2-19-2004

Kuntzman, Andrew interview for the Miami Valley College of Nursing and Health Oral History Project

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CAROL HOLDCRAFT: So we’re starting today, we’re continuing to do the Oral History of the College of Nursing and Health the first ten years. We’re interviewing today Dr. Andy Kuntzman who has played a significant role in the early phases of the School of Nursing. So, welcome, we’re glad you’re here today.

ANDY KUNTZMAN: Thank you.

CH: I wanted to start and just ask you to share a little bit about your personal and professional background and how you came to be at Wright State at that point in time.

AK: Okay. Um, early in 1965 I was at the Ohio State University. I had completed my master’s degree and was starting to work on my doctorate. I was invited to substitute for a professor on sabbatical leave at Ohio Wesleyan University in Delaware. So, I left my doctoral studies for six months to teach at Ohio Wesleyan. We were married in 1962. This was now ’65 and some how a couple of kids arrived on the scene. And so the bottom line I guess is I decided to seek full time employment in 1965 and heard about, through my advisor at Ohio State, an opening in the biology department here at Wright State. So, I drove over here, was interviewed by Gary Hutchman and Arlin Foley and I was hired to begin the fall of, actually July 1 of 1965 to teach in the biology department. I taught laboratories primarily in that first year and then, let’s see in ’65 the university was growing exponentially and I was given the opportunity to teach a course, biology 381 which was anatomy and physiology for elementary education majors. It was required then.

CH: Okay.
AK: In those days there was a requirement for state certification for teaching that they have three credits I think in some sort of health or first aid type of thing. And of course at that time education was controlled through Miami University.

CH: Okay.

AK: And at Miami they had made the decision rather than teach a health course; it’s bad to smoke, take care of yourself kind of health they decided to teach a basic course in anatomy and physiology. Instead of that the students would have a background and a basis upon which to make some decisions. And so, I taught that course and because it was for elementary education majors there were lots of students and that kept me busy a number of quarters. Let’s see I’m going beyond why I came to Wright State. I came; well, I only interviewed one place and I was accepted. So I’m not sure how far you want me to take this.

CH: I think that’s very interesting. So at that time you were really a young academic. You didn’t have your doctoral degree yet.

AK: I did not. That’s correct.

CH: And so Wright State was a very young university that was still under the control of the Miami, Miami was controlling and Ohio State.

AK: Miami and Ohio State, that’s right. So, my first contract here stated that I was a faculty member of the Ohio State University/Dayton Campus.

CH: Okay. So, just moving it a little bit, a step ahead of time then you were teaching for a couple of years it sounds like the anatomy and physiology that really focused on the education majors at that point.

AK: Right. That’s correct.
CH: And can you tell us from that time any of your understanding of how the nursing program here at Wright State was determined. That there was a need for one and that it came together to be established. Do you have any recollection of that?

AK: Well, the needs assessment is documented in this booklet that, that’s it. It was the proposal that went to the Ohio Board of Regents. Who actually started it I’m not sure but I think it may have been Gilliam or one of the trustees at that point in time. Somebody had a vision and I don’t know who for sure. Someone had a vision that Wright State would become autonomous in 1967, that Wright State should have a mission in the health care field. And combined with Wright Patterson Air Force Base we would make a powerful health field ally. I’m not sure again who started it. The only recollection that I have is I received a phone call one day from the dean and asking me to serve on a committee to establish a School of Nursing at Wright State University.

CH: And that was your dean?

AK: That was Robert Conley. C, O, N, L, E, Y.

CH: He was dean of?

AK: He was dean of science and engineering.

CH: Okay.

AK: I think he’s now, I don’t know the last several years but he became president of Union College in Cincinnati.

CH: Okay.

DONNA MILES CURRY: Uh-huh. Ira mentioned it.

AK: And he’s, the person who would know best about him is Lois Cook.

CH: Okay.
AK: Ah, chemistry, Lois and Bob were good friends. So if you really wanted to get a hold of him Lois would be your best source. There was a committee of four people that established the School of Nursing. No, we didn’t establish it we established all of the paperwork, the curriculum and the three from Wright State were Dr. Robert Conley, Dean of Science and Engineering, Dr. Brian Hutchings who was Chair of the Department of Biology and myself. And then Miami Valley Hospital School of Nursing loaned us, maybe that’s not the best word, provided a nurse, Nancy Potts, P. O, T, T, S and together the four of us sat around the table many, many meetings and put together a curriculum; philosophy, the objectives, the whole thing. And that’s what was forwarded to the Ohio Board of Regents. They approved the school and it was off and running.

CH: And so the Board of Regents really was the determining factor to decide that yes, Wright State could go ahead and develop-

AK: Well, they still are. The Board of Regents has to approve it.

CH: Yeah. Did your committee have contact with the Ohio Board of Nursing in that process?

AK: Stella Pietrotsky.

DMC: Very good.

CH: You’re very good with names, yes. So was she the education consultant or the-?

AK: I don’t know what her title was. She was-

CH: We can perhaps find out from them.

DMC: Uh-huh.

AK: Well, I know that even ten years later when the school was in turmoil it was Stella at the Ohio Board of Nursing with whom we interacted solely. And I don’t know whether she
was, I don’t know her title, whether she was the director or whether she was maybe in charge of this geographical area. I don’t know.

CH: Okay. Well, I think that’s a factual thing that we can probably track down. We can find out more about that.

DMC: Uh-huh.

CH: Okay, so that was sort of step one really in the whole process of being given permission to develop that.

