

SHARE YOUR STORY: STUDENT LIFE AT MUNDELEIN

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Kelly Craig Buckhalter's Oral History

Women and Leadership Archives

Loyola University Chicago

2021

PREFACE

The following oral history is the result of a recorded interview with Kelly Craig Buckhalter conducted by Chris Mattix on November 19, 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

[0:00 - 5:00]: Introductions, family background, choosing Mundelein, major, and her classes.

[5:00 - 10:00]: Attending Mundelein when technology was developing (CAD), the campus, and not being Catholic.

[10:00 - 15:00]: How campus has changed, Sister Jean, and world events.

[15:00 - 20:00]: Professors/faculty that made an impact, campus job, and getting rosary beads from Sister Katherine Forsyth.

[20:00 - 25:00]: Not being Catholic on campus, living on-campus in Coffey Hall, living off-campus, and roommates.

[25:00 - 30:00]: Living in Coffey Hall, dining hall food, and activities around campus.

[30:00 - 35:00]: Social activities/extracurriculars, living off-campus with her boyfriend, and move-in day for the dorms.

[35:00 - 40:00]: Loyola and Mundelein merging and being one of the last Mundelein classes.

[40:00 - 44:22]: Graduation, going back to campus, and wrap up.

NARRATOR BIO

Kelly Buckhalter (nee Craig) was a student at Mundelein College from 1987-1992. She lived on campus in Coffey Hall and worked at the switchboard in the Skyscraper building. She was part of one of the last classes to graduate from Mundelein and recalls what it was like to affiliate with Loyola.

INTERVIEWER BIO

Chris Mattix was a graduate student in the Public History Master's program at Loyola University Chicago and a graduate assistant at the Women in Leadership Archives in 2021-2023. Chris received their bachelor's degree in history and human communication from Western Michigan University in 2020 and focuses on the history of the LGBTQIA+ community.

Transcriptionist: Chris Mattix

Interviewee: Kelly Craig Buckhalter

Locations: Chicago, IL and Tampa, FL via Zoom

Interviewer: Chris Mattix

Date: November 19, 2021

[BEGINNING OF INTERVIEW]

[0:00]

Q: For the record, my name is Chris Mattix. I am a grad assistant at the Women and Leadership Archives. I'm interviewing Kelly Craig Buckhalter, the Class of '92, on November 19, 2021, for the Share of Your Story: Student Life at Mundelein Project. I am in Chicago, Illinois, and Kelly is in Tampa, Florida. To start us off, Kelly, could you just tell me a little bit about yourself and your family, like where you were born and where you were raised?

Buckhalter: Okay. I was actually born on the south side of Chicago in Chicago Heights. I was raised in the south suburbs. I actually went to high school in northwest Indiana and ended up at Mundelein because my high school sweetheart went to Loyola. And yes, he was a year ahead of me, so he spent a year there. And then when I graduated, the Sisters of the Blessed Virgin Mary accepted me and I headed off to Loyola, or Mundelein at that time.

Q: So you mentioned your high school sweetheart went to Loyola. Was there any other driving factor for why you chose Mundelein?

Buckhalter: No. I mean, I thought the school was cute. I did like the fact that it was small. My brother went to Purdue and I would have gotten just swallowed up in a school that large, just would not have been for me. I would never have probably seen graduation day. So the school itself—once I realized, of course, he was at Loyola and I wanted to be near him. But the school itself was perfect for what I needed and limited distractions and small class sizes. And I think freshman year I thought I could get away with not showing up to a class, and I was in my dorm, Coffey Hall. And I received a call—at that point, the phones were in the hallways of the dorm, and I got a knock on my door and another student said that Sister Katharine Forsyth was on the phone for me. And I went to the phone and she questioned why I wasn't in class that day. So I quickly realized that I wasn't just a number, that it mattered, I mattered. Me showing up in class mattered. I wasn't at a school like my brother Purdue with thousands of students or hundreds in classes. So I quickly learned about the culture of the school—and got a reminder of why I was there. It was what I needed.

Q: Yeah. Great. So what did you study while you were at Mundelein?

Buckhalter: I studied interior architecture and design, so I got a Bachelor of Fine Arts. At that time, Joy Monice Malnar was the head of the program, and she was a very well known architect in the city and just came with a lot of experience and was very good also at teaching and guiding us.

Q: And what were some of your courses like?

