

Gerard Dahowski

Marist College
Poughkeepsie, NY

Transcribed by Ann Sandri
For the Marist College Archives and Special Collections

Dahowski, Gerard, 22 November 2010

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Interviewee: Gerard Dahowski

Interviewer: Gus Nolan

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Summary: Gerard Dahowski reflects on his time growing up in Poughkeepsie, his role on the board of trustees, and shares his thoughts on the future of Marist.

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00:25 GN: good after noon Gary let me just record one thing here today this November twenty second

00:31 GD: never will forget this day

00:32 GN: the day remember the forgotten. And we're in the Marist College library. And we have the happy occasion to be talking to a member of the board of trustees Marist graduate Gerard Dahowski. Good after noon Gary

00:47 GD: how are you Gus?

00:48 GN: Good Gary there's like three parts to this before middle and ending. Before could you just give us sort of a thumbnail Gary where you were born were you grew up grade school early school. Before moving on.

01:07 GD: OK I'm an anomaly here Poughkeepsie native born and brought up in Poughkeepsie went to grade school st Mary's finished up at Poughkeepsie high. I did three years. With the Christian Brothers down at St Pat's. And then had no intention of going to college at all. And then my father said we're going to do something so. He says you know he says you go into service I said well I'm not eighteen he said I'll sign in so I went through I had asthma so I couldn't go so I ended up working for a bank. Poughkeepsie First National Bank Poughkeepsie and our next door neighbor was Arthur Butts. Who was a legion in this time?

01:44 GN: oh first he's the first graduate

01:47 GD: one of the first lay student

01:50 GN: alumni

01:51 GD: yup so he said Mr. Dahowski I was a teller in a bank he was the vice president he says come the Marist I said I So I went to night school here. In fall for sixty and spring of sixty one took a course with Brother Richard McCarthy history course. On the room next to Marian

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next to the gym. They had classrooms on both sides Saturday morning course there and I took a developmental reading with the great Dr. Schroeder. You know. And then I morphed into full time in 1961 and I graduated in sixty five.

02:30 GN: Later I took that course with Bob Norman

02:33 GD: great guy

02:35 GN: with the speed reading right I reckon they had in those days so you're really working while going to college

02:43 GD: Well Actually no I stopped working and I was a day hop so I was I was doing you know part time work but I went full time but that time I remember seeing in fact I found it the internet a couple of weeks ago it was a copy of the Reynard and it said attendance breaks a thousand. I was a little note from Brother John Malachy who was on the register.

03:08 GN: I know him well

03:11 GD: back you know Donnelly hall was the dorms for the guys downstairs and the classroom upstairs the library was as I was saying. Greystone

03:23 GN: I meet a fellow called Bill Moran

03:25 GD: bill was two year in front of me.

03:27 GN: Yeah. And he was one of the first to live in that That's strange I had not seen him in the fifty years. I see he was here for a football game

03:36 GD: I see him shows up to at Dennis's Christmas party down in New York. Bill the class of sixty three.

03:45 GN: Yeah very good. Sidelines what else did you do. Besides work and school did you do any athletics?

03:51 GD: Well back then we didn't. Did a couple years of crew but you know never on of the

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full varsity boat. And had intermural because we had. They had a basketball team I was too short and too slow to do that and then you know. It was touch football but we had the major sports were, what was basketball that was it with Brother William Murphy as the ad.

04:18 **GN:** indeed Murphy and. Well I am just talking know crew was also just one of those things

04:28 **GD:** Joe Catanzaro

04:31 **GN:** Mike Arteaga talks about that and. and. Chris Campilii I am saying Chris but.

04:40 **GD:** But Tony

04:41 **GN:** Tony his son is Chris. What was your major

04:46 **GD:** Business.

04:47 **GN:** You were a major in business

04:48 **GD:** labard said business

04:49 **GN:** You mention McCarthy as a teacher in history but in business was Kelly here.

04:55 **GD:** jack Kelly.

04:57 **GN:** Kilgariff.

04:58 **GD:** No I was before him. We had

05:02 **GN:** John Griffin.

05:04 **GD:** Before him also. The Summers was English.

05:07 **GN:** Oh yes.

05:08 **GD:** Dr George Hooper great guy he was biology and we had a brother Million on a Sister Teresa. Doing Spanish they would Brother Million Was a Marist brother Sister Teresa was a nun. And they would she would come up from Mount St Mary Spanish. Going through there guy named Richard Thomas was the math teacher he had a short. Cup of coffee. Here. Statistics

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05:40 GN: did he come from Manhattan Was he a part time.

05:45 GD: no he was a Southern guy. He came from the south or southwest and him and Kelly came on around the same thing because Jack was here for the whole time that I was here. Eddie O'Keefe was psychology

05:55 GN: Eddie O'Keefe I didn't think that he went back that far

05:58 GD: yeah he did.

06:00 GN: OK. What kind was there any campus life at all?

06:04 GD: A little bit I got to know. As a day hop I got to know the couple of could be friends all my life. From the Bronx. Jimmy Zanni, Billy Gorman. Frank Nanits and you know I would take them into Poughkeepsie our house you know my Irish grandmother could would make them some food

06:24 GN: was the Brown Derby open yet

06:25 GD: Brown Derby Yeah. That was back there at 1960-61 Tony Balassone had the Derby was there. And actually the big one was Frank. Franks across the street Franken McManese's. And then there was they still had the twon gown relationship I mean but not quite as bad as it is now you know with the guys in town but these were guys from the Bronx's they thought they were cock a walk they realize still they got to know Poughkeepsie and were to go and not to go you know.

