

**SHARE YOUR STORY: STUDENT LIFE AT MUNDELEIN**

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Patricia Bakalik's Oral History

Women and Leadership Archives

Loyola University Chicago

2021

## **PREFACE**

The following oral history is the result of a recorded interview with Patricia Bakalik conducted by Melissa Newman on December 8, 2021. This interview is part of the Share Your Story: Student Life at Mundelein project, an oral history project to expand and enrich the Women and Leadership Archives' (WLA) records of Mundelein College's history through interviews with alumnae on student life.

Mundelein College, founded and operated by the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary (BVM), provided education to women from 1930 until 1991, when it affiliated with Loyola University Chicago.

Readers are asked to bear in mind that they are reading a transcript of the spoken word, rather than written prose. The following transcript has been reviewed, edited, and approved by the WLA staff. Timestamps are provided every five minutes, within a few seconds of that exact point in the audio. Actions and sounds such as laughter are in parentheses, and notes added for context are in brackets.

### **TIME LOG AND OVERVIEW FOR SESSION 1**

0-5 Minutes: Bakalik's family and educational background, choosing Mundelein, starting college, and playing on the Mundelein Lakers volleyball team.

5-10 Minutes: Bakalik reflects on teachers and coaches at Mundelein, awards Bakalik won at Mundelein, Bakalik's communication major, and her extracurricular activities.

10-15 Minutes: Mundelein graduation committee involvement, Mundelein search committee involvement, Bakalik's on-campus jobs, and training for volleyball.

15-20 Minutes: Working with Mundelein Experience Leadership Development (MELD), Mundelein in the NCLAA volleyball tournament.

20-25 Minutes: Bakalik's relationship with coach Brenda Weare and other reflections on staff at Mundelein.

25-30 Minutes: McBuddy program, Mundelein Handbooks, time management at Mundelein, and Bakalik's involvement on campus.

30-35 Minutes: Bakalik's involvement in the annual Women's Athletic Casino Night and balancing academics with athletics.

35-40 Minutes: Bakalik's on-campus jobs, living on-campus, the volleyball season and trimesters at Mundelein.

40-45 Minutes: Living on campus, campus geography of Mundelein, places Bakalik studied on campus, dress code, reflecting on classmates, and student government.

45-50 Minutes: Reflecting on classmates and Bakalik's time as sports editor on the Mundelein *Scholar* paper.

50-57:14 Minutes: Technology at Mundelein, Bakalik reflects on the lasting impact of Mundelein on her life, her post-graduation career and her charitable work.

## **NARRATOR BIO**

Patricia Bakalik was born and raised on the South Side of Chicago. She attended an all-girls high school and initially attended Moraine Valley College where she played volleyball, but her friend and teammate Maureen Monahan was recruited to play volleyball at Mundelein and encouraged

Coach Brenda Weare to recruit Patty for Mundelein volleyball as well. Patty transferred to Mundelein in 1986 and graduated in 1990.

She was a Communication and Mass Media major and lived in both Coffey Hall and Northland Hall. Very active on campus, Patty was the President of the Women's Athletic Association, co-chair on the Commencement Committee, a Student Government Representative all four years, the sports editor for the campus newspaper, *The Scholar*, worked the front desk in her dorms, was an elevator operator, and she played on the softball and volleyball team. She was also an Ann Ida Gannon award recipient, Lincoln Award nominee, and a Marilyn Gorski Award recipient.

Mundelein was a special place for Patty, and she attributes her confidence to her time there. This helped her when she graduated and began working on the trading floor for at the Chicago Board of Trade and was able to retire at 40-years-old. Patty still lives close to Lake Michigan in Chicago and bartends at a local bar.

## **INTERVIEWER BIO**

Melissa Newman was a graduate student in the Public History program at Loyola University Chicago and a graduate assistant at the Women and Leadership Archives 2020-2022.

Transcriptionist: Keeley Shoudel

Interviewee: Patricia Bakalik

Locations: Palatine, IL and Chicago, IL via Zoom

Interviewer: Melissa Newman

Date: December 8, 2021

[BEGINNING OF INTERVIEW]

Q: Alright. For the record, my name is Melissa Newman. I'm a graduate assistant at the Women and Leadership Archives, interviewing Patricia Bakalik, class of 1990, on December 8, 2021 for the Share Your Story: Student Life at Mundelein project. I am currently in Palatine, Illinois and Patty is in Chicago. So, Patty, to start us off, could you just tell me a little bit about yourself, like where you were born and where you were raised and your family?

