

HISTORY OF CSUF NURSING PROGRAM ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

COPH OHP_284



Center for Oral and Public History
California State University, Fullerton

Administrative Information

Acquisition

All items in this collection were donated to the Center for Oral and Public History by the interviewer and interviewees.

Access

The collection is open for research.

Preferred Citation

Citations must identify the oral history number, interviewee, interviewer, date, project, and the Center for Oral and Public History.

Literary Rights and Quotations

The oral histories are made available for research purposes only. No part of the audio tape or the manuscript may be quoted for publication without the written permission of the Center for Oral and Public History, California State University, Fullerton.

Requests for permission to quote from these materials should be addressed to:

Center for Oral and Public History
California State University, Fullerton
P.O. Box 6846
Fullerton, CA 92834

or

coph@fullerton.edu

The request should include identification of the specific passages and identification of the user.

Descriptive Summary

Title

History of CSUF Nursing Program Oral History Project [OHP 284]

Date(s)

September 2014-March 2015

Creator

Natalie Fousekis

Extent

Seven (7) oral histories. Six (6) narrators.

Collateral:

Oral History Video Script
[Located in project file]

Repository

Center for Oral and Public History
California State University, Fullerton

Narrators:

Arlene Blix
Cynthia Greenberg
Barbara Haddad
Paula Herberg
Chris Latham
Barbara Talento

History of CSUF Nursing Program Oral History Project

OH #5449

Narrator: Herberg, Paula (b. 1946)

Interviewer: Janet Tanner

Title: “An Oral History with Paula Herberg”

Date: September 16, 2014

Language: English

Location: Orange, California

Project: School of Nursing

Status: completed; 30 pages

This oral history spans 1946-2014. Bulk dates: 1987-2014.

An oral history with Paula Herberg, resident of Orange, California, and retired chair of the CSUF nursing department. This interview was conducted as part of the School of Nursing Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about Herber’s experiences in with the CSUF School of Nursing. Specifically, this interview talks about Herber’s childhood in California and why her family moved to Orange County; recalls first visit to Disneyland in 1955; talks about her parents educational background and how it compares to her own; explains rationale for becoming a nurse; shares her memories of 1960s social movements, specifically the health promotion movement and how it informed her doctoral research; comments on diploma vs. degree programs; recalls the challenges of nursing school; explains how she became a teacher; describes her involvement with CARE [Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere] and overseas work including: Afghanistan (1970s and 2002) and Nepal; explains how she prepared for international aid work and how Western culture was viewed by the Afghanis; explains why she got her doctorate in nursing; talks about the student/teacher relationship and her role as mentor; recounts experiences of interacting with students; shares what characteristics she looks for in a nursing student; recalls her tenure as Director of the School of Nursing at the Aga Khan University in Karachi, Pakistan; talks about joining the CSUF Nursing Department in 2000 and her role as department chair (2003-08) including: growth of the student body, job responsibilities and development of additional concentrations; comments on the gender imbalance in the nursing profession; shares how the nursing profession has changed since the 1960s; how nursing students are placed in Orange County hospitals via Clinical Placement Officers; comments on challenges faced by modern nursing students; reflects on her professional challenges and accomplishments; discusses the impact managed care has on healthcare; and finally, reminisces on her work with a school of nursing in East Africa.

OH #5450

Narrator: Latham, Christine (b. 1952)
Interviewer: Abby Waldrop
Title: “An Oral History with Christine Latham”
Date: September 25, 2014
Language: English
Location: Fullerton, California
Project: School of Nursing Oral History Project

Status: completed; 16 pages

This oral history spans 1952-2014.

