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Barbara Hopkins

Oral History Interview

Interviewed by Thomas Kennealy

2017 June 29

Conaton Learning Commons, Xavier University, Cincinnati, Ohio

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- Thomas Kennealy: 00:00:03      Good morning, my name is Father Tom Kennealy and I'm the archivist at Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio. Today is Thursday, June the 29th, 2017, and I'm seated here in the Conaton Learning Commons on the Xavier campus. With me is Dr. Barbara M. Hopkins of Xavier's Department of Chemistry, who has graciously consented to be interviewed this morning for Xavier's archival collection of oral histories.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:00:34      First of all, let me give you some background on Dr. Hopkins. Dr. Hopkins graduated from Edgewood College in Cincinnati in 1970. She was summa cum laude with a major in chemistry. In 1974, she received her doctorate in physical chemistry from the Catholic University of America in Washington DC. From 1974 to 1977 Dr. Hopkins did a post-doctoral appointment in analytical chemistry with a special emphasis on clinical toxicology at St. Joseph's Hospital in Denver, Colorado. In 1977, she returned to her alma mater, Edgewood College, as an assistant professor of chemistry. In 1980, she joined the chemistry faculty of Xavier University, and this was at the time that Xavier University purchased Edgewood and Edgewood became a college of Xavier University.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:01:39      In addition to her teaching responsibilities Dr. Hopkins has served two terms as the chair of the chemistry department. The first from 1986 to 2001, the second from 2013 to the present. For 40 years she has served both Edgewood College and Xavier University

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with distinction. She has a well-deserved reputation for being an excellent teacher and a first class departmental chair.

- Thomas Kennealy: 00:02:08 So first of all, Barbara, welcome and thank you for your willingness to share with us your reminiscences of both Edgecliff College and Xavier University. Let me begin, if I may, at the beginning, by asking you some questions about your life prior to Edgecliff and Xavier. And so let's begin, where were you born and raised?
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:02:29 Well Father, I was actually born and raised in Cincinnati, I've spent my entire life in Cincinnati other than the seven years that you just mentioned when I was in Washington DC and in Denver, Colorado.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:02:43 Good, and tell us about your family.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:02:46 My family, I'm an only child, and I probably exhibit all the only child syndromes, [Kennealy laughs] so to speak. My parents were, actually my father was from Columbus, Ohio, my mother was from Hamilton, Ohio and they met after my father had served in World War II. My father had gone to school at Ohio State for a while before going to the army as an, studying engineering. When he came back from the army he decided to begin working with his own father who had a business.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:03:17 Mm-hmm (affirmative).
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:03:17 So neither of my parents went to college, so-
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:03:19 Okay, interesting.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:03:20 I'm the first in our family to go to college.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:03:23 Where did you do grade school and high school?
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:03:26 Grade school was at two places, one was Nativity school-
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:03:30 Oh yes.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:03:30 In Pleasant Ridge-

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Thomas Kennealy: 00:03:31 Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Barbara Hopkins: 00:03:31 Here in Cincinnati, and then the second was at Our Lady of the Rosary in Green Hills.

Thomas Kennealy: 00:03:37 Oh yes.

Barbara Hopkins: 00:03:38 So then after that, I went to McAuley High School, in College Hill. One of the interesting things that sort of relates to maybe what were talking about today is that all three of those schools were sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy.

Thomas Kennealy: 00:03:53 Oh all right.

Barbara Hopkins: 00:03:53 And who are, were then, the sponsors of Edgecliff.

Thomas Kennealy: 00:03:56 Edgecliff, yes.

Barbara Hopkins: 00:03:56 And so that was certainly one of the reasons for choosing Edgecliff in that at McAuley we were all very aware of Edgecliff programs, and we even knew some of the people that were there-

Thomas Kennealy: 00:04:09 Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Barbara Hopkins: 00:04:10 In fact, of my graduating class at McAuley, of which there were 200, 250 or so, 40 of us went to Edgecliff for college.

Thomas Kennealy: 00:04:12 And the sisters had some influence in-

Barbara Hopkins: 00:04:12 Yes.

Thomas Kennealy: 00:04:12 There was a connection, yeah.

Barbara Hopkins: 00:04:12 There was definitely a connection.

Thomas Kennealy: 00:04:12 Well then when did you enroll at Edgecliff?

Barbara Hopkins: 00:04:12 I enrolled at Edgecliff in the fall of 1966-

Thomas Kennealy: 00:04:12 Okay.

Barbara Hopkins: 00:04:12 After having graduating from McAuley.

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Thomas Kennealy: 00:04:34 Mm-hmm (affirmative). And did you commute or did you live on campus?

Barbara Hopkins: 00:04:38 I commuted-

Thomas Kennealy: 00:04:39 Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Barbara Hopkins: 00:04:39 At that time, the majority of the students at Edgecliff who were from the Cincinnati area did commute. There was a dormitory at Edgecliff-

Thomas Kennealy: 00:04:49 Okay.

Barbara Hopkins: 00:04:49 But that was pretty much reserved for students who came from out of town.

Thomas Kennealy: 00:04:56 Out of town, yes. And tell us about the Edgecliff campus, first of all, where was it located?

Barbara Hopkins: 00:04:59 Okay, Edgecliff was located on Victory Parkway-

Thomas Kennealy: 00:05:02 Okay.

Barbara Hopkins: 00:05:02 Just about two miles from where the Xavier campus-

Thomas Kennealy: 00:05:06 To the south.

Barbara Hopkins: 00:05:06 To the south.

Thomas Kennealy: 00:05:07 Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Barbara Hopkins: 00:05:07 Yes. And one of the distinctive factors about the Edgecliff campus is that it overlooks the Ohio River.

Thomas Kennealy: 00:05:13 Oh yes.

Barbara Hopkins: 00:05:14 So there were many buildings where you could see beautiful views of the river, there was also an area that we always talked about as being behind Emery-

Thomas Kennealy: 00:05:24 Oh yes.

Barbara Hopkins: 00:05:26 And that was an area, again, where you could go, and you could sit and watch the river.

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- Thomas Kennealy: 00:05:31 Tell us about the buildings, I understand the campus was about 20 acres, and as you say it overlooked the river. How many buildings and what buildings were there?
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:05:39 Okay. In terms of the buildings, and actually the buildings that were there when I began as student there were the same buildings that were there at the time that Xavier acquired Edgecliff.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:05:50 Oh, that's interesting.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:05:51 So there wasn't any growth at that time. I mentioned Emery. Emery was a 19th century mansion that had been used for a while as the dormitory, for the students. And it was a beautiful building with all wood type of architecture and about three or four floors. And, as I said, it was first used as a dormitory, and then later on when a new dorm was built, it was used for the art department.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:06:21 There was an art museum in there as well-
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:06:24 Yes.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:06:24 Or a collection.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:06:25 There was always an art gallery associated with the first floor of-
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:06:29 What was the significance of naming it Emery?
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:06:32 It was from the, Mary Emery-
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:06:34 Oh yes.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:06:34 From a well known family here in Cincinnati.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:06:36 And she built the-
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:06:38 She had built that building.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:06:40 Yes. Mm-hmm (affirmative).
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:06:40 Then, in addition to Emery, there was another building that was also very similar in terms of one of these

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19th century mansions, so to speak, which was called Maxwelton.

