Salve Regina Oral History Project

Date of Interview: 7/2/2018

Interviewee: Dr. Barbara Kathe, Professor, (1995-19998) Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of Faculty (1998-2002)

Interviewer: Kathleen Christ, Class of 2020

Kathleen Christ: Okay, so this is Kathleen Christ. Today is July 2, 2018 and as a part of the Salve Regina Oral History Project, I will be interviewing Dr. Barbara Kathe, who was the Vice President for Academic Affairs from 1998-2002. Is that correct?

Dr. Barbara Kathe: That is correct.

Kathleen Christ: Ah, okay.

Dr. Barbara Kathe: I was also Dean of Faculty during that time.

Kathleen Christ: Oh, really? That’s important to know. Okay, anything else?

Dr. Barbara Kathe: Prior to that time, for three years, I did adjunct teaching in the English department.

Kathleen Christ: Oh wow! So that would’ve been from­–

Dr. Barbara Kathe: 1995.

Kathleen Christ: Okay, well thank you… when you were younger, what did you want to be when you grew up?

Dr. Barbara Kathe: I wanted to be a History teacher.

Kathleen Christ: Really?

Dr. Barbara Kathe: Yes. [*laughter*]

Kathleen Christ: But you became an English teacher instead?

Dr. Barbara Kathe: Oh, it was a funny story about that. When I was an undergraduate, I decided I would study physics. I became very, very interested in physics, and so… I think it was the second semester of sophomore year, I took an English course, “Seventeenth-Century English Poets,” with a very dynamic and fascinating woman who, when the course was over, said to me, “What is your major going to be?” And I said, “It’s going to be physics.” And she said, “No, it’s not. [*laughter*] It’s going to be English.” And she marched me down to the Registrar’s Office, and we did the paperwork, and we changed my projected major from physics to English and I became an English major [*laughter*] and I was never sorry after that. I loved being an English major and studying literature. That was wonderful… but now as I’m older, and I have more leisure time, I’m doing a great deal of reading in history [*laughter*]. So, it’s a circle, it’s a circle…

Kathleen Christ: Wow… What were some of your previous jobs before you came to Salve?

Dr. Barbara Kathe: Well I’ve had some really nice experiences. I had a Fulbright Senior Scholarship Award in Iceland from 1982-1983. I taught at the University of Iceland during that time, and did some of my own private research. I also had a year of–well, actually two different years, at different times­– at Yale University… one year at the Divinity School, and one year at the regular college. Both years I was doing research in literature, and one of those years was particularly with psychology. Okay, now where have I taught? I have taught at Columbia University. I have taught at Assumption College.[[1]](#footnote-1) I have taught at the University of Saint Joseph in West Hartford,[[2]](#footnote-2) okay? And, I think–Oh! I’ve also taught at the University of Connecticut,[[3]](#footnote-3) I forgot about that….That was really just one year, not much.

Kathleen Christ: That was a brief part. [*laughs*] What was your favorite course that you got to teach?

Dr. Barbara Kathe: My favorite course probably was a Shakespeare course… the plays…

Kathleen Christ: What’s your favorite?

Dr. Barbara Kathe: My favorite play is *King Lear*.

Kathleen Christ: Oh really?

Dr. Barbara Kathe: [Yes.]

Kathleen Christ: That’s an interesting one.

Dr. Barbara Kathe: Yes, it is. [*laughter*] It’s a great play actually.

Kathleen Christ: How did you end up here at Salve?

