Donald L. Lantz oral history interview by Nancy Hewitt, July 2, 1985

Donald L. Lantz (Interviewee)

Nancy A. Hewitt (Interviewer)
This Oral History is copyrighted by the University of South Florida Libraries Oral History Program on behalf of the Board of Trustees of the University of South Florida.

Copyright, 2007, University of South Florida. All rights reserved.

This oral history may be used for research, instruction, and private study under the provisions of the Fair Use. Fair Use is a provision of the United States Copyright Law (United States Code, Title 17, section 107), which allows limited use of copyrighted materials under certain conditions. Fair Use limits the amount of material that may be used.

For all other permissions and requests, contact the UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA LIBRARIES ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM at the University of South Florida, 4202 E. Fowler Avenue, LIB 122, Tampa, FL 33620.
Hewitt: I am talking with Dr. Don Lantz from the Education Department for the USF Silver Anniversary Oral History Project. Could you tell me how you first became connected with USF or when you first heard of this place?

Lantz: After I finished my degree at the University of Minnesota I was in office of recommendations and they said that there was an opening at a new university in south Florida. So I wrote a letter and then later talked over the telephone with Jean Battle, who was then the dean. At that time there were quite a few people on the charter faculty from the University of Minnesota who had completed their degrees. I was invited down for an interview and was met by a former Minnesota person that I did not know at the time and was offered the job, and was very happy to come even though I didn't anticipate staying here for any length of time. I think the reasons that intrigued me down here was the fact that they had a Basic College that had stressed general education with a liberal arts orientation. There was the opportunity of not only being in the College of Education, but being able to participate and teach with other faculty. I was interviewed down here not only by the College of Education, but primarily with the people in Biology.

Hewitt: Really?

Lantz: Right.

Hewitt: What was the link between Biology and the College of Education at that time?
Lantz: At that moment I was teaching biology at Bethel College where I got my undergraduate degree and both masters and Ph.D. A kind of a collateral field I had was in speciation concepts in biology, genetics, and evolution. Actually when I first came here I taught more basic biology than I did education. Actually I thought I was hired to be in ed psych and science ed, but in the meantime when I got here they had hired another person in science ed. In the Basic College I taught both biology and behavioral science, which was sort of a general social science orientation. We had anthropologists, sociologists, and historians. Everybody was meeting and teaching together. Each of us would share one or two lectures for a mass group and then each of us had our individual sections.

Hewitt: So in the individual sections you had alot of contact with the students even though it was a mass section?

Lantz: Right. There was a lecture session once a week and then two other times during the week we met with individual classes which had about thirty students. That was another characteristic about the University--that emphasis was upon small classes. In fact most of the rooms in those early days were built for about thirty students and in many of those buildings today, if you have a class with more than thirty students, you are crowded.

Hewitt: So that was planned?

Lantz: It was planned, but the idea was of having a kind of university with a small college atmosphere.

Hewitt: Do you have any idea of how big USF was in terms of numbers? It's hard to imagine this place with a small university concept.
Lantz: Before I came there were four people in the College of Education aside from the dean and there were four more hired the next year. That made a total of eight of us. It wasn't only that we knew everybody in the College of Education, whom we met socially and otherwise, but many of us were housed in the College of Chemistry so we knew everybody in Chemistry, Geology, and what have you. It was a good mix. You had a good small college of people.

Hewitt: When you tried to develop or fit your interests into these mass lectures and into the core courses, did professors get together and try to work it out collectively or did everybody just go in and do their own thing?

Lantz: There was a good bit of collective talking together, meeting together, and making decisions as to what we would talk about, but one certainly was left on his own to handle it later.

Hewitt: Did you feel like you talked to colleagues more in later years than in recent years about teaching and research and those kinds of topics as a result of this interdisciplinary approach?

Lantz: Yes, quite a bit more. In fact, one of the stimuli for doing this was that we developed the program text that was published by McGraw-Hill in the Human Behavior course. So we got together frequently to decide what would go into that. I know I wrote two chapters on "Education and the Socializing Process" for that class. I think I still get a little royalty check of about ten dollars a year!
Hewitt: When your office was over in the Natural Sciences, was it clear who was in Natural Sciences and who was in Education or were the people that were hired here people who had always tried to overlap their fields a little bit?