AK: Right.

CH: It is our understand from some other people that you were involved from Wright State in actually teaching some courses at some of the schools of nursing in the area.

AK: I did, yes.

CH: And can you tell us a little bit more about that. Was that before you worked on this committee to form the proposal for the School of Nursing here at Wright State or during the same time frame?

AK: Well Carol, I’m not great at time frames. (Laughs)

DMC: (Laughs)

AK: I do know that in approximately 1970 Good Samaritan School of Nursing had more or less seen the writing on the wall and they chose to affiliate with Sinclair and establish and that’s when Mildred Hunter, now this is a national name now. I know her last name was Hunter. I think it was Mildred, Mildred Hunter. No, that’s not right. Montag.

DMC: Oh yeah.

AK: Was it Mildred Hunter Montag?

CH: Okay.

AK: In about ’70 she said nursing was going to go one of two directions and she predicted all diploma schools would be shut down. And so Good Sam had affiliated with Sinclair. Miami Valley Hospital and St. Elizabeth’s decided that they wanted their affiliation to be with the baccalaureate program as opposed to the ADN program. And so, in anticipation of transition for their students they wanted the students who had already been admitted to their programs and they knew their programs were going to be closing down. They wanted their students to have Wright State credits. And so, the choice was to bus all of the students out here or for a couple of us to travel up to their institutions. And of course the later is what we did. I want to say I taught at St. Elizabeth’s maybe two or three years in the early seventies. And then I taught at Miami Valley Hospital School of Nursing again probably three years. Their School of Nursing was an integral part of their dormitory. I can remember that other than janitorial help I was the only male permitted in that building in the early seventies.

CH: Uh-huh.

AK: And I would get on the elevators and young ladies would be there in their bathrobes having gone down to get something for breakfast.

CH: Right. But the classrooms and everything were in that building then?

AK: The classrooms were in that building. That’s correct. I think I had something like a hundred and fifty students per class in those days.

CH: So, large classes.

AK: Large classes.

CH: And did they have laboratory facilities as well?

AK: They did. They did.

CH: So, you taught it as a laboratory.
AK: I did. We had cadavers and I took tanks down there and in fact just two or three years ago an employee of Miami Valley Hospital was asking about this old green cadaver tank. And wanted to know if Wright State wanted it back.

CH: (Laughs)

AK: And we bought it used in 1970 or so, early back then. So, it was a full laboratory component at both institutions. There were cadavers at both places. I did all of the lecturing and I taught laboratories with the assistance of one, two or three people depending on the enrollment.

CH: Right. And were they graduate students from Wright State?

AK: No, they were at that point we did not have a graduate program. So, they were full time employees. I think it was full time. Henry Covington was hired to come in and teach, Bob Daley, Pat Galvas all of them came in with a masters and left Wright State to pursue a doctorate.

CH: So they were faculty?

AK: They were faculty here and they went elsewhere to receive a doctorate. They never came back.

CH: Okay. So, there was quite a fairly strong connection then was really developing between Wright State and these hospital’s schools of nursing through the delivery of courses to them in their curriculum.

AK: That’s correct. It was their curriculum at least in terms of anatomy and physiology it was our courses.

CH: Right.

AK: And they also took microbiology. I think they took the three sciences. I don’t know what else they took. If they received credit for psych. or soc. or some of those other programs.
CH: I believe for a time there was some of those because we’ve seen people, diploma nurses with those kinds of credits from Wright State.

AK: The other person that did a lot of teaching at St. E’s and Miami Valley was Rodger Glasser. He taught the physiology.

CH: Okay. So during that time would you say that was your education about nursing was through your interactions with some of these programs and through either the meetings that you had to come up with a proposal for nursing programs here at Wright State.

AK: Yes. That’s a fair assessment.

CH: Okay. Can you tell us then a little bit the next step here at Wright State? Where you involved or what’s your recollection of the process for actually initiating the program? Was there a dean search?

AK: Well, I’m sure there was a dean search. I do not recall being involved in that one. I was involved in the dean searches for lots of deans but I don’t think it was for the first one.

CH: Okay.

AK: And that was Joyce Randall?

DMC: Uh-huh.

AK: Um, I think my recollection is that, in fact I was teaching anatomy on campus for our new program and the students just admitted to our School of Nursing and at the same time I was still teaching at Miami Valley and St. E’s. And so frankly I didn’t get terribly involved in that first year or so.

CH: Uh-huh. You had a very full teaching load it sounds like.

AK: I did. My next recollection is receiving a call from the president informing me that Dean Randall was no longer with us and asked me to come in and assist in the administration of the school. And that’s I suppose, I don’t know why the president called me but I suppose it was
my involvement with the development. And at that point I had been at the university for seven or eight years and the president felt that I could help Donna Dean. So that when an issue arose I could suggest to Donna well why don’t we take this to this person. Why don’t we take that issue to that person? So, my goal was not my goal my challenge was to help Donna effectively run the school at that point as an interim. I don’t know what our exact title was but as an interim dean.

CH: And she had been a faculty member in the School of Nursing and was fairly young at that point in her career.

AK: Right. Very young and very young in her career so that she knew nursing but she did not know academia or she did not know the Wright State way. And so the president thought that perhaps I could assist her with that.

CH: Okay. So, what’s your recollection then of how the two of you were appointed? Was that something that was an equal partnership team to run the program in the interim administratively?