Bakalik: Absolutely. Hi, my name is Patricia Bakalik. Everybody called me Patty or Patty B. And I was raised on the South Side of Chicago. I went to an all-girls high school, and then I went on to an all-women's college. So I have solely been educated by women pretty much for my entire adult livelihood. You know what? Let me backtrack for a second. So I went to Mount Assisi Academy in Lemont, Illinois. I went there for my four years of high school, and then I was recruited by a couple of different colleges to play volleyball. I played varsity volleyball all four years in high school, and I played softball as well, actually. When I was twelve years old, my softball team went to the World Series. We placed third in the nation, so that was a big event. So I've always been involved in sports. And as you can see, I am wearing my Mundelein Lakers

Jersey. And actually, I also have the sweatpants on, too. Yes, I've kept them over 30 years because they were just that comfortable.

Bakalik: So I went on from Mount Assisi High School. I actually played volleyball at Moraine Valley [Community College] for one year, and then I was recruited to play at Mundelein. I actually went and visited a couple different colleges, St. Augustine and I received scholarships from them, but declined them only because I wanted to stay close to home. And Brenda Weare and Maureen Monahan, who was my freshman roommate, was originally recruited from Moraine volleyball to play. And when Maureen got to Mundelein, she said to Brenda Weare, who was the coach at the time, phenomenal coach. She said to Brenda, "Oh no, we have to get Patty up here because she is the best setter this team will ever have." So kudos to Maureen for bringing me to Moraine [Mundelein] and Brenda openly accepting me to come in and play. And so we'll fast forward to that. So when I came to Mundelein, I was like, "it's an all women's school?" And I was so excited to be back in a comfortable setting at Mundelein.

And my experience there was just the best four years of my life. I can't describe it any other way. I would not change anything in my four years there. I loved it so much that I lived on campus all four years. My freshman year in Coffey [Hall] and then my sophomore, junior and senior year at Northland. Coffey was located at 6363 North Sheridan Road and Northland was at 1052 West Sheridan Road. So the two dorm rooms bordered the Skyscraper building and Northland is no longer there. But while the times we had there were pretty great, both dorms just made me feel completely spoiled. When I lived in room 328 in Coffey, as I would fall asleep at night, I would hear the waves crushing up against, not the building, but the wall to the building. And it was just

such a soothing, relaxing sound that I said to myself my freshman year, "I don't think I can ever move away from the lake," and I haven't. I still live on Sheridan Road. So, Mundelein—how can I just say, opened me with open arms and I took my energy from my high school, in high school, I was my junior and senior class president. And I said to Melissa in a prior interview, if it's one thing I never did in high school and college is sleep. Sleep was very low on my agenda. I probably would average maybe, during college, maybe four to five hours of sleep at night just because I was so involved in so many activities which we will eventually go over.

[05:00]

But there is a great quote that I learned at Mundelein, and I have always brought it with me and with this Share Your Story interview, I'd just like to say that what Mundelein has given to me, I would gladly cherish, what I can give to others, I will gladly share. And I have kind of used that as my mantra for my whole adult life and I was given so much at Mundelein, it's emotional. Because the teachers that I had, my coaches, my counselor, everybody was just such kind, giving souls. And what you could share with anybody was just the positivity and your energy. And to take that forward, it was just great, and I know I'm going on, so let me just wrap that up. So at Mundelein, the day I got there was the day I started getting involved. I was in volleyball. I played both volleyball and softball. I was the recipient of the Ann Ida Gannon Leadership Award, which at the time was an integral part of keeping me focused because in order to maintain that award you had to maintain a 3.0 average. And so I was fortunate to be a recipient of that award for the years that I was at Mundelein because coming from the South Side, any scholarship or aid I could get was really helpful. So I was also honored my senior year with the Marilyn Gorski Service Award, which is an award that goes to the seniors that were really an

integral part of Mundelein. And I was also nominated, but not awarded, the Lincoln Award. So I applied for that, but didn't get it. But that's okay. I had other awards too. I was, at the national tournament [for volleyball], I received All-Conference, All-American, and the NLCAA Most Valuable Player at the national tournament. So I had a lot of rewards or awards.

