

Oral History Interview--Bernie Graham, 2020 July 30th

Interview participants:

Christopher N. Breiseth

Tim Gilmour

Jim Rodechko

Suzanna Calev

Bernie Graham (interviewee)

Transcribed by Huda Khan

Christopher Breiseth: Well, let me begin this auspicious interview, I don't know who has talked to you Bernie about this project which has been going on for how long now? 5 years maybe?

Jim Rodechko: Probably yeah

CB: It started with Dr. Mike I think who really took the initiative and it kinda grew like topsy. Jim I think you were on the very first one as well.

JR: I think so yeah

CB: We roped Jim Rodechko into it, umm we just started picking people we thought had an important story to tell in terms of Wilkes.

JR: Could I interrupt for a minute? Are we being recorded now?

Suzanna Calev: Yes.

JR: Oh okay, thank you!

CB: I think you'll have to hold that thought for later then

TG: Yeah he wasn't going to say that, he's being recorded.

[Laughter of Jim]

CB: So anyway, we got into this and umm there were several different changes among the staff and the Harold Cox archives, so at one point Fred Sullivan's daughter was the person doing the recording and now we've got Suzanna who is fantastic, and she's not only helping us organize these meetings and recording it, she's working on having people do transcripts of the recordings, but she's finding earlier efforts made by earlier generations of recorded interviews. So, we're ending up with a richer sense of personalities and how they interpret their own situation at Wilkes and how they interpret Wilkes. And one of the questions we ask to get a people's perception of the Wilkes culture, and what is different about it from the academic cultures been part of it, other institutions, but before that, we want to get a sense of the person's own autobiography, not a whole memoir but a sense of where you grew up, how you got interested in the field of pharmacy. So why don't we start there, and just tell us who Bernie Graham is and where he came from.

Bernie Graham: I was born in Bridgeport Connecticut, grew up in Troy, New York and later moved to Waterford, New York . I have an identical twin brother (Ben), an older brother and two younger sisters. I went to a local catholic high school and then went to Albany College of Pharmacy. Both Ben and I went to Albany pharmacy and we were first generation college students. The only really educated person in our family was my godmother who was probably one of the first woman pharmacist's in the state of Connecticut and we used her as a role model. Albany pharmacy was a good small school and we commuted every day. From Albany, Ben went into the Indian Health Service and then transferred into the Air Force. The Air Force put him through dental school and he stayed in the Air Force for 22 years retiring as a full colonel. I went on to Purdue University. I had done well in undergraduate and I decided that I wanted to further my education. I didn't really have strong ties in the Albany area and I wanted to move on.

One of the faculty at Albany Pharmacy got me an interview with Purdue University in the BioNucleonics department. I only had a vague knowledge of the University and even less of the program of study but they offered me a fellowship and I said, what the hell, I might as well go ahead! I have nothing else to do. So, I went off to Purdue and that was a good opportunity for me. I met a lot of interesting people and lifelong friends, and got a good education, even saw Joe Montana come off the bench for the first time when he played Notre Dame played Purdue. Doreen, an Albany College of Pharmacy graduate finished a one year residency in Syracuse joined me at Purdue and we got married. After Purdue I had an offer at Michigan, at Yale, at Nebraska but we chose to go to the University of South Carolina simply because we've never been there before, it was something different. We spent 8 years there, did some nice work and had two children. I was a tenured associate professor of School of Medicine/ School of Pharmacy, also working a little bit in the nuclear power plants down there. I decided to do something different and I went on a sabbatical and went to Pennsylvania Power and Light in corporate offices in Allentown Pennsylvania, and working on the startup of the Nuclear Power unit in Berwick. I stayed there for about four years, worked a lot with emergency planning and environmental health physics. I was a certified health physicist by the time and worked also with implant radiochemistry. I eventually ran the environmental group, and that's where I really came across Wilkes for the first time. Chris, you and I had this conversation a long time ago, when I was sitting in your living room. We were talking about my history with Pennsylvania Power and Light and running the environmental program. You were saying, you ran across somebody with the environmental program during the Chernobyl incident and working with Brian Redmond. Luckily you said some good things about the person you met on the roof of engineering building, because that person was me.

PP&L wanted to put me on a fast track to upper management and advised me to move from Allentown to Wilkes-Barre and work at the plant full-time. A good friend of mine (Arthur Nelson) from South Carolina was on sabbatical in Philadelphia after being fired as Dean of Pharmacy in Nebraska. Nelson was offered a Deanship of Pharmacy at Idaho State University and asked me to go with him to be the assistant dean. The mission would be to retool an old School of Pharmacy by renovating the building and starting a PharmD program and a PhD program. I said, Arthur, you know I'll move anywhere but move to Wilkes Barre, so we moved to Idaho for eight years!

[Laughter]

Pocatello, Idaho was a great move as I did research at the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory brought in a lot of research money and had many graduate students. We built a school of pharmacy, put in a PhD program, had a lot of interactions with the politicians. With others I did a lot of lobbying back in Washington DC as far as trying secure funding trying to build a reactor in downtown Pocatello to manufacture radiopharmaceuticals. That didn't work out but we did build an accelerator facility. Needless to say, at about 8/9 years I got the itch again and wanted to do something different. At the time I had interviewed with the Albany College of Pharmacy as their president, and I came in number two to Claire Lathers. Around the same time Wilkes announced that they were starting a pharmacy program. I made an application at Wilkes. It was an excellent opportunity to start in a brand new program, to start something new. Umid was a joy to work with. Chris, Mike and Paul O'Hop were very supportive and committed to the school of pharmacy right from the beginning.

In the go-go years from 1995 to the year 2000 when we were building the program, entering our first classes, and really hiring as many folks we needed the university never balked at anything

that we brought forward. We stuck to the hiring plan of staff and faculty right from the beginning. I can honestly say that when I left we had the same number of faculty and same number of staff as we had in the original perspective and we had a very good program. I also liked the building plan. It was unique in that our school of pharmacy was one of the few ones that was associated with a small liberal arts institution and integrated within the science building. We felt part of the university, part of the culture right away. The faculty we hired were exceptional, excited and dedicated. In the whole history of hiring, I think there was only one person that left disgruntled. We went through a lot of faculty in early years. We knew we would. Everyone that came in that subsequently left for a better position. The faculty that left loved Wilkes, loved the students, loved the teaching/ program. Most of them were women. By the time they put their heads up over the hedges, at about three years, they realized there was no social life for them in Wilkes Barre, so they gravitated back to the big cities, Philadelphia, New York city and Pittsburgh area.