07:02 GN: That's one part but what about the times was the war on was there draft and all that be worry about

07:09 GD: No I like I say when I when I signed up. The Air Force and I went back to almost the physical I found I had asthma. I got One Y but that was 1961 and all the way through until 65 when I graduated. I got a deferment by not asking for it because of asthma. So the war. You

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know. Hadn't really near anywhere near the strength

07:36 GN: will it to come later in the 68, 69

07:39 GD: Well actually but. Johnson in sixty five he's the one who sent about. You know we didn't end up putting three, four thousand troops over there.

07:49 GN: employment opportunities well you did you have the job at the bank on the side

07:52 GD: No I was now I was just to doing part time jobs. What I did was a couple my friends went to I.B.M. And others went on Walle Virsomny was a classmate went to law school Paul Mare also went to law school. I took a couple I took a federal entrance exam which gives you an opening to all the civil jobs in the in the federal government. And I went with the F.D.A.I.C. with I have some banking background so it was sort of the serendipity got there became a bank examiner for a couple years went back to a bank locally got married then Finally got into banking for good here in Poughkeepsie the old duchess bank. That's right. That's where I was for twenty years and then at that time I got a little involved with Marist Jeremiah Sheehan was my classmate was on the alumni board and Don Murphy. Was the was the first alumni director. Part time so that how I got involved with that for a while we had a Super Bowl. Raffle every year. Because if you remember. Walt Maxwell who was a couple years old or younger than me his first step father owned the radio station in Kingston WGHQ And he was part owner of the Philadelphia Eagles in the nfl he would get tickets. And we would raffle them off and the tickets for the Super Bowl then the first time we did it was like super bowl two or three or four. They were fifteen dollars apiece. You know and then we ran the Super Bowl

09:28 GN: you have a picture of that

09:30 GD: and we would actually ran a raffle the alumni ran a raffle we were mailed out you know and we were working. Ronnie Peck's wife Marianne was working for the alumni in St

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Peter's a little back there because we still didn't have a lot of buildings here.

09:47 GN: Yeah. I'm just trying to think in terms of St Peters in terms of the it's building over here. Well you pointed up north I got disoriented I am say. Well that moved up they were still down here in town

10:02 GD: no opposite the pool.

10:04 GN: Oh I know that very well. Fast forward a little bit how did you come on board? In terms of the board of trustees here what's the genius

10:16 GD: Interesting there's a couple people who have been very influential in my life one was Jack McEnroe who was the president of Dutchess bank he was on the board here. And on our bank in Poughkeepsie Linus. Richard Foy Linus always will be Linus to me. Was on our board of directors down here. And in 78. I was evolved a little bit long live but not much you would come to homecoming. Linus took me out for lunch. Says you know this is Walter barysonic is resigning he lives in Jersey can't make it would you like to go on the board I said Yeah I said you're not going to get a lot of money out of me he says no we said maybe we could use. You know your financial background cause he saw what I was doing at the bank and. That was November 78 and. I was Linus's last appointee. then. Sub the next couple of months. Linus said You know I'm leaving and then. The search for Dennis and was sort of the you know and. Dennis came but six months after me.

11:17 GN: were you involved in any way with that.

11:19 GD: I wasn't on the search committee but finally

11:22 GN: your board members

11:23 GD: oh yeah we've had a vote on it you know it was interesting to see as an aside. As in a side when they were looking at Dennis had said never been to the east coast before and when

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they came back. They did a visit in. Well he was at Whittier and the only reason he couldn't get the job at Whittier he wasn't a Quaker. So we know that was.

11:44 GN: dead end there

11:45 GD: So I remember talking when you know when he came over for a visit he when he came on And the board members we speak at executive session or just B.S. And. You know they said if we keep him for five years that be good. And Dennis came and he changed. Well it was interesting I consider Marist one of the biggest shaping events in my life it has been a continual. But we sat down and you know. I was on the Finance Committee but the first year on here the. The budget was eight million dollars and it was we were at a deficit. And we had deficit for the two years before that. Yeah. And I remember Jack McEnroe saying to me Jack said if they were of business corporation we'd be out of business technically bankrupt. And Dennis sat down with me were close age I am few years older then Dennis. And he says well. We've got to do something about. You know budgeting. Budgeting for some reserves to build up because we had no. We had no endowment we had nothing in to for depreciation. so we set down there and I considered that my biggest contribution. Just being on a finance committee and having be part of thirty two.

12:57 GN: How much time is there between your first deployment and coming and. Dennis is arrival. Is there a year.

13:02 GD: five months no well. I came in in November of seventy eight and then Dennis within the next year. And like I say. I guess he's finishing his 31st, 32nd year. But we've had 32 budgets in a row that were balanced. We've had just bricks and mortars is just unbelievable What we've built here.

13:29 GN: I want to get this is a little bit of that now So it's really you were correct to say that

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from the beginning. You were moving into the financial aspect of the running of the board

13:39 **GD:** I was on the Finance Committee from day one. OK and then. I had working with Dennis and you know. And also Rob Dyson who was other Very important part.

13:50 **GN:** Good name. What does Dyson come on board

13:54 **GD:** Dyson There's two other trustees that have more time than I do. It's rob brother. Kearney Jim. Jim came on in 71 Rob came on maybe at 75 or 76 and I came on maybe 78.

14:08 **GN:** I didn't know Rob Dyson was on that long. I remember we talk about the communications center Dr. Lannging was here having a discussion with him to the board kind of things. Goals and objectives one thing was to get the budget balanced and then try to start saving things and so What were the strategy how were you going to do this.