- Thomas Kennealy: 00:06:49 Mm-hmm (affirmative).
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:06:50 And that building was used by the music department.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:06:54 Oh, Dr. Helmut Roehrig.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:06:55 Dr. Helmut Roehrig.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:06:57 Yes.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:06:57 Yes.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:06:57 Happy memories.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:06:58 Music department, yes. That was their building.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:07:00 Mm-hmm (affirmative).
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:07:01 That building is still there, on the property.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:07:05 Oh.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:07:06 Emery, unfortunately, was taken down after the time when Xavier sold the Edgecliff campus to the land developers.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:07:18 And I understand that was somewhat controversial-
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:07:20 Yes, it was.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:07:20 Turning that building-
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:07:20 It was very controversial. That was probably, there were many things about the Xavier acquisition of Edgecliff that bothered people-
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:07:29 Mm-hmm (affirmative).
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:07:29 But I think that was one of the ones that bothered people the most, because that building had, it had such a history to it in terms of just the building itself. In terms of its architectural style and everything, in addition though, especially to the people who would

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have gone to Edgecliff in the early years, it had many memories.

Thomas Kennealy: 00:07:49

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Barbara Hopkins: 00:07:50

Since it was the dorm, and it was also a place where many activities were held.

Thomas Kennealy: 00:07:55

Mm-hmm (affirmative). And what other buildings would there have been at that time?

Barbara Hopkins: 00:07:59

Other buildings, in terms of when I was there, there was the administration building-

Thomas Kennealy: 00:08:03

Okay.

Barbara Hopkins: 00:08:03

Now, the administration building, as you would expect, it housed the offices of the President, the Registrar, a chapel, a beautiful chapel-

Thomas Kennealy: 00:08:11

Oh yes.

Barbara Hopkins: 00:08:11

Was in the administration building. There were also classrooms, in that building. And those classrooms would have been used in the early years as the main classrooms for the college.

Thomas Kennealy: 00:08:24

Okay.

Barbara Hopkins: 00:08:24

There was also a cafeteria, and that was used again by the dorm students. And then there was a connection from the, that building to what was the theater.

Thomas Kennealy: 00:08:39

Oh.

Barbara Hopkins: 00:08:39

And the theater now, Edgecliff was known for its theater department. David Barrie, who was a well known person in the theater industry was a faculty member at Xavier and also had a very good group of professional actors who would perform a variety of different types of productions-

Thomas Kennealy: 00:09:02

So it was both an academic department, the theater-

Barbara Hopkins: 00:09:05

Yes.

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- Thomas Kennealy: 00:09:05 But also a professional theater.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:09:06 A professional theater.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:09:08 It was a very unusual theater, I remember being in there once.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:09:10 Yes, the theater itself, if you think of, the theater was like a, if you think of a rectangle, and then on three sides were the places where the patrons could sit, and then the actual, the action all then went on right in front of you, essentially.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:09:24 Mm-hmm (affirmative).
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:09:24 In fact, two of the sides, if I remember right, there were only like four rows and so you felt like you were right there with the actors as they were presenting-
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:09:33 Sure. And then didn't the theater department also perform in the summer-
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:09:38 Yes.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:09:38 Just outside of Emery?
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:09:40 Yes, in the summer time, and they were known for that throughout all of Cincinnati. I mean people whether they had any connection to Xavier or not, would often come to the various plays in the summer time.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:09:52 Uh-huh.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:09:52 Often those plays were, often they were musicals, and this was held in the area that we, again, as I referred to it before, as behind Emery.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:10:02 Okay, overlooking the river.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:10:03 Yeah, it would overlook the river. And there would typically, with the musicals, there would be both the theater people and then also the orchestra.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:10:11 Mm-hmm (affirmative).



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- Barbara Hopkins: 00:10:11 And the orchestra, again, you mentioned Dr. Helmut Roehrig who was in charge of the music department there.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:10:19 Yes.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:10:19 He would lead the orchestra.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:10:20 Yes.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:10:20 And the orchestra, too, they would have some students in there, but there were also professional musicians.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:10:26 Professional musicians. So I know that on occasion or two people liked to play tricks on-
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:10:30 Oh yes.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:10:31 Dr. Helmut Roehrig?
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:10:32 Definitely liked to play tricks on Dr. Roehrig, and one time I can remember there was a, in his music, as he was directing they had slipped a centerfold from Playboy magazine, and Helmut though, typically Helmut, never missed a beat. Now, afterwards he laughed about it quite a bit, I think at first he was a little bit angry about it-
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:10:54 That'd would be my guess-
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:10:54 But as time went on, he laughed about it, but no, he never missed a beat, and all the musicians were watching to see what would happen.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:11:04 And what other buildings were there then, we have the theater-
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:11:07 In addition to the theater, the administration building later on then was also connected by a walkway to what was the Sullivan Hall, which was the new dormitory that was built. It was built, I believe, in 1964.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:11:23 Mm-hmm (affirmative).

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- Barbara Hopkins: 00:11:23 And now, it housed, could have about 300 students, and so at that time, certainly then the population of students, again, from areas outside of Cincinnati-
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:11:33 Mm-hmm (affirmative).
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:11:34 Could be there. And it was a beautiful building, and each floor, at the end of the floor had a lounge, and as you got to the higher floors, as you would expect, again, there was a beautiful view of the river-
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:11:46 Mm-hmm (affirmative).
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:11:46 From there.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:11:47 I can imagine, yeah.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:11:48 In addition to that, there was a bookstore in the, in Sullivan Hall, and there was also another sort of, I don't want to call it a cafeteria, but sort of like a grill, where again, the students who were the day-hops-
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:12:01 Mm-hmm (affirmative).
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:12:02 Like myself, the ones who commuted, could buy food for lunch, or it was just a place to congregate.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:12:09 Mm-hmm (affirmative).
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:12:10 The room itself was called the Garden Room. And so as time went on, many people who graduated from Edgecliff would have their wedding receptions at Edgecliff and often they used the garden room for-
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:12:24 For that event.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:12:25 For that purpose. The building itself, as I said, was called Sullivan Hall and it was named then after Sister Mary Virginia Sullivan-
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:12:34 Oh yes.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:12:35 Who was probably the person who had the biggest influence on Edgecliff-
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:12:41 Mm-hmm (affirmative).

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- Barbara Hopkins: 00:12:41 In that she, Edgecliff was founded in 1935, and Sister-
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:12:47 By the Sisters of Mercy.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:12:49 By the Sisters of Mercy, and Sister Virginia was the Dean-
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:12:52 Mm-hmm (affirmative).
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:12:52 Beginning in 1935, and then in about 1960, then she became President and she served as President from about 1960 to 1967.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:13:02 Mm-hmm (affirmative).
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:13:03 So that building was named in her honor, really at the request of the Alumni Association.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:13:09 Mm-hmm (affirmative).
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:13:11 Then there was a connection from it to the library, and the library was the Brennan Memorial Library. This was named after Sister Mary Hilda Brennan, who had actually been the first President of Edgecliff. And the library, it was a lovely place to study, it was a nice quiet place, I think many of us, again who were day-hops, often studied in there.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:13:38 Mm-hmm (affirmative).
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:13:39 And in addition to this, and this is one of the buildings that I spent a lot of time at, was Grace Hall of Science.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:13:45 Okay.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:13:45 Now, Grace Hall of Science was a four story building and each floor, the top floor was for chemistry-
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:13:53 Oh that's where you were, then.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:13:54 That's where I was most of the time.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:13:56 Okay.