I think what led to the success of the program was the people we hired. In the history of the School of Pharmacy until the year or two before I left, we only had two chairs of pharmaceutical sciences; Arthur Kibbe (who retired) and then Z J Witczak. In the pharmacy practice area we had Ann Lynn who was just marvelous up to the year 2002 and then she left us to be a dean someplace else, and Ed Foote took over. So we only had two chairs of pharmacy practice, two chairs of pharmaceutical sciences, and that was unheard of as far as stability within schools of pharmacy throughout the country. On the dean's side I had Harvey Jacobs who took over when Bill Johnston left and Harvey stood there for 20 years as the dean of Student Affairs. Shelly Holt-Macey came in, she was the experiential director. We hired her, she was about the fifth hire we had and she's still with us at Wilkes. We had the stability of the leadership all the way through and remarkable support from the administration in what we needed it to do. Also, what I liked was at the beginning, and Chris you remember this, we were on our own budget and the university was having hard times back in the 90s. We had a separate budget stream for the School of Pharmacy and allowed it to develop and that was a very strong indication of commitment and it got us through a lot of accreditation standards and a lot of accreditation meetings because we were independent. We seemed to have control over our own destiny. One of the big worries about accreditation was: a small Pharmacy program school in a small university the pharmacy program can be seen as a cash cow and as a way to upgrade their educational academic

TG: Profile

BG: Yeah robust. So yeah it was good.

CB: And I participated in accreditation visits early on Key West and I with Mike Lennon and Umid and you. And I'm curious, since I kind of sensed the thought of a conservatism of the people, of the pharmacists who were the guild.

BG: Yeah

CB: How did that group come to look in the program? I left just as you graduated your first class. What was the standing of the program among those folks that I got to know I think in three different visits?

BG: Well, of course they changed a lot Chris. After a while they became very restrictive. We were lucky in that we were in the first cohort of new schools in over 20 years. There was 75-77 schools of pharmacy for 20 years and we became number 77 or 80. At the time to get initial accreditation you needed to hire the dean and have a prospectus, and then you'd get the initial

accreditation. After that, they placed more and more requirements. Still by the time I left there were about a 150 schools of pharmacy. In the later years they started insisting that you have to have your staff & faculty on board a year before you take your first students, so that really required a large expenditure and thus a large commitment from the university. About 2009/2010 maybe little bit later like 2013/2014, the pharmacy environment was getting really competitive, a lot of brand new schools were like us small and large institutions were trying to put in their first doctoral program. They all built new buildings for the pharmacy program.

So we were coming upon the time in which our facility was becoming dated and we had probably what I thought to be about the best program in Northeast United States. We had a very high pass rate and a very high acceptance rate in residency programs. But, how do you sell Wilkes to a family that's looking at other schools that have brand new buildings? That was one of our shortcomings.

Since then the new schools have stopped, there was no more new schools coming on board. The accreditation standards have really tightened up as they have become more stringent on the experiential component, having strategic plans, having assessment programs and an optimal the faculty- student ratios. They really got into the nitty gritty of programs and they would start having accreditation visits almost every two years just follow up visits. I got to go on about six different accreditation site visits, which I thought was very helpful for us at Wilkes, it can give me a little bit of insight as to what they're looking for and what other programs are doing. So, yeah I'll tell you right after that era, Chris, is when accreditation started to tighten up, make a short answer a longer I mean.

CB: Going back to the beginning, the guy that really put it on the docket was Umid.

BG: Yeah

CB: He before Mike Lennon, and Umid was thinking strategically about the whole university, and seeing that this was the place to go. And then I know when you were in the picture or not, we had a key summer trustees meeting when Wayne Yetter and Bill Rob were both members of the board but often did not come to meetings because of their heavy commitments. They worked out with Umid, Mike and I before that meeting, all the plans, and they were very critical, this and that, and then they came in that meeting and said, where the future of healthcare going, pharmacies is going to be critical to it and the

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BG: Initially Arthur Kibbe came to be the chair of pharmacy/ pharmaceutical sciences and he was on board for the first pre pharmacy class in 1994. The document you put together was very good! I liked it but it was wrong in a lot of aspects, but we were able to fix it. If you looked at it very carefully Umid did have the university and his college in mind for a lot of his activities. He saw this as his cash cow, and he wanted to keep me under science and engineering until the year 2002 . The faculty that he was going to hire was to be in biology, in chemistry, in things like that. Once I came on board it took me about a month, and then we had it changed because in all reality what they really expected was you dropped a pharmacy student off at the front door of CVS and six months later you pick him up at the back door when he's all cooked and done! For the sixth year they thought it'll be completely free, and that's entirely opposite of what it was. Within the confines of that initial prospectus of number of faculty hires is where we designed the faculty for the School of Pharmacy, though it was a different set of faculty. I met Wayne Yetter several times and he was very supportive of the program and he was going through his own transition at the time too I believe

TG: Yeah

BG: The group was very supportive, and Umid was supportive right from the beginning and he took me under his wing umm and then the other folks too. He wanted to have Ralph Rozell involved, but Ralph was really interested in moving the program along but had other interests. I don't know how else I can answer that Chris.

CB: Who were some of the other key continuing faculty at Wilkes who really were helpful in the early planning stages?

BG: Oh Who was chair of biology?

CB: Les Turoczi

BG: Over in chemistry was...

CB: Owen Faut

BG: He was very good. You know some of my contacts there were Dale Bruns and myself formed an alliance right away, I don't know if you know, Dale got his PhD at Idaho State University.

CB: hahaha, no I know Dale very well.

BG: And he worked at Idaho National Engineering Laboratory and I worked with a lot of guys he worked with, and his major advisor was a good friend of mine back in Idaho, so we formed an alliance there with Dale. You know Bonnie Bedford was very important, you know she was the chair of the curriculum committee at the time, very supportive.

CB: We just interviewed her, our last interview was with Bonnie.

BG: Was it really!?

TG: Yep

BG: I worked with Bonnie a year ago for six months. In the biology group and the chemistry group, of course there was Mike Steele. I mean he was very important. There was a love-hate relationship there too as you know Chris. In the first couple of years you know we were constantly being accused of stealing the good students, and all the good students were going to pharmacy, and biology wasn't getting their fair share and chemistry wasn't getting their fair share anymore because all these kids were coming to pharmacy. So, it was pharmacy getting everything they wanted, so there was a love-hate there, but we eventually won them over.

CB: Yeah, from my perspective and the role I was playing, that was a crucial issue.

BG: Yeah!

CB: And the fact was that those first classes of pharmacy students were cut above our average students, and that was exciting but it puts some real pressure.

BG: To tell you the honest truth Chris, they were below the classes that came in years afterwards, because their average SAT there was 930!

TG: Is that right!?

BG: Oh yeah! But they had exclusive use of the faculty! They were the ones! So it was just marvelous to work with them, they got everybody's attention, and you know that group went on to be my favorite group as far as graduates go.