Buckhalter: We had a variety, but everything that was at the beginning of computer aided drafting, or CAD. So at that time, everything was done by hand. I mean, you were hand-drafting, and it was beautiful to me, but we—I did a lot of art courses, of course, architecture, architectural history. We even had a semester outside of the city, a big lighting company to learn more about the specifics of lighting and all those details as it pertained to, you know, interior architecture and design. So it was really great. Like I said, it was a small group so we really learned from one another and of course from the classes. But her and her husband Frank were both a big part of that program at the time.

[05:00]

Q: So you mentioned CAD was like rolling out and you went to school in the late '80s, early '90s. So what was it like? I'm sure that was a point of like technological—technology coming into the campus.

Buckhalter: Yes.

Q: Would you mind talking a little bit more about that and what that was like?

Buckhalter: (Laughs) Well, I was fortunate that my high school sweetheart, his father, he worked for Illinois Central Gulf Railroad, and he was a vice president and held a really high position. So

my boyfriend had got kind of the best of everything. So he had his own computer in his apartment. And so I began every paper, everything I had to do as far as that type of stuff, I was doing in the convenience of his apartment off-campus because not everyone had computers. Definitely nothing like it is now. In fact, at that time, you would have—probably the majority of the students would have had to have gone to the library to access a computer and a printer and all of those things. So it was definitely like I said, the phones were in the hallway of the dorms, of course, no cell phones. And, you know, the library, you still use the Dewey Decimal System. Is that what it's called with the cards? I don't even know. It's been so long since I've been in a library. I don't even know if they're still there. I would assume it has to be. But it was definitely a different time for sure.

Buckhalter: And again, the beginning of CAD. We weren't really even exposed to it at that time because the school didn't have the programs. But we were aware of it and was new, but we definitely appreciated the fact that we were learning true drafting—the art of drafting too.

Q: Were there any experiences you had at Mundelein that you found meaningful either at the time or looking back?

Buckhalter: You know, I wasn't raised Catholic, so the whole environment was really pretty cool. Across the street at the time was a large building for retired nuns. So you would see the nuns in their habits. Directly behind Coffey Hall was the—it's not really considered a church, I can't think of what they called it—it's beautiful—were masses. I can't believe I can't think of what it's

called. Anyway, that's on the lakefront as well. So every day the bells would ring for mass, and it was just a really cool environment. The campus was beautiful. We used to go sit out in the grass at Loyola on the lakefront, and the squirrels would literally just crawl into our laps. So it's kind of interesting—I took my daughters back there about five years ago, and I told them all about the squirrels. Well, it was interesting, there really were no squirrels anymore, but all these rabbits. We kept seeing rabbits, but they really wanted to experience what I had experienced. And it wasn't just an occasional thing with these squirrels. They literally, if you sat down, they were ready, they would come on your lap and let you feed them. But I don't know if—I saw that there was a lot of construction, new buildings, and maybe that changed things. But just the whole experience of being in the city, and it was just a great experience.

Another thing I tell everyone is Coffey Hall sat right on the water, and the student lounge was at the very end of the building facing out to Lake Michigan. And the only thing between the building and the water was a walkway. But in the wintertime, the water, it got so windy of course—and cold, that the end of Coffey Hall would literally be a sheet of ice up to the third floor just from the waves hitting. And it was just beautiful. I have to say it was a great experience.

Q: So we kind of talked about the technological changes happening on campus. Did you see any other changes while you're on campus from the time you started Mundelein to when you graduated?

[10:00]

Buckhalter: No, because will I say things were pretty much, even the apartments in the area, things were pretty much probably the way they had been for years. There was a brand-new dorm being built at the corner of Winthrop Avenue and Sheldon [Sheridan], which is now obviously probably like thirty years old. And we lived in an apartment right behind where that was being built. Everything the land had been cleared out from our apartment up to Sheldon Road [Sheridan Road], and then that was being built at the time. So that was the newest thing, but everything else—and I was so surprised to go back and see all the changes. But we also lived right across the street on Winthrop from a youth hostel. I'm not sure if it's still there. And we would meet kids from all over the world just coming through. They were backpacking, but they came from Europe and of course, they would hang outside and we would just socialize with people. We'd walk our dog. And that was really interesting also at the time because a lot of them were our age and that was pretty cool.

Q: I was going to ask because you said you had been back. What was it like stepping back on campus and seeing what had changed?

Buckhalter: It was beautiful. I thought all the changes were really nice. One interesting thing that happened, and I get the chills even talking about it, to be honest. So we're sitting outside of the chapel—I know that's not what it's called and I can't believe I can't think what it's called.

