Salve Regina Oral History Project

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Narrator: Karen Johnson, Assistant to VP for Academic Affairs, retired 2002

Interviewer and Transcriber: Allison Graves, Class of 2018

Ms. Karen Johnson was the Administrative Assistant to the Vice President for Academic Affairs from 1982 until she retired in 2002. During this interview we touched upon how she started at Salve and stories about and her relationships with various Sisters, Brothers, and faculty members, including Sisters Lucille and Therese.

Allison Graves: So your job here was [Administrative] Assistant to VP for Academic Affairs, correct?

Ms. Karen Johnson: Yes, and no.

Allison: Ok…

Ms. Johnson: Do you want to find out how I began and how that evolved?

Allison: Sure!

…

Ms. Johnson: I didn’t intend to come to work.

Allison: Ok.

Ms. Johnson: Tom Flanagan[[1]](#footnote-1) was a good friend of mine, personal friend. His daughter and my daughter were best friends…[They swam together on the Newport Navy Blues Swim Team]. Tom had taken a position of Vice President. I don’t know if it was Academic Affairs at that time, but it was a Vice President for Administration, or something like that, and he’s a big Mickey Mouse fan. The whole office was full of Mickey Mouse things, and he said ‘Hey Mrs. J, you wanna come up and see all my little Mickey Mouse stuff cause he had just gotten the job. This was…I came up in September, beginning of September. ‘Yeah, ok Tom.’ So I come up and he said you know there’s a position open down as a secretary for the dean. My father was terminally ill at the time, and I’m from Westerly originally, and I said ‘Gee Tom, you know how busy I am volunteering and that, I don’t think I’d wanna do that.’… Little did I know that really was an interview at the time. So I went down, and I was actually a secretary to the Dean of Graduate Studies. I came here to type for Sister Loretto O’Connor, who was developing LST 500, which was a research course on the graduate level. She was just a little minute of a nun, lived next door uh…I think she was in Moore Hall... So that’s what I came for, and within…I don’t know within a year the next thing I know I was an Administrative Assistant to the Vice President. He was the Dean of Faculty as well, and the Dean of Graduate Studies, and then became the Vice President for Academic Affairs, and there were like three titles in between there, so who knows what[[2]](#footnote-2). So then I took on that role, and then Graduate Studies was in South Hall[[3]](#footnote-3). So we had one person over there, one person in the office that I was in. I never said anyone was working for me because that’s the fastest way to have somebody not like you. [Laughter] And so that’s what my role became, which just is a simple way of saying you get to do anything they ask you to do [Laughter].

I took the minutes for the faculty meetings, I took the minutes for the travel committee; I actually reconciled all the books for the faculty travel, even though it came under a Christian Brother who was really quite busy, I think he was the Chair of Education at the time. I knew nothing about this except that this person put in for this, that person was praying that they’d get that, this person didn’t deserve that this year [Laughter]; but that wasn’t my job, it was to lay it all out and then give them the figures. And the computers were foreign to me. I didn’t have any background in that so when I think about it, all of us who were my age and on that level, we’re really kinda proud of all the things that we learned that these kids taught us. Dan Titus[[4]](#footnote-4) is still here, and two or three of the guys, Greg Carter[[5]](#footnote-5) and then Gerry Ginty[[6]](#footnote-6), all those guys were here at that time. They had the patience of gold, and there’s casts of hundreds that have left since, and during the time that I was here too. They’d just look at us and kinda shake their head like ‘yeah you gotta be kidding me this is not gonna happen.’ But we learned, and we helped each other and that’s the one thing I think I liked the most about then. I’m sure I don’t have any idea how it runs now, but at any rate everybody helped each other and it was like a big family. We had a lot of fun together and we joked and laughed, but boy we worked our buns off and we had a goal, and we had a task, and we completed it. It just happened. Everybody was willing to help one another. So any rate, that’s basically what I was hired to do.