TG: Bernie, I'm really interested in your description because it's all about how people supported you basically, but in my experience it's really unusual for a school like this to do as well as pharmacy did with the community. It's really just a fact, you know later your issue was that we were basically dumping people who wanted to be pharmacy students over in the sciences, that didn't make them very happy either as you recall.

[Laughter]

It was a fact of life! But I think through all of it, somehow and it'd be very interesting, did you have some deliberate strategies? I know that some of your senior people, Annie for example, Ed,

were very active in faculty governance and that may have been a part of it but did you have other strategies in mind that really you think worked effectively to keep the institution overall supportive of you.

BG: Well, one of the recruitment tools we used whenever we had a new faculty coming in, was that I would tell them that they are a part of the university, that your colleagues are not just going to be just the pharmacy faculty. This was unusual for the pharmacy practice people because they had gone through pharmacy schools, they had gone through one or two years of residency in which they just interacted with hospitals or physicians or the pharmacists, so to tell them that the English and history faculty are their colleagues and that they will be sitting in a room with them, that was exciting to them. And these folks, I think the folks that the pharmacy folks were very young and motivated, I think...

TG: They were.

BG: They did a lot of work with the university's faculties, most ascended into leadership roles, I think they made this to their advantage. When you look back and see, five went on to be full deans, 3 or 4 are still assistant deans or associate deans someplace else, a couple of chairs, they went on to great leadership positions in pharmacy. I think a lot of that was the fact that they had the opportunity to interact with the university faculty, with the administration of the university, they felt that they could talk to the president, talk to the provost, if they come from an institution like Purdue or University of South Carolina where I was, you know if you got an audience with the provost as faculty, you felt privileged.

TG: Big deal yeah!

BG: So that was part of the strategy. I think just the fact that we were in the same building with a lot of the sciences. Arthur Kibbe did a lot of work with the biology folks, he made a lot of friends over there in chemistry folks, and being an educator he did a lot of things with the other chairs. I know Ann Lynn did an awful lot of work with the central administration, I mean she was on the committee that brought you in.

TG: Yeah yeah, she was a key member.

BG: We got rid of her after that!

TG: Yeah I saw the recollection there, but I never said anything.

CB: After those glowing words about each other, I would just inject since this is a recording that talking about different personalities had helped pull this off in ways you've helped establish this is unusual. Your personality was crucial, because in terms of the old state members of the faculty, you had such a winning way, you were not arrogant, you were not even seen as an empire builder, I mean Umid everyone knew he was an empire builder and you kind of took that for granted when you were dealing with him. But you figured out our culture, you worked with it, the fact that you've been around so many different parts of the country, I think nothing that we threw at you was that surprising, being over at Troy you knew a lot of our culture already. So I would just say that, we could have a first rate pharmacy dean coming out of the judicial program who would've found this particular mix very difficult, so I think your role in that is singular and I'm delighted to have this opportunity to say that.

TG: I would just second it

BG: You know, I want to get back to the question Tim asked about strategy. I think one of the strategies that I had was, I was very much interested in becoming part of the pharmacy culture in this area too. I became the leader of the local pharmacy organization, I was president for a number of years and always had the meetings in my office as far as the monthly executive meetings. I became president of the local hospital pharmacists association too. We had a very

good interaction with CVS I mean let's face it, its CVS and those companies right then and Rite Aid were hungry for pharmacists at the time, so they were going to do anything for you. By the year 2005 came around, however, you couldn't even get an audience with them but that's okay. They supplied a lot of jobs for our students, CVS had a couple of people there like Howard Garrett who reached out to me when I was in Idaho when he found out that I was to be the dean here at Wilkes, and he welcomed me with open arms, he was a fast friend for years and years after that. Howard Garrett was a person who did the recruiting of students for their jobs, and other folks with CVS. Some of the culture that we inculcated here was the pharmacy fair in which we made sure our students had jobs. My two sons graduated from Wilkes University (computer science) and one of the things that they said was, they saw pharmacy as being different because pharmacy connected those people with their jobs, brought the employers in, the employers were enthusiastic about it, had that culture to do that, and I think that was a very strong point here. The faculty are very strong in getting students into residency programs of postgraduate training, and we had a very high acceptance rate into postgraduate training for many years, I think that whole outreach was part of the culture that we had here too.

TG: This is probably just a side issue, but one of the things that always impressed me was the white coat ceremony. Is that something typical of pharmacy schools?

BG: It wasn't, it is now!

TG: Really!?

BG: We were the first ones to do it absolutely!

CB: That helps seal the deal with Mrs. Nesbitt.

BG: Oh yeah!

CB: She had white coats in front of the whole class, they couldn't have been more thrilled. By the way, that was my biggest fundraising coup of my 17 years, was 3 million dollars.

BG: And we had the black tie ceremony that was good too, but that played out I mean but now we did something different. But one of the pictures I have Chris and one of my favorite pictures I still have here, is our first graduating class in which I gave you, Umid, Paul and Mike white coats. I have a picture of you guys standing there in white coats and everybody has a bow tie on but Umid. And I'm sitting there in a black tuxedo and I got these four guys in white coats, it looks like a singing group.

[Laughter of Chris, Tim]

It was a great picture! And the picture I have which is one of my favorite is, you know that Scott Bolesta was our first graduate, he was the first one I put a hood on and in the year 2017 when I had my last graduating class, Scott was there as faculty, but Luke Zack was my last one, so I got a picture of Scott and Luke.

TG: Oh that is sweet! That is sweet!

BG: It's just a great picture!

CB: You were a part of this and I don't know if Tim knows this, another white coat moment was in the 2000 presidential election.

BG: Yeah

CB: It was before the election, Gore made his 7th trip to Northeastern Pennsylvania and they really zeroed in and this is where they had to win it. He was exhausted, and Wednesday that week they came to us and said, we want to have him give a presentation on healthcare, and we didn't know how to be part of a political campaign so we were very reluctant at first, and we said um it may have been your idea, Rich Sowers and his wife played a key role to give him a white coat.

BG: One of my students.

CB: Umm and Charlotte said, we were putting “president” on the jacket

BG: Doreen and I did that the night before.

CB: And so with the they put the “vice” in front of it, and when we presented it to him we ripped off the “vice”, we got the first smile out of him of that morning, and he was unbelievably grim, and it dropped on the floor and he wanted to find that, he really treasured that moment which got on CNN, it was our biggest coup of the campaign, but that was a magic moment for me.

BG: I got so many emails the next day, that appeared on the front page of 75 newspapers throughout the country!! On a Sunday morning!

CB: Never knew that!