Lantz: I think in those initial days many people were... For example, people who would be hired in social studies education would probably teach the American Idea. People who taught English would have taught something in English ed. Likewise in art and music. I can't think of the fellow's name who was director of the external examinations, that's not what they called it. He went from here to Stanford. There was a push for an overlap of people. The external exams were great because we never prepared our final exams. They were given by people whose job was simply to prepare exams for the objectives that were specified for the course.

Hewitt: I've never heard anyone talk about that!

Lantz: Oh, is that right? They were housed in the old library on the fifth floor. Occasionally they also would teach. The person you should interview who would tell you about that would be Gid Nelson who is retired now. He was the examiner for biology. So we never knew what those items would be.

Hewitt: How in the world did students deal with test anxiety when they couldn't ask you all the standard questions about what would be on the test?

Lantz: It was kind of a cooperative thing in that you sort of felt that your goal as an instructor was to help prepare these people to master the objectives. It wasn't that you were going to be the evaluator. It was almost a cooperative adventure.
Hewitt: That's interesting.

Lantz: I enjoyed it. There was a paper done by Ron Hartnett. He was a behavioral science examiner. It was called "It Pays To Wear a Skirt." The essence of it was that girls tended to get higher scores from the instructors because we contributed half the grade based on the exams we gave in the class. The girls always got higher scores from instructors than they got from the external exam.

Hewitt: Maybe they were just brighter.

Lantz: Rod left shortly after that and now he is at Rutgers.

Hewitt: Were there as many female as male students then?

Lantz: In the College of Education there has always been a preponderance of women. The emphasis here, in those early days, tended to be more on elementary education. In fact, even though I had taught in high school, I had to radically shift and find new illustrations for elementary school children that I had never had.

Hewitt: Were there many female faculty members at that time?

Lantz: We had one female that I recall. She left very shortly after that. Most of us were males.

Hewitt: I suppose there weren't as many women out there with Ph.D.s in that period.

Lantz: That's true.
Hewitt: When I went through the list of people to interview I couldn't find very many women that had been here twenty-five years. I wasn't sure if it was because they weren't here that long ago or because the women that came that long ago left.

Lantz: I think she left for marital reasons. She went away to get a job and married the guy there.

Hewitt: You mentioned that you socialized more with other faculty members and that that was encouraged. Was there a sense that there was life outside the classroom at USF then?

Lantz: Oh yes. One would occasionally go down and have coffee and find out something new that was happening with the chemists. Yes, there was a good bit of life outside the University. We even took field trips. I remember going bird watching with a group of faculty members.

Hewitt: Now the buildings seem so separated, the campus is so huge, and the weather is so hot that it seems like there aren't very many options unless your willing to venture over to the Empty Keg to get together with other faculty members.

Lantz: There were only about four buildings on campus when I came in 1961.

Hewitt: Were they all the way across campus? You mentioned the Chemistry building.

Lantz: You see, there was a Chemistry building and a Biology building. We called it the Life Science building. Outside of the teaching auditorium, that's where we held the large classes.
Hewitt: Is that ULH, what's currently the University Lecture Hall? The one right here? That little round thing?

Lantz: Yes. Over by the Student Union. And the Student Union, the Library, and the Administration building. That was it.

Hewitt: Was the Library then in the building it is in now?

Lantz: No. It was adjacent to the Administration building. I can't think of the librarian's name. He was an interesting character. He was the first person to be hired.

Hewitt: Oh really?

Lantz: Yes.

Hewitt: They hired a librarian first?

Lantz: First. Right.

Hewitt: That's interesting. Do you think that priority has shifted?

Lantz: Yes! I do!

Hewitt: Is the library number one anymore?

Lantz: No. I don't think so.

Hewitt: When do you think USF shifted away in terms of its mission or its interests away from this kind of interdisciplinary perspective in Basic Studies? What were the forces that pushed it into what seems to be now a more traditional disciplinary approach?
Lantz: I think certain personnel left. Sid French, for example, was one who pushed it. The fellow who is in charge of the evaluation services left to go to Stanford. It really didn't exist much after the first five, six, seven years. I think it began to deteriorate in that sense.

Hewitt: Did you have any interaction with the Johns Committee?

