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Hultgren, Carolyn Oral History Interview

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FACULTY EMERITI INTERVIEWS
UNIVERSITY OF THE PACIFIC ARCHIVES



Carolyn Hultgren (1989-2001)
Chair and Professor Department of Physical Therapy

August 15, 2023

By Cathy Peterson

Transcription by Ben Aghazarian, University of the Pacific,
Department of Special Collections, Library

Subjects: Arrival at the University of the Pacific, involvement with national physical therapy organizations, other instructors, and physical therapy students.

University of the Pacific Emeriti Society Oral History Project

Peterson: I'm Cathy Peterson and you are?

Hultgren: Carolyn Hultgren

Peterson: And today's date is August 15, 2023, and we are conducting this interview in Carolyn's dining room in Nevada. When did you work at Pacific, and in what capacity?

Hultgren: I was hired by Jean Baldwin in the late 80's as a faculty member and appointed to serve as chair of the Department of Physical Therapy in 1990 when Jean retired. I retired in 2001.

Peterson: The program had recently started when you joined the faculty. How many students were in the program back then?

Hultgren: The maximum we could have in the classroom was 19 or 20.

Peterson: Did you move to Stockton?

Hultgren: We were living in Sacramento.

Peterson: What was your general memory of the campus?

Hultgren: I just thought it was a cute, family-like campus. I did my undergraduate at the University of Oklahoma, a huge campus. UOP was friendly, although we were on the other side of the river. We weren't in the mainstream of the campus, but there were still a lot of students there. There were some students that did work on both sides of the campus, but mostly it was Pharmacy and Physical Therapy.

Peterson: What are your memories about students in general, your PT students?

Hultgren: I was always on the selection committee and I think that physical therapists need to be able to speak well to newcomers. You've got to be a good, quick, communicator to get the patients committed to the plan of care you develop. Those were some of the things I looked for in the students that came to interview. They couldn't be shy and although there were times that I tried to be shy, I knew that when I was out meeting people I couldn't be. They had to be someone that could easily carry on a conversation with someone they had just met.

Peterson: Do you remember any special activities that the students participated in, or you participated in with students?

Hultgren: I know that we started taking as many of them as we could to state meetings. Some couldn't for various reasons, but I thought it was important for them to be able to interact with people they didn't know, and to learn about or state and national organizations.

Peterson: Were you involved in the APTA [American Physical Therapy Association]?

Hultgren: Yes, I held office at national level. I was speaker of the house of delegates.

Peterson: Did you hold office at CPTA [California Physical Therapy Association]?

Hultgren: At least once. But you see, my husband Clancy was executive director, so I let him do his thing there and I was more involved nationally.

Peterson: Were you on committees at the University?

Hultgren: I don't remember.

Peterson: What did you teach when you were at Pacific?

Hultgren: Administration, I had a master's in health care management

Peterson: Did you teach intro to PT?

Hultgren: I may have, I think I did some.

Peterson: That course had the history of PT in it.

Hultgren: I had been very involved, before I started at UOP, with the APTA. So, I knew a lot of the history of the profession, and I was on the APTA board of directors.

Peterson: Did you have a special role on the board?

Hultgren: Well, I was speaker of the house of delegates.

Peterson: Let's go back to some of the people who were at Pacific when you were there. You mentioned Jean Baldwin as the founding chair, and you overlapped with her briefly, and then you assumed that position.

Hultgren: Yes.

Peterson: Who else did you work with?

Hultgren: Let's see. Darcy Umphred, Jim Mansoor, Brad Stockert, Rolando Lazaro, Marilyn Meares, and I hired Tamara Little (now Phelan). It was a good group to work with. Oh, and Jeannie Swift. She was our administrative assistant.

Peterson: Were there part-time faculty?

Hultgren: Yes. Dr. Serra taught orthopedic surgery. He was wonderful-one of my favorite people. And Monty Merrill. He helped Brad teach some courses. Jody Nance was also very involved, and still is, I think.

Peterson: It sounds like you had a lot of support of the local community PTs.

Hultgren: We did and we were grateful for each one of them.

Peterson: While you were chair, you mentioned the best thing about your position was the kids. Tell us about your endowed K.I.D.S. scholarship. Where does the name come from?

Hultgren: Kind, intelligent, dedicated students

Peterson: So, that's what you called the students in the PT program.

Hultgren: I brought that up early in their time at the program, maybe on the first day. I said I just want you to know that you will hear me refer to you all sometimes as my kids. I just want you to know what that means. My kind, intelligent, dedicated students. Just so they would understand that I wasn't referring to them as little kids.

Peterson: So that's what you liked most about your job there. Do you remember what you liked least about it?

Hultgren: Any paperwork I had to do.

Peterson: Is there anything else you want to make sure we talk about? While you think about that I have a couple more questions. What is the University like now from what you know of it?

Hultgren: As the University grew, it seemed to me that it became less like a family.

Peterson: Was that in the Department or the University?

Hultgren: The University

Peterson: That's good to know, because as the department continues to grow and change, hearing perspectives like that is important. While you were there did the University meet your expectations?

Hultgren: I can't think of anything that didn't. I can't remember anything that I didn't want to happen, that I couldn't get to happen. It seemed like just about anything I wanted to try to get done, got done.

Peterson: If you had any words for students reading this interview, what would you want them to know about?

Hultgren: Well, if you get an idea that you think is a great idea, get the information about what to do to get it done before you go ask to get it done. Be proactive. Try to think of anything that might be a problem, figure out what a good answer or argument would be before you get there.

Peterson: Thank you, is there anything else you wanted to include?

Hultgren: We interviewed students, and sometimes in an interview, I might get a hint that they need some coaching or counseling, pay attention to what you say in the interview.

Peterson: So, the interview is important to keep, and the faculty needs to be sure they're gleaning the right information from it.

Hultgren: Right. Sometimes it can be just one word that might make some faculty member sit up and think, how's that going to translate into the classroom setting? A conversation that could start a fire storm.

Peterson: Thank you. Thanks for your time and thanks for doing this.