Anyway, and it's around noon, so noon mass is going to be starting. So the bells are chiming, and it's me and my daughters and my mom, and a lady comes walking by. And so we start talking to

her, and it's Sister Joan Therese [Correction - Sister Jean Dolores Schmidt, BVM], who is the only remaining nun on campus and is now famous for going to the basketball games at Loyola. And we started talking to her and she was one of the ones—she was in the admissions area, and so she was one of the people that I dealt with in coming in. And sad fact is in May of my freshman year, my dad passed away, and so I didn't get to finish out the end of that semester traditionally. And the nuns were so gracious. And of course, she was one of the people back then that I was communicating with—you know, as far as making up for the time I had missed after my dad's death.

But it was pretty crazy. The one person that's left on campus, and I'm sitting there with my daughters and there she is. She's walking past us, and I just struck up a conversation with her. I can't even remember what I was asking her. I didn't even realize who I was talking to until I started talking to her. And of course, she looked pretty much the same. but it was really cool. And then, of course, we saw her on TV when the basketball team was doing so well. And my daughters thought that was really cool. And just the other day I was looking up a meme to send to a friend, and there's her picture. It's just in my phone under a meme. She's cheering at the basketball game in her colors. And I'm like, oh, my gosh, that is just so cool.

Q: Yeah. Were there any specific like, world or national events that you recall more than others that happened while you were on campus?

Buckhalter: Not that I recall, to be honest. I guess that's not a good thing or a bad thing, but yeah, I don't recall anything while I was in college other than the very first Earth Day. I do remember the very first Earth Day was held along the lakefront. And I'm not sure what year that was—'88, it could have been '90, but that was one kind of major thing. I remember going to into the city, and that was the first one that was being celebrated.

[15:00]

Q: That's awesome. So you mentioned running into Sister Jean. Were there any other faculty or staff members at Mundelein that had a big impact on you?

Buckhalter: I will say definitely Sister Katharine Forsyth. I did work at the switchboard for a couple of years, which was of course interesting, because it is what you would expect like an old school switchboard, and then mail would come in there it was in the Skyscraper building right on the first floor. So the nuns would come in and pick up their mail and any messages or phone calls. And so it gave me a little bit of an insight. And I do have a rosary that Sister Katharine gave to me while I was working in the switchboard, but that was just a really neat experience and something—I mean I was one of, I think, two other students who did that while I was there. So it was kind of cool. Did I say Sister Joan Therese Scanlan earlier not Sister Jean?

Q: Maybe

Buckhalter: I might have. Okay, well, you said Sister Jean. I'm like, wait a second. Sister Jean Dolores Schmidt.

Q: Yeah.

Buckhalter: And it's so funny, you know their whole name. It's not just—you know.

Q: Right.

Buckhalter: **(laughs)**

Q: I know exactly who you're talking about because Sister Jean has become like the unofficial mascot from Loyola. [laughs]

Buckhalter: Yes.

Q: Let's see. So you mentioned you worked at the switchboard in the Skyscraper. What was the day-to-day like there?

Buckhalter: It was just answering—handling the phone calls, coming in for the Sisters, for any administration. It was fairly busy, but you know, it was a great job for a nineteen year-old college student. Of course, it was very flexible if you needed things. And the lady who was in charge, her name was Elaine, and she wasn't a nun or anything. She's a regular person who got a job at the—running the switchboard at the school. And I've often thought about her. I've even tried to find her on social media, but I haven't been able to.

But it was a great experience. They were all so—just so friendly, and I don't know, I hate to say not what you would expect. You would expect them to be very stern. And that was the one thing I have to say—they were regular people, like they were regular, just like you and I. And, you know, as a student, you would think that they were a little bit different. You don't expect them to be normal, but they are. They're like you and I. They have regular lives, and they're not perfect, but they were definitely awesome. And at that time, they didn't wear the habits either. So they were like one of the first—the nuns at that time in the '80s and '90s, from what I can understand, they were one of the first groups that didn't wear the habits. So if you saw the retired nuns across the street, they would walk around in their habits. But they—this generation, they didn't have to wear them.

Q: At the switchboard, are there any stories or events that happened that stick out to you?

Buckhalter: I hate to say it, but no. I mean, like I said, the day that Sister Katharine gave me my rosary beads, that's just always set up my mind and there wasn't anything surrounding it other than what I had been going through personally and I'm not even Catholic. For me they were memento—they weren't something that I used like she would have used them, but it was more of a memento and a gesture, like a gesture of kindness. But that's really one of my main memories. And I couldn't tell you why, of everything on a regular basis. But yeah, there was never too much excitement happening. It's a pretty mellow place.