Lantz: No, but that was a very anxiety arousing period of time. I can recall very vividly the people who were involved. People would joke and you weren't always sure. For example, I guess the concern was that we were soft on communism, so you didn't say anything about socialism. It was perceived that there were a lot of homosexuals out here, so if two guys would be talking in the hall, some girl would come up and would say "Don't you think you need a female with you here?" So it became kind of a joke. And that they were anti-religious out here. I would say that that early faculty was probably about as religious a faculty as you can find. We went to socials or we went to College of Education picnics. There would be a prayer before we would eat and you wouldn't find that now. I remember another fellow who is Dean of Students, Howard Johnshoy. He was later killed in an airplane crash. They had a real strict dress code also here that women never came to class in shorts and if they did they wore a trenchcoat. Can you believe that?

Hewitt: Did the University provide trenchcoats for all their undergraduate women?

Lantz: As a faculty member I never came to school without a shirt and tie. Usually I had a coat.
Hewitt: I hope the air conditioning worked well!

Lantz: That probably only lasted a couple of years that I recall.

Hewitt: Do you think the Johns Committee made the University, the administration, or maybe faculty members less willing to experiment because experimentation was seen as somehow controversial and subversive?

Lantz: Yes and I think it destroyed, in some sense, a lack of trust in part of the community here because I think there were some fundamentalist groups in a sense that were pushing this. I think that it was inevitable in that such things, a liberal education, was new to the people here.

Hewitt: Since the Johns Committee was here in the early '60s and then I assume there was some kind of anti-war activity in the late '60s, did that have any affect on the community's perception of USF or was there so little activism here?

Lantz: I don't recall it being that active here during the late '60s. Certainly not like it was in the north. In some ways, I would say that our people were very active. I remember transporting some students from the Student Union over to the University Restaurant to picket that place in terms of blacks. They had a young man who is in the band. A black student went over there to eat and they refused to give him service. So the University students began picketing the University Restaurant. It was shortly after that that things were quite different.

Hewitt: Was there any kind of stated concern on the part of the administration or on the part of deans or faculty in terms of integrating the University of South Florida, either student body or faculty?
Lantz: No. I can recall one dean in particular who said, "I know it has to come." Intellectually he says, "I know it, but emotionally, it's extremely difficult."

Hewitt: Because I guess USF would have opened four years before the 1964 Civil Rights Act, so . . .

Lantz: But, in that sense it was always integrated. I don't think students were turned away at any time because of their color.

Hewitt: So in essence USF was probably different than the established universities in those days.

Lantz: Yes, I think they were. Most likely the student demonstration and protest came before. So I think there was . . . And I can understand that dean who grew up in a very conservative, religious group and having lived in the south all his life found that kind of a struggle. Students would find it very easy to sit down and have coffee or coke with black students in the Student Union, but were not about do that off campus. It was . . .

Hewitt: Sort of an enclave that was separate from the community?

Lantz: Right. I think that was part of the early problems of the University too, is that most of the students were commuters. So they only came on campus for classes, but their reference for all kinds of standards and morality or what have you were still in terms of where they grew up.

Hewitt: I know there was alot of effort at the beginning, I suppose partly for sound economic reasons, to get the community very involved in the building and the planning of the University of South Florida. Did you feel like there was
more contact than with the community? Were faculty expected to get involved in community activities in any way or go to community events?

Lantz: My impression is that I don't recall any real concerted effort. I recall President Allen who was a neighbor of mine. He lived two doors away. He was always talking about the community and the industrial park out here. I sort of have a feeling that in those very early days they were still looking towards the University of Florida for consultants and the school systems rather than looking for a consultant here who would go to the University of Florida or FSU. We were sort of a step child, not quite a state institution.

Hewitt: How much do you think being a step child in the state system affected the way the people who were at USF tried to develop this university? Did they want to emulate U of F and FSU or did they want to be so different that they wouldn't keep being compared to . . . ?

Lantz: I don't know. I sort of think that one of the things that changed is that only as we developed a graduate program could we gain status with the state legislature. That type of thing. I would say also in terms of the community, when we first moved here, by simply indicating that we were employed at the University of South Florida, there was no problem with credit.

Hewitt: Really? I didn't have that experience when I came!!

Lantz: People were very happy. I think the community in general, not business, but just people in general were very positive towards anybody that taught at the University. That is my experience.
Hewitt: You mentioned that John Allen was a neighbor of yours so I suppose your sense of this might be somewhat different from that experience, but did you feel like there was a substantial access to administrators when you first came here as a faculty member, or was there real division between administrators and faculty?

Lantz: No, I don't know how much access there was to John Allen, but I would say there was total access to the deans. It was really an open door type of thing. Deans would be apt to come over and sit down and have coffee or wander through the halls and just sit down and talk.