AK: I know I helped pick Donna. The president said to me, “Andy, we know you are not a nurse. We need a nurse. Who on the faculty would best serve in this role?” And I suggested Donna.

DMC: And you knew of her because?

AK: I have no idea. (Laughs)

CH: That’s fair. (Laughs)

AK: How did I know Donna?

DMC: From committees maybe?

AK: I don’t know. I just know the relatively few interactions that I did have with her and with the nursing faculty in general she impressed me as having the best interest of the profession and of the university and she impressed me as having the ability to see the forest from...
the trees. But I can’t tell you how many interactions we had or what lead to that conclusion. But I don’t know if it’s fair to say it was a joint partnership. We considered it that. That is Donna and I would just sit around a table and brainstorm virtually everything that happened in those days. But I always considered it to be my responsibility to assist her. And then Stella Pietrotsky from the State Board also made it very clear that since I was not a nurse in fact I even attended a State Board meeting once and I was at the meeting and you will be terribly surprised to hear this but I made a couple of comments during the meeting that I thought were relevant and I was politely asked not to come back because I was not a nurse. And in those days it was a very territorial situation. The State Nursing Board, the State Board of Nursing, whatever it’s called, I don’t know whether they, well we have to remember that this is a time of great transition in nursing with the diploma schools going away and the fledgling associate degree programs just getting started. That may have contributed to some of the thought prophecies of the State Board but they did not want to hear anything from me again. So, I can still hear Stella tell me I can sit in Dayton and I can give all the advice I want to to Donna but please don’t come back to a meeting and give advice to the board. (Laugs)

CH: Okay, so she was very clear on that.

AK: Oh Stella was very clear on everything.

CH: Okay. And that’s interesting.

DMC: How old was she. Do you think that she’s still alive?

AK: I would say no. I would seriously doubt it.

CH: She must have been older than.

AK: Stella was probably fifty-five or sixty in the early seventies.

CH: So, within the university the call from the president, his first to you that the dean in the new School of Nursing the dean has stepped away and is not going to continue. We’d like
you to step in and participate in the interim way with running the school. And really asked your advice on who among the faculty, who among the nursing faculty should be asked to serve in the interim.

AK: That’s correct. I’m sure I wasn’t the only person that was asked for that advice but in any event.

CH: So, then for a period of about a year you and Donna Deal really worked together in the interim leadership role.

AK: I don’t know if it was, you said it was about a year and yeah. So, we, number one tried to carry on with the day-to-day kinds of situations because Joyce Randall had only been here for a very short time. I would suspect that the first class were in their sophomore year at that point. I’m not sure. And then our other function was to search for a full time dean. So, Donna and I chaired the search committee for the next dean.

CH: And do you recall what was your aim in getting that dean? What were the kinds of things that you really felt was needed here at Wright State in the next dean that was here?

AK: I don’t think I can answer that Carol.

CH: Okay.

AK: We were seeking the best-qualified applicant. I don’t think we thought that there was anything special about Wright State or it’s circumstances. If we had been a School of Nursing in any university who would we have brought in? I don’t think we saw Wright State as being unique or needing a special kind of person to lead this fledgling school. Obviously the person needed to have experience in administration but I don’t think I can say anything more.

CH: And so you went through the dean search process.

AK: Right.

CH: Were there many candidates?
Kentucky. She drove up here and would stay two or three days and then she would be back two
weeks later. And she assisted in the dean search committee and in her role as a consultant she
gave advice to Donna, to the president, to me and so she was also involved in the selection of
Gert Torres. She had the personality of an army drill sergeant. You could almost see her waving
her team, of course that's the wrong use of; she did not need a team. I guess I'm thinking of
Patten, General Patten and his stick, whatever. And when Marian said it that was it. And at that
point she had been dean at Kentucky for ten or fifteen years and gee, I was thirty. So how old
was she? She was probably an ancient fifty. (Laughs) I don't know. Yes, I know.

CH: She certainly had a lot of authority about her ideas.

AK: Yes, that states it very well. She had a lot of authority in her demeanor.

CH: So, it's interesting to me that the university, it sounds like, really was as you say
conscended that this fledgling School of Nursing get off to an appropriate start. And the initial
dean didn't work out, wasn't do the job they wanted her to do and so pulling in somebody with
that kind of authority and that kind of experience as a controller-.

AK: Yes, I think that's how, I'm sorry.

DMC: Uh-huh. That's good.

CH: To me that just demonstrated that they really wanted to get this program off
appropriately.

AK: I would agree with that. It showed a very high level of commitment on the level of
the university. They really did want a great School of Nursing here. And jumping ahead for just
a moment when Gert Torres left, Marian McKenna was called again. She recommended that one
of her young faculty members, Marilyn Jacobson serve in an interim capacity. And so, Marilyn
Jacobson drove from Kentucky many days. Of course she lived in Fayetteville, which is north of
Lexington. It was probably a two-hour drive. But that's how we got Marilyn Jacobson. She
was the young faculty member out of the University of Kentucky and Marian McKenna suggested her to the president.

CH: Tell us your perspective on what you think was happening during the Gert Torres deanship here within the college. I'll let you put it into your own words.

AK: Well, to be honest Carol, I don't know how to answer that. I'd made it a point that when my responsibilities were over with the School of Nursing I once again divorced myself from all interactions. I taught anatomy to my students and I didn't really know what was going on in the School of Nursing and furthermore I didn't want to become involved. It wasn't my job. And I would have been resented for I think if anyone thought I was checking up on them. So, what happened I'm not sure. I do know that and it's quite public the disagreement between Gert Torres and John Belgan as to I guess, (Pause) I think there was a time that John Belgan wanted the School of Nursing to report to the School of Medicine.