Did I ever end up typing the LST 500…yeah I typed it. Again, and again, and again. [Laughter] One story…was that Sister Loretto was this tiny little [sister]. She kinda looked like the church lady, had little ringlets. She really was [an old fashioned nun]…had taken a vow of poverty. If you brought in a coat or anything for her, she wouldn’t take it until she got rid of a piece [of clothing she already had]…she had a limit on how many clothes she had, and she’d get rid of one of those pieces, those items and then she would accept the other. Then she asked me if I knew somebody who repaired shoes. So I found a gentleman down on Thames who did that, and I said it was for one of the Sisters so I’d probably need it back because she really does have a limited number of [shoes]… ‘Oh that’s fine, that’s fine.’ So when I went back to pick it up, he wouldn’t charge me, said it’s for the Sister, I’ll do it for the Sister. So this went on for quite some time where I was taking her shoes in or whatever. One day I took my husband’s Cordovan shoes in which were a size 10 men’s, and he wasn’t gonna charge me! And I thought to myself: ‘now what on earth person would ever think that a tiny little nun would be wearing a men’s size 10 Cordovan shoe?!’ With laces that are three feet long, but I finally convinced him that no, I had to pay for those shoes. She always used to ask me ‘does your husband’s shoes need done?’ I’m like ‘Noooo!’ Go, to prison for three dollars or something?

But anyway, it was Sister Johnelle[[7]](#footnote-7). She was away at the time with Barbara Silvia[[8]](#footnote-8), I think [they were] in Pennsylvania getting their PhD…everybody started to mix because of the office we were in, the Dean of Faculty.[[9]](#footnote-9) We got to meet all of the faculty before anybody else did. We talked with them on the phone, we made arrangements [for them to come in for interviews] …Sister Esther Whalen,[[10]](#footnote-10) who’s no longer here, was in different order, she’s not a Mercy Sister. But I’ll tell you. She was the backbone. She knew everything and how to get it done…I don’t think she was a sister of St. Joseph…I can’t remember what her order was…And they were right on the money…All the nuns lived over here in Moore Hall, it was a grey building behind where Sister Therese[[11]](#footnote-11) lives now. And baked us cookies. Oh, God Sister Charlie.[[12]](#footnote-12) The painter…we had a painter Mike McCarthy, God rest his soul, he…you know kids coming in? They’re all rough and tough and I’m gonna do this. Bye mom! Fine! Mom pulls out of the driveway, you’re like… [mimes crying] And then Mike would show up with cookies, so that’s the type of environment that we became accustomed to and became part of. I always had a candy jar, bigger than CVS for God’s-sake and they had to go past my office to get to the Registrar, but they had to come from the Business Office, so they’d be crying because somebody hadn’t paid, but they didn’t know it. The parents thought they’d have another semester left to tell their son or daughter that Daddy didn’t have his job anymore. So they’d come by and I had a battery operated hand that I used to put in between the door, and I’d fill it with candy and then I could turn it on. So here’s this hand [mimes reaching out]. We did a lot of wacky things, I probably should’ve been committed [laughter]. But you know, a smile goes a long, long way. The kids felt lost…they really had a tough thing, all they wanted to do was come and study, and now they find out that Dad’s not working, and they can’t register. So, somebody always found a way. Chris Kiernan,[[13]](#footnote-13) rest his soul too, he was another person that just went the extra mile. We had a student who got… [sick] …I mean he almost died[[14]](#footnote-14)… And he lived in New York, and Kiernan actually, he was actually the Vice President, he was above what my boss was, or equal to, whatever. And he’d drive up to New York, and tutor this kid… He made it, the kid made it. And everybody, those just happen to be the people who I know who did it, everybody was like that.

Sister Lucille,[[15]](#footnote-15) her saying, which I still use to this day and I used it…if you go to Archives my picture in that article is still there. My favorite thing from Sister was she always told us to ‘Be our best selves.’ Well, I can’t think of a better tag to have than that. That’s all you can do is the best that you know how. And her door was always open. This lady could tell you: ‘gee, is that a new dress?’ And you’d say ‘yeah,” kind of excited, and she’d say ‘I wonder if that would look better on…’ You know I mean she could tell you, you looked terrible…she wouldn’t do that…but that’s the type of person…she could tell you looked terrible, give you bad news, and you felt good about it.

I don’t know if this is the type of stuff you’re interested in, but it was the glue that held us all together.

Allison: Yeah!

