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### Mike Cusack, Former Director of Athletics, Wright State University

Dan Abrahamowicz

*Wright State University - Main Campus*

Mike Cusack

*Wright State University - Main Campus*

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**WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY**  
**Retirees Association Oral History Project**  
**Interview with Mike Cusack**

## **Interview Information**

Interview date: October 15, 2018

Interviewer: Dan Abrahamowicz

Interviewee: Mike Cusack

## **Interview Transcript**

DA: This is Dan Abrahamowicz, former vice president for student affairs and current member of the Wright State University retirees Association. I worked at Wright State for 20 years and I had many, many interactions with our guest this morning. This is Monday, October 15th, 2018 and I'm interviewing Mike Cusack former director of athletics and this is part of the Retirees Association Oral History Project. Mike, thank you very much for joining us today. So, let's start off a little bit by telling us about your background, where you are from, where you grew up, tell about your childhood.

MC: Well, first of all, the fact that it's October 15th is quite symbolic, because for many, many years that was the first day of basketball practice. You couldn't start before that and some of the retirees will remember 'Midnight Madness'-

DA: Yes!

MC: -around the country, because at midnight on October 15, that was the first day you could start. There were no individual practices and so forth that exist now.

DA: But don't they start their practice earlier now?

MC: Yeah, they did. I don't know when it is, but they also have changed it where coaches can work two or three or four over the summer, but the October 15th stands out in us old guys. I know as a coach and as a player I remember that. You know, anybody listening to this will be able to tell immediately I'm not from Dayton, Ohio. I came from Long Island, New York. I was born in Brooklyn, went to Long Island University, then went to Queens College for my masters and at the same time as coaching and teaching at Queens College. I was an assistant basketball coach, assistant baseball, and then head baseball coach and so forth.

DA: Say that again, so you were born where?

MC: In Brooklyn, New York and grew up on Long Island from my teen years on in Levittown and so when I got to Queens I they started a master's program. I was the second one to get a master's in physical education

DA: So, you did some athletics in college?

MC: Yeah, I played three sports in college but I was there on a baseball scholarship, played a year of basketball, a year of soccer, and three years of baseball. Again, that would sound kind of strange to younger people, but not all of the people. To retirees, this would be nothing special to them because that's the way it was then. You played season to season, they didn't necessarily overlap, you weren't training for one sport throughout the year, you grew up going from fall sports, to winter- as you know- and then to spring. You were a football player, then in the winter time you was something else, and then went for something else.

DA: And where is Queens College? In Long Island?

MC: Queens College is right about 10 miles inside the city limits of New York City. If you go east about 10 miles you hit the Nassau County line, and then there's Suffolk. Queens College is one of the five boroughs, and there was Brooklyn College, Queens College, Hunter College, Lehman, these were all-

DA: So, Queens College is in the Queens borough?

MC: Yes.

DA: Well, that make sense.

MC: As part of the City University in New York, and I didn't... I played at Long Island University, and then I was lucky enough to get a chance to coach at Queens College.

DA: So, wait did you get your bachelor's degree from Long Island University? No, that's where you played all the sports, and then Queens College- as you were saying- had this master's degree, so you went there for the master's degree?

MC: Well, actually I went there for the job. They had an opportunity, in those days you taught and coached, that was in Division... what would now be Division III, I forget what it was called then. So we taught a certain load and then we were given some release time to coach, and so I taught in the physical education department-

DA: With a bachelor's degree you taught at a college?

MC: Right, because I was doing my master's.

DA: Oh, I see. So it was more like an assistantship?

MC: Almost like that, yeah. And then after I coached... like I said, I was the assistant basketball coach and teaching classes. After a few years, the head basketball coach- after two years, I think- he was also assistant baseball coach- said he didn't want to do it anymore-

DA: -he didn't want to do baseball anymore?

MC: Yeah, so I did it, and I was assistant baseball coach, and basketball, and then- I think it was 73'- the head baseball coach, who was the coach for 30 years, he was the face of the athletic program, you know, a wounded warrior from World War II, he was like a second father to me, he came to me and said, "Mike, I'm gonna give up coaching next year" – I was the JV freshman coach- "and it's yours." And what was great about that was I got to watch that varsity play that whole year. I knew exactly what I needed to recruit, I knew exactly- I mean, it made the four years that I stayed there before we left just great for winning. We won like mad, and it was basically because he gave me the chance to, you know, know what I needed

DA: So you went from assistant in basketball, to assistant in baseball, to head baseball coach, and you were head baseball coach at Queens College for four years?

MC: Yeah, and the only reason I left there was because some of the people-

DA: Let's get the dates, so what year were you head of baseball?

MC: 73' to 76'

DA: 73' to 76'

MC: The only reason I left there was because basically I got wiped out. We had a 40 men and women physical education department- it was physical education, athletics, recreation and dance, it was all in one- and the City University was going to default as many people... you may remember when Gerald Ford refused to help out. Then Jimmy Carter beat him, and so one morning, and I remember it distinctly, June 29th, 1976- my wife's birthday- and the dean walked into our large staff meeting and said, "Of the 40 of you, 25 are going", and I was the 25<sup>th</sup>, because I hadn't finished my doctorate yet. Even though we had just come back from the NCAA tournament, we won the only NCAA baseball game they've won to this day.

DA: Is that right?

MC: Over the four years we were there, those kids... I mean, we had two or three kids signed.

DA: By major league teams?

MC: Yeah! One by the Cleveland Indians, he was drafted in the second round, he was the first shortstop picked.

DA: Do you remember his name?

MC: His name was Billy Hiss. H, I, S, S. Frank Robinson was the manager, and there was a dinner or a luncheon soon after he signed, he hadn't gone to play pro ball yet, and Frank Robinson had him at the dais with him.

Da: Is that right?

MC: Oh yeah. They thought he was going to be the next coming. He got hurt a couple of times and so forth. So, anyway, I was lucky enough-

DA: So, you did get your master's degree there, and started your PhD at-

MC: NYU. It was 1969 [when] I got my master's, but I had already started-

DA: What did you get your master's degree in?

MC: Physical Education. So, I went to NYU, again, and they had a Master's in Administration in Physical Education.

DA: A Master's or PhD?

MC: A doctorate degree

DA: An Ed.D.

MC: Right. So I started taking the courses, I was coaching, I was a head coach and taking courses and had five kids, you know, so I'm kind of bouncing around-

DA: And in those days there's no online stuff.