14:37 **GD:** Well part of it. It's interesting you know. I didn't have that much experience you know in college and. what major issues. You should have but I could basically part of the college is running a business you know you've got to. You know unless you've got a balanced budget doesn't matter what you're selling if you don't know if you spend more in you taking in eventually going to run out. So we try to. Look at look at our physical plant. What do we need of say the roof fell off Donnelly Starting putting something away into a reserve there. And then trying to build up the endowment we had probably. If we had one hundred thousand dollars in endowment and we had a lot we were a very small school and there was not many lay alumni there. But it was working and Dennis worked very closely with. You know the board with the other committees and also with the faculty and with the ministration to get them get their mind in set to say hey we've got a budget you know we've got a week. And we started with the five year plans they weren't quite as formal I don't think as they are now but we'd instead of just looking from year to year saying. Where do you want to be. What do we want to be. You know when. I

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remember the first. Well. Knocking down St Peter's and you know. I'm trying to keep all the construction and Destruction in mind and I think I will lose some of the chronology.

15:54 GN: but even before the construction We're pretty much a tuition driven intuition

15:57 GD: I always will be I think

16:01 GN: How do you. Is it just by increasing tuition or is there government grants or things that begin to flow into this.

16:09 GD: coolest part the alumni went out. You know. I think the marriage with I.B.M. with the grants was a big plus. And we had some I.B.M. Was on a board but also our computer technology I think was for a small school. You know was the head of its time. Dennis is a very forward thinker. You know and he but he doesn't. Which I always like he says we can't forget our heritage to even we're real bored. It's still you guys

16:38 GN: Marist spirit behind

16:39 GD: exactly. You know As we went to a long we had some. First Chairman I worked with was Cliff Wilson remarkable guy. He was the president of Central Hudson. And he was. There was some problems I don't know if you remember. Linus last year the faculty was you know was thinking of striking

17:07 GN: there were tensions

17:08 GD: At graduation and Cliff got through in fact I guess I didn't go but he actually addressed the faculty at a commencement or one of their meetings and he could sort of kept a lid on things. Till Dennis got in and then it was a learning curve with Dennis I mean I don't think you know I don't. I can't really speak to what the faculty thought. Because I didn't. I knew a few of we didn't talk about it. And I think Dennis might have been a honeymoon. But I think after Dennis started going there I think people realized in also he was a good spokesman. To the

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outside community

17:43 GN: that's right

17:45 GD: And always like I say we. the underlying thing was whatever it was going to be it was going to be under a balanced budget. You know we try to contain the rate of increase but as you say we are you know tuition driven. But you know we're not exorbitant. You know we try to be all things to all people it's hard to do

18:05 GN: Right. There's a kind of an interesting parallel and symbolic. Really about for a while we use to have a wall around.

18:15 GD: Oh. It was here when I was here.

18:18 GN: Yeah we were kind of keep the world out as a where and we were supposed to live hidden and unknown to the world that's the Marist spirit you know but then it actually started with Nilus and Linus there was some crack in the wall and Nilus said decisions were made pretty much. On the go but there's not a lot of discussions. Take the wall down let the world see what we're doing here.

18:41 GD: I remember that because I was early 60's

18:45 GN: Yeah that whole process of. now from that Dennis being the spokesperson to the outside community and the relationship between the college and that. So that kind of moves in to the the first successes. Might be that. Grants, I.B.M. would be one to help support what we were going to be doing

19:07 GD: And nobody could ever forget the McCann foundation. With Jack Gartland who's history goes back I guess to. Brother Paul Ambrose not Stokes

19:21 GN: there's a difference. Oh yes there is but so Jack you know was McCann has been you know. There's no doubt about it quite a very generous donor to the school.

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19:32 GN: Yeah I mean we have so much to be great full for Jack because St. Francis Hospital is sitting up there on the Hill as well you know

19:39 GD: exactly that's where I was born.

19:41 GN: The community. Grant is for the community it really that is His function. What were maybe a setback along the way? In terms of this forward. You know the. I don't know if any problems with the well we've mentioned one that will resolve in the faculty tension would be one thing.

20:03 GD: But there's always that. What we were going to be and also the upper most did we step up. You know. Little by little now it's just remarkable the last few years or less ten fifteen years. Are step up in grade so to speak you know we were in the N.A.C. going around their sports is one analogy but also the class. The type of students we're attracting now. when I came it was open to the mission. As side sitting at the board the other day and Jimmy Barnes and. Brendan Birkin Dan Hickey I was sitting around the corner and somebody was talking about the S.A.T.'s and not doing the S.A.T.'s and it's tougher to get in we said yeah none of use would have gotten in under today's admissions you know sort of. But as it was always the fine line between what how much we want to step up and. We do a survey. When we look at tuition And we have what we call our peer group you know. And then also our competition. It's interesting to see over the years how the competition has increased you know we look at schools now we would look at before you know us. Specifically I'd have to go back and look at it but it's it. A great bitter pride say hey were up at this league we're taking it. Even in the city of Poughkeepsie the area with Vassar this is in the side in the last couple years we picked up. Financial Executives from there. And who'da think it that there going outside of town. and another thing I think that everbody should be happy with we have not had a layoff. We have not had paid Cuts. You know maybe

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the raises aren't always What. You know the other side would want that's human nature but we've always been fair. And I mean you look at some even Vassar they lay people off they didn't fill some spots you know

22:03 GN: oh I know I'm involved with the retired faculty here as the woman next to me who retired professor from Vassar What do you do for retirement it doesn't exist. You know there's no such thing as retired Faculty Association over there. And you know it's

22:18 GD: Our benefits are good I mean as I knows. It's been at times when I look at it To see the benefits. The insurance is one. I mean it's great I mean. And at times there's been close to open not warfare but it always hasn't been the happiest between administration and faculty but maybe it shouldn't be all the time either you know. But. I think the board has always had uppermost the school. And also the reputation and keeping us solvent and I think that's it I mean you look around I think we almost have two hundred million dollars' worth of buildings now that we didn't have 15 years ago. I mean that's remarkable.