Dr. Barbara Kathe: Okay, I was the Academic Dean at the University of St. Joseph in West Harford. Prior to that, I had been Division Chair, Department Chair, all those things that one does [*laughter*]… I was a full professor, and I decided it was time to retire. And so, I retired from Connecticut to come to Newport. When I was in Newport, one of the Sisters of Mercy died, and I heard about it. I had just come actually… Her death was very sudden, and so she’d left a whole­– several classes, two of them in English, and I really don’t know what the other two were in… It could have been French! It could’ve been French. And so, I volunteered to take her classes in English, and I had said I would do it *gratis* because I was just happy to get back to teaching, and Salve said, “No. If you work for us, we pay you.” [*laughter*] So, that was very nice. So I did… that for another two and a half years, and teaching in the English department part-time. And one of my biggest awakenings­– because I had always thought I was a pretty good teacher– was when I took a course that would’ve been [with] Dr. Joan David.[[4]](#footnote-4) Do you know her name at all?

Kathleen Christ: I think I’ve heard of it in the past somewhere.

Dr. Barbara Kathe: Yeah, well she was a *fantastic* teacher, but she took a sabbatical, and I took her course, and it was… “Early English Literature.” It would’ve been the Beowulf period and all that early… material. I found out that the students who would have had her were *grossly* disappointed when they saw me [*laughter*] and I realized that she was a *far* better teacher than I ever thought I could be, [*laughter*] and it was a point of wonderful…awakening for me, that there were people who were better at the things than I was. [*laughter*] And certainly, Joan David was *much* better as a teacher. She was hilariously funny at times, and very clever and all those wonderful things, and when she retired a few years ago, it was a real loss for Salve.

Kathleen Christ: Aww…

Dr. Barbara Kathe: [Yes.]

Kathleen Christ: Do you know… what sister you came in for after she passed away?

Dr. Barbara Kathe: Yes, it was Sister… I think her name was [Paulette]…San Souci?[[5]](#footnote-5) She was related to a sister in the Nursing department.[[6]](#footnote-6) They were sisters… and I can’t think of her name. Her name is a religious one­– Sister Augustin– but I can’t… ugh! I can’t remember what her name was–

Kathleen Christ: That’s alright.

Dr. Barbara Kathe: –Her baptismal name, but I think… the one who died, her name was Sister… [Paulette] Sans Souci. She had taught a class and went home to her apartment one night and opened the front door and died, right there, at the front door. So, you can see this is in October of 1995, during the fall semester, and so she had four classes that had to be covered, and so that’s why I jumped in fast to say, you know, “I’ll do it,” because there are these Freshman English courses that need to be covered, and for me, that was the first time that I taught young men.

Kathleen Christ: Wow.

Dr. Barbara Kathe: I had taught graduate students, men, but they were always older, so getting an eighteen-year old boy was a fascinating experience [*laughter*]. It was so *funny*. You can’t imagine– or, well, you probably *can* imagine how funny eighteen-year old boys are. They are hysterically funny, and I had a marvelous time teaching her two courses that semester because… they were just great... I taught over in Angelus[[7]](#footnote-7) and it was this funny little classroom that… I don’t know, I just loved… that class, you know it was mixed, young women and young men, and there were times– there was one time that I remember that I just *loved* them so much, and I just felt this great infusion of love for this group of kids, [*laughter*] that I couldn’t even look at them. You know, for a few minutes, I just had to keep my eyes down because I was afraid all this love that I was feeling was just going to pour out at them, but that… was a great experience… I continued to teach for another three semesters I think, and then Sister Therese[[8]](#footnote-8) asked if I would take over the… Academic Affairs for a year, and I said, “Sure, I’d be glad to do that,” because I had done something very similar at the University of Saint Joseph. So, I did it for a year, but at the end of the year, the faculty petitioned that I stay for another three years. So, I told Sister Therese, “Yes, I’d be happy to do that,” and so I stayed for three more years, no more, but so I stayed three more years. I did it for four years, and worked under Sister Therese, directly under Sister Therese. She was my immediate supervisor, and I found her to be extraordinarily empowering. She taught me a great deal about how to proceed in ways of planning and strategic “go” planning, that kind of thing, but also one of the major focuses that I had, I saw that the faculty needed support, needed assistance in many ways, so we started many programs for faculty. One was a Faculty Mentoring program, another was a Faculty Development program, which involved grant writing among faculty, as well as more programs for them to grow in their teaching. During those four years, I know that one of my biggest achievements was laying the groundwork for many of the fine programs that we’re seeing today, with regard to faculty support, library usage by students, but my biggest… interest really was the faculty, and doing what I could do for them, because the university is the faculty. It is not the buildings, it is not the administration, it is not even the students; it’s the faculty. That is why students come. They come because of a good, strong faculty, and again, one of the things we began was to hire younger [professors]…