MC: No, no. I mean I would leave practice and run to the take the car to get a spot, get on the subway, take it over to NYU- which was in Greenwich Village- and take the classes, and it took me over ten years to get the degree, because I couldn't go every year and so forth. So in '76, I finished some work, you know, I was really out of out of work for a year, and I saw this job open up in Erie, Pennsylvania, Mercyhurst College. Never heard of it, didn't know anything about it, I sent my resume in, they sent back that "We'd like to..."

DA: A coaching job?

MC: No, this was the AD.

DA: The AD?

MC: Yeah, the AD. "We'd like to interview you." So I called them and we talked, and they said, "The only problem is you're going to have to pay your own way to get here, and if you get the job we'll reimburse you." You know, I was so cocky in those days, I said, "No problem there, I'll be reimbursed. I'll get this job", so I went up and I interviewed and they offered me a job, and I accepted it. It was a beautiful little school, they had just built them their first gym.

DA: Where is that?

MC: Erie, Pennsylvania. First gym that they ever had. They had been an all-women school up until the late sixties, and so I was really coming there to be the first real formal AD to run the building and so forth. So I was coming, and I forget exactly when I was coming, but soon before I came the baseball coach quit, and they said "Would you coach baseball?" So I said "Yeah!"

DA: AD and coach?

MC: And coach baseball. And I did, I did it for three years, I only stayed there four.

DA: Did they pay you more money? For coaching AND being the AD?

MC: Just a little stipend. It was fun. The problem was it was hard to schedule your practices because when you're limited in facilities you don't want to take advantage, and since it's your schedule, you don't want to give yourself all the prime time. I think that sort of hurt the players.

DA: Now were they D-III, or NAIA? What were they?

MC: Well, that's Interesting you ask. Because when I went there, they were NAIA. Within a year, I moved them into Division II.

DA: Division II?

MC: Yeah. Because we were giving scholarships. I mean, they were getting after it. They had really good basketball, they had great tennis, pretty good soccer... they were good. They had pretty good baseball, we did well after the first year because we recruited a lot of people, but the interesting there is, my third year there the president called me in, he called me around Thanksgiving, and he said, "Mike, I want to start football." So, I said, "Cool", you know? Because the problem was this is a small school, it was less than a thousand students. We only had, coming in at this time- and you'll appreciate this from your admissions background- 50 males and a large contingent of females.

DA: Probably a freshman class of a couple hundred, and like 25% were men.

MC: Right. So, we had to do something about this. Fine, okay. Now, we said, "In order to do this we've got to get a committee", and we stacked the committee, you know, we did pretty good. They said, "You're going to have to convince the nuns", who really were in charge of this whole place in the background, and I'll never forget this, I was up at the nuns house, it was up on the top of the hill that looked down on the campus. It was just before Christmas, snow was wafting down, and I put on this this this pitch, and I looked over and this nun had tears running down her eyes.

DA: Wow! You knew you sealed the deal then.

MC: Yeah, I did! It was interesting, we had another nun that I had to convince, and this nun was so smart that she had figured out- there was a serum named after her for cancer. She figured out that by shooting these vitamins of a certain kind, they act directly on certain cancer cells and you could explode them.

DA: Wow!

MC: I mean, these are the kind of people I'm talking to!

DA: Sure.

MC: But the thing is that they loved the place, and they thought it was a good idea. Now, the reason I said these dates- Thanksgiving, Christmas, right after New Year's we hired a coach- we had our first game the following September.

DA: Is that right?

MC: And we won.

DA: That was non-scholarship football?

MC: Yes, Division III. Everything else was Division II, but that was Division III. We played in the local stadium downtown, we drew four or five thousand people a game.

DA: So, it sort of presaged your interest in possibly doing that here, somewhere down the road? We'll get to that.

MC: Well, if we jump, the job opened up here, I had heard about Wright State-

DA: So, how long were you at Mercyhurst?

MC: Four years.

DA: Four years, so now we're in 1980, something like that.

MC: I walked in the door here in April 1<sup>st</sup>, 1982.

DA: How did you find out about the Wright State job?

MC: Well, we used to look in the chronicle, and in those days there were jobs. They weren't doing this headhunting stuff they're doing now, you know, you saw the job. But I had heard about Wright State for a couple of reasons. There was a guy named Roger Glazer who came here. I told you that I was the second person to get my master's at Queens College in that new program. He was first.

DA: Oh, is that right?

MC: He went then to Ohio State. A lot of the guys from Queens that wanted to be in physiology would go to Ohio State, because somehow Queens had a connection with a guy who was running that OSU program. But the reason that some of the retirees might remember Roger Glazer is he was involved with Petrosky when they did all of the things with the quadriplegics.

DA: Yes! It was on 60 minutes, the national news.

MC: I was sitting in that room when that happened. I watched them get her up and move her along.

DA: That which was televised on 60 minutes?

MC: Yeah, and Roger was one of the guys because he had a lot of- he came from an electronics backgrounds, his father was an electrical engineer, and he did all the electric stuff. That stuff really was pushed too fast here, and he knew it. But again, it was an opportunity, we got great publicity... but anyway, I knew Roger was here, I had heard about this program because when I came here it's not like I came to a bad program. I came to a really good program. I mean, the first year we were here, they won the national championship in basketball. So, it wasn't Mike Cusack building this program. It was Mike Cusack coming to a really good program.

DA: Who was the AD ahead of you?

MC: The AD ahead of me was Don Mohr, and his background- he had been an athlete, but his background wasn't in athletics, necessarily, it was somewhere else, but Don started the program. Peggy Wynkoop was here and was the volleyball coach, Ralph was the basketball coach, Ralph Underhill, Ron Nischwitz was the baseball coach, we had very good soccer, I mean, this was a very good program that we had a chance to work with.

DA: So, you came here in '82, what were your first impressions? You mentioned what you thought that the athletic program was very strong, what about the rest of the place?

MC: Well, it was interesting, because what I did-

DA: And who was president then?

MC: Kegerreis. Bob Kegerreis was the president, and John Beljan- who started the medical school, If you go to the medical school you see his big picture up there- he was an orthopedic surgeon and he was the provost. What's interesting is the cab took me- because I was at a hotel-

DA: Downtown?

MC: I can't remember where it was now. I'm not sure about that, I think it was in Fairborn, the Fairborn Holiday Inn, because we did have something at the Crowne Plaza downtown, but I forget. So, the cab dropped me off at what used to be called the K Lot.

DA: That's the lot down by the athletic fields.

MC: I think it's a soccer field now.

DA: Lot 20 now, yeah.