23:00 GN: Continue on that line now. I mean the streams of income that have developed you know in terms of. I mean when I read Dennis report on the contributions that I made to the college. I don't understand the language sometimes were the grants are coming from you know.

23:19 GD: That's remarkable and also when you look at. We have. Branches in Italy It's just . How many kids go abroad I mean is a good percentage every year I mean are name is out there which is which is helps too because now we've got people in organizations not even counting O'Reilly You know who can afford to write a check. You know or which is good in a way to be a funnel or be a door opener for our grads when they need a job or at least an opening I think that's the one that doesn't get a lot of play but we've got people out there and Marist is a known name now. it's not. It was not the guy who hit the home runs I said no

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24:05 GN: know what's interesting is that. Bucknell use to be a name that how far away from Bucknell that we beat them this year in football You know after six failures you know was kind of another check on the list

24:18 GD: and us even moving up to that Pioneer League we're playing a better class of colleges not just of football team to getting our name out. You know.

24:27 GN: Yeah and nearly beating Daytona

24:28 GD: that was something holding them

24:30 GN: to the last play really so that part. the success of Marist is a probably multi-phase part of it would be No doubt. The location. You know the fact that we are situated where we are and I guess there is a traditional We had some high schools in New York that. We used to have most of our students came from the island

25:59 GD: exactly Right

25:01 GN: now more than half are outside New York state.

25:04 GD: Which is great.

25:06 GN: So that concept you mentioned before it's become a widespread well know factor

25:13 GD: And a lot of that MIPO has helped it the girls' basketball team has helped it you can't buy that type of when they went to the Sweet sixteen you know.

25:24 GN: who is this school Marist And of course. I was not it was not a high priority on my list. To put at the stadium. You know when the words came around about the development where should we be going extra now that its up that we would play places like San Diego. We go across the country.

25:46 GD: And Davis, Valparaiso

25:50 GN: And Jacksonville. If you don't go there they don't know that you exist

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25:54 **GD:** And it's not over the top hearing that was thanks to Tim who Very generous trusty But it's not like it's you know we'll never will never have. I don't think football as a scholarship sport we can't really afford it but it's not bad I remember when they started football Bobby Fin and was the club manager when in 1965 it started as a club sport and they use to play Riverview field. So it's moved on from there Ronnie Levine is the coach

26:26 **GN:** I interviewed Ronnie last year. And he was talking about. We were getting their first guys together. They said they had played before they couldn't even put the uniforms on they did now where the shoulder pads went away or reversed it was basic to start with that lets I talk about the buildings that you mentioned there two hundred million probably poured into the grounded in the concrete. How do you explain that.

26:53 **GD:** Well. I'd tell you if you remember when they expanded Donnelly

26:58 **GN:** put the frame around it

27:00 **GD:** right. Well that was the hub of the school. When you were here and I was here right I mean and you know. Dorms downstairs used to be the cafeteria then they moved it out

27:11 **GN:** you said in fact it use to be the dorms down there before

27:13 **GD:** exact upstairs and out stairs there

27:16 **GN:** the murphy beds

27:18 **GD:** I well. I don't really just I'm trying to do a chronologically the gym. But you had the dorms is really the first when we started building dorms.

27:32 **GN:** Now you talk about Champagnet

27:35 **GD:** No well my last year Champagnet was open in 65 but I'm talking about the ones.

27:40 **GN:** Foy, Gartland

27:41 **GD:** yup across the way. Every time we built a dorm We would do. Run through my

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committee. It would have to pay for itself over a period time. It had to be self-amortizing. You know where a library is. A classroom building isn't when I say self-amortizing there's certain things you have to have but what if you build up if you build a dorm. You can you know you're going, you've got a bond and you're going to pay so much. And you can do a pro former which Tony would do Tony work closely with me and with him y we were with him. Every time we put up a dorm. We knew that if we kept it full or. You know it would pay for itself. But you know the interesting thing is that the early dorms. Garland was a good example. To show you how you remember that at times. We didn't have doors weren't full we were renting out to culinary kids

28:34 GN: IBM

28:35 GD: culinary kids. So when we started building. Some of those townhouses up there. They were adaptable to be if we had a downturn to make them into apartments to rent. That's why they had common kitchen stuff like that it wasn't the regular gang one, two you know like a prison

28:52 GN: a floor of forty

28:53 GD: Yeah right. So that was part of our plan too so we always build in contingencies.

Yeah. And we try to build up enough reserves and that was Dennis was saying there's no way we're going to budget. That isn't balanced. You know so that. And that was part of the discipline that he had in Finance Committee had. And the board adhered to it here too. Saying if we're going to do stuff. And now. Every one of those things going across the road that's a big jump.