[*interruption, change in recorder*]

Kathleen Christ: All right, I’m sorry for that interruption [*laughter*] so can you tell me a little about Sister…Therese? Is it Sister “Ter-ez” or Sister “Ter-ace?”

Dr. Barbara Kathe: Well, it depends if you’re French or English.

Kathleen Christ: Ah…[*laughter*]

Dr. Barbara Kathe: If you want the French pronunciation it’s “Ter-ez” and many people say, “Ter-ez.”

Kathleen Christ: Which one does she go by?

Dr. Barbara Kathe: I always called her “Ter-ace” … I think in the community she’s called “Ter-ace, Sister Ter-ace,” more than “Ter-ez…” but what about her?

Kathleen Christ: So, you were talking about her… what was it like working with her as President?

Dr. Barbara Kathe: Okay, now as an administrator– well my career had sort of a fifty-fifty thing. Half of it was teaching, and the other half was administration. I worked under five different presidents for lengths of time. Of the five different presidents, Sister Therese was the most outstanding, because she was the most empowering. I may use that word quite often in regard to her, because she did know how to give power to other people… I don’t know if you know what I mean by that, but she was not the “Big Manager.” I mean, she was, no question she was, but not obviously there. She let you do your own thing, and then, if you were doing the wrong thing, she would very carefully tell you how you could do it better, and so by that means, she was always helping everybody– as far as I’m concerned, she certainly helped me– to grow. That is a tremendous gift that anybody has, and it made me also more aware of other people’s growth, and so I became also aware of helping other people how to grow, and that was one of the things that slipped over into the faculty development for me. I wanted to help them to grow as faculty members. That probably all did come from Sister Therese and her… You know, those things don’t get lost, you know, when people are very positive, and when they are growth-interested, and they are empowering, other people pick it up, and pick it up, and pick it up, and it keeps going. It’s like the stone that skips, and all the waves are all there, and they’re never lost. I mean… I find even today, not being at Salve, though I love Salve, and I’m over there as much as I can be– although I still do write the annual report. I have done that since 2002, so what is that? Sixteen years, I’ve been writing the annual report.

Kathleen Christ: Yes! Wow…

Dr. Barbara Kathe: Yeah, so it ought to be time for me to start looking at the Department reports to start compiling that for Sister Jane, which I’ll do, and it could possibly be my last year, because with Sister Jane leaving next year, there will be a new President. A new President will have new ideas about reports etc. but anyway, yes, wherever we were with that… [*laughter*] So what was it like working for Sister Therese? It was wonderful. The first day I came to my office, she brought a rose, a rose she had picked from her garden, and that was very special. It sort of set the tone for the next four years. I don’t know if you know that Sister Therese has a rose garden? … Oh, you do know.

Kathleen Christ: Yes. I haven’t seen it, but she’s told me about it, and apparently it’s beautiful.

Dr. Barbara Kathe: Yes.

Kathleen Christ: You’ve seen it I guess.

Dr. Barbara Kathe: Yes.

Kathleen Christ: [*laughter*] So, overall, how did you feel about your time here as an administrator?