CH: To him.

AK: Right to him and at that point he was the dean of the School of Medicine. And of course Gert resisted that.

CH: Right.

AK: And that's very understandable. I don't know of a School of Nursing in the United States, I don't know of one that reports to the dean of the School of Medicine even today. But then of course John Belgan had his own agenda and was working his way to become Vice President of Health Affairs, which he ultimately became. I don't really know all of the things that went on between Gert and John but I think that's there in lies the issue. It was between those two individuals and that's what caused Gert to ultimately leave.
CH: As a member of the university community how would you say the School of Nursing was thought of during that time frame from 1975 when Gert started in 1980 when things were lost?

AK: I guess my recollection would be that the university community in general thought that the School of Nursing was doing okay. They, like everybody else, you have to remember that the entire university was young and everybody that was here had experienced growing pains as we went from being branch campuses of two universities to where we were at that point in time. So, I think every faculty member at Wright State at that point had themselves been involved in some sort of growing pain. I don’t know if I should use the word controversy but lots of things were happening. And so, nothing unusual about the School of Nursing, they too were experiencing growing pains.

CH: And that was a time when the school was growing. It started the graduate level, the master’s program.-

AK: Under Marge Stanton.

CH: -started and more faculty were hired. Probably yearly more faculty were being hired as the numbers increased.

AK: Uh-huh. Gert brought, I saw you making notes Donna, Gert brought Marge with her. In fact, I presented Gert with her proposed salary and I don’t know why. I think that’s a function of the president but the president had to ask me to. And she said two things, “Andy, where does that salary put me in relation to the other deans on this campus?” And I said, “Well, Gert you’re almost in the middle even though you are a brand new dean and some of the deans have been in office for several years. It was recognized that you bring a particular expertise and we’re trying to get the school going and so the president is offering you.” And I remember what the salary is, I think if you-.
CH: What was it?
AK: I think it was thirty-two thousand dollars.
DMC: Isn’t that amazing?
AK: And Gert said to me, “I don’t really care how much I’m being paid. I don’t need the dollar amount. What I need is to know that the university values me somewhere in the middle of all the other deans on this campus.” And that was obviously before she was hired. And then her second request was could she bring on an associate dean. Of course I didn’t make that decision but Gert was willing to even give up some of her salary now that it had been established that the university recognized her. That she would give up several thousand dollars of her salary in order to feed the kitty to bring in Marge Stanton. That wasn’t necessary but she was willing to make that sacrifice to bring in Marge.

CH: So, she was kind of negotiating, I mean at that point she was sort of negotiating to be able to bring her in.
AK: Right because it wasn’t planned that she would bring an associate dean with her.
CH: Do you recall how that decision to accept that proposal came about?
AK: No, that was in the hands of the president. The only thing because I ran the books somewhat. All I know is that it was not necessary to cut Gert’s salary in order to bring Marge on board. Where the money came from I have no idea or why the president made the decision to authorize that extra line because it was just not there.

CH: That was a new addition to the administrative structure.
AK: That’s correct.
CH: Originally there was the dean and faculty.
AK: That’s correct. Yeah.
CH: What other sort of memories do you have? Are there any things that stick in your mind like that one did of a conversation or scenario?

AK: With Gert?

CH: Uh-huh.

AK: Her riding a motorcycle just blew me out of my head; to me that seemed highly unprofessional, undean like but then I guess even at that age I was a old conjure and I didn’t think it appropriate for a dean to arrive on campus on a motorcycle. Just obviously my personal bias. I never ever criticized her for it. I made a couple of comments I suspect and she would always laugh at me and say, “Andy, what a person drives to work is not important. It’s what they do once they get here.” Which of course is true.

CH: She had quite a style really about her.

AK: Oh, she did. She did. As did Joyce Randall, she got her hair done every morning.

CH: Oh.

AK: Yeah, she had a standing appointment. I think it was like seven thirty and she got her hair done at seven thirty every morning five days a week before she arrived on campus at eight thirty or whatever.

CH: So, their styles were quite different.

AK: Oh, quite different. (Laughs) Gert’s hair was the last thing she would think about.

CH: Uh-huh. I’ve heard people talk about the motorcycle. I don’t know whether she wore a helmet or not.

AK: Oh, yes.

CH: Pulling off the helmet and the hair-

AK: Pulling off the helmet and the hair just going ( ). Of course, I met Gert at the airport when she came in for the very first interview. And I said to Marian McKenna how am I
going to recognize this person. That was before people thought about making little signs, Hi I’m waiting for whoever and I don’t know I hadn’t thought of it. And she said, “Oh, you’ll know. She wears glasses thick enough to be the bottoms of Coke bottles.” So, off the plane here comes this lady and I said, “Are you Dr. Torres?” She said, “I am.” She said, “How did you know it was me?” And I didn’t want to tell her that it was because of her very thick glasses. I said, “Well, you just, of all the people coming off you appeared to me to be an academic type.” And she said, “Oh, okay. Where do we go now?” But she was very sensitive about her glasses.

DMC: Oh.

AK: They were thick. They had to have been horrible.

DMC: During this time period where you guys located on top floor of Fawcett or fifth floor of Fawcett or something.

AK: Top.

DMC: Something around there.

AK: Yes. Well, no, wait a minute.