MC: So, I walked all the way up the hill, because I really wanted to see the place and get a feel for it, you know. And I had talked to different people, the best people in those days to talk to was the trainer. They had all the gossip, because the kids were sitting in the whirlpools complaining about whatever, maybe the coaches or whatever it was. Anyway, I walked up and I walked across campus, there was no Rike Hall at that time, there was some dirt piled up, they were doing some building and I wanted to get a look at it and see what that was like, and then you go across kind of what would be I guess would be the Quad, and up through the dining hall, and then you come out the other side. I got a look at it, you know, and again, I was coming from a tiny little campus, very beautiful, very contained, and this was a bigger campus, which was more for me. I mean, for example, we didn't even have an equipment room at Mercyhurst. The sports information director was on the tennis team and doing that, so we didn't have all of this stuff. And so know, I could really be in a position to-

DA: So, career-wise it was a step up?

MC: Oh, no question. And again, it was not even that, it was just an opportunity now to take a good program, I don't have to rebuild it, now I can expand it and build it more and so forth, and by the way, that's the way in my opinion that this university went. You started with a Brage Golding, I mean, that guy was writing books out of Purdue, this guy was big-time. He gets it started, Kegerreis was an entrepreneurial guy, a business background, very charismatic, in my opinion, he had stuff going... it was an exciting time on the campus to do things. Then you had one of the smartest human beings I've ever been around, you had bricks and mortar, and you had a lot of stuff going on.

DA: You're talking about Paige Mulhollan.

MC: Paige Mulhollan.

DA: So those are the three presidents you- you didn't work with Brage, you came with Kegerreis in '82.

MC: Kegerreis in '82, and just to jump back a moment, I can still visualize Kegerreis and Beljan sitting in one of the what they call "love seats", I hate to put it that way, but they were sitting in this, looking at me and saying-

DA: This was during the interview?

MC: No, I'm hired.

DA: Oh you're hired.

MC: "So, we're happy to have you here, but do not say one word about football." They said, "We know what you did in the playoffs, and we don't want to hear it, okay?" So, I always felt like during those years that the right person was in the right place at the right time.

DA: For the whole university?

MC: For the university. Then Harley came, he wasn't here long enough, and in fairness to Harley, there was some things being done that he did that deserve a lot of credit, too, in terms of diversity, in terms of-

DA: Inclusion.

MC: People having an opportunity to be heard, maybe. Not that they weren't given a chance, but they might not have felt they had a chance, and now they did. Unfortunately, we don't know what his reign would have been like, because he didn't have long enough to do it. Goldenberg came in, hit it at the right time with the fundraising. You know, so, it was the right people, because we were moving!

DA: Talk about what was your first day like here, what was that like?

MC: I can still remember the gym, which is now I guess the Student Union, if you go in the back door there's a hallway down there and then it was the stairs that came up and you came right out next to the secretary's office, and they had this big waiting room. It was a beautiful area, and I still remember walking up there and saying hello to- I'm trying to remember her name now, I know she's just passed not too long ago.

DA: She was a secretary in the athletics department?

MC: She was, yeah, and so I introduced myself and I said, "What I would like to do with the schedule this morning is I would like to meet with each of the coaches individually. It wasn't as a group, I wanted to meet individually. Because I wanted to find out what they wanted, what they did and how they did it, what their hopes and dreams are, and things like that. And the interesting thing is if you were filming that, and you didn't know what division when these coaches came in, you would have thought they were Division I.

DA: But, just for the record, when you got here Wright State was Division II, and they had just won the Division II National Championship?

MC: No, we won it that next-

DA: Okay, won it that first year, but had an outstanding Division II program.

MC: Yeah. They were always in every tournament, I would say if they were giving a serious award, we would have been up in the top five every year.

DA: When did you start thinking about moving to Division I, and how did that come about?

MC: I came in '82, I think we were officially into Division I in '87, so that's five years. What's interesting is a year or two after I was here we started talking about it. Bob Kegerreis talked to me about it and sort of sent me out to talk about it.

DA: In the community?

MC: No.

DA: Around campus.

MC: Yeah. It was always talked about out in the community. You know, I spoke at all these Rotaries and so forth, and they would always ask about football, too, but the president- they always asked the president, too, whoever the president was- "When are you going to start football out there?" Anyhow, I'm going around to the different colleges and I'm talking and everything like that, and it turns out that some of the faculty governance didn't like the way that was done, they felt like they should have been consulted first.

DA: They didn't like the informal nature of it?

MC: They didn't like the fact that I was out ahead of them. So, politically, I didn't even think about that. I mean, I didn't think I was being political or anti one way or the other. But anyhow, they called for a vote one day at a faculty meeting.

DA: Whether Wright State ought to be Division I or not?

MC: Yeah, and voted it down. And there was a very small percentage of faculty there, because, you know, you don't have to be there.

DA: Do you remember who was... it wasn't the Faculty Senate, it was the Academic Council.

MC: I don't remember.

DA: You remember who was the head of it?

MC: No, I don't, but the point is whoever it was, was very helpful from that point on.

DA: Oh, is that right?

MC: No, it was more, "Hey, this isn't the way to do it." And I understood that.

DA: So, they weren't against it, they were just against how the process was done.

MC: I never had a problem with that, but now that I say that, I thought, "Hmm, maybe we're not gonna be able to do it", so naturally now I sit back and I say to myself, "Okay, what's the alternative?" So, I get in a meeting one time, and Bob Kegerreis and some people are there, and I start this thing about, "Okay, if we can't go Division I, then we will be the best Division II program that's ever existed, and here's how to do it", and I'm going over all of this stuff. Okay. So, the meeting breaks up, and as I'm getting ready to leave, Bob Kegerreis goes, "Mike, could you wait a minute?" He says, "When you were on this thing, I felt like punching you right in the nose." I said, "Why?" He said, "We're going Division II! It just has to be done right", so then we went around and we did the things we had to do. That following spring, whatever one it was, probably '85 or '86, they had a vote then- even though it didn't matter, by the way. If Bob wanted to go, we're going.

DA: Right.

MC: But that's not the way to do it, and he knew it and I knew it. He said, "Don't worry about it", and we went and they voted, and what I will always remember- because I was at that meeting, and there was applause, and to their credit- which is what I was always impressed with this university for- I heard somebody say, "Okay, if you're going to do it, do it right." I mean, there was none of this [*makes arguing/bickering noises*]

DA: Is that right?

MC: Yes sir.

DA: So this was a message you got from the general campus community?