Dr. Barbara Kathe: I loved it! I absolutely loved it, and even though I would have loved to have stayed there, and I would love to be there even now, I know it is not the best thing for the university to have administrators stay terribly long. That’s just not a good idea. Administrators should move. And besides, I was getting older, and less…less resilient I guess, but also I began to have problems– physical problems– and I wasn’t getting around as much as I could. But I love Salve so much that I think I want always to be associated with it. I go to Mass at Salve; I read at Mass. I do the annual report. I’m around; I see faculty, I eat in the dining room, I am often downstairs, in the lounge, at Starbucks [*laughter*]… Most of my friends are Salve present faculty or former faculty… Yeah, I love Salve, absolutely love it.

Kathleen Christ: I’m happy you were able to be here.

Dr. Barbara Kathe: I am too! I am too! [*laughter*] I really feel that it’s a gift that I’ve been given.

Kathleen Christ: How is Salve different from other universities that you have taught at?

Dr. Barbara Kathe: Well, another university that I’m very, very fond of is Columbia. I started my Masters there but was unable to finish because of a serious illness, so I had to finish elsewhere, but I also went back and was a visiting scholar at Columbia for a year, and taught there for several years. [I] loved Columbia…but it’s different because Columbia is [in] a big city, you know, a city. It’s right in the inner city of New York, between Harlem and Spanish Harlem; it’s a very different milieu. Salve, I mean, Salve has green grass and trees, and blue skies, you know? And the students are different. One of my first encounters with the students was [when] I was racing one day, in spring of ’95 to get over to Mass and I slipped, right on the corner of Webster Street and Ochre Point Avenue and fell into the gutter. [*Gasp*] I remember looking up at the sky, and seeing all around me students, who had come to help me get up, and I thought, “Isn’t this wonderful?” All these beautiful, young people who came to my assistance, and they did. They helped me get up. I had broken an elbow, which I didn’t know at the time, but they were beautiful and I remember thinking, “These are very special students who are so concerned about helping an older person,” and that impressed me and it never left. I always found that Salve students were, number one, pretty civil. They were concerned for other people; they would be friendly. If I saw them out on Narragansett Avenue and I said, “Hello,” they would always respond. Sometimes they said, “hello” first, which was even nicer, but today, there’s no question. I walk up and down the street, go over to Miley,[[9]](#footnote-9) have conversations with students, love talking to students. It’s a different ballgame from any other institution where I’ve been. At Columbia, Harvard, and Yale people were very busy all the time. At Salve, it’s not quite the same intensity and same… self-centeredness that one sees at very large universities. The same goes for faculty. Faculty tend to be much more friendly, kinder, concerned for each other, it’s more of a family. John Quinn,[[10]](#footnote-10) for example, is like a brother. Tim Neary,[[11]](#footnote-11) he’s one of my sons. [*laughter*] Yeah, they’re very special people… very special. I love Salve. I love the faculty. I love the students. I can’t say any more. [*laughter*] I would do anything I could for Salve.

Kathleen Christ: Well thank you.

Dr. Barbara Kathe: Yes, yes.

Kathleen Christ: Can you tell me more about your actual duties as Vice President? …

Dr. Barbara Kathe: Overlooking the curriculum, overseeing faculty performance, checking on outcomes, outcomes is one of the biggest things one is interested in, what are students equipped to do, how well can they do it, what kind of jobs do they get… Overseeing admissions, and being on the President’s Council… planning ahead, trying not to be obnoxious [*laughter*], working closely with Student Affairs… And as Dean of Faculty, listening to faculty, spending time talking to them, having an open door policy, faculty could come any time they wanted and I would see them, that kind of thing…

Kathleen Christ: So, those were your responsibilities mainly…

Dr. Barbara Kathe: Those were my responsibilities… There were, you know, social responsibilities… such as being around when Freshmen are coming, and being there for Orientation… I had a wonderful little experience with one of the first Orientations that I had. We, at that time were having small contingents of Japanese students. I don’t know if that’s still [happening]… and this first day of Orientation there was this group of them– perhaps eight or nine Japanese students, and they were sitting in the front row together and sort of banded up in the second row too so that they were sort of a very close little bunch. I saw them, and I went over to them, and I started talking to them, and I said, “You’re from Japan,” and one of the young women looked at me and she said, “How you know?” [*laughter*] “How you know?” And I said, “Well, you…just look as though you are from Japan,” and so we talked and they were very interesting young people. Then, what happened because of that first group, was then I became interested in Japanese authors, and there are some very, very fine Japanese authors today, and I began reading some of their books… So, that was a really neat link for me.