BG: Here is Al Gore holding Wilkes’ School of Pharmacy jacket, clearly stating Wilkes University School of Pharmacy. That really started by a student here I can’t remember his name now but he was big in the local democratic party, he really pushed democratic party to invite Al Gore here to give an address on healthcare. That was his last address before he went stump stump stump before the election. That was the last Saturday in October or something like that before..

CB: It was 7:30 in the morning and I went into what was the green room, and he was sitting there all alone looking exhausted and I said, Mr. Vice President, we're gonna have a little humor with you this morning. It's all fun and fair but I just want you to know. I didn't tell him what but that was our three minutes alone together to talk, but he was very pleased with the visit, and all it came so close, how different this country would’ve been.

BG: I saw that in his presidential library!

[Laughter]

TG: Isn’t that the time you know we should record this in history when you told me you got to watch hanging Chad!

[Laughter of Chris]

BG: Exactly right!!

CB: The chronology there. Jim you’ve been silent, umm I think your perspective as a long time faculty member, watching the pharmacy program come into this planning phase that Bernie’s been so effective in recounting, what were some of your views on how the university was responding to this? Which is the biggest thing that happened in my 17 years so..

JR: When I up until the time I became vice president I really didn't know too much about pharmacy and what was happening with it. Once I became vice president, I got to know Bernie and we had a memorable trip down to Florida on a train.

BG: That's right!! Hahahaha

[Laughter]

JR: But yeah, I was impressed by how much the pharmacy program had become embedded in the college... the university at large, and how people fit in for example, an assessment, David Maize told us about an assessment. He’s really the guy that got us into it, I headed a committee that we really were lost! David also was the one who spotted Kings as doing assessment all wrong, which was interesting because they got a lot of credit for assessment Farmer had done that, and David spotted the problem with it that it wasn’t an assessment at all.

TG: Jim, just as a side comment we need to say for the recording that Farmer was the provost at Kings right?

JR: Right, yeah. Uhh in the years we worked together I particularly uhh we met many times after I retired, and several times after you retired, you had made the comment that pharmacy

programs were in a sense overgrowing, and that basically there might be a contraction in future because there were just too many of them. I'm wondering how you feel about that now, and has Covid 19 had any big effect on pharmacy programs and the outlook?

BG: Ummm, being sequestered here Jim hahaha. Let's go at the first point of your question, contraction, there's always been the expectation. You go back to the early Millis's report, you go back to reports just when we were starting the School of Pharmacy, they said that there were 75- 80 schools of pharmacy, they said there should only be 50 even at that time, and they went to about 140, just kept expanding. There has been no contraction of the number of students going in or the programs as of late, but it is coming if the pharmacist doesn't get really a defined role and get a way of being reimbursed for their role. To give you an example, when we graduated our first class there were about 7500 pharmacists graduating a year in this country, and this was the year 2000, 20 years before that there were about 7400 graduating, so it was very stable, and that's why there was a lot of job opportunities while everybody jumped on the market. And right now there's about 14000 graduates a year, so you can see what's happening, there's going to be a lot of young people, but there's a lot of different role definitions now, I mean there are more of a medical team, I think in this Covid 19 they are going to play a big role with the vaccinations coming up, you don't want to send them to a hospital, or a physician's office, roll down the street where you get your flu shot, you get a lot of other shots at the pharmacy now. But making sure they get reimbursed with that cognitive service. And really defining other roles for themselves as far as medication therapy management and things along that line instead of just dispensing and distributing drugs. Let's face it there's going to be a lot of amazon models over the years, I mean we're all aged now including me that we get our drugs by mail don't we?

TG: Not me! But that's alright, hahaha stupid is what that is.

JR: I still go to Rite Aid!

BG: Oh you still go to Rite Aid. Well I get by mail now! Because I started my mail simply when Covid started because I didn't want to go to the pharmacy.

TG: That makes a lot of sense, did you do the pill packs?

BG: No I don't do pill packs, I just go through my medicare/ medicaid whatever it is. You mean as far as the amazon thing?

TG: Yeah

BG: No no I get it all in bulk! hahahahaha

[Laughter]

CB: Pills right there in front of you, on camera.

TG: He's able to medicate at will!

BG: Yes yes! Oh one piece of trivia that I've never told this to many people. I don't know if anybody remembers it or not. you know the symbol that we use, the WRx, that we've always used

TG: Yeah.

BG: Where'd that come from? Well that came, when Bill Johnson was my first assistant dean, Bill was an old friend of mine, Bill worked for me in the nuclear pharmacy down in South Carolina, he was a graduate student of mine down in South Carolina, then he went on to be faculty in North Carolina and then he joined us, it didn't work out for him here. But, he had a girlfriend down in North Carolina who was a designer by the name Janet Jackson, not THE Janet Jackson but Janet Jackson, she designed the WRx. So now it's on tape, it's down in history, now everybody knows where it came from.

TG: Hey Bernie, I would just press you little on this issue, umm because it seems that Wilkes continues to do fine and I guess there were some renovations done after I left which were much needed, but it appears Wilkes really held on to its market and in this uhh I can remember you talking to me about.. you know I just don't know what's going to happen because... [interrupted]

BG: The Binghamton School graduates their first class this year!

TG: Who?

BG: Binghamton, and that's the one I was worried about.

TG: I remember that, I remember you talking about that. So, how has Wilkes held on so well?

BG: I think the reputation, I think we get a lot of local folks, and if you look at it, about 70% are women, so I think they come to Wilkes and a lot of them are local the women live in dorms of course, but lot of them are local. I mean it's just part of the culture here in Northeastern Pennsylvania. We tried to reach out to other institutions in other areas but it just doesn't work that well. I think it's a lot of word of mouth for the high school kids. About five years ago I declared our school to be an old school, and that's only because every student that came in the program was born after we started.

TG: That's something!

JR: Whoa!

BG: That was monumental! Right now the kids graduating were born after the School of Pharmacy started, so we've always been there, we're not the new school anymore. But people at Wilkes always refer to us as a new School of Pharmacy!

TG: Also Wilkes College, for crying out loud.

BG: I know! We just get a lot of folks from the local market, and for the longest time Tim, umm we were the highest level of education that you could get in medical, in the area.

TG: Yeah.

BG: Now we do have the OT PT PA program, but still people see pharmacy. At the time pharmacy was the highest paying, so there was good publicity around, national publicity etc because it was a high paying profession. It is the one true profession that had no discrimination toward women as far as salary structure, that is well noted

TG: Interesting! You know that would be powerful.

CB: Clearly it is the most trusted profession.

BG: It was most trusted for many years and then finally became number 2. Nursing became the most trusted, and the interesting reason why is when nursing was put on the Choice, it was never on the list of who's the most trusted! When nursing was put there, it became number 1 and pharmacy became number 2.

TG: How did you let that happen Bernie!?