DMC: I thought it was third floor and they had classroom space on fourth floor. When I came in ’79 that’s the way it was. I didn’t know how soon they got in there.

AK: Okay. I guess I was confusing it with--.

DMC: On Allyn Hall. Allyn we were on the fourth floor.

AK: Right. Backing up when I came as a faculty member first year in 1965 as a biology faculty member I shared an office with two other faculty members, Lois Cook and Joanne Rose. So there was three desks in this office.

CH: Sounds pretty tight.

AK: Well, I’m not finished. The room is now a janitor’s closet.

CH: (Laughs)
AK: It really is. Fourth floor, Allyn, it was back by the ladies room.

DMC: Oh sure, I know there.

AK: And there’s this room to the right and I sat at my desk and watched ladies going in and out of the ladies room.

CH: (Laughs)

AK: Not that I watched them it’s that I had no choice. That’s where my desk was located. And so, and then later there was a time when the School of Nursing was on the fourth floor on Allyn and I was the only male there so I had the men’s restroom which was right around the corner all to my self. People would call that Andy’s room. (Laughs) And I was using even in those days, I can remember the time when I shared an office with two other people and it’s now the janitor’s closet.

CH: (Laughs) That’s great.

AK: So, I was trying to okay, third floor of Fawcett. I must admit I’m having trouble picturing it.

CH: I’m remembering--.

DMC: You were earlier than me.

CH: I’m thinking that when you and Donna were in the interim position it was in Allyn and then when Gert got started she wanted more space and I think they put her in Fawcett and it was renovated.

DMC: She negotiated more space. Because when we left Fawcett that became the research-sponsored program because going to Dean Earn’s office and saying you’re kidding about what used to be Gert Torres’ office.

AK: Yes, I remember that now.
CH: And so then it seems like it was then after, it seems like coming back then, I came back in '82 and it seems like they were back on the fourth floor of Allyn again.

DMC: So it seems like we bounced around. I know when we talked to early people that they was scattered when it first started. We were scattered around campus. Dean Randall had her office one place, faculty were in a different place.

CH: Sounds like faculty office space was tight early on.

AK: It was in deed. I can remember Bennett-

CH: Agnes?

AK: Agnes Bennett. Yeah, her office was over in the Phys. Ed. Building so she had quite a hike. And so at some point in time and I couldn't give you the year one of my responsibilities was to draft the floor plan for the renovation of Allyn Hall-

END OF TAPE ONE, SIDE A

START OF TAPE ONE, SIDE B

DMC: Go ahead.

AK: I remember the university planner giving me guidelines. He only wanted to spend a certain number of dollars on this and so try not to knock down too many existing walls, try not to build too many walls. And I can remember working on that plan for a long time and I can remember going into his office with okay this is what I want, I want but of course it was whoever I was working with at that, I suspect it was Donna then. I don't know. And I don't wish in any way to imply that it was what I wanted for the school. Donna would tell me and then I would put it on paper and try to make the rooms match up and so on. But I can remember the university planner pull a floor plan from his drawer, held it up in the light and he um, okay well I see you know we have to take these walls out and put these walls in and that's how the fourth floor got to be the way that it was.
CH: Okay. Very interesting.

AK: But it did permit and that was the goal it permitted the defragmentation of the faculty. They were just all over the place. So the faculty could not have been happier to get into a facility although not ideal it was at least everybody was together.

DMC: Great.

CH: Well, are there any other things that we have not asked about that you think are pertinent to those early years of the college, of the School of Nursing at that point?

AK: I don't know. I brought, in 1975 Donna Dean and I submitted a grant for a new building. Here is the rationale and the cost and so on, this whole thing. If you'd like to have it you may.

CH: That's wonderful. It's got the dates and all of the pertinent kinds of things. We'd love to have that in archives. Who was it submitted to?

AK: Department of Health and education and D.H.E.W Agent five.

CH: Education and Welfare maybe?

AK: Yes.

DMC: Economic Welfare.

CH: Economic Welfare?

DMC: Economic Welfare.

CH: Oh so, Economic Welfare.

AK: The proposal was approved but not funded.

CH: And so the story goes.

AK: The Department of Health and Education Welfare.

CH: So, what was the total amount for that?
AK: One million, four hundred and nine thousand dollars. So, we were, this was in '75 when did-?

CH: Gert came in July 1, 1975.

AK: Okay, this was submitted before Gert came. It was submitted in January of '75. So, we were trying to get, well again I think this shows the level of commitment of the university.

CH: Right.

AK: Andy Spiegel was the Executive Vice President and so, they were trying to get a new building and I put most of this together.

CH: So, that was a busy year then wasn’t it.

AK: I think so.

CH: (Laughs) What’s this?

AK: I must admit I’m not sure. Lots of minutes?

CH: So, perhaps the faculty meetings?

AK: Let’s see ’84, oh, no, no, no, no this is (Pause) everything that related to the merger between Wright State and Miami Valley Hospital.

CH: Okay.

DMC: Oh, fantastic. The collaborative agreement.

AK: The collaborative agreement.

CH: So you came back then at that point you must have been involved in some discussions.

AK: I was in an administrative position three different times.

DMC: So, we’ve heard about the first.

CH: The first time was after Dean Randall before Gert Torres. The second one?

AK: After Gert.
CH: After Gert.

AK: When and you were both here.

CH: Uh-huh. And?

AK: And then I was also on the, let’s see, the search committee for Margaret Maloney. Now, that would have been then.

CH: Right.

AK: I’m leaving my CV.