Kathleen Christ: Wow.

Dr. Barbara Kathe: [Yes.] It’s amazing! Everything you know is connected. Every thing is connected, no matter what, no matter what. Even you and I right now Katie are connected, for some strange reason, [*laughter*] and maybe someday, we’ll know.

Kathleen Christ: Yes, I hope we will. [*laughter*]

Dr. Barbara Kathe: [Yes.]

Kathleen Christ: Were there any perks to your job, or any negatives?

Dr. Barbara Kathe: Any negatives to the job…here at Salve… I would say, any negatives… oh yes, yes! There was one negative, it was in the winter of my first year as Vice President that it snowed and we had a snow day. I mean it was real snow. It was big, high snow, bad winter that first year, and I was rejoicing in the fact that I would not have to go to work because the university was closed, and somewhere around eleven o’clock [in the morning] I get a phone call from Sister Therese, and she said, “No one’s around. Let’s get some work done, come on over!” [*laughs*] And that was a negative. [*laughter*]

Kathleen Christ: Oh no!

Dr. Barbara Kathe: So… I trudged through the snow and got over there and so she and I worked that day together [*laughter*] on the snow day, but that wasn’t really a negative either. It was a real pleasure to be with her and be able to spend a whole day just planning and being able to look at programs and things like that. But I think many people would say that one of the negatives you might– well, a person might have in that position would be difficulty dealing with faculty because faculty at times can… want things that are not possible, you know. I mean given…financial boundaries and things like that, sometimes programs are not feasible and things like that and so on, but I would say that I did not really have negative experiences with the faculty… I found them all very rational, very good, I think because… they realized that I was very much a faculty person myself, that I was very strongly supportive of faculty that, you know, they were great. So no, I did not really have any negative experiences.

Kathleen Christ: That’s good.

Dr. Barbara Kathe: It was good, yes, because it made the job much more… friendly.

Kathleen Christ: So, how did you work with other departments then? You mentioned you were very involved with faculty…

Dr. Barbara Kathe: Well, faculty was not *another* department for me. Faculty was *my* department.

Kathleen Christ: Oh right! Because you were the dean!

Dr. Barbara Kathe: That’s right, I was Dean of the Faculty… So, one way, as I said to you, I tried to do all I could to support them, to allow for whatever it was that they were interested in. If we couldn’t do it, at least we could try to develop [it] so that we would eventually be able to put in a program… I worked with Admissions by being sure that they were… all working towards the same goal, that they had… whatever it was that they needed to do the Admissions job, to make sure that students of quality were being recruited. One of the things that a small university like this has to worry about is keeping the numbers of students up. Sometimes mistakes can be made in trying to keep the numbers up by letting in, allowing­, ­– inviting students to be part of the university who are not quite equipped, educationally or emotionally to succeed. We have to make sure that students *can* succeed…in their programs, and so that, to me, was always a very important part of Admissions. It wasn’t just getting students in here because Salve can *always* get students… that they don’t admit. What you have to be careful about is making sure that you admit the ones who really will fit, and will be intellectually capable of doing the work. I worked with the Registrar carefully about scheduling courses, not scheduling too many freshmen courses at eight in the morning. [*laughter*] [It’s] not a good idea, for anybody, so we worked on scheduling a great deal. I worked with Fred Promades,[[12]](#footnote-12) who is the man who crunches all the numbers. Dr. Promades is a wonderful, wonderful mathematician and does *hidden*, all this hidden work for Salve, but he counts, almost everything that goes on by numbers and most of the reports that come out are done by Dr. Promades and we would work together. I worked with Bill Hall,[[13]](#footnote-13) the finance person, you know, “What can we do this year? What can we not do this year?” … that kind of thing, so… the university is not just made up of fragmented parts. The university is– everything clicks. Everything clicks, one way or another, and people have to click too. And so when I was saying I tried not to be obnoxious, I wasn’t just joking. I really meant that. People have to be decent to each other, and friendly as they can be, and helpful to each other. I mean that’s what the university is all about. That’s what… “university” means. It means, like a universe, a small universe in which everybody is functioning to the top capacity for the good of everybody else…

