

Oral History Interview with Minoo Adenwalla
Interviewed by Erin Dix
December 7, 2016

[Start: 00:00:00]

ED: Today is December 7, 2016. I'm Erin Dix.

MA: D-Day, right? Or was D-Day the 6th?

ED: No, it's the 7th, you're right. This is the anniversary of Pearl Harbor. We're here in the University Archives. I'm conducting an oral history interview with an emeritus faculty member. Could you please state your name?

MA: Minoo Adenwalla.

ED: Okay, and what years and which subjects have you taught at Lawrence?

MA: What years – I came here in 1959. My subjects were a whole slew of political philosophy seminars. One was called Plato to Hobbes, the second one was called Locke to Marx, the third one was called Theories of Modern Democracy. I taught a course on the politics of India and Pakistan. I taught the intro American government course just as all the members of the department did. And later on I introduced Introduction to Constitutional Law and a second constitutional law course which I still teach once a year called Civil Liberties and the Supreme Court. In addition to that of course, after a time, I volunteered to teach in Freshman Studies. When I joined I was told nothing about Freshman Studies, so it was not part of my requirements. But I was asked to give a lecture to the Freshman Studies staff on E. M. Forster's *Passage to India*. And I got interested in the course, and so I volunteered to teach in it and I taught Freshman Studies for a number of years. I withdrew from Freshman Studies when music was introduced as one of the subjects, because I felt it was an insult to the course to have someone like me try to teach music. I think sometimes there's overreach in Freshman Studies and for me this was one of them. And I remember once we were supposed to teach Beethoven's – what was it – the war of, his overture to 1812? Or one of those? And what I did, and what most of my colleagues did on it, we talked about the history of the times and the history of the war. There was very little about music in it. And even though we received aid from professors in the music school, I thought I was not fit to teach music. And so I withdrew. So that's about the list of my courses as far as I can recall at the moment.

ED: So your initial appointment, you came in 1959, my understanding was that was part of an Asian Studies program?

MA: Yes. I forgot to point out that I also taught a separate course on China when I first came in. So when I first came in, I taught a basic intro course on India and Pakistan. Then I taught an advanced course on the politics of modern India. And I taught another course on the politics of China and East Asia. And so I did some in here to start a Carnegie Grant that emphasized Asian Studies. But when my colleague Chung-Do Hah came in here, three years after me, he took over the East Asian/China and Japan courses, and I stayed with the South Asia/India/Pakistan courses.

[00:04:31]

ED: Let's backtrack just a little bit. Where did you grow up?

MA: Well, I grew up in India. I was born in a place called Poona which is today called Pune. We had two homes, we had another one in Bombay where I did most of my growing up, because I went to school and university in Bombay, and actually did one year of graduate study also before coming to the States.

ED: Okay. And at the University of Bombay, you studied English literature?

MA: That's right, my undergraduate major was English lit. And I took what was called the honors course in English lit. It was on the English model where you have both a pass course and an honors course. And for the honors course, you take about three more subjects, but all related to English literature. For my final exam, for my BA honors exam, I had to go through ten different exams all related to English literature. Prosody, history of tragedy, the novel, history of English literature from Chaucer to Tennyson, and a number of other such courses.

ED: How did you become interested in pursuing further education beyond college?

MA: You mean graduate work?

ED: Yeah.

MA: Well I spent one year at the University of Bombay for an MA in English literature which I never intended to complete. But they offered me a teaching fellowship at my college. And while I applied abroad I decided to take it.

[At 00:06:40, there was a short break. About 40 seconds were removed from the audio recording.]

ED: So we were talking about your graduate school. You did one year at Bombay.

MA: Right. So as I said in my *Lawrentian* interview – so I'll cut it short – like most of my family, I planned to go to England, to study English literature again. I was in touch with St. John's College at Cambridge University, and again to cut the long story short, the master of St. John's wrote to me and said they required my BA results by March. But my BA exams were being set by March, and we didn't receive our results until about sometime in early June. And since it was part of the veterans rush at the time, St. John's wrote to me and said they could not hold a place for me until I told them about my results. But they'd consider me for the following year. I assured them I was sure I would get my BA honors, which of course I did, but they still refused to hold a place for me. A friend of mine was going to the University of California at Berkeley, and he said to my father who met him on the street and gave him the news, "Why on Earth do you Adenwallas always go to England? The future is with the United States. Why doesn't Mino try to think of going there?" I'm not a very impulsive person, but I was feeling rather irritable that day. And so when my father told me about meeting my friend, on the spur of the moment, I decided I would try the United States, which up to that moment I hadn't given a thought to.