Hewitt: Was there a sense that it was fairly easy to move between faculty and deans? Did alot of deans come back and teach or teach while they were deans or did many faculty become deans?

Lantz: Many faculty became deans. In fact one fellow who heads the Biology department became a dean of the Basic College.

Hewitt: So it was a little more flexible then?

Lantz: Yes, there was a great deal of flexibility. I would say that deans and faculty were sort of a team. There wasn't that cleavage between administration and faculty.

Hewitt: Do you have any rememberance of when that cleavage began or was it just such a gradual process that there were no real moments or events, that it just sort of occurred?

Lantz: I really don't know. I think it began when John Allen began to fail in terms of his mental capacity and things. Then also he would have been a president for the fifties and not for the turbulent '60s. It was kind of a
sense of inflexibility. Certainly also when Cecil Mackey was here, that it occurred then between the central administration and the colleges.

Hewitt: Did there seem to be concerted effort, when Cecil Mackey was brought in, to make lots of changes at that point, or did faculty have a sense of anxiety about what would happen next?

Lantz: I think there was anxiety because they didn't know who would be next and because they had already had comfortable relations with their deans and those deans may not be there. In fact I think Mackey got rid of all of the deans except one in Engineering and Tuttle who was with the extension group. I think other than that, all the deans changed, so we started with new relationships there.

Hewitt: Is that also when the University shifted away from the basic studies and back to . . . ?

Lantz: No, they had shifted earlier. They had begun to make their shifts early.

Hewitt: What kind of affect did that have on you as a faculty member? Did it mean basically rewriting all new courses, making new preparations, or teaching in a different way?

Lantz: Changing from the Basic College?

Hewitt: Yes.

Lantz: No. You taught the courses that you taught in the College of Education and you taught them essentially the same except as time changed your courses changed. I miss not having some kind of contact with people in Biology and that type of thing. In fact I would say that the best evaluation in terms
of not praising or anything was the department chairman in Biology came in and sat in on one of my Biology classes. It was unexpected. He wrote out four pages of notes and he sat down and went over them. I thought he was right on target. He really had a lot of recommendations and I was very accepting. It was affirming, but plenty of recommendations.

Hewitt: That's interesting. You've spent a lot of years in Tampa for someone who was not planning on staying here for too long. How involved was your family with USF? Has USF had any impact on the rest of your family?

Lantz: My wife came here and got a master's degree in elementary education. My one daughter finished up here, but she is... All three of my children are on their way to school.

Hewitt: So it was mostly your connection?

Lantz: My connection. We had always planned to go back to California, but jobs weren't available. When they were available, then we went back there. We found out our style of life changed, so we came back here.

Hewitt: So you actually did take a venture out?

Lantz: Well, we were offered a job at Claremont...

Hewitt: I was interviewed by Claremont before I came here. You see, we could be doing this out there!

Lantz: It was a unique place, but it was so smoggy that day that we couldn't even find where we had lived in... because of the interstate.

Hewitt: You decided Tampa was easier?
Lantz: Tampa was easier. Well, actually one big reason, I hate to say this, wasn't the University that kept me here, but it was the fact of seeing my son waterskiing behind a boat, and I thought where could I do this in California so easily since we lived on Lake Carroll.

Hewitt: That's great! The University never knows what keeps us here! When you think back over your years here, what do you see as the best changes or the worst changes that have taken place in the twenty-five years?

Lantz: Well, I'm not sure which is the best. I think certainly that, and I hate to think of growth because you trade one for another. I think we have lost that small college atmosphere. We have lost a sense of collegiality in some ways between colleges. We have become more and more concerned about turf, although I think that is slacking up in recent years. I don't think that it is nearly the problem that it was ten or fifteen years ago. Probably the growth of the emphasis on research, which is probably a weakness, in some of the areas. People who are more scholarly have been brought in. Those of us in the early days were primarily interested in teaching. Although there was a good bit of writing in those days, a lot of support to give papers at various places, but it didn't feel like your livelihood or your existence depended upon research, whereas today that is the orientation. I think in those days one did papers because they were an intricate part of his teaching or his research that he was teaching, whereas today, it's "I better write some papers or I'm not going to get any salary increase."

Hewitt: Right. There was a different motivation . . .

Lantz: Yes. I think the motivation has changed for that.
Hewitt: Do you find that the students have changed very much over the years?