29:20 GN: But even before that who does the footwork. How do you get a bond

29:26 GD: first time around there's an organization New York State dormitories authority you apply just like you would for a mortgage I mean oh there's a thing. You say here. We want they would do a credit run on you. You know when we have now we have a decent rating. But back then in a couple of them the finances weren't that strong. So we had to go out and borrow at a

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higher rate than we would of now. But right now. When you have to do it you go to dormitory authority. And you say we want to put up one hundred bed. Dorm. You know you got to the first time around but every time but we have a better history after that but we say. Here's what we plan to do we have it here. Here's the projected income based on and. You know room and board for it for this one here. We can make a payback we have so much reserves so they would look at us they would look at our credit. And then they would go out to the market. And either sell through. Sometimes a private place with a bond fund or the a bond. Somebody would buy it and then resell the bond to the public. You know. But they're basically buying our credit. And then what happens to is that they take a mortgage of god forbid. You have mortgage you have insurance on it too but that's only as good as the insurers well before all this. the problem. But they look at it and they say OK we're going to. Now. Marist says. That should get a six percent. If the. Maybe if the normal. Credit that time for a thirty year bond was five percent they would. We might be paying a little bit more because we're an unknown or our credit isn't that great. right now we're an A one credit. And we don't what you would do is you go out you'd buy insurance. Letter a credit to back it so that the you as the Investor. Sure you getting your money some insurance companies do it but I've seen more from being a fairly risky credit to being a good credit people want us now. But excuse me I'll tell you when Tony. Was Here. It was here through a lot of them Tony Campion The building and grounds committee at that time was under Garland. So they did a lot of it. And then later towards Tony's end and then we had Paul for a while Paul buton for two or three years. And then. And Mike Duffy on the building and ground. They would come up with the idea or say hey we want to build one here. And then the. He would do some feasibility studies and then they run it through my committee. So we're like the you know it's almost like that we're like the House Representatives we pass on an all income you

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know taxes

32:15 GN: it can go forward if you say so

32:17 GD: but we look around and then we pass it on to the board. But that's how it works there and I actually another thing I'm just thinking of it now is Dennis has been very stout in selecting trustees. There is some. You know maybe we have ten or twelve. Alumni but not just there for alumni seat all contribute in different ways and also from when he went outside I mean he had some. And its not a rubber stamp for it either. if you talk to any of your. Faculty and there is back and forth I mean you know

32:52 GN: discussion just because he likes it .

32:55 GD: and I will tell you one thing one Guy who has been really also very instrumental in the last sixteen years is Rob Dyson. Very down to earth he's not showy

33:09 GN: I've met him at all sports we were on the same treadmill. Yeah. I have seen recently good honest. Move away from the dormitory's a little bit about the rest of the building program.

33:25 GD: Well there was always Franny Reese if you remember god rest her sole she was always saying we've got to have a library and then you know but a library is. Again as I said self-amortizing thing so we have to go out and get funding for that gifts if we can it took while but

33:45 GN: cannavino three million. Or five whatever it was is a good base But where did you get the other six

33:52 GD: Well Part. Fundraising. And then also if you have we could fund some ourselves we hope not to finance that on a long term bond bases but with our own cash flow we can do short term and then. We have a had a capital campaign. The same thing with Hancock Ellen gave us seed money. Yeah. You know. But again that's non advertising to because there's no direct income from the library or a classroom. But you're not going to college without a library or

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classroom. Right. So we need that you know.

34:28 GN: step backward. How did the decision come about for the stadium.

34:35 GD: You know I'll try to remember I don't. I know there's talk about it. They wanted to do you know maybe fix field a little bit put in the artificial turf on and it just sort grew

34:45 GN: grew by itself

34:46 GD: remember put the lights on we had temporary lights once and a while then they put the lights on and time just stepped up and gave a good portion of it but it was like I say here's another good pic by Dennis. Tim had no connection with the Marist lives down in Westchester County has a

35:03 GN: Pepsi place

35:04 GD: in Newburgh you know. But again here somebody comes on and. You know really has been helpful. J. Ralysen god rest his sole he had no direct tie with. But him and Jack McEnroe were very good friends but Jay was a very good. Board member. You know so he's unique Like I said Betty Wolf she filled Another great. She's old Poughkeepsie. And she's a myload

35:32 GN: and Jack

35:35 GD: John Mac when he was here you know so you go around that board.

35:39 GN: Are there outside consultants that come to the board for. I mean do you get advice to as where you might go for grants or.

35:49 GD: Actually that I that I wouldn't know that much about I assume there is but I know that we have we have advisors for our portfolio and for investing in our plant fund and our endowment. But that's they recommend possible investment. run through the Finance Committee. They don't have complete control but you know. We use an outside. You know. A

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gatekeeper who goes out and searches. Different investment advisors and they come back and then we set the final year or may we use it on a financial side to answer your question I really don't know. I don't know.

36:31 GN: I don't even have such things exist

36:23 GD: I don't either

36:32 GN: It just seems like that. There would be people you know. Would advised to be able to do that.

36:42 GD: But I think part of it is maybe it's what the other churches are doing you know. A lot of time you know when the business development officers start working or going playing golf or something. they're not going to give away.

36:56 GN: there list.

36:58 GD: Right it's like Jack Doherty we need him back remember Jack.

37:04 GN: the building of course is Fontaine how did that get up that's the one over by.

37:11 GD: well lets see how did that come in after Dyson after Lowell Thomas

37:16 GN: of course they're taking one down here they're taking down the Fontaine building. You know was part of the library.

37:22 GD: exactly. Well we knew there were office up in fontaine. Right were we are the back end of the church that came about again we knew. You know we keep growing and then the academic Affairs Committee. three good chairmen Jack Macro is there followed by J. Now brother Jim So the students You know the academic life of the students are you know saying hey if we're going to keep building dorms. Where we going to teach them the faculty are doubled up and sharing a room and same way with the kids, you know how many triples. one pushes the other you know it's like that. You know if you go here this comes out but the overall you've got

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to say. What are we going to do and can we afford to do it and are we letting growth lead us in which I don't think we try not.

38:22 GN: Yeah. I suppose part of that argument for the dormitory is that religion is that people are living off campus you had triples were in the hotel down in town. So we have the students we need to house them.