BG: I don't know!

CB: I want to get to the merger under your leadership of nursing and pharmacy but before that, just trying on an impression of mine, in the early years, one of the challenges in hiring faculty you discovered that you could get faculty from far away if they had originated in Northeastern PA or southern to New York, and that was a major breakthrough in your strategy for hiring. And it's a really fascinating view of Northeastern PA and southern to New York culture, that given the chance to come back for a first rate job/profession, people were ready to leave California, Washington state and so forth, even Idaho to come. Is my memory correct?

BG: Yeah it's right, it was a strategy that we had, you know we talked about leadership being the same but we turned over a lot of faculty, but we knew that was going to happen until we had a bunch of graduates out there that wanted to come back. And that's what happened, we started

gentrifying our own faculty, they started having their own families, for the longest time then though in the late 2000s we didn't have any turnover. We were very stable, we lost maybe one or two folks a year I mean that would be about it, and we looked at other schools growing and everything else like that... it was tough out there, I mean they couldn't get faculty and we had faculty, and I think that was the issue, it was coming back, and now we look at the faculty there and probably about 40% of the faculty are graduates of Wilkes.

CB: Really? That's fascinating

BG: A lot of the practice faculty, few of the science faculty are all graduates.

CB: I am asking Tim Gilmour, were you aware of that?

TG: No, it began towards the end of my time at Wilkes, you know they were just really good people.

BG: Yeah they were.

TG: It made no sense not to hire them, all chivalrous about not hiring your graduates I think is a far too. I mean I've seen some other cases, people not being hired, and the program lost.

CB: You know Tim I don't know that we've ever asked the question uhh about either the proportion of Wilkes faculty that were Wilkes students, or across the faculty who were the people that were undergraduates at Wilkes, which were many, but as a topic I've never talked about it. This is the first time, and it came to me while I was still president because of pharmacy, the way you were hiring, and it wasn't that you were hiring Wilkes graduates, you were hiring people who had roots in the Valley. But we've had many faculty who were themselves Wilkes undergraduates, and as we think about maybe some future interviews, we may want to ask which of those people are still around that would bring a perspective, I mean I could do with some pharmacy faculty.

JR: That was particularly true in the early years I think, umm probably just as Mike was becoming president there were loads of Wilkes graduates teaching, and I think we tried to go outside and get people from other schools.

CB: Well some of the departments that had such students becoming faculty in my time was nursing.

JR: Yeah

CB: So that leads me to ask you about how you played the role of bringing these two parts of the curriculum together.

BG: If you remember Chris back in the 90s, you asked me to take over nursing and at the time I said no. That was simply because they were all tenured faculty, I had no tenured faculty. I didn't want to deal with that bunch at the time. I took over nursing in about 2002 and I think they had about seven faculty and they were having a handful of graduates a year, it was at the time when we just started to grow. We formed the School of Nursing (and thus a College of Pharmacy and Nursing). We named Marianne Merrigan as associate dean of nursing. We wanted to put them on an equal footing with the School of Pharmacy, so we had integrated faculty meetings with pharmacy and nursing, and some of our pharmacy faculty did some of the teaching over there as far as in the pharmacology and the use of drugs, things along that line. And then we did a lot of co teaching as far as experiential I mean team building as far as within the nursing students and pharmacy students. Then it started to grow. I think one of the major points was when we went online with a lot of programs too, and nursing was starting to explode too. We started getting better faculty and we started competing for better students. I think during the first years of Pat's administration I had some run-ins with Pat about nursing, and it simply was that he felt so that we were turning away a lot of folks coming in nursing. What we were doing was turning away

folks that flunked out of LCCC and once they flunk out of LCCC they couldn't go back there, but we had open admission and in our enrollment people were just taking more bodies and nursing didn't have any say in who's coming in the program. So we changed that around, we started getting that sort of culture and I think that built

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BG: Mike Spiezale brought forth this opportunity he said HotChalk in nursing and I said, Mike you know that's not your job let me do it. So I went out to visit HotChalk out in Arizona and California and I sat with the president and the CEO and tried to do an assessment. I looked at into their backing money you know where are they getting their money from, as far as there venture capital and things along that line. And I was very impressed with what I saw, and I came back and reported to Pat. Pat really expected me to come back and say no deal, but I came back and said this is an opportunity. So, we bought in, that's when we started buying into HotChalk and it just seemed like a good opportunity. I don't think it has worked out over the long run, but it did end up with a generation of new set of students, we had a lot of students, we had lot of publicity for it and we opened up the programs. We opened a program of nurse practitioner at the time. I almost got the program back from Scranton as far as the Nurse Anesthetist program that we lost. I think we were played by the CEO of the hospital in town who was trying to get Scranton to sign a contract, so they brought us in as the alternative, and we came close to getting it, but we didn't get it. But, it led us to the NP program, the Doctor Nursing Practice program, and then HotChalk is what led us to the PhD program in nursing which I think has taken off somewhat, I mean it's given us some sort of a visibility in the fact that there are no PhDs in nursing out there, there's no faculty.

TG: Yeah

BG: About 2 years before I left, I went to Pat and said that I'm going to get retire in a couple of years and I think it's time we start spinning the School of Nursing out on its own, because I don't think you want the new dean of pharmacy to be saddled with pharmacy and nursing, they are too big. So, you know they thought about it and therefore they started an independent School of Pharmacy, School of Nursing, before that we were still touting ourselves as the only School of Nursing in Northeastern PA then we can start touting ourselves as the only independent School of Nursing. Deb Zbegner ended up as the dean there, and she's done a pretty good job as far I'm concerned. But the thing that I am proudest of was when we went from about 10 students graduating a year and now we have 100 graduates, you know we really expanded that program! We went through a lot of problems... you know the nursing faculty and I really went to every meeting as far as building a new science building, we wanted to call it 'The She' building: Science, Health and Education building, but that never got off the ground. We finally got the administration to buy into a new nursing facility, a nursing learning center and I think that's helped immensely there. The second floor of the Stark Learning Center is the nursing program and the basement is the learning center.

TG: Yeah yeah

BG: And those were all good accomplishments for the College of Pharmacy and Nursing at the time.

TG: Yeah you had a great run, you really did.

BG: Really good one

TG: I think you were very helpful to nursing. my feeling was actually, I was there I think when you took over, and our real problem was Marianne Merrigan was really overloaded, and she

needed help and I think you were really valuable in that regard and then it seemed to me that the after that was when you began to develop the nurse practitioner programs and then the DNP, those things Bernie, I think people like Deb Zbegner were instrumental in thinking about that, but they wouldn't have happened if you hadn't been there kind of as a mentoring presence, it might have been more than that but that is what I saw.