Lantz: Yes, I think somewhat. I think in the '60s . . . I hope you really edit all this! I think in the very early '60s there were alot of students who were bright, but who came from marginal socioeconomic backgrounds who couldn't have afforded to go away to the University of Florida or FSU. They ended up coming to USF. Many of these were women that come to the University. So we had a number of older students besides the young students. Many of them, at least in the College of Education were kind of career oriented . . . Then I think in the latter part of the '60s as the Civil Rights movement got going there was alot of interest among students in causes. They tended to be other directed. Including these that were sort of career oriented. They really wanted to do something in society. I think today, the orientation, I don't know, if it's concerned with my career. Its a much more self-oriented group. I may be wrong, but one isn't sure. I remember a student as I was waiting to pick some people up to take them over to the University Restaurant, he says, "You know, you guys talk a good game, but there is very little action. I don't see any faculty over there."

Hewitt: Now it seems sometimes like it's the faculty who are trying to get the students involved in some issue or cause. Did you feel like you knew students better then? Were there individual students or groups of students who would come by offices and talk or who felt like, with the campus being smaller, that faculty were more accessible to them?

Lantz: Yes, I would say that more students came by in those days because our offices were usually near where our classes were, whereas today your isolat-
ed students have to make a special trip to come by to see you. I think there was more interaction because classes were smaller.

Hewitt: I know that the Education department, in general, does alot of off-campus teaching and since you and I flew together to Ft. Myers I know that you have taught at one of the regional campuses. How soon after you arrived did you start leaving campus to teach courses?

Lantz: I don't know. It was very shortly after we started going over to St. Pete. That was the first trip. That was probably within the first two years after I was here. When I first came here we had Saturday classes.

Hewitt: Really?

Lantz: That's right.

Hewitt: I'm glad you put an end to that!

Lantz: There were classes on Saturday in the College of Education.

Hewitt: Did you have many night classes then?

Lantz: We did have some night classes. One night that I remember in particular was during the Cuban missile crisis when we were trying to teach classes and they were moving in food supplies, into the Chemistry basement.

Hewitt: Really?

Lantz: Yes. There were alot of sparks in the area. Finally people got anxious enough that they would leave class and go home. In fact I think I recall a professor who picked up, took off, and went north.
Hewitt: He decided this was enough of this. Did the groups that you taught in St. Pete, were they actually enrolled at USF?

Lantz: Yes they were. They were students at USF.

Hewitt: How different was that atmosphere teaching in St. Pete than teaching at the Tampa campus? It must have been when they were just barracks?

Lantz: Yes. I don't know. I think St. Pete has always had fairly good students over there. I really didn't mind going over.

Hewitt: You didn't mind the drive?

Lantz: I didn't mind the drive.

Hewitt: Was it better than flying?

Lantz: Listen. I remember driving to Ft. Myers many a quarter, so that airplane was a delight. I'm not sure I want PBA to fly me.

Hewitt: But at least the idea was good. How much did you take in stride since there was more of an emphasis on teaching than on research in the early years? Did everybody just assume that driving for three hours to get to Ft. Myers or an hour to get to St. Pete was just a normal part of your routine?

Lantz: No. You took it. You just sort of had to accept it, although no one that I know likes it. I think it had some deleterious effects in those early years. During the summer time, the College of Education essentially supported the University because we had many students from all over. They would come from Georgia, Jacksonville, and throughout the state. They would be on campus and the opportunity was here you had people from widely different backgrounds and different areas in the same class and sharing their
Ideas. Today we take the courses to them, like the students in Sarasota or students in Ft. Myers, the same students are in every single class with them. I think they are limited in whom they come in contact with.

Hewitt: So there is not as much . . . There is no incentive to come up to Tampa and take a course because they know eventually you'll come there.

Lantz: We'll come there and so our student enrollment here on campus is down in the summertime because we take programs off campus. I think we miss something in the summer. Summers were a time . . . because now teachers don't need to take off during the summertime. They can be mothers, go vacationing, and things like this because they only want to take courses during the year. Summers were a great time for teachers in the past in terms of an education because they came here, they lived on campus, and they lived in the dorms.

Hewitt: Was there much student life on campus in the early years? I know it is mostly a commuter school now and I suppose it was then.

Lantz: Then it was essentially even more so of a commuter school because most of our students, it seems to me, were local students simply because we didn't have any sufficient housing on campus. I've sort of had the feeling that at one time people lived on campus, then they moved off campus, and now there is a tendency to want to come back on campus.