MC: It was just a sense that these people said "Look, okay! Some of us agreed and some of us disagreed. That's fine, that's what universities are about." That's the great thing about universities, to be honest. "Okay, but now if you're going to do it, Mike, you guys do it right."

DA: What was the impetus in the first place for going Division I? Why did this university want to go Division I?

MC: Well, it's interesting, we talked a little bit about Abe Bassett when we started here. You know, the theatre program when I got here was really good. I mean, it's good now but it was really good then, too. The music, the theatre, we had great accounting, half of the accountants

in Dayton were trained by the Wright State. The Medical School was going. You know. and so forth. Everything here was big time, and we were in a community where Dayton's there, Miami's down here, Ohio State's over here, Cincinnati's down here. Everybody's Division I. We're playing Miami and beating them in basketball sometimes- not all the time, but sometimes, and we're not getting the other people at all. There's no way. Miami was really pretty classy.

DA: Did Wright State play UD when the Wright State was Division II?

MC: No! No. There was some controversy there, too, and the AD at the time there said, "Well, when you're Division I", and so as soon as we go Division I, I called them up, and we've played five times. So, my argument always has been, look, this university academically it's Division I, there's no question about it. In all the other things that make a university what they are, they're first class. We're first class, but in a second level organization. Let's be in the first class. That was the argument. So that the whole place is Division I. Plus, if athletics is going to be that visible- I mean, if theatre and music or accounting were as visible as athletics, we would have been on a par with Ohio State, in those days. But the fact is athletics was the one, so we argued that it was supportive. Plus, the athletic department was supported fairly well. We didn't have to do a tremendous amount of things, salaries needed to be adjusted a bit. The thing was, by the time we actually started doing that, Paige had arrived on the scene, he had come from Arizona State, he knew-

DA: He was supportive of it, too.

MC: He knew what big-time athletics were. He was a driving force. In fact, we were talking about building an arena that ultimately was the Nutter Center, and up to the time where Paige got involved, we were talking about building a 7,500 seat facility. That's what we went around looking at. We went down to New Orleans, we went a couple other places, I can't remember what, to look at those size. He looked at it and said, "No, what are you doing? We need to be at least 10,000."

DA: Well, let's talk about that. So, you go Division I in 1987- which was a major accomplishment under your watch and is something you ought to be very proud of- but the next thing coming along of major significance for athletics, and of course the university, is the Nutter Center.

MC: Right.

DA: And you were just talking about it, and so it was sort of Paige's idea, the president at the time, to go with a bigger arena than originally was planned. What was his thinking do you think?

MC: Because, look, if you're going to be in Division I, you're going to aspire to be a big time program, you have to have a big time facility, and 7,500 is not. And, I think 10,000 is sort of the cut off, you know? This is a big place, and that's a little place. And could we have filled a 7,500?

Yeah, early on, we easily would have filled it, because we were getting those kinds of numbers. So, we were able to connect for the basic gift-

DA: Erv Nutter.

MC: I wasn't involved in that one. I was involved in finding out he would be a good one to get, I passed that on to the president, they took care of it, and the president said, "Okay, we got that, now you're gonna have to go out and sell a whole bunch of season tickets and season licenses and so forth". We sold all the corporate boxes but two, I think, and we actually sold them. We sold a whole bunch of season tickets.

DA: And this was all required before you even went forward with building the thing?

MC: Well, it was to get the money, you know? Because the money to build that was a kind of combination of educational funds, from the state of Ohio. There was that, there was fundraised money, and there were bonds floated.

DA: And a student fee.

MC: Now, the bonds were floated. It was going to be student fees, but those student fees weren't imposed until that building was built. So there weren't students paying for something that didn't exist, which was I thought really good, really classic. And of course the building was set up in such a way that it was available to all students. Unfortunately, it's a little remote, so the McLin gym would get use, the weight rooms would get use, but probably nowhere near what the use would have been had it been in the middle of campus.

DA: Right, right. Was there talk about that, of putting it in the middle of campus?

MC: No, this was the land we had. That land- before the Nutter Center was built, up in the front where the marquee is now- there was riding stables, there were horses down in there. If you went down over the hill probably about toward where the pond is now, up in that area- I was never back in there- there were garden plots that faculty could use. Then if you went over to where that woods are back in there, there was actually a house that the College of Ed had there, and I forget what they used that for.

DA: You talked about, during the change from D-II to D-I, that there was some pushback, in certain quarters at least, about the process. What about this Nutter Center? It strikes me that this is much more controversial than the move from D-II to D-I. What are your recollections of that?

MC: You know, it's funny, in all my time here, and even talking to you later on after I retired, I've heard about push back. I never saw any of it.

DA: You never felt that during the process of building the Nutter Center?

MC: No. Well, there were people that said it shouldn't be built. Ten years later, they were saying this should have never been built. I mean, you know, it was the way it was. See, the one thing I always felt was that I think Paige sold the board on that it could pay for itself, and I think he believed it could, and that, "Okay, we'll modify the Phys Ed Building"- which is the Student Union- "and we'll build that into a rec center and we will build this over here." And he was right, it was great for the campus. The Nutter Center, in my opinion, is maybe the best thing that's ever happened to us, because it's brought... I bet you would be hard-pressed to find five percent of the population of Greene County and Montgomery County combined that hasn't been on our campus, either as students, athletes, coming to the tractor pulls, coming to concerts-

DA: High school graduations.

MC: Everything, they're here. It was the best thing we ever did. No way to convince me any other way.

DA: Building the Nutter Center was?

DA: Yes, and the way we built it. But what I always thought we should have done is, is say that it's not going to pay for itself, it's going to be a university resource. So, College of Geology, you want to run a regional conference, you got it, it's yours for free. For Biology, you want to run something, so that we could become a center-

DA: And students could use it as well.

MC: Oh, yeah, absolutely. Well, of course. You know, you want to do something in here? So, in other words, it became our building. I think that to some extent, hands were tied so that it had to become that entertainment center. Also, in all fairness, there was a lot more entertainment available.

DA: Was it envisioned as an entertainment center?

MC: Well, I think it was envisioned that it was going to be a functioning or at least bottom-line neutral facility.

DA: So, you would have entertainment in there to help pay off the bills.