It turned out that my dentist, a very close friend of the family, had done his dental work at New York University. So we went to him to see whether he had suggestions. At that time I thought I'd like to try to apply for a course in journalism, because right from the beginning there were two areas I was interested in: political journalism or university teaching. And coincidentally, almost by fate, it turned out that his roommate at New York University with whom he was still in touch – a gentleman by the name of Richard Prentice Ettinger – was chairman of the board of Prentice-Hall. So he put me in touch with Mr. Ettinger, and Mr. Ettinger very kindly wrote back to me and recommended that I apply to the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern. So I took his advice and applied to about four schools here. Syracuse was one of them, where I got in. Columbia was another, which rejected me because I had no background of actual experience in journalism. The University of

California at Berkeley, which accepted me for their undergraduate course in journalism, but at that time they had no graduate course. And of course, Northwestern. And that's how I decided to come to Northwestern.

[00:10:42]

ED: And you received your PhD from Northwestern?

MA: Yes. Well what happened, to be very honest with you, I was not that impressed with a good deal of my work at the Medill School, though I can quite understand why they offered the work they did. They were training their graduates to go into – 80% of them were going to regional newspapers. And so they had to know how to do court reporting, the police beat, local stories, how to handle a camera. What was the name of the camera in those days? A Speed Graphic, where you had to open it up and it was like an accordion. And they actually had one of the most boring courses I've ever had to take in what was called typography, where we had to learn how to set type by hand, which of course is completely outmoded today. But there some very good courses. The courses in editorial journalism, the courses even in public affairs reporting and reporting on the courts in Chicago were under the great Dr. Curtis MacDougall, I enjoyed a lot. But while I was working at J School, I was also taking courses to make up for the fact that I had not had them as an undergraduate in history and politics. And I worked under the great William McGovern at Northwestern, one of the great iconic figures of the time. And somehow we hit it off, and he offered me a position as his reader for his courses. So while I was in journalism school, I was still a reader for Dr. McGovern's courses in the liberal arts college. And I got more and more interested in political science, and apart from the courses I've mentioned, I wasn't that interested in some of the courses in journalism. But just to prove that it wasn't sour grapes, I finished my course in journalism, I got my masters in journalism and continued for a PhD at Northwestern.

As soon as I finished my masters at Medill, the department of political science at Northwestern offered me a teaching assistantship which I kept for three years. It paid my entire tuition and it paid me a small stipend which at that time was almost adequate for room and board. So I accepted it and stayed on and continued to work. My final year, after I got married to someone I'd met at Northwestern, we both went to India, in 1955. And I spent nine months there doing research for my dissertation. We came back in 1955 and I finished my dissertation that year and got my first teaching position, which was a visiting position at a superb liberal arts college called Kenyon College in Ohio. So I taught at Kenyon. The department at Kenyon was very nice. They requested a new president to create a position for me. But I can quite understand why he said, if he gave the political science department an additional position, other departments would also come down on him to ask what the justification was. As a result, I had to leave after my visiting appointment.

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During my search, I was interviewed at Lawrence University, which was at that time Lawrence College, by President Douglas Knight. I met him at a presidential conference at the Palmer House in Chicago. And – no, let me backtrack. Yes, I met him there while I was at Kenyon and he told me about a new position at Lawrence funded by the Carnegie Foundation with an emphasis on Asian Studies, history and politics. At the end of the interview, he told me even though there was one other candidate that he was sure they'd like to offer me the position, but he had to wait for the grant to come through. He told me he was sure it would be on his desk within a month. And so I went back to Kenyon, told June (my wife) that we were not going to continue searching for a position, because I was sure we'd be going to Lawrence. About two weeks later, I got a letter from Douglas Knight saying he was very, very sorry, the grant still had not come through, and he didn't want to hold me anymore. But he wanted me to tell him where I was going because he was sure that if the grant came through and when it came through, they'd still like to offer me the position. I didn't know whether it was a polite brushoff, or whether he was being serious. It was one of the most depressing days of my life, because I had given up searching everywhere.

But very fortunately two weeks later I was on a panel at the Midwest Political Science conference, and to cut a long story short, I was introduced to the chairman at the University of Missouri in Columbia, Missouri, where there was an opening. In those days jobs were not advertised widely. It all depended on who knew whom and who recommended whom. And I was very fortunate that way, because Northwestern was very good at recommending their students. Anyway, I met the chairman at the Midwest conference. A number of his other colleagues from the government department at Missouri were there, they talked to me. I returned to Kenyon and a week later, they called me up and asked me to come down to Missouri for a final interview. I went to it, they offered me the position, and so I spent a year and a summer on a tenure-track position at the University of Missouri. However, my wife wasn't that happy in Columbia. I could understand why, because I'd never seen a really segregated, Southern-type city, which Columbia was at that time, to my amazement. African Americans couldn't go to the restaurants in town except for one. They couldn't build a home except in one ward. In the movie houses, they had to sit upstairs – I don't know why, I thought they were the best seats – but they couldn't sit downstairs. In the hospital where my second daughter was born, they could go to it, but their rooms had to be in the basement. At the University, however, we were fully integrated. We had graduate students who were African Americans. But most of those who graduated from the University didn't stay in Columbia. They left and went elsewhere.