Ms. Johnson: I think if you asked the secretaries and the administrative assistants, again a title, basically we did whatever we were asked to do, we completed the job, we didn’t leave ‘til it was done, we sure did not get paid, and that’s life, what people are being paid now. We were the ones doing all of that, and now there’s casts of thousands that are doing a little piece of that, and maybe it should’ve been like that, but we didn’t know different then, and we just did with what we had and I remember Dr. Burrell coming back from…the president has, I don’t know if they still have, weekly meetings or not. But they were President’s Council and then they were…over the years they took on different titles, but it was the same eight hallowed people like Mike Semenza,[[16]](#footnote-16) the Vice President for this; Bill Hall, the business office CFO; Dr. Burrell, [Dean] Graduate and Faculty, and then Chris [Kiernan] was Academic Affairs…you know curriculum. And then we had, during that time started a program with the [Naval] War College, the International Relations Program, because they were not giving degrees at that time, so we were waving the 500 Research because they were already doing it at the War College, but then they had to take, I think it was nine credits, to get their degree, and they could accomplish that in the one year that they were here. So all these little bits and pieces, they all met around this hallowed table every week and I remember in June or July when they would start to go over the budget and Dr. Burrell would come back and he’d…he had a little tiny beard and he was here the longest, and he’d say ‘yup, we’re in the red. Oh, we’ll be all right though, I swear Sister Lucille has a direct line to God, she’ll find that money.’ And by God, they’d go back the next week and ‘yup, we’re fine.’ It was just everybody together. Nobody…I’m sure people had secrets and little pockets that they kept in the corner, but that’s business, but it was nice business.

Allison: You mentioned Sister Lucille a few times, could you tell me a little more about her? Did you have any interactions with her?

Ms. Johnson: I did! My office was caddy cornered from hers. Karen Larson was her administrative assistant, and had been, by the time that Karen retired she had been the assistant to four presidents. She was it from the beginning, and if Karen was out then they’d say we’d like you to answer phones, again. Is that a big deal, well it was for the president so you better get it right, but it was just answering the phones and yeah we did that. But I had a lot of interaction with her only because of who I worked for, not because it was like ‘oh I love her,’ and her folks come from Scotland, which had nothing to do with that, well the candy jar might have had a little a shove. And I used to make Irish Soda Bread, so that was always a biggie. But yeah, I did things for her that…hmmm...say there was a sticky situation in another office and she didn’t want anybody in that office to type up that information for that office, she’d bring it over to me if Karen wasn’t working…and Karen was busy up to her eyeballs too. So we were kinda like the spinoff.

She was always a lady, and she was as tactful, and she could…make you understand that you were part of a big huge team, but she also made you feel like you were important doing what you were doing, and it didn’t matter if you were a housekeeper or if you were a custodian, she knew everybody’s name, I swear if you walked across the campus she would call these people by name and, I think that’s kind of important, I think you have to have a lot of compassion, I think you have to have a lot of that too makes whoever it is, and whatever it is you’re doing feel and be important.

The head of grounds, Frank Rosa, had…uh, another one, God love him…these grounds have always looked like they belong in “landscaping is you’ or ‘r-us,’ whatever you want to say and everybody took it personally that this is where I work. We had a huge storm and all the trees were down in the front of Ochre Court, and we came into work in jeans and whatever and we’re out front picking up, you know what we were capable of picking up, and nobody told us we had to that, and somebody felt the need to write a letter to the editor, ‘oh I went past Salve’…and at that time it wasn’t university…’and those poor people had to report to work and they were outside cleaning up…’ Well, they got some of the story right! There was a storm, yes we were out front, no we were not made to do that, just what else were we gonna do? We had another storm that was coming, and a lot of the students had always been [from] New Jersey or New York, so then someone somewhere on this upper level needs to make a decision as to whether do we let them go home? It was just prior to a weekend, by a full day. Do we let them go now, or are they gonna go home, are the parents home to receive them? I mean, by that time you are sort of a semi-adult with wings and a leash, but so a lot of thought went into all the decisions and I just remember what we went through to try to reach families, and the decision was made that the students could go, but they weren’t just said, well ok school’s done, figure it out yourself, we’re closing the dorms for your safety. They kept a dorm open for those who couldn’t go home. See they always had like a back-up plan, what do if…? So students who really could not go, at least were all in one building, and it wasn’t a party by any stretch, but they were well fed, and we knew where they all were…we think.