MC: Well, and we helped pay off the bills, because we were paying \$100,000 a year rent in there that was moving up, too. So, and then of course then during Harley's time, they did a study that said the only way you're going to make it pay for itself is to have a tenant, so we started having tenants like six foot and under basketball, indoor soccer, hockey, I mean, like I

was saying, what I thought we should have said was, look, this is part of... a resource for all 15,000 students and three or four thousand staff. If you can make a case for an important function in here, it's yours. Now, I'm saying this as if I know how those dollars and cents would work. I'm not, and I don't know. But I do know that not everybody thought that it was for them.  
END EDITING

DA: Right. So it was completed and opened in 1990, something like that?

MC: Yeah.

DA: But it didn't make a big difference in the athletic program?

MC: Yeah, it did, because, you know, obviously now we have a big place to play, there was great publicity, the kids loved it, and the players loved it.

DA: It had massive attendance, at least initially, right?

MC: It did become a little harder to get to for some of the students, because before when it was in the P.E. Building you could just walk over here it got a little harder. We did have- and I don't know if it's ever been solved- some parking [issues], getting people in and out. People just never understood- and I think geographically, we're in some topography things that make it a little harder to get people in and out, but the facility itself was great for the basketball program. I think it helped recruit some very, very good players over the years, it was good for the women's program, you know, and volleyball, they play in McLin [Gym], that's a good facility to play, and then of course we built all the other stuff around it, like the soccer field, the baseball stadium, and the softball field. We built all those things.

DA: So, by the time the Nutter Center opened and got going, you understand (?) you'd been here almost 10 years later.

MC: Yeah.

DA: So, had you envisioned your time here as sort of a capstone for your career? Or did you initially think maybe it's a stepping stone or something bigger?

MC: Oh yeah. My wife and family never thought we'd be here that long. I didn't envision where it was going to be, and then along came, for example, not too long after I was here, SUNY-Buffalo opened up, and I liked that area. We liked it, even though it's cold and snowy, the people are great up there.

DA: Like here, right?

MC: Yeah. It was the same thing, and I talked to them there and they were interested, and then at the last minute I said “No, I’m not going to do that, I’d like to stay here.” One thing that came up that was interesting was Louisville. I had become friends with the ticket manager at Louisville over the years. The AD there at that time, I can’t remember his name now, but he had some sort of- through his brothers- some connection back into the Dayton area. One Sunday I got a call from the ticket manager, and he said, “Mike, listen”- the AD’s name was Bill- “Bill would like you to come down and talk about this job. Senior Associate Athletic Director.” I hadn’t applied or anything.

DA: Was is about after ten years or so?

MC: Yeah, this was right when they were hiring Schnellenberger to start football there, and to build football up. Denny Krum was still there. I hadn’t applied or anything, so this was maybe the only time somebody actually just said, “Hey, we want you, here you go, you don’t have to go through anything.” So, I went down, I looked over the place, we went and he took me around and showed me where Schnellenberger’s office was, go meet Denny Krum and all these guys. They used to play in the in the fieldhouse there in Louisville and we went in there and everything, and so I said “Well, I’ll let you know.” And it’s funny, I remember him saying, “Don’t let finances be a concern.” So Dot and I spoke about it, and I called him back and said “No, I’m not going to go.”

DA: So at this point you sort of cast your hat into the ring with Wright State University and that's where you're going to stay?

MC: Well, I sort of cast my lot into the idea that I didn't want to be anything but the AD. So, if the president had called and said do you want to be the AD at Louisville that would have been maybe a different story. And there was a couple others. Indiana State was one that I kind of tinkered around with, but I talked to Paige about that just to get his opinion, because we were honest. I would never use leverage.

DA: You liked working with Paige

MC: I did, but he was hard. I mean, a guy that bright and that opinionated- he always had all the answers, and half the time it was before you even asked the question. In general I really enjoyed them all. I mean, Bob Kegerreis was a wonderful man, a wonderful man. Anybody who is at my age or was here through the 70’s or 80’s will know what kind of a guy he is. He was just a great, great man. I heard great things about Golding, but I didn't know him, and Paige and I worked well together, so I was pretty lucky.

DA: So, as the Nutter Center opens 1990 or so, things start taking off, talk about sort of the back half of your career here, in '90... well, you retired in like 2015?

MC: 2008.

DA: Geez, what am I thinking, okay, 2008.

MC: The thing with Division I that was clear at that time, you had to get in the conference, and what we did was there was also a rule they put in because a lot of schools would jump to Division I because they thought they could get a chance at some of the money. But they couldn't really compete, they had these crazy schedules- I mean, one school called US International, out in California, played one year almost I think 27 games on the road, and they were taking guarantees, and the NCAA didn't like that. So, they said "Just before you become Division I, every school, you must play at least one-third of your games on your home court", so that changed the dynamic. We didn't know what to do.

DA: So you weren't in it. You got Division I, but you had no conference.

MC: Right. So what we did was we hooked up with University of Maryland Baltimore County- the team that just beat Virginia- Central Connecticut, Liberty, Brooklyn College, and there was one other one, and us. There were six of us, and we made an agreement to play each other home and home every year. Like a little conference of our own. So that gave us those games. We were lucky enough to be able to give away give some guarantees out.

DA: But you get into a conference eventually, with UD and Xavier and Wright State all in the same conference at one point?

MC: No, UD wasn't in it, but... no, before that, you know, we kept looking and there was a conference called AMCU, the American Association of Mid-Continent something, I forget what the whole thing was, but when it started Cleveland State was in there, UIC was in there, there were some other ones like Eastern and Western Illinois, Valparaiso, schools like that. We sat in on those meetings, and actually it had to be in January of '82, just before I was coming here they had that meeting, and I sat in on it just to see what it would be like, and then came back and asked them when we got into Division I if we could get in, and they kept stringing us along. It took us a few years to get in, I can't remember what year we actually got into the conference, but once we got into that there was an all women's athletic conference that we did get into. UD was in it and I think they tried to keep us out for a few years, and I think they went out and we got in. The conference you're talking about was after a few years, we went into the MCC, the Mid-Continent Conference. Dayton had been in it but they had left for the Atlantic 10, Xavier was still in it, I think you're right. La Salle was still in it because they were all way down there. Notre Dame was in it. Notre Dame was in it for everything but basketball [and football]. So Notre Dame would come in here play us in baseball. In fact we went to the NCAA tournament by going over in the tournament in baseball and beating Notre Dame at Notre Dame twice.

DA: Wow!

MC: I mean pounded them, and I was in charge of the baseball part that year. All ADs got different sports, and baseball happened to be mine that year so I gave out the plaques. You never saw more nasty looking-

DA: Unhappy people?

MC: -unhappy people coming to get their trophies.

DA: And these were the Notre Dame kids?

MC: I mean, we didn't just beat them. Nisch [Coach Nischwitz] had some players!