But anyway, almost at the end of the year when I was at Missouri, the telephone rang when I was in the shower, and my wife came excitedly to the door to tell me that President Knight was on the phone from Lawrence. So I wrapped a towel around myself, went to the phone, and sure enough it was Doug Knight who told me the Carnegie grant had come through, and they would very much like me to come up to Lawrence for an interview. So again to cut a long story short, I flew up to Lawrence. At the end of the day of interviews, Lawrence offered me the position. It was the biggest decision I had to make in my life academically, whether to stay at Columbia, a department that was very good. They promised me tenure in two more years if I stayed. But given the fact that June was not that happy in Columbia – and I could see a good reason why, I was fully occupied at the University and really wasn't aware of much that was going on in town – I decided to accept Douglas Knight's offer. And I presume it wasn't a bad decision, because over fifty years later, I'm still here talking to you. So that's how I came to Lawrence in 1959. I taught summer school in Missouri that year also, but we came up after summer school was over.

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ED: What were your first impressions of Lawrence and Appleton when you got up here?

MA: It's a hard question. I don't know that I've reflected on my impressions of Appleton. Appleton was a clean, Midwestern town. Somewhat parochial at the time. They didn't even have a Chinese restaurant, whereas today we have at least nine to ten, I think. And we have Thai restaurants, and three Indian restaurants, and an Indonesian restaurant, and a Vietnamese restaurant, and a Korean restaurant – things have changed a lot. But the campus was very pretty. Not as pretty as Kenyon's, I thought, but still it was rather nice. The faculty were very friendly over here. My office was a tiny little cubbyhole on the fourth floor of Main Hall where there were about sixteen other faculty offices. And I spent a good many years up in the upper echelons of Main Hall before there was renovation and they did away with those and then opened up offices below that were nice and spacious. And I changed my office around 1979 I think.

ED: That's when they finished the renovation of Main Hall, in '79.

MA: There were others. I remember a story when I came to Lawrence. One of the great figures was M. M. Bober of the Econ department who had won the Wells Prize at Harvard and had been an instructor at Harvard, but could not be kept on at Harvard because in those days Jewish people were not offered tenured positions at Harvard, the great liberal university. But Lawrence willingly offered him a position, and he spent the rest of his

academic life at Lawrence. But in a prior renovation of Main Hall, M. M. Bober's office was converted into the men's washroom. And I remember M. M. telling me that he was the only professor who'd ever been flushed out of an office.

ED: Very nice. This would be skipping ahead a bit, but: so your office now, you still have an office and it's in Briggs, right?

MA: Yeah. We were all moved out of Main Hall when Briggs was built. I think the first year we didn't, but the second year, I think we moved in 1998. At the time, we didn't want to leave Main Hall. But we were told that Briggs Hall was now for all the social sciences. History, however, was able to remain in Main Hall because my friend and colleague Bill Chaney created a stink and insisted that history was humanities, not social science. And he was able to wangle history staying on in Main Hall, where it is today.

[00:25:41]

ED: I did not know that, that's interesting. Well, when we talked last week, you told me a bit about helping to propose the calendar change from semesters to trimesters – that was in 1961. Could you talk about that a little bit?

MA: Well, when I came to Lawrence, and at Kenyon I'd been on the semester system, at the University of Missouri we were on the semester system, but at Northwestern we'd been on the quarter system, which at Lawrence we call the trimester system. So I had experience of both, and I felt that if Lawrence went on a quarter or trimester system, we could reduce our teaching load in the semester but teach the same number of courses throughout the year. And a number of my colleagues including Jack Stanley in the religion department felt the same way. However faculty in the music conservatory were adamant that there was nothing but the semester system. So we debated it out, there were moments of tension in the faculty meeting, and finally decided on a faculty vote to adopt the trimester system. The conservatory and I presume a few other faculty were very unhappy with that, and every few years they tried to raise the issue and debate going back to the semester system. And every few years we had to rally our forces and argue for continuing on the trimester system. We won. And then finally when Rik Warch was president, and I can't quite remember which year, we decided or Rik Warch proposed that we have one final debate upon this perennial question, and that it would not be raised for at least another 5 or 6 years. And in that debate, the trimester forces again won. And the issue was not raised. But after I retired in 2002, I believe it was raised again, and there was another study made. And finally again the decision was reached that we'd stay on the trimester system. And as far as I know now, in 2016, there isn't much effort to revive the question. I don't know whether I'm correct, that's an impression I have.

[00:29:00]

ED: This next question is one that we ask any faculty who were here during this period. I wonder if you have any thoughts about what life was like here at Lawrence during the '60s and '70s with all the activism going on.