Kathleen Christ: Well, thank you.

Dr. Barbara Kathe: We’re finished! [*laughter*] We’re not finished?

Kathleen Christ: Almost, no. [*laughter*] How involved were you in the community– you kind of mentioned a little bit about this– but of the students, and– well, you were obviously very involved in the faculty– and also alumni?

Dr. Barbara Kathe: [Yes], I mean, I probably didn’t do as much… in social activities as I could have. I think I knew that I was only going to be at Salve for a, you know, a fairly limited time. I did see students a great deal outside of class. I saw them. You know, I saw them in… the dining hall; I saw them other places... I didn’t go to the Governor’s Ball, for example. I’m just not a Governor’s Ball person. [*laughter*] I probably should have, but I didn’t. Number one, I don’t have a gown. Number two, I would probably look *awful* in it [*laughter*] okay?

Kathleen Christ: No!

Dr. Barbara Kathe: Okay, but… if I had come here to be here for, let’s say, eight or nine years, I definitely would have done much more in the social aspect, but I still did do a lot, quietly. I had a lot of connections. You know, there are a lot of things even around here that I think of. Some of the rose bushes– I do the rose bushes–… a couple of them were planted by Tim Neary in the front, and some of them were planted in the back, by– I don’t know if you know Dakota Roman? Do you know? …He graduated a few years ago. His fiancée graduated maybe two years ago?

Kathleen Christ: I’m not sure…

Dr. Barbara Kathe: But anyway, Dakota planted some of them. There are lots of things even here, in my home… that Salve has done things... Salve put that wall up, [*laughter*] there’s Salve right there… there’s– see right there the white building?[[14]](#footnote-14)

Kathleen Christ: Yes!

Dr. Barbara Kathe: That’s a Salve dorm, you know.

Kathleen Christ: Oh, yeah!

Dr. Barbara Kathe: Yes, and then we have Narragansett Hall[[15]](#footnote-15) right across the street, and I mean I’m surrounded by Salve. [*laughter*] And so yes and no for that, I think I probably got a D- on social activities…

Kathleen Christ: So, are there any lessons you believe you’ve learned while working at Salve in this position?

Dr. Barbara Kathe: Yes, yes. I really did learn, at that time, that the university is a small universe with all of those links that come together for each other. That was not something that as a faculty I had learned, and it was not something that even as Academic Dean in another institution that I had learned. It was definitely something that came here at Salve, and I don’t want to­– I don’t know that I can give the credit to anybody special for that. It may in fact have been Sister Therese and her example, because she was linked to everything that went on in the University. She knew everybody who worked on the staff, people who worked, you know, on the grounds… She knew every single one of them. Of course, she had been here a long time, and so she did get to know, but she made it a point of knowing everybody, and I also made it a point of knowing everybody. So today, there are even people who work on the grounds and in the buildings who… still know me, and they… are still very kind. They’re still very kind. One day I was out with my dog, and I could not walk anymore. I don’t know what it was, but I just couldn’t…. and I saw Dick O’Neill[[16]](#footnote-16) who, I’m not quite sure what he does, but he has one of the trucks, and he was in one of the trucks, and he had another man with him. And I said, “Could you give me a ride home?” And he said, “Sure!” So, the other man got out of the truck, and I got in with my dog, and I got a ride home because I just couldn’t walk anymore, and that was last year.

