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Interview with Harry Dalton

Harry Dalton

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

**Interview #261
DALTON, Harry**

DALTON, Harry
Masters of History 1976-1986

At Winthrop: 1976-1986
Interviewed: May 12, 2015
Interviewer: Rebecca Masters
Index by: Michelle Dubert-Bellrichard
Length: 00:44:34

Abstract: In his May 12, 2015 interview with Rebecca Masters, Harry Dalton shares his time at Winthrop as a student from 1976-1986 and how he remained involved with Winthrop ever since. Recalled are the accomplishments of DiGiorgio, Dalton's thoughts on President Mahony, and how Winthrop has changed from his time as a student. This interview was conducted for inclusion into the Louise Pettus Archives and Special Collections Oral History Program.

Keywords: History, Art, Fundraising, Presidents, Comstock, Mahony, Knowledge Park, Capital Campaign, Buildings, Endowment

Interview Session (May 12, 2015): Digital File

Time Keywords

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

00:00:20 *Question:* What roles have you had at Winthrop? *Answer:* At Winthrop in 1976 to take a class in American history – graduate course. HD loved it so much, he took another course. Worked toward a history degree. Then switched over to the MBA program. Then switched back to get a Master's of History degree. Took a trip to the Soviet Union. On campus from 1976-1986. First time involved in Winthrop after degree, was a part of the Capital Campaign. A part of another campaign in 2008 or 2010 – served on the campaign's committee. HD talks about the lack of endowment at Winthrop.

00:04:15 *Question:* What history professors impressed you? *Answer:* Excellent professors. Dr. Mickey Kennedy was HD's favorite – recalls his lectures.

00:05:55 *Question:* South Carolina history class? *Answer:* HD learned about how SC was

- colonized. HD talks about SC in the American Revolutionary War. HD visited Revolutionary War sites and created a presentation for class. SC geography.
- 00:08:12 *Question:* When did you start taking courses? *Answer:* In Rock Hill for twenty years before taking classes.
- 00:08:35 *Question:* What were Winthrop's greatest strengths when a student? *Answer:* Strengths: Winthrop's future. Location. Strong studies: Education and Home Economics. Weaknesses: Not funded properly by the state – speculates it had to do with being an all-girls school.
- 00:11:23 *Question:* How do you compare Winthrop then to now? *Answer:* Winthrop achieved so much. Winthrop's infrastructure, facilities, and curriculum have strengthened. HD commends DiGiorgio for bridging Winthrop to the community.
- 00:13:15 *Question:* First impressions of DiGiorgio? *Answer:* Met him not long after he had been on campus. HD says DiGiorgio was a man of strength and had a presidential air about him. DiGiorgio had breakfasts with community leaders regularly to explain what he wanted to accomplish at Winthrop and what he wanted from the community leaders. Breakfasts went on for three to four years.
- 00:15:25 *Question:* Winthrop's biggest challenge in 1989? *Answer:* HD fell in love with Winthrop University after being a student. Funding was the biggest challenge. HD says Winthrop had been overlooked by the state. Not a lot of new buildings. Infrastructure was weak. The grounds were beautiful, but Winthrop did not fulfill its potential.
- 00:19:40 *Question:* Have you known other Presidents? *Answer:* Yes. Knew DiGiorgio better. Often came to Presidents' house. Close to President Sims when HD came to Rock Hill. HD says the Presidents were good, but no one compared to DiGiorgio.
- 00:21:00 *Question:* Role of Gayle DiGiorgio? *Answer:* Tony and Gayle were a team. Gayle involved in volunteer organizations. Handled herself well. Attractive.
- 00:22:44 *Question:* What did DiGiorgio accomplish with connecting Winthrop to the community? *Answer:* HD aware that DiGiorgio was included in a group of influential citizens in Rock Hill. HD says DiGiorgio was trying to make Rock Hill more of a college town. DiGiorgio tried to get more amenities for students – roads and bike paths. HD says most significant accomplishment was realigning University towards Constitution Blvd. Knowledge Park – bridge between Winthrop and Rock Hill.
- 00:25:35 *Question:* Knowledge Park and rate of progress? *Answer:* HD says progress is too slow. HD says DiGiorgio is influential in bringing Knowledge Park where it is now.

- HD says it is unfortunate that DiGiorgio retired before the completion of Knowledge Park.
- 00:27:40 Question: Street car? Answer: HD not sure if the community will support it.
- 00:28:20 *Question:* Did you meet Comstock? *Answer:* Did not meet her. HD removed himself from the Capital Campaign committee, which was the time Comstock arrived.
- 00:29:14 *Question:* Thoughts about the Board's decision to terminate her Presidency? *Answer:* HD says it was justified. HD speculates on Comstock's attitude. HD believes Mahony will be good for Winthrop.
- 00:30:40 *Question:* What do you think the community hopes from Dan Mahony? *Answer:* HD says Mahony has a good attitude – realistic and has good expectations. HD refers to Mahony's resume.
- 00:33:15 *Question:* What led you to creating an Endowed Chair in the sciences? *Answer:* HD volunteered for environmental agencies. HD inspired to expand the environmental studies at Winthrop. HD encouraged members of the Sierra Club to donate.
- 00:38:00 *Question:* Where does your affinity for the arts come from? Why donate to the Arts Program at Winthrop? *Answer:* Always liked the performing arts. Music especially. HD explains his love for art.
- 00:40:15 *Question:* What art at Winthrop do you enjoy the most? *Answer:* Music. Explains. Dance.
- 00:41:50 *Question:* Major events that stand out? *Answer:* Winthrop going to NCAA basketball.
- 00:44:13 [no question] Interviewer concludes interview.
- 00:44:33 *End of interview*