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- Barbara Hopkins: 00:13:56 The rumor was, or the thoughts were, and I don't know if this was true or not, but what everybody always said was-
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:14:03 Legend has it-
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:14:04 Legend has it, yes, that chemistry was put on the top floor because the sisters felt that if there was an explosion in the chemistry lab, it would only blow off the roof, and wouldn't blow off any other parts of the building.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:14:14 Building-
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:14:15 So that was sort of the reputation-
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:14:17 The story, yeah.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:14:18 The third floor was for biology, and then the second floor was for, there were classrooms on each of the floors, and so the second floor had classrooms, and also there was a department of consumer science and that was on the second floor. The first floor had language labs and had offices for the language faculty, and again another big classroom.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:14:43 Mm-hmm (affirmative).
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:14:44 At some point in time, this was, let's see, again in the, I guess the late 1980s or so, Edgecliff formed an agreement with ... actually, I'm wrong, it wasn't the late 1980s it was more the late 1970s-
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:15:01 Seventies, yeah.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:15:01 Formed an agreement with Cincinnati College of Mortuary Science, so that they rented space-
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:15:07 Uh-huh.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:15:07 From Edgecliff, and when they did that, then their offices were on the first floor. They used many of the classrooms and then eventually their embalming lab was in the basement of Grace Hall.

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Thomas Kennealy: 00:15:21 Mm-hmm (affirmative). And that program, mortuary science, actually moved to Xavier-

Barbara Hopkins: 00:15:25 Yes.

Thomas Kennealy: 00:15:26 For a short period of time-

Barbara Hopkins: 00:15:27 For a short period of time.

Thomas Kennealy: 00:15:28 It's no longer here.

Barbara Hopkins: 00:15:29 Yes, for a short period of time after the, when all the programs that had been at Edgecliff were actually moved up to the Xavier campus at one point, they were in Cohen Hall-

Thomas Kennealy: 00:15:39 For a short period of time.

Barbara Hopkins: 00:15:39 In the Cohen Building for a short period of time.

Thomas Kennealy: 00:15:42 But there's several buildings, Barbara, you mentioned that Emery was torn down-

Barbara Hopkins: 00:15:46 Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Thomas Kennealy: 00:15:47 Do all the rest of them remain today-

Barbara Hopkins: 00:15:49 Yes.

Thomas Kennealy: 00:15:49 Of course they're not-

Barbara Hopkins: 00:15:50 Yes, all the rest of them remain today-

Thomas Kennealy: 00:15:52 They're still there?

Barbara Hopkins: 00:15:52 Being used for different purposes. Yes.

Thomas Kennealy: 00:15:55 Edgecliff was founded in 1935, as you said, and it was originally known as Our Lady of Cincinnati College.

Barbara Hopkins: 00:16:03 Right.

Thomas Kennealy: 00:16:04 Why the change to Edgecliff, and when?

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- Barbara Hopkins: 00:16:07 Okay, well first of all, it was always, it always had the sub-title of Edgecliff, and that again was related to the fact that it was overlooking, it was often referred to as a campus on the hilltop, so that was overlooking the river there, so it always had that sub-title of Edgecliff.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:16:23 Mm-hmm (affirmative).
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:16:25 The change actually happened in 1969, and again, what most people say, although I don't know for sure, what the exact reason was, but that was a big transition time when there were a lot of attempts to have the entire image of the school be more modern, and so that was part of it. And then the other part was that very soon, and the following year in fact, the fall of 1970 was when Edgecliff went coed, and it was felt that probably a male student would prefer to be saying that they were going to Edgecliff College than to say that they were going to Our Lady of Cincinnati.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:17:09 So it would attract male students, so it was thought.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:17:13 So there were, yes, so there was that idea-
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:17:15 Okay.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:17:15 With the change.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:17:16 What was life at Edgecliff like, what was the spirit of the place?
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:17:21 In terms, well actually, it reminds me very much of the way Xavier is today, when I think back. In the sense that there was very much a family spirit, in that the faculty were all very challenging in the classroom, but they also were very helpful-
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:17:40 Mm-hmm (affirmative).
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:17:40 And they were very encouraging and very much there to give you advice if you needed it or just to talk to you about anything.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:17:49 Mm-hmm (affirmative).

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- Barbara Hopkins: 00:17:50 So there was certainly that idea. There was also, I think the sense that the faculty wanted all the students, at least at the time when I was there, to achieve whatever their goal was to be. Whether it was to go off to some type of professional school, or whether it was like, whether it was to get a job or something along those lines.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:18:17 Mm-hmm (affirmative).
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:18:17 In addition to the notion though, as I said, of family or of closeness, for instance there were seven chemistry majors in my group, and so we basically spent all of our time on that fourth floor of Grace Hall, that I mentioned-
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:18:33 And it never exploded?
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:18:34 No. Never exploded.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:18:36 The seven of you didn't-
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:18:37 No, no, never.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:18:38 Okay. Blew the building up?
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:18:38 No, never exploded.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:18:39 Never happened.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:18:39 We had a few close calls.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:18:40 Few calls, that's it.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:18:41 No, never exploded, but we spent most of our time there when we were outside of class in a laboratory where we would work on problems together, and where we would then be able, if we didn't know what we were doing, to go get the professors help.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:18:55 Mm-hmm (affirmative).
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:18:55 And as I said before, it reminds me of Xavier, in the sense that that's the same thing that goes on now in the chemistry department, even though we have a building, but all of our students typically work together

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in a lounge, and when they need help, they come and ask us.

Thomas Kennealy: 00:19:09

Good.

Barbara Hopkins: 00:19:10

So that was truly there, right. Another thing, kind of going back in time, that I think this family spirit that I mentioned, when Sister Virginia was the President there were a good number of faculty who were lay-faculty at the time, and people always said, now this wasn't true when I was a student, but I had heard this, that in the past when she was President in those years, that at the end of the day, that the lay-faculty were expected to come to her office and more or less say, I'm going home now-

Thomas Kennealy: 00:19:46

Is that right?

Barbara Hopkins: 00:19:47

And she knew everything about everybody's family.

Thomas Kennealy: 00:19:50

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Barbara Hopkins: 00:19:52

So they were certainly-

Thomas Kennealy: 00:19:52

What a wonderful spirit.

Barbara Hopkins: 00:19:53

Very spirited in that sense.

Thomas Kennealy: 00:19:55

Yes.

Barbara Hopkins: 00:19:55

Another thing I think of, when I was there, and I actually asked two of my closest friends who are Edgecliff graduates about this, as to you know, what was it like when we were students there? What did we do? And their response was, "Well, we just studied all the time." So there was a strong emphasis on academics-

Thomas Kennealy: 00:20:14

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Barbara Hopkins: 00:20:15

In contrast to maybe what we see today, we all took 18 hour loads. But that was also, I think, related to the fact that the core courses, and again they're just like Xavier, Edgecliff had a big emphasis on the liberal arts core. The core was very similar to what Xavier's core was.



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- Thomas Kennealy: 00:20:36 Mm-hmm (affirmative).
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:20:36 So we're talking four philosophies, four theologies, history, language at a certain level and everything, so we were quite busy, academically, although we had fun, but yet there was certainly that notion.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:20:49 Mm-hmm (affirmative).
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:20:50 It was also, when I was a student, that was a very turbulent time, now that was, it was the Vietnam War was going on, Martin Luther King had been assassinated, Bobby Kennedy had been assassinated, and there were, in the Cincinnati area, just two or three blocks from Edgecliff after, certainly the assassination of Martin Luther King, there was, there were riots.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:21:16 That's right, especially right up at the corner of Gilbert and McMillan.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:21:18 And McMillan, right.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:21:19 There was a major riot.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:21:20 Yes. Right, right there.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:21:21 That's only a couple of blocks away.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:21:22 Yes, that's right. And so because of that, in addition to the academics, in addition to, as we said before, this family spirit, there was a lot of discussion. And a lot of discussion, I remember many discussions with faculty members, both inside of class and outside of class, again about the Vietnam War-
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:21:40 Mm-hmm (affirmative).
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:21:40 About whether it was something that we should have been doing.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:21:43 Mm-hmm (affirmative).
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:21:44 There were many students who had family members or had boyfriends who people were concerned about, many of whom would have been Xavier men at the

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time, you know, as to whether or not they were going to be drafted into the war.