38:35 GD: But again. I've said this. This is my three years. We can just fit so many people on this campus with parking. And all the auxiliary. Services they need. You know we need. Office we need. Need. Room for the

38:55 GN: teaching conferences

38:56 GD: also the music

38:59 GN: oh art.

39:00 GD: for the clubs. You know yeah. Right.

39:03 GN: I heard this I don't know if this is true or not But the Hancock will not provide for any additional students. It's going to provide for a place to be able to do. Well we hope we were doing. Like offices for faculty. Conference rooms. Place to go where discussions can continue. But it was not increasing student body.

39:26 GD: Well you know I said I don't I think that it's a guess right because we needed to give the services to our existing core to the faculty, to the students. You know. No I don't think I've never heard it say that we got Hancock open now let's put another five hundred. Because we're going to put them. this is strictly MIPO office its offices for you know faculty You know but that was really a service building like I say. And that was. We paid for that. Out of operations and donations that. Again. There was no bonding for that so that's a thirty five to forty whatever the total number comes in that is not part of our bonded debt. Because we didn't. It's not going to

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bring anything in directly. And that's been an important part of our mindset.

40:21 GN: Nothings directly but it is part the attraction.

40:23 GD: Well you need it that's I am say it but you know if you're going to do it to borrow a bond. Yeah. In our mind we're saying we're not going to do a twenty or thirty year bond to put it up. Let's pay it out of operations for a year or two and let's get it from donors. Yeah that's what I am saying it's an intrical part you've got to have that and you've got to have a library or you're not going to worry about dorms. Your not going to have nobody showing up anybody showing up

40:49 GN: one graduation here there was a labor problem and people were protesting out there Did that ever impact. Building here on the where there union problems for say

41:02 GD: Well there was one here a couple weeks ago they were out there and we're And again this is I'm not that conversed with all the labor laws but you know I guess. We bid it out And we take the best bid for us so we do have union we're not strictly non it's the best that we can get. Yeah you know I guess there had been times over the years yeah a few times I am trying to remembers there was picketing out there here right. But we try to be. You know the unions want. All their jobs to be union. you know and here we don't have to in we again we. This is a policy. We bid a job. And we take the low bidder after we vet them that they are able

41:50 GN: to do the

41:51 GD: Exactly. You know. And that's worked out very well way I mean you can take a look at since all the buildings we've done here.

42:00 GN: looking back what were some of the more difficult decisions that you would say. The board had to make made or. You know. Should you go this way or that way you know. Was there a hesitant about putting up the library about putting up Hancock or when to put it up.

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42:22 **GD:** Well we've always have the glass is half full side and half empty. I think we look at I don't think its and one dirconing thing oh gee we shouldn't do it but I think when you put it all together little by little if we went back and looked if somebody told us fifteen years ago we're going to put up. Seventy five million or one hundred million dollars worth of bonds debt. We say oh no no we're not so we sort of place it in we have a five year plan. And if we're in our parameters I think there's no. I can't remember. Of any thing or any issue that the board. Was very divided on or really showed when a lot of acrimony decided you know. No the board works well with committees, committees are very strong here. Because based on if you look at were our trustees come from a lot of them aren't you know in Hyde Park or Poughkeepsie some of them they come up and they try do things now which is good they have Friday night meetings before the Saturday board meetings a lot of them have to fly like Brendan Burk down in Carolina now or yes South Carolina. The guys are in Florida so. But we do a lot of on the phone or are you know. Conferences doing so a lot of the student life is Stain Harris now who's an alum before that it was frany resss They are real watchdogs. On the side of the student because again There are users. And they are our clients so you try to. This is the thing I've learned over the years like I say I never really any help id do is on the finance sided but you can't help but learn a little bit about building and. You know academics and student life. We merge it all fairly well together just by looking at our history. You know of. The kids.

44:28 **GN:** How about this other problem. Not a problem but It's something that has to be dealt with in terms of admissions. And minoritys You know you have to be fair in given chances and scholarships grants and aid it is does Sean Kaylor come to the board and say Here is the story.

44:50 **GD:** And we watch very closely the what we call the discounted rate and we look at our peers. And we look at. You know to try to get some. I think we're fair and out and but you know

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this is not an easy school to get into. so again you know So again. You know what I would say. Again I'm not I've never sat on the student life or the missions Committee. But an application is color blind and we don't ask them to send a picture. So you look but you do try to reach out to you not talking athletic scholarships you're talking academic

45:25 GN: well more like grants and aid

45:26 GD: grants and aid so I am saying Well here I don't know how many how many millions it is ten eleven twelve I mean when you look at the total things. Even X. Out your scholarships. we give a lot we give twenty five percent of our total tuitions back. But that we watch a very closely too because we look at what are the other churches are doing sort of speak and sometimes it's you know. That's the lot of them are getting Given the house or you know. You know.

45:55 GN: Well. See what. What I struck by this is I myself and Linuse foy have friends and they would come and say you know can you get so and so in. it's the story shawan will come bake and say well you know. We could take him but he's going to fail in the first year. You know. it had better that he goes someplace else. And prove that he can do it. And then take him in the second year I have a second here.

46:21 GD: I think that's a big plus. no really

46:24 GN: that saves you a lot of problem and them a lot of problem

46:26 GD: and a lot of money

46:28 GN: and to come here and to stay in the dormitory's you can't go to class I don't know what is going on that inviting disaster

46:36 GD: Well put just mention Linus and I remember when I was a senior. Maybe a junior. Linus sent a letter home to parents. My parents. I think I was paying three hundred dollars a semester as tuition as a dayhop. He says we had to raise it up to three hundred or something and.