DMC: Great.

CH: That will probably clear up the dates and titles.

AK: So, I was Assistant Provost for Nursing Administration in 1974 to ’75 and then I was Special Assistant to the Vice President of Health Affairs ’80 to ’81.

CH: And that was?

AK: John Belgian. And then (Pause) I was Assistant Dean of Administration from ’81 to ’84 helping Margaret Maloney. She didn’t know it but she got me whether she wanted me or not.

DMC: (Laughs) So, what were those years like? Another page?

AK: (Pause) Well, it was mentioned a half hour ago that every dean had a different style and certainly Margaret Maloney was-. 

CH: How would you characterize her style?

AK: Her style? Well, I don’t have the psychology background to answer all these questions.

CH: (Laughs) Her administrative style?

AK: I can remember very clearly her saying to me that she did not have the time nor energy to pursue a particular project. I have no idea what the project was. And I can remember
what, that was in the early eighties so that was twenty-five years ago. So, I would have been forty and I was full of vim and vinegar and just never understood why she didn’t have the energy to do something because that was never a limiting factor for me. But I have since learned that the body only has so many molecules of ATP and when those are burned up that’s it for the day.

CH: Uh-huh.

AK: And I think she was at that point.

CH: Do you remember what her age would have been when she was here? An estimate.

AK: An estimate would be sixty.

CH: Sounds about right to me too.

DMC: I think she colored her hair.

AK: Oh, she did.

DMC: It was very black.

AK: Very black.

DMC: That’s why I think she colored it because it was so black.

AK: Yeah, I know she did because it was and she was quite vain about her appearance. But then, well, I don’t know. Everything for her physically for her had to be either black or white which is a function of her being a nun I suspect. But at the time we commented that her car was white and her hair was black, her clothing was either white or black and you know there’s nothing wrong with it except that I don’t know if that extended to her thinking process. That she had trouble finding shades of gray in prophesies and so I’m just a dumb anatomist. I can’t answer all of those.

CH: (Laughs) So, you spent about, did you say two years?

AK: Well, it says here ’81 to ’84.

CH: See, I’d forgotten that length of time.
AK: Right.

CH: And so, the kinds of things you handled in that time frame was that once again the budget kinds of things?

AK: Uh-huh. Everything, I would characterize it as perhaps everything associated with the running of the school except for curricular matters. So, if anybody had a leak in the roof they'd call Andy. If the telephones didn't work or they didn't get their paycheck or anything that dealt with the day-to-day operation of the school. And then of course I worked very closely with Jill Oroszi. Is Jill still here?

DMC: Yes. I was just going to, what you're describing sounds exactly what her job is now.

CH: The classroom scheduling and equipment and-

AK: Yes.

CH: Where you involved with the learning lab? Establishing, finding funding for that?

AK: Oh, yes. Barb Bogan, is Barb still here?

CH: Barb is still here. And still seems to have energy and continues to take on projects.

AK: That doesn't surprise me.

DMC: Grandma times four now.

AK: Oh. I have three.

DMC: Do you?

AK: Yeah. Well, I don't know that I answered your last question.

DMC: So then at the end of that, like what would that have been around 1985. That was the last time you were administratively involved? And where you involved then was that the dean search then for Jeanette? Was that when Jeanette came or had Jeanette come yet? I'm
trying to get, that transition between Maloney, I remember Donna Dean being back in an interim position between Maloney and Hopkins.

CH: Donna was actually brought back in the role of Associate Dean under Margaret Maloney for the final year that Margaret was there.

AK: Right, for the graduate program.

CH: For the graduate program.

AK: Yes. That's right.

CH: And then Margaret Maloney went on leave of absence then Donna was appointed at that point.

AK: The words leave of absence kind of-. 

CH: Was a euphemism I guess.

AK: Okay.

CH: In other words it was my understanding that she was removed from being dean but she that continued on the salary of the university for some time after her leaving.

AK: I don't honestly remember. Those negotiations would have been with the president. I wouldn't have been involved in that at all.

CH: Right.

AK: I can remember driving with John Belgian to Springfield to meet Donna Dean halfway. We met at Bob Evans just off of Route 72. And at that point Donna was Assistant Dean at Ohio State or Associate Dean. She was second in command at Ohio State. John Belgian asked her to come to Wright State. He never ever in that meeting offered her the deanship but all the implications were there that she would become dean. She gave up her position at Ohio State came here and he offered her interim dean. And I can't tell you which time frame that was because Donna was in and out just as often as I was. But I can remember John Belgian deceived
Donna maliciously, in my opinion. Donna could have stayed right at Ohio State and could have become dean there most likely would have become dean. Everything was headed in that direction. And he brought her here and then offered her less than she was expecting. So, I can remember then we were driving back and saying, “John, you didn’t really.” And he said, “Yes, I know.”

CH: It was intentional.

AK: It was intentional.

CH: So, at that meeting it was discussed that Dean Maloney was not doing what was expected and was not working out.

AK: No, I can’t.

CH: Not that you recall.

AK: No, I don’t remember.

CH: Because I kind of came and went also. When I came back in fall of 1982, Donna had just come back on board again but Dr. Maloney was still here. Donna sort of called me up on the phone and said, “You know, Carol we really have a need to have somebody come in and psych. again. Aren’t you ready to come back full time? And I’m back here again and I’d really like to work with you again. Aren’t you interested in coming back?” And sounded to my naive ears like I’d been offered a job and then of course I had to come in and have an interview with Dean Maloney and she was sort of sizing me up as far as whether I really had a job or not. That became apparent. So, she was still in that deanship role at that point.