- Thomas Kennealy: 00:21:59 Oh.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:21:59 So there was a strong emphasis on academics when I was there, there was also a seriousness because of, I think, the way the times were-
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:22:09 Mm-hmm (affirmative). Very turbulent times.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:22:11 Right, as I mentioned.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:22:12 They truly were.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:22:12 Yeah, and then there also though, I mean there were social times-
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:22:15 Sure.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:22:15 I mean, we, Xavier at the time, had football, so we would come to, we came to Xavier football games-
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:22:22 Oh yes.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:22:22 And Xavier, I remember going to Xavier's military ball several times.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:22:26 Mm-hmm (affirmative).
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:22:27 So I mean, there was a big connection, social-wise, between the students at Edgecliff and the male students here at Xavier.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:22:35 Yes.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:22:36 And that had gone on for years, all the way back to the beginnings. And probably even if you went back a lot earlier than I was there, certainly a large number of the Edgecliff graduates married Xavier men.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:22:53 Uh-huh.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:22:53 Maybe not quite as much when I was a student, but certainly previously there was a very tight connection in that sense.

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- Thomas Kennealy: 00:23:01 Was there a dress code? We always think of that period with great uniformity.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:23:04 Yes, there was. At least when I was there, and this would have been before then, we for the, let's see, seven semesters that I was there, the dress code was that when you went to class, you were to wear dresses. My last semester, so that would have been again the spring of 1970, the dress code changed that we were allowed to wear dress slacks, rather than dresses. And again, everybody talked about the fact, I mean some people thought, "Oh this is so, we're modernizing so much." And everything, but in many ways, what others also commented was, if you think about the styles of that time, we wore very, very short skirts. And so the idea was that, and the idea now of allowing us to wear pants, dress slacks to class, that we were probably being more modest than we had been in our short skirts. Yeah, so again, but no that was the dress code.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:24:08 Was the chapel required?
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:24:09 No, not when I was there.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:24:10 Okay.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:24:10 Now again, if we went back to probably in the early years, maybe the 1930s, 1940s and even the 1950s, it could have been required then-
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:24:22 I know that during that time there were a lot more traditions than there were when I was there.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:24:28 Traditional devotions and so on?
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:24:30 Devotions, yes. There was always, each year there was a May Crowning. In fact, if you go to the part of the, where the, Edgecliff Hall that is now on the Xavier campus, there is a series of pictures there that line the walls and there are pictures there of the May Crowning ceremonies.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:24:49 Oh yes. I have heard that Edgecliff, at least in it's early years, '30s, '40s, '50s, was perhaps something of a finishing school. Is that a fair description of it?

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- Barbara Hopkins: 00:25:03 I think a lot of people thought that, because of the fact, again, in addition as I said, academics were stressed, but under the influence here again of Sister Virginia Sullivan, there was also the idea that you were sort of being trained how to be a proper lady. And also that maybe your ultimate role was to end up being a good Catholic wife and mother. And so, a lot of that, I think, that came in that idea-
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:25:35 In that idea.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:25:35 That changed, as time went on, but I think there were people that would have said that it sort of was a finishing school.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:25:41 A finishing school, yeah.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:25:42 And that kind of related too to the fact that there were certain events when you were supposed to wear white gloves-
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:25:49 Oh.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:25:49 And again, this is all things I remember hearing from people-
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:25:51 Oh yes.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:25:52 I wasn't involved in-
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:25:52 But you didn't experience?
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:25:53 I didn't experience this but there were certain events where you would wear white gloves-
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:25:57 Yeah.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:25:57 There were, there was a, at the beginning, when a student became a student at Edgecliff, in the first year, everybody received a cap and gown, right at the beginning-
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:26:07 Oh.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:26:07 And then there were certain events throughout the whole time when you were supposed to wear that-

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- Thomas Kennealy: 00:26:10 When you wore it? Interesting.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:26:12 When you wore, so again, there was this formality, that was there-
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:26:14 Uh-huh.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:26:14 And I think some of that kind of translated into this notion of a finishing school.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:26:21 A finishing school. Yeah.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:26:22 If you think about it though, I think during that time, again, we're talking 1940s, 1950s or so, I think that was probably true at most all-girls, or all-women's colleges-
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:26:33 Mm-hmm (affirmative).
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:26:33 You know, that those ideas were emphasized-
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:26:35 Emphasized.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:26:36 Along with the academic type things.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:26:39 Well the school Edgecliff eventually went coed.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:26:42 Yes.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:26:42 When did that happen and why?
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:26:44 Okay. Well, the coed happened in the fall of 1970, so it was right after I graduated was when it went coed. It happened mostly, again with this notion of sort of modernizing things, also with the notion of the financial-
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:27:04 Mm-hmm (affirmative).
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:27:05 That by now allowing male students there, to again take advantage of some of the programs at Edgecliff, the music, the art, the theater-
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:27:13 Mm-hmm (affirmative).

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- Barbara Hopkins: 00:27:14 All of those departments and things like that. But in many ways, it was a step toward making it be, I think, a more modern type of place, but also trying to make, in terms of financial things-
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:27:25 Financial probably played a big part.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:27:28 Right.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:27:29 Essentially, did at Xavier here.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:27:30 Yes.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:27:30 The introduction of women and-
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:27:31 Right, now when I was a student, one of the interesting things was there was one person, his name was Brother Joe Bridges. In fact, he graduated with me and he was, he was like the first male student, and he was there all the while that I was a student, and I don't think any of really knew why he was there, but he was there among all of us, so he was kidded a lot about the fact, you know, that he was that one male student at school.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:28:00 Yeah.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:28:01 One of the things kind of interesting though, that I think the alums often talked about, and whether that had any bearing on this or not, was the fact that granted, you know, Edgecliff was trying to kind of modernize and all that, but when it became coed, one of the things it lost was a certain identity, in the sense that when it now, it no longer was just that all-women's school, and in the Cincinnati area that left Mount Saint Joseph to be the only all-women's school.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:28:33 Oh yes, okay.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:28:33 Which stayed that way for many, many years.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:28:36 Mm-hmm (affirmative).

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- Barbara Hopkins: 00:28:37 And so you know, when it did occur that Edgecliff went coed I think there is some that think maybe that wasn't the wisest move-
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:28:44 Interesting.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:28:44 Because at that point other than say in those departments like I mentioned before, art, music, theater, that Xavier didn't have, in the other departments there wasn't too much reason now as to why would you choose Edgecliff over say Xavier, since it had lost that distinction-
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:29:04 Distinction.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:29:05 Of having been the all-women's school.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:29:08 So then you graduated in 1970-
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:29:10 That's right.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:29:10 Where did the graduation take place-
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:29:13 Okay, the graduation, once again, behind Emery.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:29:15 Everything back there.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:29:18 Any time the graduation could be held behind Emery, it was.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:29:21 In fact, they used that facility any time they could.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:29:24 Yes. And it was, again-
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:29:26 For the background.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:29:26 It was a beautiful background for, you can see pictures of graduations also, as I mentioned down at Edgecliff Hall here at Xavier. But it was a beautiful backdrop to it, because again of the river. Now one of the things with that though, I've mentioned before Sister Mary Virginia Sullivan, who was President the first year I was there and then that changed as time went on. But you know, in all the time that she had been there as Dean and through her presidencies, one of the things that she always made sure was that

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the entire week before graduation that there were rosary beads that were hung from all the trees that were behind Emery, and with the idea of, hopefully that that was going to allow it not to rain.