DA: Brian Anderson? Was Brian Anderson here then?

MC: No, I don't think so. I mean, so you can imagine!

DA: Brian Anderson went and played for the Indians, and the Los Angeles Angels-

MC: Yeah, there have been a ton of really good baseball players come through here. So when we finally got in another conference, before the MCC, we just didn't like the way that other one was running, and you know, you get in a meeting and you try and do something, and we're full of all of this excitement to build and do all of this stuff, and you'd have somebody- an AD, an old guy like me- over there and he'd say, "No, we can't do that." So, finally we said, "Well, let's see about this." Dayton had gone out, Xavier was gonna go out, the MCC was falling apart. Marquette had been in there, it was a great conference, and so I got John LeCrone, I called him up-

DA: And was he Commissioner of MCC?

MC: Yeah, and he came over, and if you ever talk to him he'll tell you ask him about the wax board. We got in this little room next to my office in the Nutter Center and we drew up this concept. I said, "How about if Green Bay and Milwaukee come, they're a pair. What about UIC? Loyola is already in there, they'd play together. How about us and..." I think we were going to bring Cleveland State. Northern Illinois was coming in with us, so we took about five or six teams and we all met in Indianapolis along with- well, they were only about four left. See, the MCC was designed as a private school conference. They had never had a public school in it. So, this was a chance. It was a hard transition for them, but we did it, and we were MCC for a few years.

DA: And then became the Midwest-

MC: -and then we became the Horizon League.

DA: Eventually became the Horizon League.

MC: Now, one of the reasons- and again, John will tell you this, I know I looked at it this way- and I said, "Look, all these conferences are regional names- northeast this, southwest that." I said, "We've got to step out of the pack here, let's change the name." They even hired some people to do it- and I won't get into all of that, but we spent some money- but anyway, "Horizon League" came out of that. Because, and you know yourself, Dan, even sitting with your staff, everybody thinks, "Hey, we're doing great stuff!" But everybody is, so how do you differentiate yourself? And I can remember sitting there saying to these guys, "You know folks, we are doing good stuff, but so is AMCU, so is Atlantic 10. So, what do you think the Big Ten is saying about themselves? How do we separate ourselves?" So, when we went to this new conference, they talk about the academic stool, like three legs of a stool, and there were all these different things so that we stood for more than just winning games. But winning was way up there, and you know, because you've been involved with Horizon league, through me and through Bob Grant, and-

DA: Let me throw out some issues and topics, just to get some of your reflections on them. Maybe this is sort of the latter half, or latter ten or fifteen years of your career here. So, at some point you had to or wanted to make a change in basketball. Ralph Underhill had been coach from D-II to the national champion, he had been a coach. So, talk a little bit about what was going on with that program at that point.

MC: Well what happened is, see, up until us getting into a conference we could control the schedule and we typically- when we went from Division II to Division I, we made a conscious effort to put a fairly weak Division I schedule together, so we would continue to win. Not at the level we won in Division II, where we'd win 28 or 29 games, but where we would in 16 games. We did that and we were doing pretty well, and we weren't in a conference yet, and we had no chance to go to the NCAA or anything like that, obviously. But then when we would get into a conference, we couldn't control that anymore, but we had to play the games that we were given, right? In Ralph's situation, in fairness, Division II and the way athletics were in those days was not like... we talked about going from season to season. When the season ended, then you had summer camp, you know, you did some stuff, but it wasn't like it is now. You have to beg that these coaches are committed 12 months a year. They may get a little time off but not a lot. Now, they're getting paid a heck of a lot of money, but that's not the point. It was a whole different dynamic for Ralph. Had he come up like that, he would have won any division. He would have won at that level just like anybody else. I mean, in all fairness, he did get us to our first NCAA tournament.

DA: Right, right.

MC: But I think after a while, it wears you out. I mean he went to the Ukraine and got Vitaly.

DA: Vitaly Potapenko. So, this is probably early '90s.

MC: Yeah, and so I think at some point, you know, it got to a point where we talked about it, and I think it just got harder and harder and harder, you know, and normally as you get older and older and older, if you have the system in place, you know, he was still working into that. But not as much as I'm saying. He knew what he was doing, he had good staff of people. I mean, that's not the point. I think that had we done it 10 years earlier in his career, he would have been one of winningest coaches around.

DA: Talk about another major... I know we're talking about men's basketball here, but bringing Brad Brownell here?

MC: What happened there was-

DA: And this was, what, what year was that, roughly? 2002?

MC: It would have been a little later, because I think I was with him three years, and then I retired, so I would say 2005. Well, what happened there was after Ralph, no, after Ed Schilling- which again, I made a lot of hires, and that was a mistake, I blew that one. So, we hired Biancardi, and it turned out that there was baggage there that we didn't know.

DA: At OSU, yeah.

MC: So, here we are, we're under a cloud-

DA: And you had to let Paul go because of the baggage from OSU, and NCAA sanctions and so forth.

MC: Yeah, they did a show cause and this and that, and I mean- now I will say that Wright State has never had a sanction put on it, and in my opinion with the people we have, we never will. Certainly not in a foreseeable future. So, anyway, what happened was we sat down- and I'll never forget it, it was over in the pavilion, [*Setzer Pavilion/Mills-Morgan Center*]. The pavilion was relatively new, Paul's office was vacant and we were sitting there making calls, because we were renovating the athletic offices. We started looking around, seeing what was going on, and I put out some feelers and I said to John LeCrone something about we had heard through I forget who that Brownell- who was doing well, and then to have a tournament head coach, because they were in the tournament-

DA: Yeah, down at North Carolina-Wilmington.

MC: North Carolina-Wilmington, and he was not happy with some things, so, okay, we'll check it out. Well, I said something to John LeCrone, I said, "When you're at the tournament", because he was there representing the Horizon League, "see if you can talk to Brad." He ended up in the room right next door to Brad Brownell, so he went out to get his paper one morning and Brad Brownell is getting his paper or something, you know. One thing leads to another, and we make the connection, and I will say this, that Ball State was after him. Ball State and Wright State. He went to Ball State first, and then came to us. And what was interesting, and I'll never forget this, Mike Adams, who was on the Board of Trustees at the time, and he and a couple other people were in the president's office, and unlike when Harley had us set up a committee that was like 25 people, this one was like three, and Mike Adams said, "Well, it's up to you Mike, you're going to have to take care of this."

DA: That's Harley Flack, the former president?