And we had some tragedies with kids, that went the extra mile, and drank too much and went off a cliff, you know, but all in all somebody always had their finger on the pulse and she [Sister Lucille] was…she surrounded herself with good people and she trusted the people that were doing the jobs. But don’t think for minute that she wasn’t in like a closet listening or watching and you know making sure that things were being done for the good of the school. And really everybody was of the same mindset, and I don’t know anybody that comes to work with the attitude…you may not be happy with your job that day, or your job period, but I don’t know anybody that comes in and willfully wants to hurt somebody or you screw up a job so that…you don’t do that because it just means you’re gonna do it again or you are gonna end up without the job anyways. So I think she gave everybody the benefit of the doubt, but she’d give great guidance, she was a great mentor, we had more Brothers and Sisters at that time, and so she had gatherings at her house for the religious community, she was well respected in town. Yeah she was a lady, a real lady, and her signature ‘be your best self’ and how does it get any better than that? Its good advice, you mom, your dad, they probably didn’t say it like that, but yeah. “Be your best self.” She was good.

Allison: So you were also here when Salve Regina was talked about becoming the “Newport College?”

Ms. Johnson: I think it was called… the part of the Newport College was part of that before I got here. I came in September 21st of 1982, and part of that said “Salve Regina-the Newport College” at that time. That didn’t last long, well when I first got in I wasn’t paying much attention but we petitioned to be Salve Regina University after that, and at one time…to be honest with you if you read the Tobin Sisters’[[17]](#footnote-17) book, have you ever read it? It’s here in the library. That gives you a better idea of the facts of when what became what, but I was there to type some of the first words. Father Bascio[[18]](#footnote-18) was one of the people who started putting together the PhD program, and we were right in the middle of all of that.

I take a lot of photographs and I had put them all through McAuley and I had taken them down one by one and nobody really noticed. I think it was when I moved the refrigerator into the registrar’s office that they were like “what are you…” and I said ‘I don’t think we need one this big.’ Sister Virginia Walsh[[19]](#footnote-19) probably used it the most, because she went by it all the time and she taught a lot – long and different hours. No good time to stop and eat. I think that’s when they realized I meant it.

Got off track on that one…oh the college! When we petition for University one of the thoughts was that if you were going to offer a PhD, gee, every year the classes got bigger and the recruiting. The enrollment continued to grow, the buildings…we actually started to acquire more buildings, and you’d read it in the paper that we weren’t paying taxes[[20]](#footnote-20) and we weren’t this and that. What you didn’t read in the paper were all the other fine things that the University was doing for the town, which equaled out in the end. You saw a finished product. We were helping…’the whole area was beautiful and we never had all of this [gestures around]. This just keeps going on and on. It amazes me when I still come over and I’ll drive around and I’m just amazed, particularly the area over by the Breakers and it’s just one after another.

I think they did a fine job of acquiring, they’ve made it…when you’re a parent and you’re sending the kids off the college you’re hoping: ‘Please God, let them be safe, I have to let them go…I can’t let them go…I have to let them go…I can’t let them go.’ When you do let them go but you still have them close enough you can pull them back, but if it’s safe and if your student feels part of a community they’re gonna study because they’re not worried about ‘Oh God, I have to cross campus to go to the cafeteria, I remember when they redid Wakehurst, and we had a cafeteria in there, it was great! It was just Sodexo brought over, and we knew all the people in there, Don LaBlanc was custodian of that building, God love him. He was one of my best friends, and he was a mental health counselor and decided he wanted to go into Holistic Counseling, so he came and took a job as a custodian so that he could…