And let's see, so my studies at Mundelein, I'm just going to follow the list that I was given, and I'll just go down that. My studies at Mundelein, I was a communications mass media major. Now, mass media has taken on a completely different approach since 1990. In 1990, we were just getting into the world of computers. I didn't even have a computer in college. I would have to go to the Learning Resource Center in the library or to the scholar office to write any papers. I had a word processor, but I didn't get that until my senior year. And that was, you know, somebody had lent it to me to write my papers, and boy, did that make a world of a difference from a typewriter. My major at Mundelein was communications and mass media. And some of the heads of that department were Sister Mary Alma Sullivan [BVM], Betty Prevender, and Mary Pat Haley [BVM]. And those teachers challenged me like there's no tomorrow. I would get my papers back, and I still actually have some of them. I should have broken them out for this interview, but there would be red from the top of the paper to the bottom of the paper, with all kinds of AP style additions on my papers. And I was like, I can't win here. I can't write an "A" paper to save my life. But what that was was just challenging, and it made me a better writer. So for that, I am forever grateful. Those teachers, Betty Prevender, I will never forget her. She was my hardest teacher, and I just valued all those teachers. They just really challenged me. Some of the activities I was involved in at Mundelein: volleyball, softball, the Women's Athletic Association. My junior year, I was vice president, and then I went on to become president my



senior year. I was a writer for the Scholar newspaper and a sports editor. And then I was also a student class government representative my freshman and sophomore year. And I believe my senior year as well.

[10:00]

Also my senior year, I was co-chair of the graduation committee. And that was kind of one of the most memorable experiences because we really tried so hard to get different speakers for our graduation. And here is my embossed graduation commencement pamphlet. And who we ended up getting as our speaker was a woman named Madeleine L'Engle. And she has written over forty-five different books in her time. And she wrote the famous book "A Wrinkle in Time." And she gave one of the most phenomenal graduation speeches. And she just got up to the podium and spoke of her faith. And it was just a really special event that we were able to wrangle her in and get her as our commencement speaker. Some of the programs I was involved in, I was a search committee member. And what that did is a search committee member would assist the administration for choosing faculty and staff positions along with scholarship candidates. So we would have to sit down with everybody and do some interviews and have questions and the regular interview process. Some of the jobs I had on campus are some of the best jobs I've ever had because they were so much fun. I worked the front desk at Coffey and Northland Hall, and I was also an elevator operator. So at Mundelein, back in the day in the Skyscraper building, the elevators were completely different than they are now. They were the old school elevators that had the big accordion-like iron doors that you would have to shut. And then once you're in the elevator, you'd have to point the handle to go to what floor you wanted. So it was pretty remarkable to have that job.

And then my other job is—I was fortunate enough during the summer of 1988 to live on campus all year round. That enabled me to play sand volleyball every day and increase my vertical. So when Brenda came back, well, it wasn't my senior year because I had to red shirt a year. So I only played volleyball at Mundelein for three years. But when I came back, it increased my vertical by like another four inches. So that really helped my volleyball play. But living on campus over the summer was something I will never forget, it was one of the most unique experiences. I had to prepare the dorm rooms and clean them. And I'm never too good to clean a toilet or a sink, so you got to keep yourself level, and I always have. And I still do that. I actually work at a yoga studio, and I do it because I enjoy yoga and it's a work for trade program, so it's something that I still carry with, you can never be too good to clean a toilet. So living on campus, it was for the weekend students. At that time, we had weekday students, weekend students, and continuing education students at Mundelein. So they really tried to encompass all different kinds of students and wrap their education around to fit your schedule. And they really did that pretty well, I'd say. Let's see, some of the women who made me stronger because of the challenges, definitely Betty Prevender, all of the heads of the communications department. I know I'm forgetting names, but Brenda Weare, my volleyball coach was, she was just a phenomenal, phenomenal coach and guided me really through the right path at Mundelein. And if I was not sleeping, she would get on me and say, "Patty, your brain needs to rest. You can only recuperate through rest, so you need to rest." But yeah, she was great.

[15:00]

And let's see, social activities I participated in, I was involved in MELD workshops. MELD, meaning Mundelein Experience Leadership Development. That's what MELD stood for. And I would give nutrition presentations to the incoming freshmen. I would give orientations for just nutrition and health and try to just be inclusive of our freshman class, and I was also involved in a couple of different leadership exchanges that took place at DePaul College [University], Roosevelt and Columbia. So you would sit down with other leaders from other schools and try to bring in their opinions and suggestions and that. Some of my meaningful experiences at Mundelein include basically my forever friendships. I still am in touch with a lot of the women that played basketball, some of the other girls that played volleyball. Facebook has been wonderful. I still wish Facebook was around when I graduated in 1990. Maybe I would still be in touch with more people.