[20:00]

Q: Kind of going off of that. What was it like going to Mundelein, like a Catholic women's college while not being Catholic? Was that kind of like a culture shock?

Buckhalter: It really was. On certain days you'd go into the Skyscraper because that's where all the classes were. And so you'd smell frankincense burning. I had never smelled frankincense in my life. And just some of those rituals that over time became normal to me. But initially—but yes, that's one of the things that really the noon masses always stood out because I could hear the bells. I mean, you could hear them all over campus and the frankincense, and they would do it right at the stairs going up. That's where it was. But it just permeated that main corridor when you came in.

But yes—as far as the student life, there was no difference being there among the other girls, there wasn't a presence of—it was just a regular dorm, you know dorm life. The Sisters were up

on the higher levels of the Skyscraper. You knew that—that was always very intriguing. You kind of wondered what it was like up there, because you never really got to go up to where the Sisters lived. But I did—when we were there with my daughters, the Skyscraper was under renovations, and so we were adventurous and went up just to see it. And the views were magnificent. Amazing views from the top floors of that Skyscraper. Just gorgeous. But I felt like I was someplace I shouldn't be. [laughs] But they were turning it into classrooms and things like that—no one was living up there. But yes, it was always very mysterious. So all those years later, getting to go back up there and look out those windows that they looked out. But yes, the views were just gorgeous.

Q: Yeah, it's a beautiful campus.

Buckhalter: It really is.

Q: So you mentioned you lived in Coffey Hall. How do you feel that living on campus affected your time at Mundelein?

Buckhalter: I will say it definitely—like in student housing, I think everyone should do it, you know. I have a daughter, two daughters who are getting close to college-age. And that's one thing I think everyone should experience when you go to college. I know people—I know a lot of people right now in my world are talking about whether their kids are going to go away or they're going to live at home and go to University of Central Florida or South Florida, which is in

Tampa or University of Tampa or a junior college. And I have taken all that everyone's saying, but you do—that experience of living on campus, even if it's just one year, I think it is awesome. I think it's awesome. It teaches you a lot. You have to learn to live with other people, and you have rules. Because like I said, I did it both—I lived on-campus, and I lived off-campus. And when I lived off campus, I was literally right next to, I think it—well, my old building has been knocked down. I do know that, and I believe Loyola owns that, so there's something in place of it. But we were practically living on-campus even when we lived off-campus. But just that experience of being in student housing was just really cool. Fun nights and silliness, and like I said, that student lounge at the end of Coffey Hall on the water. It was a beautiful place to go and relax, and it was just a great experience.

Q: Do you remember any of your roommates at the time?

Buckhalter: I do. In fact, I'm still in touch with one of my roommates, and then I have some other friends that I'm in touch with through social media who were in the—you know, across the hall from me. And I do have one roommate I haven't been able to locate. And she was—she and I lived actually off-campus for a year in a building that used to be on the other side of the Skyscraper that doesn't exist anymore. It was like a courtyard—beautiful courtyard apartments. But yes, I haven't been able to reach her, but I do keep in touch with a few.

[25:00]

Q: Great. Do you have any stories of anything that pops into your mind when you think of Coffey Hall or living on-campus or near campus?

Buckhalter: You know, I would say Coffey Hall, and it was with Jeanette, who is one of the people I keep in touch with. Just, as I said, just that—it was just such a different time. There were no distractions of cell phones. And I look at the difference between the way people interact now and back then. We literally would sit up all hours of the night and order pizza, and eat garbage, and talk and do kind of girl things—facials and that type of stuff. But there was just no distraction—it was all conversation and having, I hate to say it, but like, good, wholesome fun. And nowadays, I watch my daughters and you have a group of people hanging out and everyone's on their phones, even adults—even adults, we're all guilty of it, although I try to not do that. And I think a lot of people try when you're with your friends, to put the phones aside. I think we're all getting to that point where everyone feels technology kind of takes over our lives and you kind of want more face-to-face, and you want to feel a little normalcy, especially after 2020. So those are my big memories of being in Coffey Hall in the dorms. It's just those moments. There's nothing major that stands out, but rather just the time and the way life was. To talk on the phone, you had to go out in the hallway and talk and everyone could hear your conversations. It was almost like a payphone hanging on the wall. I don't even think there were tele—I don't think most people had televisions in their dorm rooms. It was pretty basic, simple.