Kathleen Christ: Wow!

Dr. Barbara Kathe: [Yes], and Ralph Paiva[[17]](#footnote-17) who does a lot of the heavy lifting. He’s the man who moves offices and classrooms, and Ralph has been here *forever*. I see Ralph every now and then over on Ward Street, near the maintenance building, and Ralph knows me. One day, I have a scooter, which is some place else right now… I ran out of electricity for it… – this was just maybe four years ago­– the grounds people lifted the darn thing up, which probably weighed three hundred pounds! They put it up on one of the trucks, and brought it here, right in this building actually, so I could charge it again. I mean, Salve is there for me even now, and it’s just amazing to me that it is, but I am *so* grateful. As I said, this is a gift. Salve has many gifts, yeah. So, negative things? Nothing negative, ever.

Kathleen Christ: No…

Dr. Barbara Kathe: It’s all been positive and beautiful and wonderful, and knowing people on every level, the secretarial staff, the maintenance staff… all of them! They’re all wonderful people.

Kathleen Christ: Do you have a favorite memory or a particular story you would like to share?

Dr. Barbara Kathe: A favorite memory or a particular…?

Kathleen Christ: Story that you would like to share…

Dr. Barbara Kathe: Well, I have so many of them that it’s… I think one of the most beautiful things that I have ever experienced was… watching Dr. Neary… grow as a person, as a father of his children, as a faculty member, and become the wonderful faculty member he is today, because he came to us, kind of brand new. He had had some experience­– teaching experience– but he was relatively new. Who he is today is just marvelous… I am just kind of overcome with awe at the journey he has taken. You know, he has just grown so beautifully… And I’m saying these people because it all has to do with faculty. All these good experiences that are most wonderful experiences[s] would have to do with the way faculty have grown… and I look at all of them and I could tell you similar, well not always quite as similar, but even… John Quinn. I mean, I remember when John was married. [Yes], I remember when John was married and we all thought, “Oh dear, this is not going to be a good thing.” [*laughter*] But it was a good thing! And he turned out– I mean, he has– anyway, look at all these– I mean, every one of these wonderful faculty members who have– I could just name one after another. There’s Art Frankel[[18]](#footnote-18) in the Psychology department who is a *stunning* person as far as his abilities go, and his… intellect. One after another, I could just keep listing them, but… you don’t want me to do that. [*laughter*] No…

Kathleen Christ: Why, because you won’t stop?

Dr. Barbara Kathe: I don’t think I would ever stop, you know? I would just keep going, [*laughter*] you know, down the whole list of them… The faculty at Salve has a wonderful, giving, kind, accomplished faculty, and they’re continuing to be even more so. That for me is the greatest happiness that I have, the greatest good story that I see…

Kathleen Christ: What do you believe was your greatest accomplishment while you served here?

Dr. Barbara Kathe: I think one of the things was… bringing a certain amount of peace… to the faculty, and sharing it with them. And, as I said earlier, laying the groundwork for many of the fine programs that we have today, one of which is the Practice Program in the Business Department. You know that whole practice area they have in the Business Department?

Kathleen Christ: Yes!