Hewitt: This is probably not a crucial question for the history of USF, but it's one that I have always worried about. What did people do for eating in the early years at USF? There seems to be very few places on campus to eat these days, and I assume there weren't all the fast food places lining Fletcher and Fowler that we have now.
Lantz: We all went over to the Student Union to eat. In many cases we carried bag lunches with us. There was the University Restaurant.

Hewitt: I suppose if there were fewer places you were more likely to run into other colleagues?

Lantz: Sure. I think we had more luncheons for different occasions. If someone came here to speak there would be a luncheon. The president had a dining room so you could use that.

Hewitt: That would be nice.

Lantz: One of the other things was the president always had a dance. A big social event each year. It was kind of fun. I didn't know how to dance, and I remember coming the first time and my wife said that she wouldn't come back again unless I learned to dance. Almost everybody showed up for those.

Hewitt: Was this a formal occasion?

Lantz: Yes it was.

Hewitt: That is incredible. I wonder what would happen if they tried to have one now? Who would show up and in what attire? Someone else mentioned to me another all university event. It was the university book. Was that still going when you were here?

Lantz: Oh yes. In fact I was on the "All University Book" Selection Committee. I remember when we had *Good Soldier Swike* to read and *Lord of the Flies* by William Golden. Golden came here to speak about that. We tried to utilize that book in our classes or any book in our classes if at all possible. In
some ways they were easy, but in the sciences they found it very difficult to do. You would have discussion groups or you might even have somebody come and discuss the book in your class.

Hewitt: How did you go about selecting books since you were on the Selecting Committee?

Lantz: I'm not sure. People would just get together and put in and argue for a number of different books and then take a vote as to what it would be.

Hewitt: How many people were on the committee?

Lantz: I think there were probably eight or nine of us at one time.

Hewitt: So you just sat around and threw out ideas?

Lantz: That's right. It was fun.

Hewitt: It sounds like it would be fun just trying to make the selections.

Lantz: I don't recall it being that difficult. Maybe I didn't know enough books. I probably took someone's recommendation.

Hewitt: Do you remember anything about the development of the sports programs at USF? I know people have told me that there were only intramurals.

Lantz: President Allen only wanted intramurals. Many people were happy when the Bucs came because that took pressure off from the community to have a football team here. There is a case too... The intramural and the other programs, there were many faculty that took activities and sports over there. Golf, swimming, and what have you. I remember in those early days there was one golf class and it was about half faculty.
Hewitt: Is that why they built the golf courses? Was there much concern when USF started getting its first intercollegiate teams, that this would somehow take away from the academic side and the emphasis on teaching? Certainly since I have been here every other month there is a headline about something at that Sun Dome or the athletic directors or the budget.

Lantz: Initially there was a lot of interest in basketball. I think it has kind of weakened. People are just not that excited about it. It doesn't make that much difference. There are so few students involved.

Hewitt: Also I imagine being a commuter campus it would have been harder to generate the kind of activities around sports that you get at a residential campus.

Lantz: I would say that is one thing that I miss. At Minnesota in the fall there was just an excitement in the air on Friday and Saturday. Down here there is nothing.

Hewitt: Most of my students have claimed that they are basketball fans when I teach on Tuesday nights in the fall or the winter, and if there is a game on they suddenly become anxious to leave at eight o'clock. Is there any other aspect of life at USF that you would like to get down on tape for the next several generations?

Lantz: I think the University has made a real contribution to the community here. I think that when we first came to Tampa, my wife cried as we came down Florida Avenue. She said, "Why did you bring me to a place like this?" The University had a significant impact on the community.
Hewitt: Well, I am glad I got here after it was twenty years old then! I didn't quite cry when I arrived, but it was a big change from the urban . . .

Lantz: Florida Avenue hasn't really changed that much since that time, but it was really bad. There was nothing out here. It was just kind of open scrub and a lot of sand. If the wind came up the sand would be all over. And it was hot!

Hewitt: Were the breweries out here yet?

Lantz: Yes. Also during those early days there was no alcohol on campus.

Hewitt: Even though the breweries were right across the street?

Lantz: In fact, sometimes faculty would have . . . As things got moving on, they would go over to Schlitz and have meetings and kind of chat.

Hewitt: Well, thank you very much for letting us interview you today as part of the USF Silver Anniversary Oral History Project and we will put this in our archives.