

Nykolaiszyn *I think Oklahoma State is pretty unique in that students and alumni have this great loyalty towards campus. What do you think is it about OSU that sparks this loyalty?*

Decker That's interesting. I tell you what. I think part of it is, at least at the time I was here, I don't know whether most of the students, but my sense in it is that maybe I could say most of the students came from small towns. This is my husband's OSU ring. I don't recall that he ever wore it very much, but I found it in some things. I don't remember. He may have worn it his last year here or something. Anyway, when I found this, I recalled—and, of course, about the time I graduated from high school, that was the thing to do. You wore your boyfriend's ring around your neck on a chain. I remember when I came, they had this orientation session. One of the things they told us was, "Take off your high school graduation ring and leave it at home because you're now a part of OSU. You're not identified by that anymore." I thought of that when I saw this ring.

I think the fact that so many of the students (and I would think maybe most, at the time I was here) came from small towns. Most of them didn't have cars, so you had to become a part of the campus. That meant that you made friends and you joined organizations and you did things together. You went to football games and dances, so I think you felt like you were a part of a certain group that was connected by being at OSU and from OSU. That would be all I'd guess that it was. I don't know.

I noticed, for instance, when my husband taught at Southwestern, by the time all students had cars, a lot of them commuted. If they had cars, they went home every weekend, and that, I think, makes a difference. When I was a student here, you were here, and so whoever you came in contact with was part of whatever you were doing. I don't know. Maybe that was it. If that's still happening and students have cars now, maybe that doesn't follow. I don't know.

Nykolaiszyn *Maybe it's just something about Oklahoma State.*

Decker I don't know the answer to that. (Laughter) Maybe it's because Stillwater is isolated from a large metropolitan area. I think maybe that's part of it.

Nykolaiszyn *Could be.*

Decker I don't know. That's an interesting question.

Nykolaiszyn *Well, as we wind down today, is there anything you'd like to mention that I have failed to ask you? Anything you'd like to say?*

Decker I think I've covered everything and taken enough of your time.
(Laughter)

Nykolaiszyn *Well, welcome back.*

Decker I'm sure when I leave here, I'll think, "Oh, I wish I had told her..." See, I was often doing three or four things.

Nykolaiszyn *You were juggling a lot.*

Decker I was, and class work suffered often as a result.

Nykolaiszyn *(Laughter) But that's okay. It's college.*

Decker But that's okay.

Nykolaiszyn *Well, we're back with Priscilla Decker, and you're going to tell me a little bit about Varsity Revue. You were involved with that?*

Decker I remembered, yes, that Varsity Revue took up a lot of my time.

Nykolaiszyn *What was Varsity Revue?*

Decker Varsity Revue was a variety show that had group acts and individual acts. You had to audition. It was sponsored at the time I was here by the two journalism groups, honorary journalism. Theta Sigma Phi was the girls, and I believe I'm right that the men's was Sigma—I don't want to say the fraternity, but it was Sigma something. I'm kind of foggy on that. They sponsored Varsity Revue. It was in the spring, and there was a committee, a Varsity Revue committee, that was made up of members of these two journalism groups. The committee would, I think, choose a director for the Varsity Revue, and then there were committee members that were in charge of different things. The committee would audition groups and individuals.

Also, there were girls who would audition to be the Varsity Revue girls. They were like the Rockettes, Radio City Music Hall. They would wear lovely short costumes, and they would introduce the Varsity Revue, and

then I think they would maybe introduce the second act. It was a real big undertaking. They sold tickets, and it was a moneymaker. It was very popular, and it was very well attended. Many of the sororities and fraternities would try out for their group act. Sometimes the residence halls would. The year, I think, that I was assistant director, Thatcher Hall, I believe, had an act. Actually, my future husband was in it, but I don't think we were going together at the time. I don't remember. I couldn't tell you exactly. The Varsity Revue would have a theme of some kind. This committee would decide on a theme, and so the acts would fit the theme some way. It might be kind of off the wall, but it would be some relation to the theme. The individual acts would perform in front of the curtain while you were changing for the next group act.

I think it was Thatcher. It was one of those smaller men's dorms. All I remember is that they wore togas made out of bed sheets. It was like the lost, not country, but under the sea, anyway. (Laughs) It was strange. I don't know. They wore togas made out of bed sheets with ropes around their waist. Some of the acts were pretty elaborate, and usually they involved music. They would usually write an original song. Somebody in their organization would be a music major. It was a lot of work for those of us who did it. I was the assistant director one year, and then I was the director the next year.

Nykolaiszyn *Where did it take place?*

Decker In the auditorium.