An oral history with Christine Latham, former clinical nurse, former chair of the department of nursing, and current professor at Cal State Fullerton. This interview includes discussion of Latham’s educational background, career in nursing, and how she transitioned into the teaching field. Specifically, decisions that influenced her to become a nurse; nursing school at the University of Wisconsin, and its challenges; her interest in the critical care component of nursing; working at a major medical facility in Milwaukee; her thoughts on both the patient-nurse relationship, as well as the doctor-nurse relationship; challenges of working in the critical care field; how she became involved in teaching; working at CSULA; making the transition to CSUF, as department chair in 1998; the challenges of teaching; what she looks for in a nursing student; how the nursing profession has evolved in terms of gender; what she finds as the most rewarding aspect of teaching nursing; ways in which she reinvigorated the CSUF nursing program, forming partnerships, and gaining accreditation; her responsibilities and rewards as chair of the department; her involvement in the La Habra Community Collaborative; her research related to Hispanics, diabetes, and obesity; what she likes most about being at Cal State Fullerton; and finally, how future nursing will focus more on prevention of illness, not just treatment of illness.

OH #5451

Narrator: Talento, Barbara (b. 1928)
Interviewer: Janet Tanner
Title: “An Oral History with Barbara Talento”
Date: October 29, 2014
Language: English
Location: Brea, California
Project: School of Nursing

Status: completed; 25 pages

This oral history spans 1928-2014. Bulk dates: 1970s-1996.

An oral history with Barbara Talento, resident of Brea, California, and retired nurse and Professor of Nursing of the CSUF School of Nursing. This interview was conducted as part of the School of Nursing Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about Talento’s experiences in with the CSUF School of Nursing. Specifically, this interview talks about Talento’s childhood in New York State and growing up in a Jewish family during the 1930s; discusses her elementary and high school education; shares memories of World War II on the home front; recalls missing school to attend the first meeting of the United Nations at Hunter College; talks about her marriage and family life; explains why she started her nursing career in her forties; shares story about treating a member of the SS [*Schutzstaffel*] at a Southern California hospital; describes her clinical training and the challenges of balancing her family and career; comments on the gender imbalance in the nursing profession and how this changed after the Vietnam War; recalls how the medical profession dealt with a nursing shortage; comments on diploma vs. degree programs; talks about changes in the doctor/nurse relationship; explains why she went back to school and how she became a teacher; shares what characteristics she looks for in a nursing student; recalls her days as a CSUF nursing student; talks about her role in the fight to save the nursing program from cancellation; reminisces about members of the nursing faculty during her time at CSUF; describes her involvement with outside professional organizations including OLLI [Osher Lifelong Learning Institute]; reflects on her professional challenges and accomplishments; discusses the impact managed care has had on the nursing profession; and finally, comments on the Affordable Care Act and her views of end-of-life care.

OH #5452

Narrator: Greenberg, Cindy (b. declined to state)
Interviewer: Kira A. Gentry
Title: “An Oral History with Cindy Greenberg”
Date: November 4, 2014
Language: English
Location: Fullerton, California
Project: School of Nursing

Status: edited; 25 pages

This oral history spans 19??-2014. Bulk dates: 1999-2014.

An oral history with Cindy Greenberg, resident of Lake Forest, California, and director of the CSUF School of Nursing (SON). This interview was conducted as part of the School of Nursing Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about Greenberg’s experiences with the CSUF School of Nursing. Specifically, this interview talks about Greenberg’s childhood in Chicago; explains why she became a nurse; describes her experiences at nursing school and why she specialized in pediatrics; comments on why she continued her education at the masters and doctoral levels; explains why she went into teaching; talks about her doctoral research on non-pharmacologic pain intervention in infants; comments on the doctor/nurse relationship in a clinical setting; talks about the challenges of balancing her family and career; recalls joining the CSUF nursing department in 1999; talks about classes she taught and what characteristics she looks for in a nursing student; reminisces about the growth of the department including: addition of master’s program, increase in faculty/students, and how the department transitioned to the School of Nursing in 2010; compares/contrasts her role as department chair to director (2008-present); comments on how technology has impacted current nursing curriculum; reflects on personal and professional challenges and accomplishments; and finally, shares thoughts on the future of the SON

OH #5453

Narrator: Blix, Arlene (b. 1940)
Interviewer: Abby Waldrop
Title: “An Oral History with Arlene Blix”
Date: February 3, 2015
Language: English
Location: Corona, California
Project: School of Nursing

Status: edited; 52 pages

This oral history spans 1940-2015. Bulk dates: 1974-2008.