MA: I suppose like a number of colleges and universities across the country, Lawrence finally joined in the upheaval to some extent that was taking place in a very serious way on other universities with regard to the Vietnam War. That was the first great issue. And I remember when Cambodia was invaded, the college shut down. It was voluntary – those professors who wanted to shut their classes down could. Others who wanted to continue to teach could. I was frankly in a small minority who continued to teach, because I was on the minority side with regard to the Vietnam War and supported the United States' efforts to prevent South

Vietnam falling to blatant invasion from North Vietnam. But I was in the minority. And yet, even though we debated it, we were able to stay friends on the faculty, even those of us that took opposing sides.

It's all telescoped in my mind, but later on, as we went into the late '60s and '70s, civil rights became the issue. And there I was on the majority side, welcoming the movement for civil rights. And then later on, there was another small upheaval with regard to black students on campus. This was when Curtis Tarr was president. And there were protests about too few black students, too few African students, on campus. The irony was Lawrence was I believe doing everything it could to recruit black students, but there just were not that many candidates available. For example, Lawrence at that time required entering students to have taken the ACTs or the SATs, and I believe the number of African American students who took them after high school were a very small minority. And those who were successful received offers often with big stipends from some of the most prestigious Ivy League colleges, for example, in the country. And I don't blame them for accepting those rather than come to Lawrence, which had a fine reputation but still could not quite match the reputation of some of the other colleges.

And then, in an experiment which I don't think worked out, under President Curtis Tarr, and an admissions director, Ed Wall. Ed if I recall correctly had been admissions director at Amherst before he came here. And he decided with Curtis Tarr's permission to really push open the doors of admission, and we admitted, if I'm not mistaken, about 35 to 40 African American students, most of them from places like the inner city in Chicago. We had not made preparations for them in terms of helping them catch up. Many of them, not all, many of them were completely unprepared for the academic expectations. And finally, I feel that some of them just gave up and decided they'd make the best of their freshman year at Lawrence – they were fully funded – not worry about academics, and at the end of the year, leave. They were given a special floor on the fourth floor of Plantz Hall, where some of them proceeded to for whatever reason paint all the lightbulbs black. They had no interest in academics, those students. And mostly those were men. The women students we took were interested, did well, worked very hard. And slowly, Lawrence stopped taking students who were totally unprepared and started taking students who did meet expectations. For a long time they were few and far between, but the doors were always open here. And today of course, as far as I know, we have a much greater number not only of African American students, but of Hispanic students also. Of course the Asian contingent has continued to grow on its own. And there was a time when we had a huge number of students from India, since we were one of the first colleges or universities to give very good financial aid to foreign students. But when other colleges started doing the same, our student population from India has gone down quite a bit. But the student population from Bangladesh, from Nepal, from Pakistan, has continued. So we have a good South Asian representation. We also have students from Vietnam and we have a large group from China. I believe we have about 40 Chinese students, and over 10% of the Lawrence student body today is made up of international students, which I think is a great thing.

[00:36:28]

While we're talking about some of the incidents, I remember during the tumultuous period when Curtis Tarr was here, a number of students took over the president's house which at that time was in Wilson House, which I think today is Admissions, I'm not sure. And Curtis Tarr called an emergency faculty meeting to talk to the faculty and to debate whether or not we should call in the Appleton police to clear Wilson House. He suggested that we do, if I remember correctly. And the faculty voted to back him. One of my colleagues rushed over to Wilson House before the faculty meeting was over and told the students that if they didn't clear out, the Appleton police were going to come. Upon hearing that, the small band that had taken over Wilson House evacuated it immediately and the crisis was over.

Later on there was another such crisis when President Tom Smith was in charge. At that time a number of African Americans took over the president's office, if I'm not mistaken. And there was another big meeting,

and President Smith attempted to meet with the list of their demands to the extent that we could. And that crisis also blew over.

Oh, yes, there was one final crisis I remember. When we were in the faculty meeting with Tom Smith being president, a group of students – was it protesting America's continued involvement in Vietnam? – came marching into the faculty, shouting slogans, trying to disrupt the faculty. And rather than stay there, a number of us just left and the faculty meeting was over. Nothing much more came of that. But there's another example of a very minor kind of incident. So we've had our fair share, but I don't think it was anything of a very serious nature.

Of course recently, and I'm pretty well out of the mainstream at Lawrence now as I'm retired, there have been protest movements from students about possible racism, incidents in Appleton, which have always happened even though I think they're few and far between. Our black students especially have had insults thrown at them on occasion on the street. But I believe some of them were concerned about the atmosphere on campus, about which I know very little, but it's news to me that there'd be incidents on the Lawrence campus. I don't know much about them.

ED: Yeah it's very complicated, I think.

MA: I think President Burstein is doing an excellent job trying to meet those pressures.

[00:40:37]

ED: Did you ever serve as an advisor for any student groups on campus?