Q: I've got to ask, while you're living on-campus, did they have on-campus dining?

Buckhalter: Yes.

Q: Okay. I gotta ask, was it good or bad? Because I know on-campus dining is very divisive. It's either great or terrible.

Buckhalter: It was decent. There weren't a ton of options. I think probably my daughter's high school has more dinner options. But it was one of those things, if you didn't like what was being served, we would just run up to Popeyes or grab pizza or Chinese or whatever else. But it was decent.

Q: You mentioned Popeyes. So I'm also going to ask, what kind of activities did you get up to around campus? Were there any businesses you frequented or restaurants you and your friends hung out at or anything like that?

Buckhalter: There were a few places, but they were kind of out of the way. I do remember there's a Kinko's Copies across from Loyola. And really when you had papers and things like that, that's where people went to print out anything major that you had. I mean, it's so different—I went by a FedEx place, and I'm like that must have been like an old Kinko's because it was huge. But back then Kinko's Copies, and I'm sure it's not there anymore, and if it is, it's probably a FedEx or something. But yes, there was a story of a male friend who worked at Kinko's Copies and decided when the boss wasn't there one day to sit on the copy machine and make a copy of his bare butt, and he fell through the glass—broke the glass on the copier, cut up his butt (laughs).

[30:00]

And then, of course, the trips on the 'L' train, because the stop is right there. Those were always priceless and an adventure, but fun. One thing we used to like to do, too, is we had a car, so we would go north up to the Bahá'í temple. Have you ever seen that? It's so gorgeous. And I remember the first time—I'll never forget the first time driving up there, just taking a drive, enjoying the lakefront and seeing where it took us. And coming up on that temple. And we had no idea what it was. It was just so beautiful. But we did a lot of driving around. We'd drive up to Northwestern's campus and drive around. We never went to any parties or anything there, but just kind of exploring. I did a lot of exploring.

Q: You've got to when you're in Chicago, right?

Buckhalter: Yes, I did try to stay away from public transportation, but you can't—I took a bus to downtown once. I didn't like that. If I had to travel, I preferred the 'L,' but that was always, like I said, always an adventure.

Q: So what sort of social activities did you participate in? Like any on-campus student organizations or anything like that?

Buckhalter: You know what? I guess the first sorority at Mundelein started while I was there, so I was going to get involved in it, and then I decided not to. I don't know if it's still there, but I do

know that—I think it started in 1987 maybe—but it was something new to the school, and they were going to start trying to do socials with Loyola fraternities and things like that. I think my boyfriend at the time was involved in one of the fraternities, so I tended to do things with him and with that fraternity. And we both lived forty-five minutes to an hour outside of the city. So we would go home probably every other weekend and see our family and stuff like that.

But we had an off-campus apartment—which you know back in the day that was kind of—for us to be living together was a little risqué. (laughs) There were a lot of things that led to that. I think my dad's passing was a big thing for both of our families, so that was something that just kind of worked out for us, and it was—very great experience. Great. We had a lot of fun. We tended to socialize, though, and hang out more with our neighbors in our apartments unless we were going home, because we did live so close. Because he also grew up in the south suburbs. But we tended to socialize with our neighbors. And like I said, we would go out and walk our dog and talk to people from the youth hostel across the street. But that was probably pretty much it. We didn't really get involved in any clubs other than his fraternity.

Q: Do you remember what your first year orientation was like at all?

Buckhalter: My—I'm sorry?

Q: Your first year orientation?

Buckhalter: I don't. I remember my move-in day and I actually still keep a picture of me and my parents on the—next to my bed stand. It's from my official first move-in day in my dorm, and that was just so exciting, pulling up and unloading your things. And I remember watching my parents drive away—I was only seventeen when I got there—and watching my parents drive away and that feeling as a seventeen-year-old college student. But yes, they took us around the school, showed us everything. It's a small campus, but everyone was very friendly. The residents assistants were always—actually my dorm room was across the hall from the RA—but there was never anything bad happening back then. We were—I don't think anyone tried to sneak anyone in—I mean maybe, but I don't, no one that I knew anyway.

[35:00]

Q: Do you know of any guest speakers or performers at Mundelein that stand out in your memory?

Buckhalter: No, I don't remember anything like that happening. No, I don't recall anything like that.

Q: Yeah. So let's see. So you were around in 1991, Loyola and Mundelein affiliated.

Buckhalter: Yes.