MC: The former president, yeah. So, Mike Adams says, "Well, the ball is in your court, Mike. You got it."

DA: "It's on you!"

MC: *[Laughs]* It's on me! So, anyhow, we really put a hard press on him because we felt he was good, we showed him what his salary would be over the years, but I still- to this day, the facilities turned him. I mean, he and I had our discussion in that little room that looks out on to the basketball court. I mean, the place had so much leather in it you would have thought, you know, you would have thought there were a herd of animals in there, you know?

DA: At the Nutter Center?

MC: At the Nutter Center. We'd just pull the curtain open, and people were running up and down, shooting baskets, we're talking...

DA: 10,000 seats, or 11000 seats...

MC: No, this was in the pavilion! *[Setzer Pavilion/Mills-Morgan Center]*

DA: Oh, you're talking about the pavilion. Okay, yeah. Yeah, you open up the curtains at the pavilion.

MC: Yeah! "This is where you're going to be", you know? We went over this stuff, and I said, "Look, this is what I'm telling you based on the salary", which started way higher than he was already making, and then you talked, negotiated, later on, because I was gone. So, he was a real good hire.

DA: Well, it was a major coup. He had just been in the NCAA tournament, to get him to come to Wright State, I mean, a huge elevation for the program.

MC: But you know, the funny part of it is I didn't even think about that, and then when I retired and I was over in a College of Ed, somebody came up to me and we were just talking, in conversation, and I'm sitting in the office and they said, "How did you ever get him to come here?" I mean, I never thought about it. It was just like, you know, "I'll sell this guy."

DA: Let's take another topic, something I know you're proud of. Talk about women's sports and Title IX. The impact of that on athletic programs and on the athletic program here, and some of the stuff you did.

MC: Frankly, if some of the people are listening, are looking at this, some of the women who were on the council at the time-

DA: Athletics Council.

MC: Yeah. I'm sure there were times that they thought I was just some, you know, chauvinist kind of a person... that was never the case. I was trying, you know... you try to bring things-

DA: Just for the record, for many years, Wright State's participation rate- women's participation rate in intercollegiate athletics- were one of the top five in the country.

MC: Yeah, we were really good about that, and it was important. But when I say this, a lot of the people who, you know, would battle you in council meetings were also the people who helped make this stuff happen. Because when you get a faculty member going to the provost, and saying, 'Hey, Mr. Provost, these things need to be done', it's not different than the AD saying, 'Hey, can you give me something'. So, a lot of the people were there. Mary Kenton was a really-

DA: Still is.

MC: Yeah, I mean, she was tremendous with that. And, I mean, we banged around. For example, she ran the honors program, and we had this scholarship kind of a deal that Paige had put in place for 5<sup>th</sup> years, and we were giving fifth year scholarships before anybody else was, and I remember a meeting where she said, "You know what, that's not right. I can't even get that for the honors program." I said, "If I could get it for the honors program, I would a minute. I agree it's not right." But, you know, it is what it is. But they did a tremendous job, those councils in those days. I mean, there was some battles, and I came out of there sometimes pretty wrung out, but they did a good job. And then the other one, the one that I think we should be most proud of is the pregnancy policy. There was a bunch of stuff, like 60 Minutes and stuff, where athletes would get pregnant- women athletes, obviously- and it could be a lot of times that the father was a male athlete. So, here the women would basically be shunned or lose their

scholarship or be done, and the guys would just merrily go on. And I couldn't figure out what to do, I didn't know how to handle this, and so I remember calling around to people and I said, "Hey, do you have some suggestions?" and they basically said, "That's your problem!", and then Beth-

DA: Yeah, in Nursing-

MC: Yeah, Beth in Nursing- she's now at Urbana, I think- well, she said, "I think I can help you with this", and she came up with a plan which is really what the NCAA adopted, and what we realized and what we probably should have paid more attention to is, physically, women could play longer. So, the minute they're pregnant doesn't mean they stop, they can go a little longer. But what always was the case with us here was, "Okay, you're pregnant, your scholarship stops now, but the minute you're ready to come back, the scholarship is here for you." I thought that was good.

DA: That's great

MC: This was better. Where they said you play as long as you can, and then when it's time, the doctor can tell us when to stop playing, keep the scholarship, finish your classes, then if you want to come back you come back and the scholarship is there. It's great a thing. I mean, I hadn't really thought about it in a long time, but you're right-

DA: One of the hallmarks, sort of, of gender equity at Wright State, and you've alluded to this before, is the pavilion, relative to men's basketball and women's basketball having sort of mirror images of each other. So, talk about the pavilion, how that got going, and the intentions of building a pavilion both for tracking students, but also in the area of gender equity.

MC: Well, a couple of things. By the time we were building the pavilion, it had been pounded into my head a little bit, you know, "Hey, come on." I was not, you know, I just said, "We've got to get this stuff done". So, when we built it, the way the pavilion went is there is a place called the Donohar Center at the University of Dayton. We went over there to look at it and I looked at it and I said, "It is beautiful. We're going to build one". I thought that once I said, "Hey, they have it, our fans would never let us not have it." Well, it took a few years, and then a fellow named Tom Crush [sp], who was an alum of ours and he was a good friend, he brought Fred Setzer along. Alan Rinzler, also, brought Fred Setzer into the fold.

DA: Is that the first time Fred became really involved with the university?

MC: At that level, financially, yes. He had season tickets-

DA: I think he had been on the Board or something.

MC: He had season tickets, I think he may have been on the Foundation Board and things like that. And I'll never forget, we showed him some plans of what we wanted to do- which ended up being nothing like what we ended up building- and I remember meeting with him in a restaurant, and he said, "Okay, I'll commit half a million bucks." It ended up much more than that, but he did that. Okay, so then we figured out and we talked all different configurations and then we decided on the spot that it's in now, which was a little bit difficult because the Mulhollan's- Bess Mulhollan, she was very interested, and she didn't want a tree touched when she was here, and so we were very good about that. And, you know, one thing led to another, Bob Mills was brought along, we brought Bob Mills in-

DA: And Morgan.

MC: And Morgan, and it was built sort of as a foundation project, rather than through the state.

DA: So, totally privately funded?

MC: Yes, totally privately funded. There was something that the university had to put up, there's a retaining wall down the back of that because of some water issues-

DA: There was something about Indiana bats, too.