AK: But I’m sure she had some ties on her.

CH: She had some reservations of me because I had been here during Gert Torres tension.

AK: Influence of you.
CH: Yes. So, she sort of wanted to know where my loyalties might be within that whole perspective. I came in dressed fairly casually because that had been the style when I was here before. And I remember being; it was very clear from her attire and her manner that I really wasn’t dressed as appropriately as I should have been. I was in pants, a pants suit of some type. But some how or other the need must have been great because I was hired anyways in spite of my limitations. (Laughs)

AK: How about that.

DMC: On the development on the collaborative piece because we haven’t focused as much on our research on that but was the lead pretty much from Wright State from the School of Nursing from like Donna Dean working with that with Miami Valley. Would that have been, was she like the acting dean at that point or was Jeanette involved in that?

AK: No, Margaret Maloney.

DMC: Margaret Maloney was the one. It started under her.

AK: Well, I just happened to open the page. I don’t know where we are but March of ‘83 Wright State was represented from John Belgian, Donna Dean, myself, Margaret Maloney and Barb Murphy.

DMC: Okay. See, I had no idea it started that early.

CH: And from Miami Valley was Sue Fitzsimmons.

AK: Geneva Rubins.

CH: Dorthia Rye, Louise Walter, Gordon Williams as co chair.

AK: Yeah, Gordan Williams was, he was the CEO of the, I think of Miami Valley. I just happen to; well they made me secretary so.

CH: So, you have all the minutes of that.
AK: When it was all said and done Sue Fitzsimmons thanked me for providing comic relief. (Laughs)

CH: (Laughs)

AK: I said, “Sue, I thought I provided more than comic relief to this whole merger thing. For heaven’s sake. But I don’t know I tend to put, this is January of ’82, so I put things in here and then the top copy goes here. So when you get to a category and if you’re looking chronologically you need to go-

DMC: From back to front. Okay. That’s great.

CH: So, maybe that was the first meeting?

AK: Could be. Yeah, it sounds like it. I see Dr. Belgian made me secretary. I can remember him saying there’s power in being secretary because you then govern what’s in the minutes and what’s not in the minutes and so he wanted me to be the secretary. And then Dr. Belgian presented a short historical perspective of Wright State University School of Nursing and how Wright State came into being and to respond to community needs. Under the direction of Dean Maloney the School of Nursing has recently broadened its impact on nursing has enhanced the education opportunities for RN’s. The potential for linkage between our two institutions is exciting and offers unique opportunities for both parties. Wright State’s baccalaureate nursing program is new, relatively isolated from community involvement while Miami Valley’s program has a long history and an excellent diploma school. The trend in nursing education however is toward baccalaureate programs. I’m wrong, the gentleman, it was Rush Jordan, was the CEO of Miami Valley.

DMC: Yes, I remember Rush Jordan.

AK: Gordon Williams was maybe second in command and he attended when Rush could not attend.
DMC: ( )

AK: There was a seven point proposed plan of action. I think you'll find, well here it is.

CH: There it is.

DMC: It’s great. There’s a chapter.

CH: Yeah. Well and this is really documenting which we haven’t really had a good sense of before John Belgian’s role.

DMC: Uh-huh. That’s right. Very nice. I had to go through my boxes. I had all those old purple copies.

CH: And they really fade.

AK: I hope I didn’t write any-

CH: Personal notes there. Doodles.

DMC: I hope you did.

AK: (Laughs)

(Everyone looking through papers.)

AK: Not my handwriting.

CH: Isn’t it? It doesn’t look like Donna Dean’s either. I recognize hers when I see it.

DMC: Yeah, we’ve got hers it rounded cursive.

AK: Now this is Miami Valley. We’d like to share one portion of our conceptional framework with you. Whatever that means.

CH: My recollection, I got involved once the initial part came together in some of the early meetings between faculty on this side.

DMC: Great. Did you see they wrote a monograph? Didn’t they on the collaboration?

CH: Yes. I got that.

DMC: Do you have copies of that?
CH: Oh yeah. I was one of the editors of it. So, I have it.

DMC: Wow. That's a whole nother chapter.

CH: I forgot about all that.

DMC: That's the period of time I came back, Donna Dean says to me, "If you're going to stay in academia you need to get your doctorate. So, from '82 to '90 I had three children and got my PhD at Ohio State. So, while I was here I wasn't mentally here a whole lot. (Laughs)

AK: I remember Donna saying something about that. (Laughs) I got her, Carol.

CH: Uh-huh.

AK: Just kidding. Just kidding. I do remember you leaving to go back to get your doctorate. I remember that, yes.

CH: When she'd show up back here she'd be pushing a stroller and first there was one kid in it and then there was two kids in it. (laughs)

DMC: Robbie came to more team meetings you know in his stroller. It was interesting.

CH: Yeah, it was interesting times. Okay, we're hoping to pull together a lot of different perspectives and be able to say something. It seems like you brought some information that really relates to male, female roles and also nursing and medical and academia.

DMC: Did you feel like there was any male, female?

AK: Well, just between Gert and John. That's all.

DMC: That was the only place. But when you yourself came over and you would be like the solitary male person in this department. Did you feel radical, militant feminism stabbing you in the back or did you just feel like we're as equalitarian as one could be?

AK: Well, absolutely you used one word I don't know.

DMC: It means equal.