BG: we had to get rid of a few people first, there were people in that administration that were really ineffective, and I had to sit down with those folks for hours at a time, gently push them off to the side and get new leadership in there.

TG: Charm them to..

BG: Yeah and it worked out, they were all happy.

TG: Yeah! And I think it was something to behold

CB: As you tell the story and it's so much a part of your positive persona, things all worked out. But reflect on what maybe some of the toughest moments for you were in your time at Wilkes.

BG: Okay. You know I think the toughest moment was with Tim Gilmour, and that was the Nesbitt money. All along I had in from you, from Chris, from Mike, and I kept on checking in as Ms. Nesbitt was alive, this was the remainder trust that was going to end up being an endowment for the School of Pharmacy and things along that line, and I sat down with Marty one time in Tim's administration and other folks and had them go back and say, is it going to happen? I had in the back of my mind what I was going to do with the money. We wanted to set up a Pharmaco-economic center, we had the Caremark building down the street, we had Wayne Yetter, we had a couple of things I thought that could make something special.

TG: Right.

BG: And Miss Nesbitt died, and about five years later I went to Tim and said, about time we settle up, let's see what we're going to do with the money. And Tim went back and really scoured through the documents to find out it was a naming grant, it was not an endowment. The fact that I had to go back and face a lot of people and say, we're not getting it done, we're not getting any money, you know the Nesbitt money is not there for us, and I think that was a hard pill to swallow because it was something we were building up all this time. That was not okay as it ended up that lot of the other schools, other programs had endowments and School of Pharmacy had no endowment. So that was discouraging and I'm trying to think of any other really low points or tough points. I think one of the toughest things that's happened is within the first couple of weeks I was there, we had an accreditation visit from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania if you remember, to give us the authorization to get the doctorate program, and the guy showed up on campus and one good thing was that the person heading the program was the guy named Larry he was the provost down in University of Arkansas, and Larry and myself have been friends for years. In fact when the state of Arkansas was after Larry and his program a couple years back, he brought me in to do an assessment, and of course my assessment was good for his program. And Larry had been trying to get me to go down to Arkansas for years, so Larry was the head of the team coming in. We were sitting there at dinner on a Friday night because they were here on Thursday or Friday for their assessment, they never got any documents! I thought Umid had sent them, Umid thought that I had sent them the prospectus on the School of Pharmacy.

CB: OOH I remember this OHH!

BG: It was never sent! So we're feeding the guys and Umid snuck out and copied them and had them sent to the hotel, and Larry told me the next day, oh man he had to smooth it over but it

went well. I mean that was just an awkward moment! It was a learning moment for me because you know after that, no I don't trust nobody! Hahahaha so you know make sure things are done.

CB: How about the uhh I think you said it already, what's the best moment?

BG: I think the first graduating class. Some of the low points come to think of that, two years after that we had some tragedies in the that class, you know I had to talk to the class several times, one kid died of an overdose on New Year's Eve, pharmacy students and I had to sit there with the class and talk with them, the same class had three strong friends in that class and their roommate committed suicide, shot himself in the head across the street there in his apartment, and I had sit with the class at that time too for the funerals too. And it was a tough time.

TG: Yeah they were.

BG: But it was a bonding experience for that class too. I think the first graduating class and getting the accreditation, finally getting free of all the accrediting bodies for at least the time period. And the time in which we finally had full faculty and you know the time where you just sit back and think, it was good, it was good.

CB: Say something about, typically we've been interviewing people who reached back further into the history of the institution, we've typically asked about Dr Farley and if they were at the tail end of Farley's time here or even came afterwards, the sense of his persona. Just thinking of Farley as part of that older Wilkes tradition, umm what are your thoughts about Wilkes as an institution? Independently of the pharmacy program, which you came to fit in and be a part of it.

BG: Umm in a lot of ways it's got a unique mission, in a lot of ways it's not unique at all. You know I see that Wilkes University has some strong personality to it, I like the fact uh I enjoy the fact that Wilkes University is non sectarian. I enjoy the fact that we are surrounded by religious institutions that makes us unique, it does. Other than that, I think umm right now for Wilkes I am very scared for the future of Wilkes, I don't know if you,..... I don't know if we should put this on record or not, the article in Parents magazine last couple of days in which somebody rated all of the top 400 different universities in The United States, with this covid crisis rating them whether they will perish, whether they would struggle, or survive, or they would thrive, Wilkes is rated as perish. They say they're in bad shape across the board. Now I don't know whether that publicity will get out that much or what it will do, but I think some of the things are the endowment and indebtedness and things along that line, the tuition structure, the only other one that is rated in this area is Misericordia, it is rated as struggling, now Scranton and Kings and Marywood are not in the rating, so only Wilkes made it to the top 400.

TG: By the way Bernie I am looking for it, this guy is a marketing professor at NYU, Scott Galloway. And there are actually a couple of pieces out after that one criticizing his database, but frankly um I mean I don't who's going to perish but there are going to be a number, and it's going to be a big number I think, and I have no idea nobody knows what's going to happen this fall really except I bet you good money that nobody's going to open fully, it just doesn't make sense from the ethical.... yeah. Anyway just to make you feel a little better, they are people already and I don't think they have that agenda of you know faculty who don't want to see reality, these are people who have real concerns about his use of the database, that in itself is a little squirrely. But I think Wilkes is right there on the margin uhh the one thing I can say, I don't know if Chris or Jim agree with me but Chris and I spent some time with Greg Cant the other day, have you met him Bernie?

BG: No I have not.

TG: You too would like each other a lot, um great sense of humor, sees it all, not ducking anything, umm you know it's going to be tough road but there are lot of people I know who

would have been in his position you might not even show up for the job, but he sees Wilkes as having kind of a unique combination of programs pharmacy being one of them, but you know you've got other professional programs but he thinks that's going to stand and good stand, but they are really in a hole, there is no doubt about it.

CB: Let me just affirm what Tim said, I was impressed with him, he's got a lot of positive energy, he talked about the problems he is coming to face, but he's got the issue of Wilkes and its community which you talked about has been crucial in getting the pharmacy program going, and that has been the signature of Wilkes from the beginning. Umm so I think he's in good position to make things happen positively, and he knows he's got a tough road.

BG: Let me go back to the time of Tim Gilmour's administration if I may, umm yeah I'm gonna say one of the times in which I was most proud of Tim, I know it's a short list but [mixed laughter]

TG: There's only one thing on it!

BG: When I was your provost for 14 months, my major project was writing the law school thing, we got it all the way through the faculty, it was a good project, it was a good learning experience, we did a couple of visits let's say down Elon and other schools of law, and it was a very interesting project. We got approval all the way through and it was right before the board meeting, and you pulled us all aside and you said, you're not going to support it. That made me proud! That really did, because you know all of a sudden I knew you were looking at the data, you were not enamored with getting a law school, because the data was not there, it was going to be expensive, it's just not going to be there.