Dr. Barbara Kathe: The first year I was– it wasn’t the first year… It’s funny I was making a presentation on that very thing: Practice Departments in Business, the morning of September 11, the year 200[1]. It was up in my office, and there was a group of Board members, Sister Therese was there too, and my secretary Karen Johnson, who one of you has met anyway. [She] brought a note in to me, telling me about the first tower, which I then gave to [Sister] Therese, and she just kept it. A few minutes later, Karen came in with a second note about the second tower, and Therese talked to everybody about it, and it was that presentation about the Practice Programs that the university could utilize– could sponsor– that would be so good for the students. There’s the Nursing Practice Program that you see up there too. [Yes], so it was at that time, even though it was a momentous, never-to-be-forgotten moment of horror, that I do remember talking to the Board of Trustees about this idea, and presenting it to them, and at that time, they were very amenable to it, which was good. Also, another program that I was again laying groundwork for was the Faculty Development Program, which is, really a Teaching Excellence program. And that is, I understand, in full swing today, and I’m happy about that, because faculty do need encouragement, and they also need help, very often need help, particularly Ph.D. faculty, and you might say, “Why?” “Why Ph.D. faculty?” Do you have any idea?

Kathleen Christ: Maybe they don’t necessarily have a lot of teaching experience?

Dr. Barbara Kathe: Well, some of them come with teaching experience, but they come with *learning* experience, particularly young Ph.D. faculty. They know how to learn. They have all of their lives spent learning, you know, over twenty-six, seven years learning, and finally they come out with this marvelous thing. [*laughter*] And they have a Ph.D. and they want to teach, but they don’t necessarily know *how* to teach. And so, for a year or two they might flounder a bit, because teaching, as you know, is an art, and a skill, and it takes…time and experience to know good ways to teach, and the more we can help young faculty, new faculty, understand… not teaching methods so much as what’s the best way for me to get information out of my head… into the heads, and hearts, of my students… So, those are the things I’m proudest of…

Kathleen Christ: Is there anything that we didn’t talk about that you’d like to add in?

Dr. Barbara Kathe: No, I talked too much. [*laughter*] I did, I talked too much…

Kathleen Christ: Okay, well thank you so much!

Dr. Barbara Kathe: You’re welcome.

1. Assumption College is a Roman Catholic liberal arts college located in Worcester, Massachusetts. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. The University of Saint Joseph in West Hartford, Connecticut is a Sisters of Mercy college. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. The University of Connecticut is a public four-year institution in Storrs, Connecticut. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Dr. Joan David taught at Salve from 1963-2012. In that time she was an English professor and Chairwoman, and Director of the Theater Department from 1963-1986. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Sister Paulette Sans Souci was a professor of French and English at Salve from 1985-1995. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. This sister’s name was Sister Madeline San Souci. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Angelus Hall, a part of this university since 1955 due to Salve’s acquisition of the Vinland estate, currently houses classrooms and offices for the Departments of Music, Theater, and Dance, though it has served many different purposes in the past. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. Sister Therese Antone, current Chancellor of Salve Regina University, graduated from here in 1962 and worked as a tenured professor, Director of Development, Vice President for Corporate Affairs and Advancement, Secretary of the Board of Trustees, and served as President from 1994-2009. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. Miley Hall, originally built in 1964, is currently a Freshman residence hall and contains the main dining hall on campus. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. Dr. John Quinn has been a History professor at Salve Regina University since 1992. In the past, he has also served as Department Chair of the History Department. [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. Dr. Timothy Neary is the current Chairman of the History Department and coordinator of the American Studies program. He has been teaching at Salve since 2005. [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. Dr. Frederick Promades is the current Assistant Vice President for Research and Compliance in the Institutional Research Department. [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. Dr. William Hall is the current Vice President for Administration/Chief Financial Officer in the Business Office. [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. This white building is the upperclassman residence hall located at 134 Webster Street. It was acquired by Salve Regina University in 2001. [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
15. Narragansett Hall is a university residence hall located on Narragansett Avenue. It has been a part of the Salve Regina campus since the 1970s. [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
16. Richard O’Neill is involved in general maintenance and carpentry for the university’s Facilities Department. [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
17. Ralph Paiva works in Salve’s Facilities Department as a Distribution and Set-Ups Supervisor. [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
18. Dr. Arthur Frankel has been a professor of Psychology at Salve Regina since 1978, and worked in different administrative capacities at the university in the past as well. [↑](#footnote-ref-18)