The one thing that I would really like to see if I could move forward with is, at the time when I was leaving Mundelein, Brenda left—Brenda Weare, the volleyball coach, left Mundelein after my junior year. So she moved to the NCAA. She got a job with the NCAA, so she went from an NLCAA to NCAA, which is a big jump. And she was doing really well there. And we were working on retiring my number eight. And the reason we were working on retiring it was because she said, "Patty, Mundelein never qualified for the national tournament before you came to Mundelein. And each year you were at Mundelein, we qualified for the national tournament," each year I played. So she was really trying to move forward with retiring my number. In '86, technically, my sophomore year, we took third, and then in '87, we took third, and then in 1988, Mundelein took second at the national tournament, which took place in New York—Buffalo,

New York. So in order to even get to nationals, you have to qualify. And our record was so good those three years.

What happened was after my time playing, it increased our record so well that they changed us from an NLCAA College to an NAIA College. And that was a big feat. And then, unfortunately, because we were in a more competitive bracket, being in the NAIA, that we never went back to the nationals. So that was the reason—and I'm certainly not saying this to gloat at this, I'm just making the story for Mundelein, that Mundelein did qualify for the national tournament in '86, '87 and '88 and placed third two of the years and second the last year. And it's really unorthodox for a second place team to get an MVP at the national tournament. And here is my—well, this is just my Mundelein letter. I don't know why, maybe we didn't have the finances that I don't have more than one letter, but this is my All-American medal, which is really heavy. It's a big medal, and it says on the back, "1988 NLCAA All-American." That was that from that tournament. And then this one is my other medal, and this just says, "NLCAA All-Tournament." So I received All-Tournament, All-American, a that is my MVP award from the national tournament. So that's just hoarding stuff. Let me see. Yeah, let me see. What else? I'm sorry.

Q: Do you mind if I ask you a question?

Bakalik: Go ahead.

Q: So could you maybe talk a bit more about your relationship with your coach and experiences, memories that you have, specifically of your interactions with her?

Bakalik: Sure. So Brenda Weare was the volleyball coach before I got there, so I'm not sure what year she started at Mundelein.

[20:00]

Bakalik: I would guess maybe '84 or '85. I'm not sure. But Brenda was such an integral part of the camaraderie of our team. And we actually would get to school in the beginning of August to start practicing volleyball. And we wouldn't just have one or two practices a day. No, Brenda had us on a serious schedule where we would have triples. So we would do three, two hour practices every day, and we would run plays. My position, which I actually never said. I'm only five four. I'm the shortest volleyball player you will ever meet, but I had a pretty insane vertical. I had like a 28-inch vertical, and we would scrimmage, and practice, and run plays. And as a setter, you usually would set a six two, meaning you had two setters. But Brenda wanted to run a five one, which means you have more five players and then one setter. So you have like, back row. Honestly, I can't even coach volleyball anymore, because I don't even understand the sport anymore. It's changed so much with liberos, and it's horrible. I've fallen out of game. I still scrimmage once in a while, but my knees just aren't having it. But Brenda had us on such a serious—I don't want to say exhausting thing, because we all enjoyed being there so much. But she really would run us through before this season would even start. I can remember her taking us to the beach, and we would get in the big maroon van and the whole team would go to the

beach and set up nets and just play in the sand because it really was so much harder than playing on court. And then once you would get on the court, you're like, "Oh, my gosh, I could just jump so high now." So she really was a special lady. And unfortunately, she got sick and passed away far too early. I don't really know the circumstances of what her illness was, but she became ill and passed, and it was such a loss to me because she was just such an important part of my life and coach. Also, there was other—Rich Bollinger was a coach, but he was the basketball coach. He was also really good. And there was another coach after Brenda left. But after Brenda left, I was on Brenda's team, and then after she left, I graduated. So I never played under any other coaches other than Brenda. Yeah. She was just an amazing woman who kept the team in line, and I don't want to say she was a drill sergeant, but we all were very respectful of her. She would get on us, because we like to go out and have fun. We were in college, we'd go to Hamilton's, and we would go out, and she'd be like, "you're all out too late. You need to get some sleep." So she was great.

Another woman who was a big part of my life at Mundelein College and helped me tremendously was Cam C-A-M, Cam Helkowski. She was like a social worker at the school. And whenever-- I would overwhelm myself, it was totally self-induced. I just took on too many activities at one time, and I would just sometimes feel overwhelmed. And after talking to her, she would just take the edge off and say, "You can do this." And there was a time where I was like, "I'm going to be the first graduate in my family from college." And she said, "You got this," because there was a time where I didn't think I was going to have enough money to pay for my classes and my books. And she said, "You're not going anywhere. You're going to stay right here, and you're going to graduate from this institution." So she was really a big part of my life at

Mundelein as well. And I also wanted to show—I brought these handbooks. They were my diaries. They are my college handbooks from 1987, '88, '89 to '90. These handbooks were everybody's diary.