Nykolaiszyn *In Williams Hall? No, couldn't have been.*

Decker No, what was that? Actually the Seretean Center incorporates what was the old auditorium.

Nykolaiszyn *Okay.*

Decker I think. I think I read that. I believe I'm right about that.

Nykolaiszyn *Okay.*

Decker It was kind of built around. I think the auditorium was completely renovated or restructured, rebuilt. That's where it was held. Alums would come back, and parents of kids who were in it. It was a big production. You know, you'd have to have lighting. (Laughs) I remember one year, and that might have been the year I was the director. You'd have rehearsals every night for, I don't know, two weeks beforehand or something. Somebody designed as the opening, when the curtain first opened, the opening scene, a fountain in the middle of the

stage. Some engineering student helped, I'm sure, with this. It was hooked up some way so that when the curtain opened, the water would flow out of the lovely fountain. It was hooked up in some way to the water supply, I don't know, so that to make it work you had to flush the stool in the bathroom in the wings. (Laughs) Somebody had to time it just right that whoever was working the curtain would say, "We're ready," or whatever. There was somebody down the hall that would holler at whoever was in the bathroom, "Flush the stool!" (Laughter) Then the fountain would—it was lovely. You had to have someone back there telling them when to flush the stool for the water to come up.

Nykolaiszyn

You stayed quite busy.

Decker

Yes, it was fun. I don't know what I learned from that except how to work with a lot of people and get something on the stage. I don't know now. Sometimes there were fusses going on between groups, like where they were placed or somebody else was getting better timing. It was nerve-wracking. It was another learning experience, how to get along with a lot of people and keep them from fighting each other. (Laughs) But Varsity Revue, I don't know how long it went on.

Nykolaiszyn

I don't know. I'll have to look that up.

Decker

It hasn't been going for quite a while, I think, but that was one of the things we did. It was one of the reasons I didn't have as good a grade point average as I could have, but I had a 3.3, so I was all right.

Nykolaiszyn

Good enough to graduate.

Decker

Good enough to graduate. That's right. (Laughs)

Nykolaiszyn

And where was graduation held?

Decker

Well, I think it was at, what was called then, Lewis Field. I didn't come back for graduation, so I wasn't here for graduation. I finished in January and got married right after I finished in January and went right away back up to Indiana with my husband. I didn't come back for graduation. I think it was on Lewis Field at that time, what we called Lewis Field. That's not that anymore, but that's where I think it was.

Nykolaiszyn

Would you do anything differently from your college days if you could go back?

Decker

That's a good question. Well, that's a good thought. What would I do differently? Probably I would, but I don't know right now, looking back, what I would do differently, except maybe work harder at my classes.

(Laughs) I went to class, and I had good teachers, and I took good notes. I kept the notebook from my intermediate algebra class because I enjoyed that class a lot. A graduate student taught it, and I thought he was a great teacher. I enjoyed the class so much, and I still have that notebook just because I enjoyed it. I don't know. If I had spent more time doing studies, I couldn't have done all the extra stuff I did. That was a big part of my college experience. I came out with a good education. I remember some really good classes and some really good teachers.

Nykolaiszyn

Any in particular you'd like to share?

Decker

Well, sure, I could name a few. I mentioned Dr. [Daniel] Kroll who I had a couple English classes with. I thought he was very good. My freshman English teacher was really just an adjunct teacher. I think she later taught at Langston University. Her name was Mrs. Flasch. I remember her name, and she might've been a graduate student or something. I don't know, but she was very good and gave me good help with writing that I used in journalism and my English classes and everything.

Mr. [James] Stratton was a journalism teacher that I had for several journalism classes, and he was an interesting person. We used to quote him up at *The O'Colly* all the time about how a group of orangutans could put out the kind of paper we put out that day or something. (Laughs) He was pretty hard on us sometimes. He did a jazz after hours, or something like that, program on the radio station that was popular. He knew a lot about jazz, and my husband used to listen to it because he liked jazz. He was an interesting person. Who else comes to mind? I can't think right quick.

I had a Dr. May for a cultural anthropology class that was very interesting. Some of these, I didn't make As in them, but I used to tell students, "Don't try so hard to get straight As that you miss out on classes that might give you more in the long run, that will have more impact on what you do later or on what you want to learn." Because some of the ones that I had that I think I still remember, I didn't do as well in as I did in some others. I used to give that advice to students. Don't pass up what you think is a hard class that you probably can't make an A in just because you want to get straight As because you'll miss out on some good preparation for college.

Nykolaiszyn

Well, it's pretty good advice. (Laughter) It's a good way to end. Welcome back to your fiftieth reunion, and we hope you enjoy your time back on campus. Thank you for interviewing with us today.

Decker

Thank you.

----- *End of interview* -----