But anyway, Don was everybody’s friend and he always made everybody feel good, comfortable, the custodians and the housekeepers knew their students! So if somebody wasn’t around they were looking for them. So if you’ve got an environment where you know you’ve got five hundred moms and dads that are looking out for the students, it was nice. This wall around here used to much higher, and then it was almost like God came along…and Sister Sheila Megley[[21]](#footnote-21) was Sister Lucille’s right hand person, and she was tough and strict but you knew where you stood with her, and she wasn’t all that big, mean and bad, but if she spoke you were like: ‘OK, hi, thank you’ so you know she wasn’t as tactful as Sister Lucille but she got to the point. Her father was a brick layer and she knew all about these these big old stone walls that divide your property here in New England and that and…one day we had such a storm and it took out half of the wall on the corner of Shepard and Lawrence, and she said ‘ok that’s the sign!” because it took that wall…the whole corner…the water got there and the next thing you know it was down…she didn’t petition the city or anything…that wall went right down and they put in the place for the water to run out and it’s easier to ask for forgiveness than permission sometimes and it looks beautiful, it’s still there! It’s actually safe because you can see through the campus. So there’s just little things like that that people thought about. You know, it was always for the safety of the faculty and the students, because the faculty were sometimes coming out after the students are.

And then we had a tree (faculty relative) that identified all these trees, and he even made it into a course or a seminar, or something. We ran the summer school too, we had what we called the Five-Year Plan, you always had a book so that if you came in as a freshman, but I don’t think people were thinking at that time that, Salve was this big deal you know? We were little, well not so much anymore. It’s beautiful, and really they’ve done a gorgeous job, and this library…all of these people who planned anything new. Overall mostly good memories.

Allison: What was it like when Sister Lucille retired and Sister Therese came?

Ms. Johnson: Ok, these are too totally different people, and Sister Therese had already been here for years. She was heading up all of the Alumni gift-giving, overseeing the building of the library…they’re just two totally different people…Sister Lucille was definitely business-minded because she wanted to keep the thing afloat, you don’t want it to go down on your watch that’s for sure, and you don’t want to ever turn anything over to somebody that might be on the verge of whatever, Sister Therese was I think more business minded. She had different ideas and that’s what people do, and you learn accept. She knew my name because she was probably thinking ‘Oh great, here she comes again.’ My folks were from Scotland, Ireland, so you do find yourself drawn to similar, that’s who raised me, and her sister was the head of admissions, Sister Roselina[[22]](#footnote-22) was head of admissions, and she was an award-winning, medal-winning, Irish step-dancer.

Allison: Wow.

Ms. Johnson: In her time, you know. And one of the girls Deirdre Goulding, who also worked in Admissions, runs the Goulding School of Dance in Rhode Island.

Allison: Yes.

Ms. Johnson: Well, that’s Deirdre’s school, and it’s all Irish step dancing, and she worked in admissions so I’m sure that was a plus, she was a student here, but then she went into admissions, so you know there’s always that thread everybody tends to hang onto that thread of familiarity again. And Sister [Therese] was from Rhode Island and she knew a lot of different people, some similar, and so she did things…different.

…

Ms. Johnson: Who else listens to this, you?

Allison: Yes.

Ms. Johnson: John Quinn would laugh his buns off.

I didn’t realize that the sisters are teamed by their birth dates and Sister Therese and Sister Leona had either the same birth date or one day apart, so supposedly, that’s how they ended up together. When I made the decision to retire, I didn’t tell Dr. Quinn, didn’t tell anybody.

I would bring in an eighteen quart roaster and I would cook for anybody that wanted to come. We didn’t have an all day party – just ate and went back to work.

Allison: Mmm-hmm.

Ms. Johnson: We used to have Halloween parties where we dressed up, and it was during the lunch hour. But again we didn’t take advantage of that, and everybody came so that’s how everybody got to know each other, but as time went on that all dropped off. I guess they saw us as having too much fun, who knows?

Yeah, there’s different personalities that come into play.

Brother Victor,[[23]](#footnote-23) who was a Christian Brother and he’d call and he’d say: ‘Karen.’ He had like a 1-800 number voice. [Laughter]. ‘Karen, let me know when Bill is gonna be out.’ I’d say: ‘Brother Victor…’ ‘How’d you know it was me?’ Oh, please. There isn’t anybody else here that talks like you! He says: ‘I want to come for lunch.’ That’s all he wanted!

And we did Rank and Tenure, all highly confidential.