[25:00]

These were your go to books, and they were so great. They were so laid out. In the beginning, it kind of gives you just a little bit about the coat of arms. And these handbooks were great. It showed you where everything was, where the chapel was, where the pool was, where the Learning Resource Center [was]. It just laid everything out. And then in the book, it would just have—they became my diaries. So I have a lot of things written in here, but it would have, like all our college games and everything in here, what was going on, like the McBuddy programs and all. They were literally laid out for every— like these, volleyball practice, volleyball practice, volleyball practice, scholar meeting, Piper Hall reception. These books were just one of the best things that kept me focused and on where to go. And it was nice, because every year they would change the books and put somebody else in the book. And actually, I labeled a lot of the pictures in these books with the people's names, so I would remember them. But as you can see, really quick, lots of labeling. And, oh, this one I just opened up like this one, "Leave for Nationals in New York. Read my book 'East of Eden.'" These are just things that kept you in line. And little books like this, it's amazing how it becomes such a calendar of events and such a wonderful thing to read back on and say, "How did I do that? How did I go to bed at two o'clock in the morning, and I'm up at four thirty in the morning?" Age, I guess. I had more energy.

And I also have a lot of just awards, like my Marilyn Gorski Award. I have a lot of personal letters from the president, not the President of the United States, but I have a lot of presidents from Mary Breslin. Those are just all awards, sorry. These are just like All-Conference awards. This is an All-American award from the NLCAA, National Little College Athletic Association. And these are just like different Mundelein awards for my Ann Ida Gannon recipient award, volleyball team, Women's Athletic Association President, the Scholar. Let's see what else I have here. Student leadership programs. Let's see. Yeah, just freshman class council. Sophomore class council. Yeah, I just kept them all. They're just memorabilia from such a special life there on Sheridan.

Q: That definitely helps you remember everything so much better.

Bakalik: For sure, but there are also some really cool things that I saved from the college after they closed. They put together a booklet to honor the sixty years of excellence that Mundelein provided to so many students. And this is one of the cool—and if you open it up, there's just some really cool pictures in there of the college and students that went there. And it was just neat. Hold on one second, excuse me. This Mundelein Now was—after the Scholar ended, and the school closed, Mundelein continued on with a publication called Mundelein Now. And it would just have some really great—see, like this "Mundelein Affiliates With Loyola" and that's summer of 1991. So I graduated in '90, and they merged with Loyola in '91. So I was not the last class to graduate. The '91 class was. Let me see here. What else? I'm sorry. Oh, here was something really cool. So the packages. What it cost to go to school at Mundelein, kind of some neat stuff.



[30:00]

So Coffey Hall was \$475 per term. Which, you look back at it and you're like, "Okay. How did they stay open?" (Laughs) But yeah, the details of all the financial changes. And these are letters that I wrote to Sister Mary Breslin [BVM] with concerns or something. I was always in contact with the president. A lot of letters that I wrote to her. And this particular letter was about Women's Athletic Casino Night, which was—I was part of that for two years. And that Casino Night was always such a huge event. We would have it in McCormick Lounge, which is in the basement of Coffey Hall. And I don't know if they have changed the names of some of the rooms and everything. Piper Hall and Coffey Hall, there was just always some events going on in both of them. And the casino event, it was such a big project to put together because I had to bring in all the equipment, we had to do all the advertising, we had to get volunteers to work the table. So we would have a poker table, a big six wheel, we would have all kinds of different games there. And it was solely to help the athletic department raise money to get more equipment in the weight room, which was in the basement under 206.

206 was the student lounge. So the student lounge was beautiful. I actually wanted to talk about that. That was another thing. So that was the main reason for the casino events. And it was so disheartening because one year we had people come in who were professional gamblers and what was supposed to help us raise money, they just sat at the table and took money. So being the direct person that I can be sometimes, I had to just walk up to them and say, "Hi, my name is Patty. I'm the president of the athletic association here. This is a charity event that is helping our program raise money." And I just said it as simple as that. And I think he got the hint, and they

kind of left. It's like, you're sitting here, we're trying to raise money, and you're a professional gambler coming in swindling. So anyhow, I don't know if there was any more casino events after that year, and we did end up making that money. We made money every year, but we could have made a lot more if the professional gamblers didn't swing in (laughs). Yeah, that was funny, but it was great because all the people that volunteered, all the students, it was all students that volunteered to come in and sit down with the people to learn how to play poker and blackjack and do the big six wheel, and it was a lot of fun. That was always a fun event. Is there anything else you wanted to ask me, or is there anything else you wanted to talk about?

Q: Oh, definitely. Yeah.

Bakalik: Okay.