- Thomas Kennealy: 00:30:12 Mm-hmm (affirmative).
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:30:12 For my own graduation, and all the ones that were right around my time, it seemed to work, because we always were able to have it there. Have graduation behind Emery.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:30:23 Seemed to be pretty efficacious.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:30:23 It seemed to work, somewhat.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:30:23 Mm-hmm (affirmative). Yes.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:30:24 Yes.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:30:24 Yes, yes.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:30:25 Yeah.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:30:26 And then when you left Edgecliff you went on to Catholic University-
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:30:29 Right.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:30:31 What was your thinking at that time, what were your plans? Obviously you were interested in a doctorate.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:30:35 Yes, well when I went to Catholic University my goal was to get a doctorate so that eventually I would be able to teach chemistry.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:30:44 Okay.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:30:44 And eventually that happened-
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:30:47 Interested in a teaching career.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:30:48 Yes. I was interested in a teaching career.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:30:48 Yes.



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- Barbara Hopkins: 00:30:48 I had, at Edgecliff, during my junior and senior year, because the fact again, there weren't any graduate students or anything, we were purely an undergraduate institution, I had the opportunity to help the faculty members in the laboratories-
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:31:03 Mm-hmm (affirmative).
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:31:04 In terms of teaching the students and helping the students, and so that was a good preparation-
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:31:07 Yeah.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:31:07 For the idea of wanting to teach.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:31:07 When you went to Catholic University did you feel that Edgecliff had given you a good preparation for your-
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:31:09 Yes.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:31:10 Doctoral program?
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:31:11 Yes. It did.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:31:11 You were well prepared?
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:31:20 Oh yeah, I felt that I was well prepared.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:31:20 Uh-huh.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:31:20 Yeah. I was definitely well prepared. Another thing I think that was interesting at the time, again with me being in chemistry you know a lot of people thought well that was maybe a field that was kind of strange for women to be going on in-
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:31:34 Mm-hmm (affirmative).
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:31:34 But because of the fact, and I've had discussions with other people about this, because of the fact that, at Edgecliff, the time I was there, it was all women, and because the fact too that I went to an all-girls high school, that the concept of doing things that maybe were thought were more reserved for men never crossed your mind-

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- Thomas Kennealy: 00:31:53 Oh.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:31:54 Because, I think that you know, having been both in an all girls catholic high school and-
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:31:58 Mm-hmm (affirmative).
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:31:59 A college that was all women, that you got a lot of confidence-
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:32:03 Mm-hmm (affirmative).
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:32:04 So when you then did move on, that you were able to, it didn't bother you-
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:32:09 Sure.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:32:09 Suddenly maybe being in circumstances, which I was, when I went to Catholic University and some of the classes, maybe there would be 30 of us, and three or four were women-
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:32:18 Mm-hmm (affirmative).
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:32:18 Or you would go to, being Washington DC, there were a lot of government agencies that we'd go to for seminars, and when you'd go there, too, you were definitely in the minority-
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:32:28 Mm-hmm (affirmative).
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:32:29 And maybe I was just naïve, but none, it never crossed my mind that-
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:32:34 That you shouldn't be there.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:32:34 That I shouldn't be doing these things.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:32:36 Mm-hmm (affirmative). Good.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:32:37 And I kind of attribute that to the education at Edgecliff, both because of it being at the time when I was there, the all-women's college, but also the faculty-
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:32:45 Mm-hmm (affirmative).

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Barbara Hopkins: 00:32:45 I mean, the faculty there were very supportive-

Thomas Kennealy: 00:32:47 Kind to the women, do what you want.

Barbara Hopkins: 00:32:48 Yes. That's true.

Thomas Kennealy: 00:32:50 Then after your years, and you had your doctoral studies there in Washington, you moved on to Denver-

Barbara Hopkins: 00:32:56 Yes.

Thomas Kennealy: 00:32:56 To Saint Joseph Hospital-

Barbara Hopkins: 00:32:57 Right.

Thomas Kennealy: 00:32:58 Tell us about that and how did that come about and-

Barbara Hopkins: 00:33:01 Okay, when I finished graduate school I got married, and my husband was a medical student-

Thomas Kennealy: 00:33:06 Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Barbara Hopkins: 00:33:07 He was from Denver, he was a medical student-

Thomas Kennealy: 00:33:09 Oh okay.

Barbara Hopkins: 00:33:09 At the University of Colorado, he was there for a year before me and then I moved there. And then fortunately I got a job that was a post-doctoral type of position at Saint Josephs Hospital that was a fantastic job, because it combined doing chemistry research, it combined teaching, and it combined just, again, running routine lab tests so-

Thomas Kennealy: 00:33:33 Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Barbara Hopkins: 00:33:33 I learned an awful lot-

Thomas Kennealy: 00:33:35 Okay.

Barbara Hopkins: 00:33:35 Through that. At the end of his residency, or at the end of his medical school, even though he was from Denver, he wanted to go someplace else to do his residency-

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Thomas Kennealy: 00:33:45 Oh okay.

Barbara Hopkins: 00:33:45 And just by coincidence there was a teaching opening at Edgecliff and Christ Hospital here in Cincinnati was beginning a residency in internal medicine, which was his field-

Thomas Kennealy: 00:33:58 Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Barbara Hopkins: 00:33:59 So my family was here, and so we thought it was an ideal situation.

Thomas Kennealy: 00:34:03 Okay.

Barbara Hopkins: 00:34:05 And so that was how I ended up coming back to Edgecliff-

Thomas Kennealy: 00:34:09 Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Barbara Hopkins: 00:34:10 Now, as faculty member where I had been the student before.

Thomas Kennealy: 00:34:14 And then your husband came back-

Barbara Hopkins: 00:34:16 Right.

Thomas Kennealy: 00:34:16 To do a residency at Christ.

Barbara Hopkins: 00:34:17 Residency at Christ.

Thomas Kennealy: 00:34:18 So it worked out perfectly.

Barbara Hopkins: 00:34:20 Yeah, it worked out perfectly.

Thomas Kennealy: 00:34:20 Yes.

Barbara Hopkins: 00:34:20 And that type of thing.

Thomas Kennealy: 00:34:21 And who hired you then, when you came back?

Barbara Hopkins: 00:34:24 Yeah, at that time, now there had been a lot of changes in the administration at that point-

Thomas Kennealy: 00:34:29 Mm-hmm (affirmative).

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- Barbara Hopkins: 00:34:29 At Edgecliff, but it, at that time, Dr. John Renaldo was the Dean at Edgecliff at the time, so he was the one who hired me. In the chemistry department the faculty that were in the chemistry department at the time were all the same, were all the faculty that had taught me-
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:34:44 That you had remembered, who you had worked with, yes.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:34:47 Who had taught me, yes.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:34:48 Yes.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:34:48 And that was interesting, in terms of coming back, it really was like coming home again. In that, again, I was teaching now, on the fourth floor of Grace Hall that I mentioned before was this very familiar place for the chemistry majors. So I was very, it was very easy to walk into a classroom and teach, I knew the different things that were there. It was an adjustment to suddenly now be the colleague of all those people-
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:35:14 Uh-huh.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:35:14 Both the ones in the chemistry department, and the ones in other departments.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:35:17 Departments, yes.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:35:18 Because now they wanted me to all call them by their first name and if I didn't they would get mad at me. They told me I was, and that took a while, now eventually I was able to do that-
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:35:27 Yeah.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:35:27 But I mean, it definitely, it was a little bit different and suddenly now being their colleague-
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:35:32 Sure.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:35:32 And there had been some, there were some faculty there, Dr. Siegmund Betz, who was in the English department, and now I had had Siegmund, and here now I'm calling him Siegmund, so I eventually got to