TG: Yeah

BG: And to come to that resolution I mean the only good thing we got out of that was Chip.

TG: Yep, who would've thought!?

CB: Since I was not part of any of that, we talked about law school a lot while I was still president, how did Gene Roth come down on that Tim?

TG: Well, I mean the thing was that we had a lot of good people working on that, Bernie being one of the key people, Chip was really remarkable in that he saw himself as the foremost advocate, but Bernie you remember all of us felt that if we were going to open a law school, we had to open one that would be in the second tier.

BG: Absolutely!

TG: There was no point considering it if it couldn't be in the second tier, otherwise it would've been a trash program. So, I think everybody was basically together on that, and then I'm surprised that you weren't in that meeting. Maybe it was because we were sort of at the moment..

BG: It moved on yeah.

TG: And I mean it was a full afternoon meeting and it was basically me beating up on Chip's thing, isn't there some way we could do this and he would say, no here's why, and umm it was really good. So that then gave me a set of arguments that I needed, but the thing that people don't know about Gene is if you make a good argument, he's there. You wouldn't have to worry about him, I was a little worried about Jay Sidhu but I called him and actually I think he knew by the time I called it was going to be done. And there were several other board members who were really behind it, who really felt it would set it apart and you know but god! Bernie and all that we did not have the data that immediately became apparent, six months later, the bottom had fallen out of this, that was not in our consideration.

BG: But the indications were there, the story lines, where the people would go and things like that, it just wasn't there.

TG: No no.

BG: And the amount of money that it would take to build a school and library, it would take a huge amount of money to do that.

TG: And it would've distorted everything, I mean on paper and in fact up until that point uhh a lot of these law schools had been a cash cow. I mean you went down to Elon and they were pretty successful, but the bottom fell out for them, I don't know if they still umm I know they were in real trouble, and they done it the way that we would've done it if we could've.

BG: I mean they had something unique, they were built right into a jury, I mean they had a jury room right there in the school.

TG: Yeah!

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BG: Nomination for the Deanship of that program came out of blue anonymously to you, and it was from the dean of law in Charleston in South Carolina. He wrote a two page letter nominating Chip to be dean. It came to you, you wrote a note on top of it saying, not impressed, and you sent the letter over to me, well I saved that letter!

[mixed laughter]

And I framed it and gave it to Chip.

TG: Oh so that's why he's so mad at it

BG: So, but then when he came I mean he had all the right credentials to move on to his role.

TG: He had a disastrous meeting with me when I was the chair of the Accreditation Visiting Committee for Widener, and he was in Harrisburg, I think he was worried that Widener was looking for a way and they were to get out of Harrisburg. And I think he felt there was lot of on the line for him and he just didn't pull that off, uhh and you know I was frankly looking for the very best team we can get, now when interviewed him later umm he was fine you know we were lucky to get him, and then he turned out to be a very very constructive executive.

BG: Yeah. But Chris he's the Paul O'Hopp on steroids.

CB: Wow!

BG: He was a lawyer but also a CPA and very good with finance.

CB: Who were some of the people at Wilkes in your time there that you'd like to make a comment about?

BG: Oh yeah Oh yeah.

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BG: When Harvey was due to come back it was in January of '96, we had the flood, we had the snow here melted on Friday night, Harvey was supposed to come back that Saturday morning and we had to clear the evacuation of town. Harvey calls me about midnight saying, Bernie what's going on? Should I come back? Are we under water? I said, Harvey, I never heard anything, so I turned on CNN and it was saying that Wilkes Barre will be evacuated, so I called back and said don't come until Monday. He had expected to leave Wilkes Barre when it was underwater, come back to Wilkes Barre it was underwater. Harvey has been a tremendous help over there as far as my assistant associate dean, I mean just wonderful resource, confidant, very secretive you know I could discuss a lot of things with him. The other one was Marie Roke Thomas I thought...

TG: Oh yeah!

BG: She is just a wonderful resource! Now she's the chair of pharmaceutical sciences now.

TG: Really!?

BG: Yeah she's doing a wonderful job. And then the people that have left, I mean the shoutouts that I would like to give are Dave Maize, Anne Lin and Ed Foote I mean just wonderful folks! Arthur Kibbe was fantastic and he was a royal pain in the ass, many of the times.

CB: Oh I've heard that!

BG: You remember Tim, when I provost and he..

TG: You saved my bacon? Yeah I remember that.

BG: No! He headed the FAC, he came up to us in the hallway and threw his foot across the floor and he said, there's the line in the stand, you're on that side, I'm on this side.

[Laughter]

But I wouldn't trade Arthur for anybody and I had a lot of run ins with him but still. I don't know where Arthur's loyalties were at the time, but he was good, I liked the way he worked and the students liked him too. Annie Lin, just very very bright, very good and I'm glad she stayed and then she went to two deanships, she's still down in University of Notre Dame in Maryland as a dean. Umm some other shoutouts I'd like to have are...

CB: Mike Lennon

BG: Mike Lennon is great! I had a lot of interactions with Mike afterwards, I thought Mike was just easier to talk to, I mean I liked Mike umm I've had several interactions with Mike since then you know when I was working with Bonnie a year and a half ago...

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BG: He was a genuinely nice person, I liked Marveen, and I liked who's the guy down in Xavier?

JR: Reynold Verret

TG: You mean the 20 million dollar man!?

BG: \$20 million! I just saw that this morning! Yeah Reynold was another real gentleman, really a gentleman, so I liked the folks that you had Tim as you were a provost, you had Rodechko, you had Marveen, you had me, haha I mean..

TG: There was only one I loved.

BG: But you couldn't keep anybody! That's it you kept none of the above!

[Laughter]

TG: Yeah uhhh it's interesting that both of those people, I'm talking about Marr and Reynold actually I think they were better presidents than they were provosts.

BG: Oh Yeah!

TG: I really think Reynold has.. we've actually stayed in touch and so on but I think he really found the perfect place for him right now.

CB: This was true Tim in terms of George Waldner, George when he came to us was for candidates for presidencies, and he came as a vice president, and went off to a very successful presidency at York.

TG: Yepp

CB: It was strange for him to have me president, particularly as trying to have Paul O'Hopp in enrollment, he wanted to be in command, but he got us university status, we would not have done it when we did it if it hadn't been for George, he was critical.

TG: That's an interesting fact .

CB: Often when people in their careers when they take on these jobs umm, I'm really interested in hearing you say about Marveen , who I barely knew, but she clearly had an impact here and at the institution where she died.

BG: Yeah yeah!

CB: Jim, what have we not asked in this?