Q: Could you talk a bit more about the balance that you had to play between being an athlete and being a student? Like, what was that like? How did you manage that?

Bakalik: So to manage my time was literally living by my Mundelein student handbooks. I would have everything so organized in my books that I would be up at six, probably doing—most of my studies were really done in the early morning or really late at night, because throughout the day, I was either in meetings, in classes, obviously, or also working the front desk. I worked my whole life through Mundelein. I had to pay for my books. That was one thing that I was responsible for. And I did have part athletic, part academic scholarship. So for that, I

was extremely fortunate. And I just balanced the rest by working at the front desk, which opened me up to meeting everybody in both—living in both halls. So I loved working the front desk.

[35:00]

Bakalik: It was like a social life and not a job because I was able to just meet everybody. And so coming in and going out, I would talk to everybody, and of course you have girls that are like, "Oh, can we sneak somebody in?" And I'd be like, "No, because then my job is put in jeopardy. But if I was, like, at the bathroom and you snuck somebody and I didn't see anything." But maybe a couple of people snuck in when they weren't supposed to, but who knows. To balance my time, it was about living by a calendar, because between meetings and college games, I mean, we would go away on the weekends a lot, and so we would leave for our games sometimes on Friday and not come home until Sunday. So I was gone a lot over the weekends with games. And so it was just really time management was a crucial part of being able to graduate on time. But I graduated in four years from Mundelein. Some of my credits transferred over from Moraine, but not too many, actually. I started over as a freshman in 1986, so I was there from '86, and I graduated in '90. And let's see, what else?

Q: Your teammates, how was that relationship after the season ended? And how long was the season itself?

Bakalik: Well, so when I came to Mundelein in '86, then Moraine brought me to Mundelein, and then I went to two of the other teammates that I played at Moraine with, Terri Sullivan and

Karen Russo. And I said to them, "Hey, you guys want to stay in Chicago and go to college? Come on up to Mundelein," because we all play volleyball, so I got them to come up to Mundelein, and they were my sophomore roommates. Northland Hall, can we just say, was like an apartment. Okay. The dorm rooms at Northland Hall were massive in comparison to Coffey. Coffey was like your traditional dorm room. Two beds, two desks. They had some beautiful shelving units in there, too. But Northland was like living in apartments. You got your own phone in your room. You could have a telephone in your room, which was pretty high-tech. And then the rooms have their own bathrooms inside them and massive closets. It was seriously like an apartment. So I figured, why would anybody want to live off campus? These places are great.

And so Northland Hall, I lived with Terri and Karen my sophomore and junior year, and then my senior year, Terri and Karen graduated before I did, so they ended up—I had other roommates my senior year, but everybody—I just wish—Karen and Terri I stay in touch with because we played volleyball together. But like my other roommates, unfortunately, we lost contact. Oh, I did stay in touch with Sabina, but that's only because I found her on Facebook. That's the beauty of Facebook. Facebook does have some good things about it.

Q: How long was the volleyball season?

Bakalik: So the volleyball season would traditionally go—we would start practices in August, and then the season would wrap up by the end of November. Before Thanksgiving. It was usually—yeah, by the end of Thanksgiving, we were done because we were on trimesters at

Mundelein. This is another interesting thing. We are on trimesters at Mundelein. So it was incredible. It was like a crazy study frenzy up until Thanksgiving. And then from, like after Thanksgiving until January, we were out of school. We had an incredibly long winter break. We were out of school from—yeah, I would say for like, it was like a month, it seemed like. So all of December, nobody was really on campus. Yes, the trimesters worked really nice, but the volleyball schedule went from August until mid-November. Yeah.

Q: And then did all of your volleyball teammates kind of disperse into their own things or other—.

[40:00]

Bakalik: Some of the volleyball team lived—most of the volleyball team lived off campus. They had apartments, but usually the freshman and sophomores always lived on campus. But the juniors and seniors, some of them chose to live off campus or in apartments. There was actually an apartment building between the Skyscraper building. So the Skyscraper building, I think was 6363 North Sheridan Road. Then there was, like a little area, and then there was a huge apartment building that was for anybody, not just Mundelein students. And then right next to that apartment building was Northland Hall. So Northland Hall was at 1052 West Sheridan Road. And I believe the Skyscraper—well Coffey Hall I know was 6363. So I don't know if the Skyscraper was a different address. I would think that it was. But one of them was 6363. And actually I was reading through some of my pamphlets and they said that they were changing the

address on the Skyscraper building. So I'm not sure what the address is right now, actually. Some fun facts.