So I remember when John came…his mom and dad came from the Midwest and my husband was from Minnesota so I kept them chatting out in the hall and John went in for his interview, and yeah, super super nice people. So that’s the position I was in, those were all, for me, the perks, cause we got to meet the faculty first and they felt comfortable, and even on the administrative level…Sister Esther was the one greeted them and took them to their hotel, and set that up, and she’s the one who started the Sailing Team. She came from a lot of money in Philadelphia, if you go in your history books and you read about the Fifth Line… it’s where all the rich people lived.[[24]](#footnote-24) And her father was Grover Whalen, and in 1936 he was like Roosevelt’s right hand man, he was the City Greeter for the City of New York. I’m telling you everyone had a little piece of the puzzle. Sister Esther brought a lot of her knowledge to Salve and I’m telling you everyone had a little piece of the puzzle. We never had horseback riding here, but Third Beach Road, Suzanne Duffy has that riding stables out there and the next thing you know, we’re offering that as one of your electives, obviously, and then the Sailing Team, look at them for crying out loud! They’re on the map!

Allison: Yeah,

Ms. Johnson: She taught my kids how to row so they could become lifeguards, she was just amazing. I’m just trying to probably piece together the fact that everybody interacted…somehow you interacted with somebody just because of the office I was in, and I think Janice Rego was kind of in the same boat because she was the head of Faculty Services in O’Hare, and so at that time all the work from those faculty members went to her, and she had to duel it out with the people that worked for her All nice people. Yeah it was a good experience. When I left I was sad…I missed the people, I really missed the people, not the situation. I think Sister Jane[[25]](#footnote-25) is fantastic. Everybody seems to be doing well [laughter]. Yeah, I’m glad this was part of my life, it helped me through some of the rough patches too.

We had a rose garden, now we have what, the labyrinth over here. You know somebody’s always coming up with something, that’s again a comfort to somebody. I don’t know how big some of these programs are anymore, but I used to line up the graduates on graduation day.

Allison: Well, we have about fifteen or so minutes if there’s anything you’d like to add, and stories you remember, any faculty members that…you remember well?

Ms. Johnson: Brother John McNiff was the chair of the English department and he and I, we became like best friends, his mom was from Ireland and had a brogue as broad as can be, and I grew up with my grandmother who was from Scotland.

I played Santa Claus for the English department over here in O’Hare where he’d hand out gifts every year and he’d say: ‘It’s only gonna be fifteen minutes,’ Are you serious? God, I’d lose like twenty pounds doing this, I had the big Santa Claus suit on, and he’d go on and on and on, but we got along great. His breakfast would consist of like peanut butter on something, or hot sauce, I’m like ‘oh, God.’

But he died unexpectedly, totally unexpectedly, it was terrible, and that’s the only time I ever saw the school actually close[[26]](#footnote-26). We waked him in the, I guess you’d call it the library still, in Ochre Court, and then everybody came to the funeral, students, there were three tiers packed, just packed, and all the Christian Brothers came from New Jersey.

For years I visited them afterwards, I’d stop at a bakery and just empty the shelves and take them out there. They were just so grateful that you remembered, but you could never forget Brother John. He was…he taught in the Philippines one time, and he had…the thing that impressed me…was he had 3x5 cards and he took pictures of these students, and on that card he wrote their name, who their family was, who their siblings were, who all lived with them, so he knew the dynamics of what made up that student.

When Brother John died, it was sad, it was really sad because he was really an excellent teacher, and he brought out the best in his faculty, again another person who trusted that what they were gonna teach was their area, some of these people teach courses but that’s not really the course you prefer to teach, sometimes you don’t have a choice, and you can certainly pull it off and every single one of them do research galore, nobody gets cut short cause that’s not course they wanted. But he was funny, he was good, he trusted his faculty, so he was one.

God, there’s so much now that people turn around and you probably can’t do stuff like that anymore, but Brother John he was my buddy. We had a lot of faculty that, you make friends. Sister Johnelle, Barbara Silvia, they’re good friends of mine, and I see Sister Pat Combies[[27]](#footnote-27) a lot, when you see them at least they don’t go: ‘Oh my God, here she comes,’ you know you always want to leave so that people aren’t…they know you’re…but you don’t want them to remember that that’s why…you know when it’s time, and if you didn’t have to work, which I didn’t, so I said ‘Yeah, I’m good.’