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He said but I promise. This letter went out to everybody that there will be no more tuition increases. As long as you're in school so they also went to the incoming sophomores put in perspective I was paying six hundred a year as a day hop in 1962-63

47:15 GN: Gas was twenty cent a gallon

47:17 GD: but its remarkable we sensitive to that we're trying to. You got a price the product I shouldn't say it but it is a product in a way It is a business it's an education business and I think it's. It's been prejudice handled well because we are aware of. You know all the nuances out there you know.

47:39 GN: You are certainly in a position to say what has god brought as you come on to this I mean in terms of. As the buildings that. The whole grounds and the operations is just that it's meticulously kept you know. I have no idea what the budget is on that but that's it's worth. keeping it. Neat and clean

48:02 GD: Exactly especially when I'm walking in today had to be a student guide walking backwards he had about twenty kids. And you know that mean a lot to the parents to come up and I think that an important thing is that the strict way we are with alcohol. Everybody boo hoos it I said No I said We took the bar away you know even remember was moved from eighteen to twenty one we had the bar in the rat cellar know it's you know it's enough problems

48:36 GN: Even a refinement river day.

48:39 GD: Oh God the original river day.

48:45 GN: little tuff

48:46 GD: oh they were

48:47 GN: But yeah. I remember talking to Dennis once about it. He's determined you know where that was going to put some caps on this you know because people who get hurt

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48:59 **GD:** Some body's going to get killed.

49:00 **GN:** with that train down here, could be any kind of problem. Well moving have maybe a good ten minutes left. I suppose that part of the satisfying. Feel you have about being on the board to have been part of this. This development to see what has developed here.

49:23 **GD:** Well some. Sometimes you're so close to it you don't realize it you got to step back. My daughter just move back from Scotland she married a Brit and they live in Red Hook which is great, so my son in law Said asking some questions what's that building there what's the around I said tell you what John we'll go down one day and I will give you a tour. You know I don't know which building he was talking about he's talking about the little gate house I said no that's was there that use to be the only entrance remembered

49:57 **GN:** Now that was the entrance and of course St Peters is you talk about right, grey stone. Even Dennis own office I mean that that has a history of to all its self that it was a laundry in the basement of that at earlier time and so on

50:17 **GD:** but no It's been a bit of various sentimental part of my life and when I sit back because of association that I received relationships with board members that I wouldn't have normally got interesting.. I consider. Jack McEnroe who got Rob. Dyson on the board and Rob When I first met him. Out of a meeting in a Saturday when over to McManeses Drank beer for a couple hours you know and talk and I didn't know he was then multimillionaire you know he just took a love for the school and really has helped us he very calm. But you know that he was when the made his mind up he did it but it was a great. Dennis's you look back on the chairman that Dennis has had he's a good picker he's a good politician in that Good sense.

51:14 **GN:** Is the process he nominate somebody.

51:17 **GD:** Well actually there's a nominating committee former chairman that. Like every year.

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A third of the Board are up for renewal if they want And in fact this year after sixteen years I'd probably has been announced Rob is going to step down as chairman and. Ellen is the new Chair. Person. You know. But Rob still going to stay on the board but was unique. Up until Rob's less. The sixteen year tenure. Everybody only stayed on for two But he stayed through the. Well there is another one you forget buildings you know Dyson.

51:54 **GN:** His own building

51:55 **GD:** for his father and mother. Yeah. You know. Remarkable. You know Lowell Thomas is another one Dennis reached and now we forgot to mention the small thing the Rich. Yeah. You know your old Brothers thing over there. Dennis was. I remember talking over there Rich had given us a sizable

52:15 **GN:** conurbation, scholarships. The Rancourt

52:21 **GD:** before, but Dennis says there's a lot more there and he. He stayed with him We got it I mean that's unbelievable you know they got that piece of land

52:31 **GN:** I know it well I lived there for ten years

52:36 **GD:** We can make that Institute I could be another good hook for the school when I say whatever we do over there. Yeah you know. It will be done with class it will be done also Rich left use ten million dollars for up keep.

52:53 **GN:** OK let's focus a little bit towards the future. What is marist going to have to do.

You've been here for thirty years. Doing this kind of a not on the board for thirty between school

53:05 **GD:** yeah I've be on the board for thirty two

53:07 **GN:** Oh that's true. my mathematics slipped me. Sixty you came here

53:11 **GD:** I'd been fifty

53:12 **GN:** that's forth and then another ten years

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53:15 **GD:** I've been fifty

53:16 **GN:** OK let's thirty years down the line I mean just turn around. Your position.

53:20 **GD:** I can look down and see maybe see a sign Marist University to move it up there.

within the confines we will never going to be a you know at how much more. I don't know really what you need for university Fairfield has a university do you need certain. You have to be a Ph D. granting.

53:38 **GN:** I guess the doctorate, but I don't think Fairfield gives doctorates and St John's Universe in Colorado doesn't give doctorates.

53:49 **GD:** I am just wondering would that help us in our branding so to speaking. we are physically limited there really isn't too much. I mean we have some more room but we can never have a ten thousand Student body no you know. So you stay with the girl you brought to the dance in but just make it better.

54:05 **GN:** and become the prime institution. Where people would like to go and exactly Good show going on here.

54:11 **GD:** well we saw it with Vassar college they're not as big as we are Bard I just see is having there hundred fiftieth anniversary. Now there are two different and unique things America could find a niche there and we don't have to be that big. And we can't forget the tradition of, that I don't think we ever well.