And Piper Hall was just—there was like three places that I would do most of my studies. I would go to the library on Sheridan. And it was like a decompressing area for me because you could literally just sit right on the glass, by the glass windows. There were tables in front of them. You can just stare out and just relax and kind of meditate if you want or just study. And so I was there a lot. A lot of people would also go to the student lounge, which was on the second floor in the Skyscraper buildings. So it was a beautiful room. So the second floor held two great rooms. It held a beautiful chapel. I don't know if the chapel is still there on the second floor, but it was also the student lounge. And the student lounge was a huge formal room with, like, walnut looking walls and sconces and couches. They had, like, pleated window treatment, big comfy chairs. And from what I was told years ago—now, the Tea Room, the cafeteria, was also called the Tea Room, but the student lounge was incredible. It was like such a formal room. And from what I was told, years and years and like in the '50s and '60s, they would have high tea at noon at those rooms. And you would have to—it was at noon, and you would go in, and you would sit down, and you have tea. And it was always very formal. Like it was a formal college. But I think more towards the time that I got there, we were encouraged to dress up for class. But a lot of times I was running around like a goof. And so I was always in sweats, and I would show up to class, and I'd be like, okay, I got to up my game here. I look a little bit more presentable in my classes. And so that was kind of nice.

There were some really, really great women, so many incredible students that I have a lot of their names, if you would ever want to reach out to some of them. Katherine Humphries, Susan Wyatt, Pam Liebfreid, Catherine Stats who I played volleyball with. Catherine was brilliant. She was—before I became the president of the Women's Athletic Association, she was the president, and she was brilliant. I think she works at DePaul right now, or she did at one time. But Catherine Stats—Susan Wyatt, who I co-chaired the graduation committee with, she was phenomenal. I think she graduated either magna or summa cum laude. Just incredible students that were so inspirational to me on so many levels that—by nature I'm competitive, and I'd be like, "How do they just get a 4.0? How do you get that 4.0 and just maintain it for all four years?" In these books, it would always have, like the student government. So this one, the president was Katherine Humphrey. She was the student government president. I can recall her just being an incredible student all the time.

[45:00]

A lot of these students that was awarded the Marilyn Gorski Award with me my senior year. Ruth Frane, Catherine Humphrey, which I mentioned. Ling Ling Lee. She was amazing. Elizabeth Lillig, Nellie Robles, my old roommate Terri Sullivan, Rita Thorpe, Jean Becker. I mean, there's just so many people that I just wonder what happened to them and where they moved on to and, gosh, it sure would be great to see them and reunite with them, because I'm sure my story is pale in comparison to what they have to offer.

Q: And could I ask you about writing for The Scholar as a sports editor? What kind of stories did you cover? Do you remember anything about that period?

Bakalik: I sure do. So let it be known right here. I was definitely not The Scholar's best editor or writer. I would struggle to find things to write about, but I always covered our sports. Before 1985, I'm not really sure if they had softball. I know they had a basketball team and a volleyball team, but I'm not really sure how many years Mundelein actually had all three sports. So I would just cover basically the records. And I would interview the athletes, and I would interview the coaches, and I would just cover their records and how they were doing and that. And then I would also have to do a feature article, which in—I know I have it here, but I covered the Bulls. So let me just say I predicted the whole Bulls' dynasty in the '90s because in one of the articles I said, "So we're getting this new guy, Michael Jordan, to the Bulls. He's going to be a good guy to watch." This is before he even ever became—I said, "You want to keep your sights on Michael Jordan. I think he's going to take the Bulls to new records," and that happened.

So let me see if I can find. Hold on one second. Yeah. So these are a lot of the Mundelein Scholar articles, and sports was always the very last page. So these are the sports articles. And there she is. Taking my sports articles and correcting them—tense. So she would take my articles, like I would write "From the press box, Patty Bakalik," and she would go over my articles. But it was a computer. It was a totally different way of writing. We would have to submit our articles, and then somebody would rewrite the article on the computer or if they didn't have time, we would do it. But it was like sharing computers a lot of the time to get our articles in before print. So it was always kind of a rush last minute. So, yes, there were a lot of errors,



and I'm almost embarrassed to show them [laughs], but it is what it is. But there were some really good articles like this one, "Campaign Begins to Raise Funds." So there's just some really good articles. I'm trying to remember. I think it was once a month. It came out like once a month. I think we did the Scholar articles, but I could be corrected. The editor, and I believe her name was Pam Lee Frida at the time. Actually, there was a couple of different editors—now on this one, it was Lorelei Bubser, and the news editor was Tamara Seewata. So, yeah, on the inside of each—but on the inside of each Scholar paper, there would be a layout of who contributed to each Scholar year. That's kind of neat. But yeah, these papers are so much fun to go through and just reread them and it's fun.