An oral history with Arlene Blix, resident of Corona, California, and retired founding faculty member and interim chair of the CSUF School of Nursing. This interview was conducted as part of the School of Nursing Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about Blix’s experiences in with the CSUF School of Nursing. Specifically, this interview talks about Blix’s childhood in Fallon, Nevada, and life on her family’s farm; shares memories of her school years; recalls when her physics teacher refused to let her in his class because she was a girl; explains why she went into nursing; talks about her experiences as a nursing aide in a Loma Linda, California hospital and the challenges of working with the local residents; explains why she chose to specialize in public health nursing; recalls her husband’s involvement in the Vietnam War testing biological agents and her tenure as an operating room nurse; shares memories of graduate school; defines her nursing philosophy and explains why it’s important to include the patient in their medical decisions; reminisces about meeting Wilma Traber and her role as friend/mentor; talks about how nursing education changed in the 1960s; explains the origins of the CSUF nursing program in 1974 including: founding faculty (Wilma Traber, Jeanne Sterling, Audree Vernon, and Arlene Blix) and why they patterned their curriculum after Cal State Long Beach’s two-plus-two program; highlights the importance of Dr. Miles McCarthy’s support and talks about why the general campus community did not accept the nursing program; compares how patients responded to male vs. female nurses; describes program accreditation process including: key campus supporters (Dr. Lee Bellott) and when they were granted department status; talks about her involvement with The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) grant as their occupational health specialist; explains why she went back to school for her DrPH (doctor of public health); explains origins of CSUF nursing program distance learning program; speaks about when the CSUF nursing program was threatened with cancelation (1995) and the fight to save the department; describes subsequent departmental reinstatement and growth (1998); shares how her husband’s cancer diagnosis and personal journey through the grieving process influenced her decision to retire and begin second career as a grief counselor/author; shares what characteristics make a successful nursing student; talks about challenges/rewards associated with the teaching profession; and finally, reflects on the current state of the CSUF nursing program and profession.

OH #5576

Narrator: Haddad, Barbara (b. 19440)
Interviewer: Janet Tanner
Title: “An Oral History with Barbara Haddad”
Date: March 27, 2015
Language: English
Location: Fullerton, California
Project: School of Nursing

Status: finalized; 29 pages

This oral history spans 1940-2015. Bulk dates: 1987-2015.

An oral history with Barbara Haddad, resident of Irvine, California, and faculty member at the CSUF School of Nursing (SON). This interview was conducted as part of the School of Nursing Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information about Haddad’s experiences in with the CSUF School of Nursing. In this interview Haddad describes her educational background and compares diploma programs in nursing to bachelor’s degree programs; explains her rationale for becoming a nurse; talks about the number of men in nursing school programs and the reasons for increasing numbers over the last few years; remembers how she ended up joining the faculty at California State University, Fullerton (CSUF) in 1987; discusses the student demographic when she joined the CSUF faculty; recalls the distance learning program and the issues related to live cable television programming; talks about the strategies that were implemented when the nursing program was about to close; discusses the role of public hearings, the academic senate, and then CSUF President Milton Gordon’s role is keeping the program open; talks about the various partnerships with the medical community, including Kaiser Permanente and University of California, Irvine; discusses the various specialties for nursing students at the CSUF SON and the importance of nursing education; speaks about the importance of the SON’s simulation lab in providing students hands-on clinical experience; and finally, discusses her work in the field of gerontology and her goal of increasing the study of gerontology in the SON curriculum.