54:33 **GN:** Yeah that's a kind of unique thing hard to define. you know it when you see it. kids here I just can't get over them. they kind of bring each other in you know. They still hold the doors a few place in the world were youngsters are

54:50 **GD:** actually have manners.

54:52 **GN:** manners I go over to the McCann center occasionally and there so cheerful. I was

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going to ask dennis for a job just to sweep the floors to be involved in the operation as it goes.

But to stay in the ball game you need some I like dennis dennis is probably is going to see the end of the road for him decided you know he can get burned out after thirty years here.

55:21 **GD:** that's our biggest. I feel. I've said this publicly and privately. That will be the biggest decision the board makes in the next few years whether you know. Well we've got. I reckon it to a Major League team that loses. Three of the starters in the fourth one you know is going to retire because you had Roy Merolli is on his way out Jeff what I've seen of him that looks like a good fit. Yeah. We got a new finance person. He seems well and then what we'll need. Bob Ross replacement but you still got your number one starter you got your receiver your full back but you need. whoever replaces dennis Well have to be up to speed on our were we where and where we are but where we're going and to follow in same way because we don't need a reversal. I think the board will be then it will really be in the boards hands to make sure we carry forward with our looking at the Five Year Plans. The mission statement as long as Jim Coney is on the board we're not going to forget. Our mission statement. And he brings a back. It's there but you know. Jim is doesn't speak much when he does you listen. Because he speaks so elegant. And so from his heart.

56:35 **GN:** Yeah it's clear view to and he's got a wide range of experience of colleges

56:41 **GD:** now. We've got the new brother who I just heard of

56:45 **GN:** Sean Sammon

56:46 **GD:** he's a heavy hitter.

56:49 **GN:** He has come from a much wider experience to from the world, Rome

56:53 **GD:** But he came from here though.

56:54 **GN:** oh yeah he's one of our own

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56:55 **GD:** so that's what I'm saying it's yeah. Again it's Dennis's picking He's a good picker

57:02 **GN:** To pick that one. There's going to be changes on campus to in the next year or two in terms of the entrances and exits

57:08 **GD:** the tunnel finally

57:09 **GN:** the tunnel going in So how does or does the board react to such things as some one or two of the staff was talking about the hesitancy of it becoming a kind of a conference center. People would love to come here to have their conferences. Do you do you get in to that.

57:35 **GD:** Well partly you for the non academic year use I know they're saying this year we can't have the camps because it's going to be you know. The construction mad housing what when they are doing it putting the tunnel in. But that's you know an integral if we could do that that's a nice niche because you're always looking the way to increase

57:55 **GN:** keep the place active exactly for twelve months.

57:57 **GD:** exactly you know we pay the bills for twelve

58:00 **GN:** yeah that's true water running

58:02 **GD:** as long as it doesn't take way from the from your not having you know your not having a you know having a porn film operator convention or something.

58:11 **GN:** or even that might bring attention.

58:13 **GD:** But I am saying the right use of the, and also some of the staff maybe we could supply some them with part time jobs or summer jobs. I think we're very lucky to with the staff that we do have I'm talking about maintenance security you know usually they come and they stay here because we're a good employer.

58:40 **GN:** I do this, the twenty year thing that Dennis has ever year

58:00 **GD:** oh that was great this year wasn't it

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58:44 **GD:** it's incredible. I mean the number of people that are here. They came as kind of a simple position. And they move right on up and then they stay with it.

58:55 **GD:** What's great about that is the maintenance guy comes in. bib comes over for lunch but Dennis's. That's a great idea to

59:05 **GN:** Have that twenty year thing

59:07 **GD:** That's what I told Darty I said I want your twenty years when you get off the job, cops twenty years don't make this a habit John.

59:15 **GN:** one of the classic example of stories I remember there's a guy here Tom He's a painter. He came with Dennis the same year. So then they both had their twentieth anniversary. Tom was given they both applied and he got the job. And hes said dennis couln't. We're pretty through give me a farewell is something we did say that you would like to have add to it.

59:44 **GD:** I am just trying to think about not really I think we hit it but I like to say I just thank you for the opportunity of. Speaking my little bit like I say I really. I did hear a couple of names that. Well we mentioned them all Brother John Maliki, Richard McCarthy, Dr Schroeder. And who could forget maybe it's the way to stop it is Paul Stokes he was

01:00:17 **GN:** he was the local sheriff.

01:00:19 **GD:** he epitomizes him and I didn't always get along he was he was something else talk about some of the guys I went there then couldn't get in now I think Paul would leave right

01:00:33 **GN:** one of the reasons he didn't come back is because

01:00:37 **GD:** Vietnam War, long hair and stuff

01:00:39 **GN:** no the way he was going to run the ship. an another thing that I was faculty member with him we use to have this thing three attendances miss three, absences

01:00:52 **GD:** three cuts And

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01:00:55 **GN:** While he. They were like legal papers. Yellow paper. And he had like five sheets. Single line of guys who had passed. Said this can't go on they beat us we can't do this anymore. So we have to have a thing called responsible attendance

01:01:14 **GD:** oh if he wanted to get you he would get you I remember. One time I did something. He says I was taking an exam something we had midterm or some. Maybe it was over at the gym he comes over Dahowski you keep your car off of the parking lot that's your second warning. I said third time take away my shoes brother see I would be as smart ass he would be could But then he could be nice as anything if he wanted. He put a big, his heart was lot.

01:01:44 **GN:** the front was really. Small little I mean he would scare the shit out of

01:01:48 **GD:** Yeah. That's right no he was like a Joe pushy

01:01:52 **GN:** Well thanks very much Gary

01:01:53 **GD:** no problem

01:01:54 **DN:** it has been a wonderful opportunity. Down. You.