…

So any rate, so I started doing things for Sister Johnelle with the Habitat for Humanity and designed two floats for two Fourth of July Parades in a row. It was the two hottest years they ever had ‘em. I thought I was gonna die! And Donna Harrington-Lueker[[28]](#footnote-28) lived in Bristol, and she let us build the float in front of her house.

Faculty members got involved in a lot of outside things, and if you could help them, you did. I don’t know if there was…other than Sister Lucille, that always was in your head “Be your best self,” people helped each other. I’m sure they still do. I received the Community Service Award for the Daily News two…three years ago, I don’t know. I was surprised as all get out, I contribute that to getting involved in everything here. When you meet a lot of people you tend to…they draw you into it, and those people were old faculty members, you know like the former faculty members. I’m not saying the new ones don’t do that, I don’t know what they do so.

But that’s my life in a nutshell such as it is [laughter].

Allison: Well, thank you for coming down to talk with me,

Ms. Johnson: Oh good luck, I hope you can use three words of it anyway! [Laughter].

1. Thomas Flanagan was the Vice President of Administrative Services and Community Relations, he is now an associate professor in the Business department. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Dr. William Burrell, Dean of Faculty. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Currently called Drexel Hall. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Dan Titus is currently Associate Director of User Support Services, and an Adjunct Faculty for the department of Business Studies and Economics. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Gregory Carter worked in Administrative Systems in the Office of Information Technology for 28 years, retiring in 2017. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Gerry Ginty is currently a Network Analyst for the Office of Information Technology. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Sister Johnelle is currently a professor in the Social Work department. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. Barbara Silvia was Dean of Student Development, and is currently a professor in the Social Work department. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. Ms. Johnson mentioned these two woman as she remained very close friends with both of them after she retired. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. Sister Esther Whalen, RCSJ held a variety of posts under Sr. Lucille McKillop. She was also involved with the Sailing Club and the Coast Guard Auxiliary. She is now in a nursing home in New York. [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. Sister Therese Antone was the President of Salve Regina from 1994-2009 [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. Sister Charles Francis Dubuque created a program that offered adult education for handicapped adults. [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. Chris Kiernan had many titles, first being Assistant to the President for Development of Enrollment. Then serving as Dean of Admissions, Vice President of Student Services, Vice President for Academic Affairs/Academic Dean and Academic Vice President. He passed away in 2009. [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. The young man’s name was John Kach and he came down with spinal meningitis. [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
15. Sister Lucille McKillop was President of Salve Regina from 1973-1994. [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
16. Vice President for University Relations and Advancement [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
17. Sister Mary Jean Tobin, a founding professor of English; and Sister Mary Eloise Tobin, a former professor of Philosophy and Religious Studies. The two sisters were identical twins. [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
18. Father Patrick Bascio was the former Director of the Salve Regina University Master's Program in Humanities and the Founder and Director of the PhD Program [↑](#footnote-ref-18)
19. Sister Virginia Walsh was a former professor of Sociology from the late seventies to 2010. [↑](#footnote-ref-19)
20. As a non-profit, Salve does not have to pay property taxes to Newport for the land it owns. [↑](#footnote-ref-20)
21. Sister Sheila Megley was the Dean of Students in 1974, and was appointed Vice-President in 1977 under Sister Lucille. In 1992 she became president of Regis College in Massachusetts. [↑](#footnote-ref-21)
22. Sister Roselina McKillop was the biological sister of Sister Lucille, and she was also Dean of Admissions. [↑](#footnote-ref-22)
23. Brother Victor Hickey was Chair of the Education Department. [↑](#footnote-ref-23)
24. The line in Philadelphia where the wealthy live is known as the Main Line. [↑](#footnote-ref-24)
25. Sister Jane Gerety became President of Salve Regina in 2009. [↑](#footnote-ref-25)
26. Brother John McNiff passed away January 28, 1991. [↑](#footnote-ref-26)
27. Sr. Patricia Combies is a professor in the English and Communications department, and served as Undergraduate Dean from 1998-2000. [↑](#footnote-ref-27)
28. Dr. Donna Harrington-Lueker is a professor in the English and Communications department. [↑](#footnote-ref-28)