MA: Yes. I'm speaking from memory now, and I think I've mentioned this to you before. A group concerned with student affairs, years ago – was Tom Smith president, or Rik Warch was president, I can't remember – came to me and asked me if I would be their faculty advisor. I told them I knew very little about student affairs and they should try and get someone else. And they said, "Oh, no, Professor Adenwalla, you don't have to know a thing about student affairs. But we have to have a faculty advisor. And so if you agree to be a faculty advisor, you just attend the meetings. You could sit silent, not participate at all, and that would be more than enough." So I felt obliged and I volunteered to be the faculty advisor to this committee on student affairs. And I attended their meetings, and most of the time the subjects had no interest to me and I knew very little about it, with regard to say the quality of student food and Downer Commons and some other such subjects. But the one subject that suddenly brought me to life was the question of extended hours in the Lawrence library. Dennis Ribbens at that time was librarian at Lawrence. And I always thought that Lawrence should extend its library hours. In those days we closed at 10 o'clock, if I recall correctly – no, we closed at 11 o'clock every day, and on weekends on Friday and Saturdays, we closed at 10. So we asked Ribbens to attend our committee meeting, and we proposed that the library remain open until 1 o'clock every day and on Fridays and Saturdays stay open until 11 o'clock. Professor Ribbens, Dennis, was rather reluctant at the time, and brought up the question of extra costs. I countered the argument by saying, they could close down all the offices of the library. All they needed was one student at the circulation desk, and students would be allowed to continue studying until 11 o'clock every day. And he reluctantly agreed. And then of course, he pointed out that it was important that a number of students did actually make use of those hours, and so they decided to keep a tally of how many students were present. I don't know what happened, I presume they tried to keep the tally. But ever since then those hours have stuck and have come down right to this day. In the old library, before Seeley Mudd was built, they had one room in the old library which was kept open 24 hours a day. So students could go in and type in there, they could study in there, they could work in there, but that room was closed up after the old Carnegie Library was torn down and Seeley Mudd was built in its replacement.

Then I've been on a number of faculty committees, are you at all interested in that?

ED: Yes.

MA: Well there's no point in my going into the seven or eight tenure committees that I served on. We worked very hard. I can tell you that the tenure process in those days, and I'm sure now, is a very, very thorough process where student opinions play a very important role, in addition to faculty colleagues and outside colleagues who comment on a professor's professional work. But apart from that, I've served on the committee that planned the Seeley Mudd library. And one proposal that I and Tom Headrick made – Tom Headrick was dean of the college at the time – was to create a number of small offices here for emeriti faculty, which we accepted. Unfortunately since those were the days of galloping inflation and costs kept on rising up, we had to make sacrifices, and the first thing to go were the emeriti offices. Another contribution that Tom Headrick and I made were to these little window slits on the north and south side of the building. The architects were most reluctant to put in those windows because they claimed it weakened the look of the strength of the structure. And we pointed out that for poor students who were studying inside the library and saw nothing but the walls without any sort of seeming ventilation, they were less concerned with the strength of the structure than they were with the atmosphere inside the building. That one we won. And so today you have these slits on the north and south side of the library.

The other faculty committees I served on: I served on the faculty committee that chose a new dean, and if memory serves me correct, I was on the committee that picked Rik Warch as the dean. And two years later I was on the presidential search committee when we ended up selecting Rik Warch as the president.

[00:48:08]

ED: So when you were first hired, the president was Douglas Knight. So you've experienced the leadership of a number of presidents.

MA: We went from President Knight to President Curtis Tarr to President Tom Smith to Rik Warch. And then during my retirement, we went to Jill Beck, and now to Mark Burstein. And Burstein and Jill Beck were awfully nice to me personally, even though I don't have much now to do with faculty meetings or faculty committees or faculty affairs. Which I welcome.

ED: Well, let's see. I wanted to ask you about ACM's India Studies Program, which you were the director of a few times.

MA: Right. I was rather active in that. So was Jack Stanley, my colleague in religion. And so was Tom Headrick when he was dean over here. And as a matter of fact we were on the planning committee, though Carleton College took the initiative in creating the program under the leadership of Bardwell Smith, who was their dean at the time, and Patrick Haithcox, who was in their government department. I remember driving out to a meeting place around Eau Claire where Patrick Haithcox drove down from Carleton and we drove from Lawrence. And that was our initial planning meeting for the program. The program then was situated in Poona, which is today Pune, which by coincidence is the town I was born in and where we had a home for a long time. And Jack Stanley I think was the first or second director of the program, and later on I was picked in '72 as the director. The program started in '69 or '70, and that year the government of India, because of the Bangladesh crisis and the American position in Bangladesh, decided not to let in any American programs that were not under the supervision of an Indian institution. So we waited, we waited, we waited, and they still would not give us the okay. So finally in '72, after holding a very, very rich and fruitful orientation term on the Lawrence campus, we had to cancel the program. But the ACM allowed me to go out to India for two weeks at their expense to really use my contacts which I had in India to find out what the likelihood was for the following

year. I was fairly successful in finding out that the following year was again going to be rocky unless we made these new arrangements. And so we decided to hold the program in Nepal, not in India. And the Nepalese government welcomed us with open arms. And Jim Fisher from Carleton, who was a Nepal specialist, took the program I think in '73 to Nepal. But we made the arrangements then with the University of Poona to affiliate with them and our program then was sanctioned by the government of India.