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the point of doing that, I had had him when I was a freshman, and he was a wonderful professor-

- Thomas Kennealy: 00:35:48 Taught?
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:35:49 English.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:35:50 English, okay.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:35:52 Yes. And but he was the typical person that you really, at that time, thought of as having all the qualities of a very intelligent and very much professor-like person.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:36:04 Mm-hmm (affirmative).
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:36:04 And so there was a lot of admiration for him. But anyway, as I said, I had him as a freshman and later on was his colleague. And he would always say to me, "Now Barbara you've got to call me Siegmund, you've got to call me Siegmund." And he was delightful. He was, he had studied for a while at Cambridge and, as we said, he was an English professor. He again, kind of going back to the notion of tradition being very important in terms of things that happened at Edgecliff, I never went to one of these, but people talked about the fact that at Christmastime, on Christmas eve on his Christmas tree he would always have lighted candles, which I guess went back to a German tradition. So he was very much, again, into traditional type things.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:36:54 Mm-hmm (affirmative).
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:36:55 In addition though, to the being an English professor, he was very schooled in science, I mean I could sit down and talk chemistry to him as well as anything else.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:37:03 A real renaissance man.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:37:06 A real renaissance man.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:37:06 Yes.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:37:06 Astronomy was very important to him.

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- Thomas Kennealy: 00:37:09 Yes.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:37:10 So he was one of the real stellar faculty members.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:37:14 Well we talked about a number of the people there, Dr. Betz, Helmut Roehrig, and Dr. Barrie. Let's talk about some of the other influential memorable people, and maybe we should begin with Sister Mary Virginia Sullivan.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:37:26 Yes.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:37:27 What was she like?
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:37:28 Well, Sister Virginia Sullivan if, when she walked into a room, you would notice her in that she had a certain very dignified presence about her. And she was an excellent speaker, she had a sense of humor that was sort of rooted, I think, in her Irish background.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:37:50 Mm-hmm (affirmative).
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:37:50 As I mentioned before, you know, she was very, her faith was very important to her. The rosaries hanging on the trees, but other things-
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:38:00 Mm-hmm (affirmative). As well, yeah.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:38:00 Also. In addition to that, and now again, she was only present at my first year, so some of the things that I have heard about her, probably are things that I have heard from other people, whether it be from faculty members or whether it be from other alums. But she was the, her background was she came from, I think, a very well-to-do family, and so she was very comfortable in interacting with all kinds of people, so she had many connections in Cincinnati, of people in the business community and very much used those things, in terms of fundraising and in terms of support.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:38:41 Mm-hmm (affirmative).
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:38:42 She also made it very clear that the idea of the liberal arts was very important, and also the fine arts.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:38:51 Oh.

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- Barbara Hopkins: 00:38:51 And I have the feeling that the David Barrie, who again, you know, went on to New York and was very, very successful. I'm sure that his being at Edgecliff was very much related-
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:39:04 Was her work.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:39:05 Was related to Sister Virginia.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:39:07 Mm-hmm (affirmative).
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:39:07 Right. And as I said though, she was, there was a formalness, a formal nature about her, so that I think that was one of the things that when she left being president, it was, there was again, another attempt to sort of bring people in, in the administration that maybe to the public seemed a little bit more modern.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:39:28 Oh, right.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:39:29 In terms of their ways, and things like that.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:39:32 The way, yes. Tell us about some of the other people you remember.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:39:35 Yeah some of the other people now, again, talking about Sister Virginia, when she was president, the Dean of the school was Sister Mary Dolora. And now Sister Dolora again, was very, very formal, she was often thought of as being, she liked nice things, so her office had many nice things in it. But one thing about Sister Dolora, she was a little bit sterner than Sister Virginia came across, and of course she was the dean-
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:40:03 Uh-huh.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:40:03 So you know, she had to uphold the academic type things. If you received a D at mid-term, you got what was referred to as a D-slip. Now, I never did this, I have to, I never got any D's, but I did have some friends who did-
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:40:19 Who got D's.



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- Barbara Hopkins: 00:40:19 Who got D's, in fact there was one person who had come to Edgecliff with me from McAuley and she took a math course which she never should have taken, she was, it was way above her. But she took the math course and she got a D in it. So she had to have an interview then with Sister Dolora, and of course anybody who is having to go to the dean's office with a D-slip was scared to death. And it didn't turn out that way, I mean, she was very, very kind. Very much in the sense, not being nasty or being mean to the person because they had gotten a D-
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:40:51 But just wanting to know you know, how can we help you?
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:40:53 Yeah.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:40:54 How can we get you over these-
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:40:57 Constructive, very constructive.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:40:58 Yes. Very constructive type criticism.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:40:59 So she certainly had a big influence, I think, on the academics-
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:41:04 Uh-huh.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:41:06 Then, at, when Sister Virginia was no longer president, for the next year Sister Honora was president. Now, she was only president for a year and then, and so I don't remember too much about her-
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:41:19 Mm-hmm (affirmative).
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:41:19 Other than her background was science, I do remember that. But then, due to illness she had to step down and then Sister Mary Jane, or Sister Jane became president.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:41:29 Oh yes.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:41:29 Now, Sister Jane was young, I think she was in her thirties. She was beautiful, and she was very much the type of person that, again, I think that younger people, when they saw her as president, would say,

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"Oh wow, this would be a neat place to come to school."

- Barbara Hopkins: 00:41:48 So her, I think again she was probably even put in the presidency with the idea of that whole theme, as I mentioned before, of modernization.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:41:56 Because it was at that same time, that was the whole time when the name change occurred-
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:42:01 Okay, all right.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:42:01 That was the whole time when we were able to wear slacks, rather than skirts and everything-
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:42:06 Like that. So Sister Jane certainly had a big influence in somewhat changing the image, even going back to what you mentioned before about the notion of the finishing school. That finishing school type thing was more associated with Sister Virginia, Sister Dolora type, and then all the sudden here was this very young, very vivacious-
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:42:29 Mm-hmm (affirmative).
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:42:29 Sister-
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:42:29 And very contemporary and modern.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:42:33 Very contemporary and modern.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:42:35 Being president, yeah.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:42:37 Yes.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:42:38 The, when she was president, the dean was Dr. William Wester-
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:42:42 Oh yes.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:42:43 And now he would have been the first lay-person then, to be dean of the College.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:42:49 Yes.

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- Barbara Hopkins: 00:42:50 And now Dr. Wester, he's a Xavier graduate, his children have, or at least one of his sons are Xavier graduates.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:42:58 That's correct, that's right.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:42:59 And so he-
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:42:59 And past president of our Alumni Association.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:43:01 Right, his son was.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:43:02 Yes.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:43:02 Right. And so-
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:43:03 His son.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:43:03 So he brought a different, again, image so to speak, now to the academic side, because again he was a lay-person.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:43:14 He had also been very involved before then in the ideas of a faculty governance-
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:43:21 So he was very popular among the faculty. So it looked like it was a good combination.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:43:28 It seemed with Sister Jane and then Dr. Wester as the dean.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:43:34 So those certainly were very influential people. I think other ones in the chemistry department, Dr. Jane Glenn who was one of the faculty who had taught me, and then was again, a faculty member there when I came as a faculty member. She had worked for several years before teaching at a local chemical company, she held, had developed things that had patents-
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:43:59 And so she was very schooled in the business aspect of chemistry as well as the research aspect of it.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:44:05 Mm-hmm (affirmative).

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Barbara Hopkins: 00:44:05 and she was an excellent teacher, in fact today there are some, there are certain things that I teach today that I teach the exact way that Jane Glenn taught me.

