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## Interview with Vivian Moore Carroll

Vivian Moore Carroll

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**LOUISE PETTUS ARCHIVES AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS  
ORAL HISTORY PROJECT**

**Interview #245  
CARROLL, Vivian Moore**

**CARROLL, Vivian Moore**

Business major, member of the Alumni Board, and Carroll Hall's namesake

*At Winthrop:* 1970-1973

*Interviewed:* March 31, 2015

*Interviewer:* Rebecca Masters and John Gaston

*Index by:* Michelle Dubert-Bellrichard

*Length:* 00:41:25

Abstract: In her March 31, 2015 interview with Rebecca Masters, Vivian Carroll recalls her time at Winthrop as a day student in the early 1970s and serving on the Alumni Board. Carroll shares her opinions on DiGiorgio's administration and how Winthrop has changed since the 1970s. This interview was conducted for inclusion into the Louise Pettus Archives and Special Collections Oral History Program.

Keywords: Carroll Hall, business, coeducation, Presidents, Alumni Board, day student. Martie Curran, Larry Carroll, Jamie Comstock, Brien Lewis, cultural events requirement.

**Interview Session (March 31, 2015): Digital File**

**Time      Keywords**

00:00:00    *Start of Interview*/Interviewer's Introduction

00:00:10    *Question:* Connections to Winthrop? *Answer:* Grew up in Rock Hill. Familiar with Winthrop whole life. Graduated from Winthrop in 1973. Reconnected with Winthrop in the early 1990s. Asked to serve on the Alumni Board. Affiliated with Winthrop through the foundation and helped with fundraising.

00:01:30    *Question:* Why did you decide to attend Winthrop? *Answer:* It was the only thing she could afford. VC worked full time.

00:02:05    *Question:* Entrance exam? *Answer:* SAT. Some courses were exempted for VC, which is how she graduated in three years.

00:02:30    *Question:* How was it being a day student? *Answer:* VC focused on getting her education. VC working full time, so she didn't have a lot of time for activities. VC

- involved in student government – was a day student governor. VC spent a lot of time at Dinkins student center. At Dinkins, students could hang out with their professors outside of class.
- 00:04:05 *Question:* Any other clubs or internships? *Answer:* No. VC worked at the Rock Hill Telephone Co. (now Comporium).
- 00:04:40 *Question:* How did Winthrop help? *Answer:* Rock Hill Telephone Co. was supportive of Winthrop students. Didn't help VC in her courses. VC says she had to dress differently than the other students: dressed professionally.
- 00:06:10 *Question:* How has Winthrop's image changed? *Answer:* More recognized outside of this region. Involvement in the NCAA has helped. Coeducation improved the visibility of the university. VC says her degree is more valuable now than it was twenty years ago.
- 00:07:05 *Question:* When did Martie (Alumni Director Martie Curran) approach you? *Answer:* In the 1990s. VC not sure how Martie found her. When VC graduated she moved to Tennessee.
- 00:08:00 *Question:* Initial thoughts of the campus when you came back? *Answer:* Initially impressed by the beauty of the campus. The faces of the students were different: addition of males and African American students.
- 00:08:52 *Question:* When did you first meet DiGiorgio? *Answer:* First Alumni Board meeting. VC was impressed, and she comments on his dress and love of Winthrop. DiGiorgio would update the Alumni Board on what was happening on campus.
- 00:09:50 *Question:* Was there any concern of DiGiorgio being from New Jersey? *Answer:* No.
- 00:10:25 *Question:* What changes needed to happen? *Answer:* The fitness center. VC mentions DiGiorgio's presentation to the Alumni Board. VC was delighted to see the student center. VC talks about the improvement in the science building.
- 00:12:10 *Question:* Talk about Carroll Hall? *Answer:* Brien Lewis, VP of development, came to Alumni Board with building idea. VC remembers her business classes were held in Tillman and "were horrible." VC and her husband wanted to help with this building. VC shares story about being surprised by her son, Kris, revealing her husband Larry's donation at naming event. VC talks about the growth of Carroll Hall.
- 00:15:55 *Question:* Any other events that stand out in Winthrop's history? *Answer:* VC remembers coeducation controversy. VC mentions other alumni's reaction to coeducation.

- 00:16:40 *Question:* Did Winthrop's beginnings as an all-girls school hurt Winthrop? *Answer:* No. VC says most people don't know it was an all-girls school, if they're not from this area. Attaining university status was big for Winthrop. Carroll credits DiGiorgio for this. Winthrop in the NCAA tournament.
- 00:18:40 *Question:* Did politics influence Winthrop? *Answer:* Politics influenced the flow of money to Winthrop. VC comments on continual lack of funding from the state.
- 00:19:50 *Question:* Winthrop's fine arts profile overshadow other academic programs? *Answer:* VC says her B.A. didn't carry much weight then. The business school at Winthrop carries more weight. VC values her liberal arts education more in retirement than during her career. Carroll paints.
- 00:22:35 *Question:* What would you tell students about cultural events? *Answer:* It will make students more well-rounded.
- 00:24:00 *Question:* How should history review DiGiorgio's Presidency? *Answer:* DiGiorgio took Winthrop to a whole new level. VC says DiGiorgio is detail oriented.
- 00:26:10 *Question:* How did alumni view controversies with DiGiorgio? *Answer:* VC didn't hear much about that.
- 00:27:25 *Question:* Comstock? *Answer:* VC says it was hard, because it's hard to replace someone after DiGiorgio's legacy. VC comments on Comstock.
- 00:29:45 **[no question]** VC excited about the new President.
- 00:30:15 *Question:* Describe Gale. *Answer:* Gale was involved in the Rock Hill community. VC says that the next President's wife needs to be friendly and involved. VC mentions that some students complained about DiGiorgio, because he wasn't visible. Perhaps matter of where some students were/ were not (e.g., cultural events, athletics events.)
- 00:32:22 *Question:* How has the atmosphere changed? *Answer:* VC speaks from the standpoint of faculty: speculates that the faculty is excited about the next President.
- 00:32:55 *Question:* Challenges for Winthrop? *Answer:* Money will be very important. VC mentions Virginia College that closed: Sweet Briar College. The next President needs to be open to change and comfortable with technology. VC says she saw DiGiorgio as a "visionary person."
- 00:34:35 *Question:* Any other comments about Winthrop Presidents? *Answer:* VC says going

to the President's house as a student was exciting. VC hopes the next President will be welcoming.

00:37:00 **[no question]** Interviewer concluding interview. Offers opportunity for follow up interviews.

00:41:05 **[no question]** VC says Winthrop changed her life and helped her career.

00:41:25 ***End of interview***