Q: Can I ask you a technology question?

Bakalik: [inaudible]

Q: So you mentioned before that you would do homework on computers, or there were typewriters. What was a word processor? What's the difference between all that? I'm sorry. I feel bad, but I have to ask.

[50:00]

Bakalik: No, so a word processor—and I still have it at my mom's house actually. It was like a computer, but it wasn't a computer with like a screen the way it is now. It was like a giant machine, and it probably weighed about seven pounds, and you would just like, carry it around

and it would plug into the wall. But it was like a computer in the sense that you could go back and edit your sentences. But I can remember I wrote like a couple of different papers, and I would get to the end of the paper, and it would just glitch on me and I'd lose my whole paper. And it happened on more than one occasion and there was no -- sinking feeling—and you couldn't even make it up and tell the teacher, "Oh, I wrote my whole paper and lost it" because everybody was still doing typewriters, and it was like the floppy disks that they came with. We weren't even handing in our papers. We were literally just handing in papers like this. I mean, it was not done on a disk or it wasn't done on a thumb drive or anything. It was just the technology was pretty archaic.

And so a word processor, to answer your question, is basically the first—prior to a computer, we had word processors. And I only had it because somebody let me use theirs, and then they went on in a few years to decide that they didn't want to use it anymore. So I was a recipient of somebody's word processor. Otherwise, all my papers were handed in by typewriter. And one of the teachers, I think it was my philosophy teacher, wanted everything single space, not double-spaced, so we would have to hand in—I mean, every teacher wanted something different. Some teachers wanted single space, some teachers wanted double space. So it was great (laughs).

Q: Well, one of my final questions that I have is just kind of, I don't know, not a wrap up question, but just a general question of, how would you say that Mundelein has influenced you into the person that you are today?

Bakalik: Great question. Mundelein really gave me confidence. Because coming into Mundelein, when I went from an all-girls high school and I got into Moraine Valley, my junior college, I was in school with guys for the first time and I never wanted to raise my hand and answer a question. I just felt stifled and nervous and judged. But there was no reason for me to be like that. That was just in my own head. Nobody was judging me. I just didn't have the confidence. Well, guess where I went after I graduated from Mundelein, I started working on the trade-- at the Board of Trade on the floor with all men. So apparently I shook my nervous tensions, and it gave me the confidence. And I started on the trading floor just as a runner. And I worked my way up. I went from runner to, making \$150 a week, by the way, which is why I bartended on the side to supplement my income. But I made more bartending than I did at the Board of Trade at the time. But I started working at the Board of Trade as a runner for Shearson Lehman. And I worked my way up that totem pole. I did every facet of the job on the trading floor that one could possibly do. I started out as a runner, then I moved up to trade checker. Then I was like a broker's assistant. Then I traded, and I retired at forty from there. So it gave me the confidence to do whatever I wanted to do. The women that molded me, molded my mind. It was just constant support, constant inspiration, constant kindness. Show love, give love. And that's what somebody is going to give to others. And I'm just so grateful and appreciative for everything that Mundelein has done for me. For the confidence it gave me.

[55:00]

And I would never change anything from that experience because everything was just easy. And whenever I had a problem, there was always somebody you could turn to and talk to. There was just a camaraderie between my teammates, between the teachers. It was just constant support.

And without that, I don't know if I would have ever finished college. So I'm grateful, and I've gone on. I do a lot of charity work. I'm actually the Chicago Merchandise Coordinator with the United States Marine Corps and Toys For Tots program. So I'm always doing events. Right now is a very busy time of year for me. I have two huge events this weekend for Toys For Tots. So that's what I carry on. I don't have any children, so I give back to children through programs like that.

Q: That's wonderful. Thank you so much for everything that you've shared with me today. You've got some great experiences and memories, and it's just been really wonderful to listen to everything.

Bakalik: Yeah. If you would like me to bring any of my memorabilia or any of these pamphlets or booklets or anything. I'm more than happy to bring them and share them with you. Not give them, but you can make copies or whatever you want. But. Yeah. So we can conclude this with something that I got and something that I just said earlier, and it was "What Mundelein has given me, I will gratefully cherish. What I can give to others, I will gladly share." And that's on the card from graduation. And it's just a Mundelein membership card. So I've always carried that with me.

Q: Yeah, that's wonderful. That's a great quote. Well, I will wrap up the recording. Just want to say thank you once more, and I'll stop the recording and then we can still talk for a second.

Bakalik: Okay.

[END OF INTERVIEW]