Thomas Kennealy: 00:44:14 Is that right?

Barbara Hopkins: 00:44:14 Yes.

Thomas Kennealy: 00:44:14 What a high compliment.

Barbara Hopkins: 00:44:14 Yes.

Barbara Hopkins: 00:44:16 Because it worked-

Thomas Kennealy: 00:44:18 Yeah.

Barbara Hopkins: 00:44:18 You know, it worked back then, and it-

Thomas Kennealy: 00:44:20 And it works today.

Barbara Hopkins: 00:44:21 It still works today.

Barbara Hopkins: 00:44:23 Right. Now when the whole Edgecliff acquisition by Xavier occurred, Jane remained as a part-time faculty on the faculty for a few years-

Thomas Kennealy: 00:44:32 Okay.

Barbara Hopkins: 00:44:33 Staying at Edgecliff, continuing to teach people.

Thomas Kennealy: 00:44:36 Yes. Yes.

Barbara Hopkins: 00:44:36 Right.

Thomas Kennealy: 00:44:37 And maybe we could move on to that topic. In 1980 Xavier University acquired Edgecliff, or maybe more precisely I should say, Xavier acquired an option to buy-

Barbara Hopkins: 00:44:48 Right.

Thomas Kennealy: 00:44:48 In three years. We didn't know that at the time-

Barbara Hopkins: 00:44:49 No. Nobody knew-

Thomas Kennealy: 00:44:51 We thought it was an outright purchase-

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Barbara Hopkins: 00:44:53 Yeah. Right.

Thomas Kennealy: 00:44:53 How did this come about? What were the factors involved and the people involved?

Barbara Hopkins: 00:44:59 Well, a lot of that, I think, is still kind of a mystery.

Barbara Hopkins: 00:45:02 I mean, it's not something, I mean, there's a lot of theories. It certainly was related to the fact that financially Edgecliff was not doing well.

Thomas Kennealy: 00:45:12 Had that been true for a while?

Barbara Hopkins: 00:45:14 It was certainly, again, when I was a student, of course again, as a student, how would you know?

Thomas Kennealy: 00:45:20 No.

Barbara Hopkins: 00:45:20 But, as close as we were to the faculty, I think if, when I was a student, you would have sort have known that.

Barbara Hopkins: 00:45:26 But I don't think it was so much then, but I think again, after that time, as I said, when it changed the name and when it went coed-

Thomas Kennealy: 00:45:34 Yeah.

Barbara Hopkins: 00:45:34 And all that. And just at the whole times then, even Xavier at that time-

Thomas Kennealy: 00:45:38 Yes, that's right.

Barbara Hopkins: 00:45:39 Was having certain troubles-

Thomas Kennealy: 00:45:40 That's exactly correct.

Barbara Hopkins: 00:45:41 In terms of students.

Thomas Kennealy: 00:45:42 Yes.

Barbara Hopkins: 00:45:43 So there definitely were financial problems-

Thomas Kennealy: 00:45:46 Mm-hmm (affirmative).

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- Barbara Hopkins: 00:45:48 And there were things that when, that you would pick up on that when I was a faculty member. That you knew things were not perfect, but in terms of the financial type thing. But, nobody had any concept that all the sudden we were going to be called into a meeting-
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:46:04 Oh.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:46:04 Lead by Sister Anne, or Sister Margaret Anne Molitor-
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:46:08 Who was president at that time.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:46:09 Who was president at that time, and be told of this acquisition, as they called it-
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:46:15 They were very, very, deliberate in making sure it was not a merger, it was an acquisition, and as you can imagine, that was an extremely tense time.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:46:28 Now, all the faculty there were at some point given an interview with Father Frank Brennan who was at that time the AVP here at Xavier.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:46:41 That's right.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:46:42 Where more or less, you learned your fate.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:46:44 And during that time, some faculty were told that there was no place for them at Xavier.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:46:49 Now there were some faculty, some of the older ones, again, I'll go back to Siegmund Betz, he was on the faculty then, but now again, remember he had been there when I was a student, and had been there for many years. So some of the faculty who had been at Edgecliff, I think, for many years, used it as an opportunity to retire.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:47:06 Okay.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:47:06 You know, so but they really weren't interested in being, finding a new job.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:47:10 Yes.

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- Barbara Hopkins: 00:47:10 But the other faculty, the younger faculty, that was definitely, you know, an important aspect of it. And some were told that there would be no place. Those of us who were lucky, were typically told that we would have a one year contract at Xavier-
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:47:27 And then at the end of that time things would be re-evaluated.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:47:32 For the faculty that were in the departments such as art, as music, nursing, which was having, which was a very strong department at the time-
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:47:44 Ida Casey.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:47:45 Ida Casey, yes.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:47:45 Yes.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:47:45 Ida Casey was the head of-
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:47:47 That was a rather unusual program too, which Xavier-
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:47:48 Yes.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:47:49 Wanted to keep.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:47:50 Yes. So people that were in those departments, I think, were pretty confident that you know, that they, you could see that these were the things that probably Xavier really wanted-
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:47:59 From Edgecliff, since, because Xavier did not have art and didn't have music, didn't have the theater type things and then as you mentioned, the nursing that Ida Casey did. And what was unique about the nursing program that Ida had started, was that it, that was at a time when many, many people who went into nursing would get their training in a hospital and would then, when they would finish that, would be a registered nurse.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:48:24 Well the program that Ida had developed at Edgecliff was one so that the people who had their RNs would come back to school and then take courses to

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actually get their bachelor's degree. So that was sort of the unique aspect of that program.

Thomas Kennealy: 00:48:41

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Barbara Hopkins: 00:48:41

So that was something, too, that Xavier was very much looking at.

Barbara Hopkins: 00:48:45

At the same time, Edgecliff had contracts with several of the hospitals in the area, that were training people for these RN-type of education-

Thomas Kennealy: 00:48:55

Not a bachelor's degree but just a RN.

Barbara Hopkins: 00:48:57

Not bachelor's, but the RN.

Barbara Hopkins: 00:48:58

But Xavier had contracts with them that they came to Edgecliff, and they took their science courses. So they took their biology courses, and they took their chemistry courses. And then I taught several sections of chemistry to those nursing students. Because of that, even though I mean, I was concerned as to whether after a year I was going to have a job, we felt, those of us who were both, myself in chemistry and a couple of people in biology, had a little bit of confidence maybe we would have jobs, because we knew that, I mean, Xavier also inherited all those as part of this acquisition, and we knew that Xavier did not have the faculty to continue with that-

Thomas Kennealy: 00:49:40

Oh the-

Barbara Hopkins: 00:49:40

And so as I said, even though it was, it was not a happy time-

Barbara Hopkins: 00:49:45

Those of us who were in those positions, I think, felt a little bit better about it.