And then I went twice after that as the director of the program. Once in '76, where again we had the orientation program at Lawrence followed by two quarters, summer and fall, in India. And I also went in 1985 and directed the program after an orientation on the Lawrence campus. Lawrence and Carleton were the two campuses that most of the time had the orientation program. Of course today the program has been changed completely because of competition from the tremendous outburst of foreign programs. And now it is only a two-term program where we have no orientation at Lawrence or Carleton, which is a great pity. But I suppose we've had to cut back under the pressure of this competition. I don't know much about it today, but it's still continuing with its two terms in India.

[00:54:12]

ED: We talked about this a little bit the other day, but have there been faculty here at Lawrence with whom you have been especially close?

MA: Good lord. It's a very long list. One of the closest was my beloved colleague in government, Mojmir Povolny. And you've interviewed him so I won't repeat all the great things he accomplished with regard to his leadership of the Czechoslovakian movement in the United States during the Cold War. My close colleague in government Chung-Do Hah, whom I was, if I may say so, instrumental in getting Doug Knight to hire just two years after I came here when my great chairman William Riker went on to the University of Rochester. Bill Riker was another very close friend of mine and was a superb chairman. Jim Dana in Economics, Bert Goldgar in English, Bill Chaney certainly in history, Ben Schneider in English, Mark Dintenfass in English, Warren Beck, the great figure here in English – oh, yes, Tom Wenzlau in Economics – do you want me to keep on going on? There are so many others whom I could continue to mention.

ED: I know that's a hard question. I think that's good.

MA: That's been one of the great rewards of teaching at Lawrence, having these wonderful colleagues to associate with, argue with, teach with.

ED: So we've talked some about your travels to India. Were there other places that you would travel to?

MA: Yes. In '62-63, I had a Carnegie Foundation grant – no, no, it was a Howard Foundation grant, administered by Brown University – to spend the year at the school of Oriental Studies and the Institute of Historical Research at London University. So the whole year, '62-63, the academic year I spent doing research in England. The other two years I spent in London were at the Lawrence London Centre. I was one of the original three members who opened the Centre in 1970 when we were at the Arden Hotel in Lexham Gardens. My colleagues were Jules LaRocque of the Econ department and Bert Goldgar of the English department. Bert was the administrator also of the program. And it was a great program. Though many of the students complained about the fact that we demanded fairly rigorous academic work and didn't leave them with, they claimed, the same freedom of travel and exploration that students at the Lawrence German Center had. Our kids traveled, we had two-week breaks on occasion when they could do it. But once in London back at the Centre, we did demand academic work also, which I am very glad about. And then I went there again in '82-83.

ED: Were there a lot of changes between that time and your first experience there?

MA: In 1970 we were at the Arden, and they changed a number of places. In '82-83, we were at Sutherland Avenue off Edgware Road in London, 172 Sutherland Avenue, and an entire building. At the Arden we were part of a residential hotel, but at Sutherland Avenue we had the whole building. It was rather decrepit. One of the incidents was the collapse of a ceiling in the bathroom, one of the student's bathrooms. No one was hurt. But it was a good place, we had plenty of classroom space. By that time we were sending only two Lawrence faculty members, and my colleague was my good friend Mark Dintenfass.

ED: Did you family come with you when you did those trips?

MA: When we went to London you mean? When we went in '70-71, yes, both my daughters and wife came over there. When I went in '82-83, both my daughters were grown up, and I'm trying to think, were they still in graduate school? Sheila was in school of veterinary medicine and Shireen was in graduate school at the Fuller School of Psychology. So they were not with me. And my wife had passed away.

ED: Well, this is another broad question –

MA: No, no, no, I take that back, I'm sorry. In '82-83, my wife was with me and Sheila was in veterinary medicine in the States, came over and spent a term at a veterinary clinic in Kent on an internship. It's all so long ago. So yes, my family was with me, or part of my family. Shireen was still in graduate school in California. It was when I went to India in '85 to direct the ACM program that I was alone.

[01:02:16]

ED: How would you say that Lawrence has changed and in what ways has it stayed the same since your first years here?

MA: Well it's difficult for me to talk about Lawrence at this very moment since I've been retired since 2002. But I have continued to teach my one course. I have an office at Briggs which I value greatly and come to every day when I'm in Appleton, unless the weather prevents me. So I meet colleagues, I have students in my one course, and so I'm still part of the atmosphere. But I don't go to faculty meetings, I don't go to department meetings. I don't have to march in line when faculty processions take place unless I choose to, which frankly I don't as a rule. So I can talk about the Lawrence of 2002 quite knowledgeably from the Lawrence of 1959.