JR: Well I have a question that's probably not relevant to Wilkes, but given your knowledge of sequestering, have you heard anything about the vaccine? Are we gonna one soon

BG: Our president said it will be here before the election

[mixed laughter]

And I take my lead from him Jim.

TG: You know if I had to predict an answer for him, that would be it! Hahaha

CB: My daughter is one of the Pfizer guinea pigs.

BG: Is she really? She won't whether she got the uhh

CB: She doesn't know, but they are testing her antibiotics all the time, and she's getting paid I think 1300 bucks for it.

BG: Okay

CB: She did very early, and at least the Pfizer one seems to be one that's getting a lot of investment right now.

BG: Sure. Umm Jim have you been able to get out at all.

JR: What do you mean 'out'?

BG: I mean I have been sequestered here, I haven't done any social interactions here in the last four months except for in zoom.

JR: well we did get down to Cape May two weeks ago for a week, if you mean the club house here it's open.

BG: Is it open again?

JR: Yeah they were serving. We ordered food from them on a number of occasions, they delivered it but we haven't been really out, we're not going to restaurants.

BG: Yeah. my main interactions have been via zoom. You know I don't even have to put pants on.

[Laughter]

CB: The camera is soo uhh you don't even have all your shoulders, it's uh...so it helps me understand why this...

[mixed laughter]

TG: Bernie are you on your iPad or on your computer?

BG: No, I'm on a Dell computer.

TG: Okay so you were able to come back, at some point it said you were gonna get on iPad.

BG: Yeah I pressed a few buttons, I had a screen on the left hand side that have your pictures in it, and it was obscuring those things, and once I minimized I saw it over there.

JR: By the way, I don't know what happened but I got the vocal, the audio

TG: I know! I was gonna ask that, how did you do that?

JR: No idea, it just appeared.

TG: Well it's a beautiful thing

BG: It's proof that old folks can be trained.

[Laughter]

CB: While you're still on with Suzanna, we've got another one coming up with a guy named Bomboy, who interviewed Merrill Stark, Gene Farley, umm and Suzanna what's worked out on that?

Suzanna Calev: It's for next Tuesday at 1, and he's going to be doing Zoom as well. I just saw that he accepted it so it should be another Zoom on for next Tuesday.

CB: He did this when he was a student right? Or did he do it as a faculty?

SC: I think he actually taught in the english department, he mentioned that. He came back, he taught for a while I believe but I believe he was a student, and then went to grad school at Columbia for journalism, so there's a lot of really great stuff coming up.

CB: Can I get a sense of what his age is? Is he as old as I am?

TG: That's hard to imagine.

[Laughter]

SC: You can ask him but I uh believe I mean....

CB: Martes died very soon after Farley which was what? '73 right after the flood, so this guy would have had to be between us in the 60s.

SC: In the late 60s, '68

CB: Right. And Harold Stark's the same way uh I mean that's our next victim. And Bernie this is very personal, two Idahoans, I know it's a huge state but did you know John Kaiser?

BG: No

CB: President of Boise state.

BG: Oh he! Umm no never ran across him no.

CB: He took them to Division I. And the other one was a guy named [Ken Persley? 1:37:57] up in Sandpoint.

BG: No

CB: Very important. Okay

TG: Chris did John Kaiser go to what's now Missouri State?

CB: Yes

TG: Yeah, I knew him.

CB: They were at **Sangamon State?** and he went away. We're exactly the same age, we stayed in touch, we went through the **ravages of the Dam in Sangamon State**, he was the vice president, I was the head of the equivalent Faculty Affairs Council, and we gently ousted the founding president, so we had a lot on our plate together. We visited him in Idaho, where he loved fishing and hunting, and he was a football player from the town where uhh what's the famous coal mining.. Motherjones. Motherjones is buried in his little town, all of his people were coal miners, German catholic family, did a very decent history of labor **and...?**], a wonderful guy. He made a great success of it in Idaho, then came back to Missouri and when that ended he went back to Boise and then he died.

TG: Yeah he was a tough SOB.

CB: He was a tough SOB, and a historian so we were in the same department. The other guy, Frank Church's son Forest Church, was one of my closest people at the Roosevelt Institute at Hyde Park. I was very close to him up to his death from cancer. Anyway, those are my Idaho connections and I got one friend up there, Dennis Clark who you might've known in some of the environmental work cuz that's what he does. He and I are in touch almost on a weekly basis on Deep Springs. Well any further comments from you or Jim or Tim?

BG: Not from me.

CB: This has been wonderful!

BG: It's been good. Can we do it again in a couple of years?

[mixed laughter]

TG: Actually are you free next week Bernie!?

[laughter]

CB: How is Doreen?

BG: She's doing well, we're doing very well.

CB: Give her my love would you.

BG: I will, she said to say the same to you too. But the only people that are in our bubble are my two boys and I have two grandchildren now.

TG: Aww

BG: They live 5 miles up the road.

CB: What are the boys doing? Are they pharmacists?

BG: No neither of the sons graduated pharmacy school they didn't want to. Umm they both went into computer science, uhh one is doing very well with Disney, working from home he's got a big group of folks working for him. He managed a lot of the Disney+ on streaming.

TG: Oh wow!

BG: He's been all over the country too../I mean as far as uhh he did some work out in San Francisco for a couple years, as far as with some startup companies down in North Carolina, down in Philadelphia, and ended working from home with Disney. He's doing well. The other one is a computer scientist, still living at home.

[mixed laughter]

CB: That is wonderful. My kids are off two in Baltimore, one in Arlington VA. So I see them too and frequently except by Zoom.

BG: Yeah. Are you up in Ticonderoga?

CB: Yeah. up on Lake George.

BG: Yeah. We had reservations to go up to Rogers Rock this year, but our reservations went from a little bit before the fourth of July and they cancelled us out.

CB: I'm serious Bernie, I'm living alone, I got 5 bedrooms, one right on the lake and old farmhouse that was built in 1820, you can see some of it behind me, but once this incarceration is over, if you guys have a inclination to come up and spend a couple of nights here, it would all plus for me.

BG: I would love to do it.

CB: I do very good french toast with bacon and maple syrup.

BG: Because you know as I said, we usually go up to Ticonderoga once a year, during a family reunion, we just have Roger's Rock up there. And usually for a week, next year we've got....

CB: On this side of the lake, I look out at Roger's Rock from my dock.

BG: Very good! We'll do that, I'll think about it Chris. Thank you!

CB: Thank you all! And we'll see some of us next week.

TG: Yep!

CB: And Suzanna thank you for setting this up!

TG: Really appreciate it.

SC: Yes, thank you so much Bernie!

BG: Bye guys, nice to see you all again. Well Jim, give me a call soon.

JR: Okay!

[Everyone says bye]