Q: Would you mind talking a little bit about what that was like for you, yourself, and the campus environment?

Buckhalter: Right. I do recall it being a big deal, and I think people—there were a lot of people that took pride in Mundelein and the history behind it, and I think a lot of us were worried about what would come of that. And like I said, after all those years, there was a pride associated with being part of the school. And for me personally—so we were given a choice that we could graduate with a Loyola degree or graduate with the Mundelein. And I chose my Mundelein. I stayed true, although I did—by the time I graduated, it was Mundelein College of Loyola. I don't know if that's what it's still called. How do they—is it even referred to at this point or?

Q: Yeah. So nowadays on campus, I believe Mundelein—it's no longer like a separate College.

Buckhalter: Okay.

Q: I think when people refer to the Skyscraper, they call it—it's now Mundelein—the Mundelein Building. And I think they do like theater.

Buckhalter: Okay. Yes. Because the graduation was actually held in the Skyscraper in the theater section. And I don't know how many people went the way I went and chose that, but it definitely was a sense of pride. And that's why I did it, because obviously Loyola is more well-known. So

to have that piece of paper which who really looks at that. But it was for me, it was a pride thing. I wanted to stay true to my school. So I think a lot of people felt like that. But you didn't really realize at the time that you were part of something that was kind of coming to an end. And I was really surprised when I was at the school to find out that Sister Jean was the only nun left on the campus. I mean that really shocked me—that really shocked me. Going back to what we were saying, it kind of made me realize that we really were, like that was such a—I guess it was a big deal it was—we were young, so you don't really realize the impact. But now looking back, and I think, like I said, after I ran into her by chance and found out she was the only one left, I was just so shocked—and a little sad and shocked, but just time moves on—time moves on.

Q: So you were the second to last class—in the second to last class to graduate from Mundelein, and you said it was in the theater. Was there anything else from your graduation that sticks out at all?

Buckhalter: I just know I had a lot of my family there. Again, you have a sense of pride, and I have a picture I can submit in front of the Skyscraper with my diploma and my cap and gown.

[40:00]

And it was just a beautiful ceremony. And of course, it was smaller, just on such a different level than some of the bigger schools. But like I said, it was just beautiful and bittersweet, I think, as you mentioned, because we all knew that change was coming. No one really knew what that would look like. And to be honest, once I graduated, I never really went back because I was—

you start your life. I was in the suburbs. I wasn't on the north side of the city anymore, so I didn't really see all the changes. So coming back all those years with my daughter, and that was the first time, I think, that I could remember. I mean, I remember stepping foot back on campus. It was a long time. It was like stepping back in time and then seeing Sister Jean and finding out everything she was telling us. It was just crazy.

Q: So we are reaching the end of the questions I've prepared for today. But I just wanted to give you this opportunity to put on the record like any other stories you have from Mundelein, like any cool events or just things that stick out in your memory that you wanted to share.

Buckhalter: I don't know. I think I've pretty much shared everything. One fun fact, and you won't probably know anything about—maybe you will, maybe you won't: So the Sister who ran, she was Sister Joan Therese Newhart. Sister Newhart was in charge of the library. Is that still there? I don't know if it's a library. It was on the lakefront, too, right next to Coffey Hall.

Q: So I know that a couple of different buildings acted as library for Mundelein. I know that they had Piper Hall, where the WLA [Women and Leadership Archives] is now was the library.

Buckhalter: Okay.

Q: Then I know that they outgrew that and built Sullivan right across the street from Piper.

Buckhalter: Okay.

Q: But I don't know exactly where it was in the '90s.

Buckhalter: Anyway, so Sister Joan Newhart's brother is the actor Bob Newhart, comedian and actor. He's even—most recently on The Big Bang Theory. He's been on there. He's Professor Neuron—anyway. But that was kind of cool on campus, knowing that one of the nun's brother was a superstar, which at the time, he was a lot more well known. But that was just a little fun fact. But, yes, I think I pretty much—I hate to say nothing like too exciting happened during my time, but it was definitely a good—great experience. Very memorable and very—I don't know how to describe it. I have nothing but good, warm memories. Everyone was amazing. And again, all the nuns and the teachers, the students, it was a great group of people. It was a great experience.

Q: Great. Well, I wanted to thank you so much for sharing your stories with me. I really appreciate your time as well. I'm going to stop the recording, but I am going to ask you to stay on with me for. Just a little while. We'll talk about what's going to happen next.

Buckhalter: Okay. Perfect.

[END OF INTERVIEW]