One striking difference is the tremendous expansion in international students, going to over 10% of our student body. Number two are the number of women on the faculty. At one time, we had much fewer women, and there was a push to attract additional women, and I think we were very successful there. And today I think there are women colleagues in about almost every department. But I haven't counted them. A number of them have done superbly. Karen Carr in history [religion] is one of the great scholars and teachers of the college. And I'm sure there are others also. So that's been a change.

A constant question I get is about the quality of students. I'd like to think there has been an improvement in the quality of students. But I still remember when I taught Freshman Studies I used to wonder at times how certain students in the class had got admission at Lawrence. They could barely write correctly, they weren't very interested in working. And I remember asking Steve Syverson, our admissions counselor and director once, how on earth a certain student in my class had got admission. And he looked up the student's record and said he agreed, it was one of the borderline cases, but we'd taken to make up I guess the quota that was required. But the good news is, much to my amazement, she graduated. I think there's been some improvement in the quality. But after I finished teaching Freshman Studies, I certainly felt in my other courses,

especially in my political philosophy seminars and my constitutional law classes, the quality of students was quite good. And today the one course I teach, which is a self-selected group, the civil liberties course, as a rule the students are very good. But they take it because they're interested in the subject. And it's a course that's only for sophomores and above.

On the other hand, I think I can think of a number of Lawrence alums who were my advisees who have done remarkably well. The number three position in today's Justice Department is an ex-government major. The name certainly I've gone blank on.

ED: Is it Tony Valukas?

MA: No, Tony Valukas is the key top lawyer in Jenner and Block in Chicago, who has also achieved national fame by heading the Valukas investigation committee into the collapse of, what was the major bank, in 2008? He was appointed by the Senate to lead the investigation, and he chaired a team of lawyers, and his report finally was known as the Valukas Report. Yes, Tony was one of our key government majors, but in the middle '60s. I'm still in touch with him, and he's one of the great alums.

Chris Murray, who was ambassador to the Republic of the Congo, and has just retired as the State Department's key advisor to the commander in chief of NATO and is going to be our visiting Scarff professor this April, was my advisee and we are in very, very close touch. Do you want me to keep rattling off alums?

ED: Sure.

MA: A number who are doing very well in the law field: Poonam Kumar from India, brilliant student, advisee of mine, went to University of Texas Law School, a very good law school. And today is with this global law firm which is called DHL Piper [DLA Piper] if I'm not mistaken. And she's in the Minnesota office, married to an Indian doctor. Chris Varas, who went to Northwestern Law School and is a patent lawyer on the west coast. We are in touch but not that frequently. Chanda Thapa from Nepal went to the University of Arizona law school and is practicing as an immigration lawyer very successfully in New York. Another very brilliant student, the name slips me, went to the University of Chicago and joined one of the major New York law firms after clerking for an associate justice of the federal bench, but then got a very good offer from I think DishTV as an in-house lawyer, and he moved to Denver Colorado and I presume is doing pretty well there. He just sent me a notice about having his first child, or his wife having his first child, which was a son. But I have not kept in close touch with him. Oh yes, Joe Bruce, another very good student in the government department, went to George Washington Law school and is an associate justice of the Illinois court system today. Not on the federal system but the state system. And we're in close touch also. Julie Benka with whom I've lost touch, very, very bright student who did an independent study in constitutional law with me, went to Northwestern and was the youngest law student at Northwestern in her class. She was 21. And she graduated there, got a very good position with a law firm and specialized in real estate law. But we have lost touch after that. Another very bright student, Eric Everett, one of the best students in con law I've had, went to the Harvard law school and today we are in occasional touch. He started his own law firm, has a firm of about 15 lawyers which he's head of, in Rhode Island. His wife Shirin who was Shirin Wadhvani, another very bright student from India, after they were married while he was at Harvard, she went to Boston law school, got her degree, and we're in touch also. And she today is a partner in a Boston law firm. I'm trying to think of his name...who's a judge with the California state bar. Behnke, John Behnke I think was his name. We're in occasional touch.

And then there are other alums. Dave Mitchell who worked in the admissions department at Lawrence and then became president of the Greenwood Company in San Francisco and is now after retirement in private consulting and has moved to Portland Oregon with his wife, Judy. We are in very, very close touch also.

Brian VanDenzen who went to the University of Wisconsin Law School and is practicing law in Arizona. But we're in infrequent touch. But you don't want me to go on with the litany.

ED: That's a good list.