AK: Oh, equal. And the word you used was?
DMC: Equalitarian, the power word.

AK: Equalitarian. I'll have to write that down.

DMC: It's that Ohio State education of mine.

AK: Well, I have one too.

DMC: I know.

AK: Oh, goodness, goodness, goodness. (Pause) There was a period of time, I want to say three, four months when Gert was still on campus and I was on the floor that yes, I detected a great deal of animosity from the faculty. That this person and I don't really think it was because I was a male. I think it was because I was imposed on you ladies, ladies was not important, I was imposed on your group by the president and therefore I sensed I was resented for being there. When in truth my only goal was to try to be helpful to the School of Nursing. And I never, ever asked to be placed in an administrative position. Never. And I think some of the nursing faculty thought that I was seeking my own agenda. That was my impression. I never was. I can remember saying to the faculty at some point in time in a faculty meeting you may question some of the decisions I make but don't ever question my motivation. My motivation was always try to enhance the school. I'm quite sure that I or we made decisions that were unpopular or whatever but the motivation was always pure as far as I am concerned. And so yes, I felt a lot of animosity until Gert actually left campus and a little bit after then because she obviously had some followers among the faculty. And the faculty had no choice. The president said, "Andy will be here and Andy will doing such and such." You know it wasn't the president it was John Murray the Provost at that time. He came to a faculty meeting and I don't know if either of you were there but he came to a faculty meeting and said, "This is the way it's going to be."

CH: So, that was a period of time from when resignations had been tendered but people were still on campus.
AK: Right.

CH: And from the time Gert tendered her resignation and it was accepted she moved out of the dean’s office. Is that correct? I wasn’t here at the time so I’m basing this on what I heard.

AK: You remember better than I.

CH: She moved out of the office and that was when John Murray had said you would be here during that period of time along with and that was Marilyn Jacobson, and was that when Marilyn Jacobson was driving up too?

AK: I think so.

DMC: Yes, because I can remember meeting her.

CH: So, that was a period of time, I’m sort of imagining it but that was a period of time when all of the faculty was still here but resignations had been tendered and accepted and you know new people had been appointed to keep things operating. So, I would assume that the tensions were very high during that time.

AK: They were.

DMC: You’re right.

AK: But again you asked about male, female and I didn’t perceive that. I can remember saying I’m working with twenty-six females but I only said that to my family. It wasn’t a gender issue. The fact that I was imposed on you folks is what caused the problem. And it should be, can you imagine if the president today were to say somebody from chemistry is going to come over and is going to run this school.

CH: Right. Well, you and Donna did such a good job running things from what we’ve heard from everybody during the initial, you know initial interim period following Randall’s deanship. Had worked well together, had presented a unified approach and the faculty during
that time felt like now they could do their jobs because things were being taken care of administratively and things were moving forward.

AK: That’s nice to hear.

CH: So, I would think that very likely that that had a lot to do with really you being asked to come in and do that, that same kind of thing during another period of unrest with that.

AK: I spent a total of six years and I think five out of the six years, maybe four out of the six I was still teaching anatomy. It was only a year or two that I was removed from the department and place full time in the School of Nursing. I’m guessing it was more like a year.

DMC: We haven’t formally interviewed Jill yet. I was just curious of when she assumed more that role like when you left which would have been when Jeanette, ’85?

AK: Uh-huh, when Jeanette arrived.

DMC: Was that about when Jill assumed more those responsibilities?

AK: Well, Jill and I worked very closely together all the time that I was here. And there was another lady, Lois Wilson. I don’t know which-.

CH: I’m trying to remember.

AK: Tall.

CH: I mean the name sort of sounds familiar but it’s not somebody that I really remember. But she was doing some of the business?

AK: Uh-huh. She was doing some of the business stuff.

DMC: She was Jill’s boss.

AK: Yes. She was Jill’s boss.

DMC: And she, they’d tried to have some meetings, I remember Grace United Methodist was her church when the whole controversy was going on or something and because of some
people in the community the church said no, you can’t have your meeting here. So, she quit over it. Didn’t she quit then?

AK: No, she quit because I came in.

DMC: Oh, she quit because you came in.

AK: Uh-huh.

DMC: I just remember she had been like Jill’s boss.

AK: Right.

DMC: And she left and I thought it was, see that was my perception. Your perception was she quit because you came in and were kind of on her turf maybe.

AK: Right. Well, I took, John Murray said and Andy’s responsibilities will be and Lois says that’s my job.

DMC: Oh, I didn’t realize that.

AK: Yeah.

CH: So, was that because she had been so closely aligned with the dean and associate dean before?

AK: I’m not sure that John Murray even knew that Lois Wilson existed. It’s not that there was anything wrong with her work. It’s just that he wanted me to do this series of things. And as you said she said that’s my job and she quit then within a very short period of time.

CH: Did she leave Wright State totally or did she move somewhere else?

AK: No, I think she left totally. Jill probably would know.

DMC: Jill would remember.

AK: I remember she wrote a poem something about the, it was entitled the anatomy of a something or another and of course that would be me. But the title of the poems was The Anatomy of ( ). But she believes that I cost her her job when in fact as I said I don’t really think
the president even knew she existed or the provost. It's just that they wanted me to do certain things.

CH: Well, I know you have some things to move on to.

AK: That's right.

CH: Are you watching your time?

AK: I am. I teach at Sinclair here before too long.

DMC: Good. Thank you so much.

CH: Well, we really appreciate all your memories.-

END OF INTERVIEW