MC: There was Indiana bats, that nobody ever saw. But I will tell you as an interesting thing, the night before they were going to start a breaking ground I was coming out of the Nutter Center, coming out from the ticket office there to that main road to get out, and I saw a couple of guys who I knew from the Bio Department were there, and they were just kind of standing there, looking in at the trees, and I got out of the car and went over to them, and they were a little sad because they thought it might affect them. You know, we have a nice conversation, but again, those were days that people, you know, were pulling together. You know, maybe not "Oh, hey, we got to do this for you, we're going to take one for the Gipper", but it wasn't now, as has happened in so many places in our lives, it now becomes a hatred kind of a thing. This was never that way, and like when you say was there pushback on this? Sure, because that's what universities do. A whole bunch of bright people, educated people, have opinions, and because I think it should be one thing, it doesn't mean you should think it. But if I think it and you think it and it goes your way, I can't spend the rest of my time trying to sabotage that. I'm going to try and say, "Okay, that's our family, let's do it the best way we can"

DA: Well, it's a beautiful facility, and one the university continues to be proud of.

MC: It's a great facility, it really is. It was well built, and when you talk about gender equity, we made that in that building. There's a women's locker room and a men's locker room. Exact same square footage. There's a media and a lounge area, and the lounge area is the same. The offices are the same. We only did one media room, but you don't need more than one, so they just alternate that.

DA: So, as you look back on your time here Wright State, what do you feel most proud of? We have talked about a number of things from the D-I to the Nutter Center to the pavilion, and the coaches and this and that, but what do you really feel most proud of relative to your time here?

MC: You know, that's interesting question. Because the last three four years, I don't think about it so much that way. I'm thinking about the overall University. I'm very concerned about the university-

DA: Sure. We all are.

MC: And I'm a little bit sad, and I'm a little bit angry about the university. As far as athletics are concerned, you know, if you look at the campus, I think athletics changed the face of the campus. It changed certainly the geography of it. It brought the Nutter Center, which wouldn't have happened without athletics. It has brought the community here, I mean I remember I would go and speak at a rotary, and towards the last few years I would say, "Okay, folks in the class, in this rotary" - say there's 50 people- "How many people went to Wright State?" So, a few hands would go up. I said, "Okay, how many have had a relative go to Wright State?" and a few more hands would go up. "How many people have been on the campus at Wright State, for theater, music, art, concert..." every hand is up! I mean, my daughter married a man whose mother and father worked on the assembly line over at GE. They rarely came over, but they came on the campus for shows, for some of the motor shows and stuff like that. They lived two miles down North Fairfield Road, but had never been on this campus. Until the Nutter Center was built. And so it's brought that there.

DA: So, you're sort of proud of the expansive role Wright State Athletics has had affecting the entire university, and the broader community, right?

MC: Right. I feel like that's what it should be, you know? The university is a whole bunch of stuff. It happens that athletics, maybe people call it the front porch, and the reason that's the case is because so many people like that stuff. So they come, and the papers like to write about it and so forth. So, if it's going to be the face of it, it's got to be a good face. And it has been and it is. Absolutely it is.

DA: In fact, one could argue that there is precious little good news coming out of Wright State these days, except for athletics.

MC: You could absolutely argue it, and you'd be absolutely right. That's a shame for athletics, too, because they would still be the major piece if the other stuff was good, and it would be even better. That's what makes me feel better. If I thought of athletics in a vacuum, great, you know? Probably they're in a conference that they can dominate now in basketball, which I always envisioned, but we never quite did that, but I think they are now in a bunch of sports. Facilities are good, we've always had good students and good people, that training facility down below which was one slightly different than the vision I had but it worked out well anyway, all of those facilities are great. But the problem is a lot of people are catching up.

DA: You know, if there's any person who probably deserves a chapter one and a chapter two interview, it's you. We've got so much we could have talked about. We haven't even talked about Nischwitz Stadium and how that all came about, and your impression of students, and moving into student affairs and things like that, we could go on forever.

MC: Dan, if I may- and you were part of this time, too- if there are golden ages of places- '82, when I came, to about 2008, was a golden age. To say, you know... I don't think so much about proud, as lucky. I mean, who gets a chance to do the things that we got to do? And I was also lucky enough to have really good people. I mean, Newman was with me almost the whole time.

DA: Paul Newman, who was the Associate Athletic Director.

MC: Paul Newman, I mean, gosh. He was basically an AD.

DA: Well you had very consistent staff. You had Newman, you had Bob Grant, who was with you for a long time-

MC: And we had Lisa. Lisa Lemon [sp], the secretary who was there forever. She was there from like when she was like 19 years old,

DA: A very consistent internal staff to manage things.

MC: And so, you know- and you know yourself- if you like to dream you've got to have some people who aren't sitting around dreaming, too. Otherwise, you wouldn't get anything done, and these folks were able to. They were buffers. I mean, Newman would come over on campus and smooth out some of my rough edges, which were many. Maybe, if I think back if I were proud of any of it, really proud, it's the staff we had. The people that we had with us.

DA: Deservedly so, and you should be proud of that. We had some outstanding folks.

MC: And we answered to Student Affairs, which at first I thought wasn't the right way to go, and under normal circumstances still feel that way, except we had a different situation here.

DA: Yeah, I think it was the unique situation. I think the personalities and everything, it just worked.

MC: Perfect storm, there's no question.

DA: Anything else you want to say, as we sort of draw this to a conclusion?

MC: No, I loved this. I hope that the people who watch it who would be my era and beyond will appreciate how I felt about this place. I mean, my family grew up here. Two of our kids got bachelor's degrees here, and my wife got a master's degree here. This has been a major part of our lives, and the thing about it is when we were here, I always felt like we were all in it together, I really did.

DA: A sense of community.

MC: Yeah. I mean, I remember when I first got here they said you've got to talk to this guy, he's anti athletics. I go and I talk to him, and it wasn't he was anti athletics. He didn't like this or that or the other thing. 'Okay, that's great, we can do something.' It wasn't, 'Get rid of it, wipe it out, cut it down'. But in all fairness, sometimes you get into a situation like Wright State's in now, it becomes survival of the fittest. Because I went through that in New York City, as I told you in the beginning. They start cannibalizing one another, and that's a problem, but I never sensed that here.

DA: Well, you know, when the final history of Wright State is written, who knows when that is, you will figure prominently, and I think for all the work you've done, in terms of not just athletics, but moving the university from point A to point Z maybe, or certainly somewhere down the road, that you deserve a lot of credit-

MC: So, maybe that's what I'm proud of.

DA: -as a true pioneer of Wright State University, so congratulations on your great work.  
Thanks, Mike!

MC: Thanks, Dan! Appreciate it. It was fun!

DA: It was my pleasure.