MA: Oh yes, Yiyang Huang, from China originally, who surprised me when she took my con law class. At the end of the first day, I asked her since she was a Chinese student, whether she thought she'd have any difficulty with the language. And she said, no, she could cope. I said "good." I said "what is your major?" And she said "econ and maybe government." I said "what do you mean by maybe government?" She said "if I make an A in your course, I will also declare a government major, or I will just stay as an Econ major." I said "well good luck." She was a brilliant student, she made a straight A in the government course and also became a government major. She also went to the University of Texas Law School following Poonam Kumar and got a very good position with the largest law firm in New York called Skadden, Arps. But she just wrote to me that she's left Skadden, Arps and has moved I think to San Francisco to another law firm, the name of which I cannot recall. But there's another very bright law student also. If I may say so, many of the kids who took my Con Law courses and went on to law school have done extremely well.

ED: That's great.

MA: A number also went into the diplomatic corps. David Langhaug who graduated sometime in the early '60s did very well and is today retired. And there are three or four others that I can't immediately recall. Chris Murray of course is outstanding, but he and I have been in constant communication. And then a number of others. Omar Sayeed from Pakistan who grew up mostly in England and Saudi Arabia, was not a government major but took a lot of work in government and went on to the University of Indiana and got a masters I think in the history of science and PhD in biophysics if I'm not mistaken and then got a postdoc at Caltech for five years. But one of the great consulting firms, a group that had broken away from McKinsey, came to recruit at Caltech. And so since he was there as a postdoc he interviewed also and was offered a position with them which he called me about but he decided to take. And so his career in science ended, but he's gone on from one success to the other. And today he's a trustee at Lawrence and a vice president of United Health, senior vice president at United Health.

Abir Sen, another very bright student from India, who's also on our board of trustees, was an econ major but took about three or four courses including a tutorial with me when he was here. He joined Deloitte Touche, the consulting firm, was very successful there, but left after a few years to found his own company called Definity Health with another partner from Deloitte. And made a great success of that, sold it, and then wrote me saying he wanted an MBA. And I wrote him a very strong recommendation. He ended up getting an MBA from Harvard. He went back to Minneapolis, worked for a time with United Health, then founded his own company called Bloom, which he again sold, very well, and I believe has started another company. And he's also today on the Lawrence Board of Trustees, having done very well indeed. So the list of Lawrence successful majors that I know could go on and on.

ED: I imagine it would be very rewarding to stay in touch with people.

MA: One of the most rewarding things, which I never quite realized. Especially now that I've retired and I'm pushing myself in age, or rather age is pushing me. One of the greatest rewards has been the close touch that we've stayed in with so many of my past students. And students that I could mention – I won't go through the litany of names again.

[01:20:12]

ED: So you officially retired in 2002, but you continue to teach Constitutional Law?

MA: Yes.

ED: Once every year?

MA: Yes. At the beginning I was teaching both Con Law courses, but when they hired my replacement Steven Wulf, who today is an associate professor with tenure, Steve took over one of the Con Law courses because that was his field also. But the civil liberties course – [library loudspeaker announcement]

ED: It's 4:15. But it's okay, we can continue.

MA: Do you want me to come back? I'd be happy to.

ED: I'm actually almost at the end of the questions that I had prepared for you.

MA: It's up to you.

ED: Okay. My only question that remained here was, what were some other things that you've been involved with since you've retired, what do you do in your spare time?

MA: I can talk about my family, my daughters, what they're doing, what I do with them, if you'd like me to. It's entirely up to you.

ED: Well, yeah I guess a little bit. Does one of your daughters live in Appleton?

MA: Yes, I must have told you about it. And my granddaughter is at Madison with the Epic Company. And she's doing very well over there. She went to Carleton. My elder daughter went to St. Olaf, my younger daughter went to Grinnell. I mean they went on to graduate school, but their undergraduate schools. And then my granddaughter went to Carleton. But my other granddaughter went to Haverford. And my grandson went to Boston College.

ED: That's a lot of liberal arts schools. Is there anything else that we haven't covered here that you want to talk about?

MA: I haven't thought about it. I could tell stories about some of my colleagues. For example, Chung-Do Hah, there are so many stories about him that I could tell. Like the time, this is one of our alums who came back, who's heading the Kennedy School at Harvard at the moment, David King, who was invited back for a lecture and began by telling stories about all of us when he was here as a student. But the one that I like best was Chung-Do Hah's. Chung-Do came in the first day and he wrote on the board, "My name is Chung-Do Hah," and someone snickered in the classroom. So he turned around and said to them "you see my name, you laugh. You see my grade, you cry." I thought that was a great story.

ED: I read your honorary degree citation that Rik Warch read when you retired. There was a story about you cutting a paper into the shape of an F. Do you recall that? It was just a joke.

MA: That was absolutely untrue. What was the story? There was the same story circulated about Corry Azzi. What was it, I tore it up?

ED: The story as he said it was that you cut the paper into the shape of an F.

MA: Absolutely false. But there was that story going around. And Rik said no, it was a D, not an F, right?

ED: "A rather elaborate D minus," was his quote.

MA: That was Rik making it up, completely. So, if and when do you want me to come in?

ED: Well I'm going to turn this off for now.

[End: 01:25:23]