

Ah, memories of senior year as a history major.....

The US History Seminar culminated in two memorable events. One was the research and production of the Senior Thesis, “The Process of Redevelopment in Ansonia, Connecticut after Two Hurricanes Resulted in the Flood of 1955.” On one side of the Naugatuck River in Ansonia was a densely populated community of multifamily homes. The mostly immigrant population living there was displaced, and their homes condemned. A plan was developed for affordable housing to replace the devastated structures. The cluster of newly built apartments became known as The Projects with a high percentage of minorities living there. The other event was that upon graduation in 1968, I was fortunate to be offered a job in the Ansonia School System. As fate would have it I was placed in the neighborhood school that included The Projects. Over the 30 years of my career I taught many children, and their children, all from that area. It seemed that I had come full circle from writing that thesis to having my career lead me to work with the community.

The second item etched in my memory from senior year was preparing for the Department of History comprehensive exams. We had numerous index cards with historical information to review and commit to memory. These cards became part of us; we carried them everywhere and whipped them out at every available moment in addition to the hours spent studying in the dorms.

I was certainly happy to have those momentous assignments behind me and to enjoy a memorable commencement day in a beautiful setting behind Ochre Court, which is where I began my first year at Salve Regina on the third-floor which was our dorm. Again, full circle!

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