Barbara Hopkins: 00:49:50

In the chemistry department itself at the time, there were three of us, and I mean, at that point of that acquisition, and as I mentioned, Jane Glenn continued on part-time, to continue teaching some of the nursing courses at Edgecliff, and another member of the chemistry department was let go. And then in the biology department, Sister Elaine Charters and Chuck Grossman-



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- Thomas Kennealy: 00:50:13 Oh yes.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:50:13 Were both then part of what were coming to Xavier, again, because of the nursing, because the biology department even taught them more courses than the chemistry department did.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:50:26 I've talked a lot about how the faculty at Edgecliff were feeling, well the same thing up here at Xavier. The faculty at Xavier were also not feeling too happy about all this.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:50:36 Oh. Uh-huh.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:50:37 Because they didn't know anything about it. It was sprung on them as much as it was on the Edgecliff-
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:50:43 That seems to be true, it happened quite fast.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:50:46 Yes.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:50:47 For whatever reason.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:50:48 For whatever reason.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:50:48 Everyone was surprised.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:50:49 And again, the rumor was that all these negotiations about this happening had gone on from whoever would have been the higher-ups in the Mercy order and the higher-ups in the Jesuit order.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:51:03 Now, granted there were discussions, I mean, we learned later there had been discussions going on between Sister Margaret Anne Molitor and Father Mulligan who was president of Xavier at the time. There were discussions there, but the big impact was really coming from the people at the higher-ups-
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:51:21 Mm-hmm (affirmative).
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:51:21 Of the two orders, in terms of-
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:51:23 In what way? How would that-

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- Barbara Hopkins: 00:51:23 Again, in the sense, I think the Sisters were getting to the point that, as we mentioned before, the financial problems-
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:51:30 Mm-hmm (affirmative).
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:51:30 That Edgecliff was having. That in the past, what would happen, if there was a deficit in terms of the budget at Edgecliff, the Sisters would just supply the money to make up that deficit-
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:51:42 From the mother house?
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:51:43 From the mother house.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:51:43 Okay.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:51:44 Yeah. But I think the Sisters were, and again this is something that people sort of were kind of wondering about, but I mean, the Sisters got to the point that they realized they weren't going to be able to keep doing that indefinitely.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:51:54 Mm-hmm (affirmative).
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:51:55 And so I think, in that sense, they saw it as this was the time that we needed, because at that time too, not a lot, people were not becoming nuns anymore-
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:52:04 The vocations dropped-
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:52:04 Vocations were dropping-
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:52:07 The Sisters knew they had a lot of Sisters among themselves who at some point were going to be retired and so there was going to need support for them.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:52:16 And so this concept of being able to continue to support Edgecliff, which was not doing all that well financially, I think it was a difficult decision for them-
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:52:26 Mm-hmm (affirmative).

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- Barbara Hopkins: 00:52:26 I mean, they had been involved, as I mentioned, they taught me in grade school, high school and then in college-
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:52:32 Yeah.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:52:32 They had been very much involved in education, but I think they saw that they needed to kind of pull away from the support to the education, put more of the support into their hospitals, which was more of a thriving type thing, than say, the-
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:52:45 And this was another factor, they realized with fewer and few vocations, there would be fewer nuns to teach at Edgecliff, you're going to have to hire faculty, lay-faculty at a much higher salary-
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:52:57 At higher salaries, yeah.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:52:59 So it was not-
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:52:59 Yeah, in terms of the faculty though, when I was a student, in fact, I was thinking about this in thinking about what I was going to say today, when I was a student, I only had three sisters as teachers.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:53:12 Oh. That's interesting.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:53:12 There were-
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:53:12 Surprising.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:53:12 But now, the administration, again when I was a student, as we mentioned, for at least the beginning years, the President, the Dean initially, the Registrar, the Librarian, all the people in those positions, they were all sisters.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:53:30 Mm-hmm (affirmative).
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:53:30 And again, those probably were, those would have been the positions too, as you had mentioned, that you would think of could draw high salaries, and they maybe weren't going to have a whole lot of people to-
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:53:40 Fill those positions.

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- Barbara Hopkins: 00:53:41 To fill those positions and everything.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:53:41 Yes, yes.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:53:41 Yeah.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:53:43 How did the students react to the purchase by Xavier? They were surprised, obviously it was a surprise-
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:53:48 They were obviously surprised, and for many of them it was more of a concern of, am I going to get a degree? You know, making sure that they understood the fact that yes, you will get a degree.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:54:02 In fact, the students again, let's say the chemistry students, I mean, they were eventually, well even the ones who were there when this all started, we stopped offering on the Edgecliff campus the chemistry major courses-
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:54:17 And then they just came up here to Xavier and were now students that were added to the courses that were here.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:54:23 Up there, yeah.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:54:23 But yes, I mean-
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:54:24 They're real concerned-
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:54:26 It was concern-
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:54:26 With core requirements change-
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:54:28 Right, all those things changed-
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:54:29 Sure, sure.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:54:29 And then at the same time, Dr. Roger Fortin was named as the dean of the Edgecliff College of Xavier University.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:54:38 Mm-hmm (affirmative).

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- Barbara Hopkins: 00:54:38 So, and he did a very good job, both with the faculty and I think with the students in terms of explaining as much as he could-
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:54:47 You know, as to what was going on.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:54:49 And reassuring them.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:54:49 And reassuring people. Especially, as we said, in terms of the students.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:54:53 The alums, how did they react to this whole-
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:54:55 The alums again, same thing, I think a lot of it was sadness-
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:55:00 You know, again, recognizing that they probably were losing their identity in terms of the school that they had gone to. In some cases, as I've mentioned before, many Edgecliff women were married to Xavier men-
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:55:14 Oh yes.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:55:15 So in that sense, I think, for some that connection helped, and for others that connection didn't help.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:55:22 Uh-huh.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:55:22 You know, I mean, I'm sure-
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:55:23 Sure.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:55:24 There was good and bad with respect to that. But there certainly was, there was upsetness among them.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:55:30 And-
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:55:31 I think many of them at first though, at the beginning it was presented that again, that there was going to be this Edgecliff College of Xavier University, and that the campus was going to stay, I mean for the first several years Xavier maintained the campus, they maintained some courses there, as I said before you

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know, the, we continued to teach the nursing students on Xavier campus-

- Thomas Kennealy: 00:55:57 On the Edgecliff campus.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:55:58 On the Edgecliff campus.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:55:58 Xavier moved the hospital administration graduate program-
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:56:02 Oh Ed Arlinghaus's program.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:56:04 Yes, Ed Arlinghaus, right-
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:56:04 Yes, that's right.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:56:05 Down to the Edgecliff campus-
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:56:07 It was moved down there, that's correct.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:56:08 So at that point there was still this notion that, okay, it's not Edgecliff College all by itself anymore, but it's Edgecliff College of Xavier University, and the campus is still there.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:56:19 Mm-hmm (affirmative).
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:56:20 Now, where the real hurt came was then when Xavier made the decision a few years later that that wasn't working, in terms, and again it was a financial type of thing-
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:56:33 Uh-huh.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:56:33 That it wasn't working in terms of, I don't think the numbers of students that ended up coming there to maybe some of the programs were really financially supporting it. There was the faculty at Xavier had been opposed to it all along, in the sense that they saw that extra expense of having to maintain that campus, of maintaining, there were shuttle buses that would go up and down-
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:56:59 That's right.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:57:00 Transport students-

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- Thomas Kennealy: 00:57:00 That's right.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:57:01 From one campus to the next. The faculty saw all that as just a terrible drain on the Xavier budget.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:57:09 And so the faculty, I mean, there was unrest at Xavier among the faculty.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:57:14 The feeling, I think, at the time was Xavier was expanding much too quickly.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:57:18 Yes.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:57:18 We have just absorbed the property where the Cohen Center now is-
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:57:24 Which had just been given to us, we had purchased Edgecliff and there was a real unease-
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:57:29 Yes.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:57:29 That we were taking on far too much, too quickly.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:57:32 Far too much. There was also the concern in the Xavier departments, that I mean, let's use chemistry as an example, that now, since suddenly they had me in there, that was that going to prevent them from hiring somebody in the future that they would have been able to choose for themselves? And so there was that notion. There was that concept also.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:57:53 So Xavier maintained, essentially two campuses.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:57:56 Two campuses.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:57:56 And then 18, 1983, the decision was made to purchase Edgecliff, and then two years later the decision to sell.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:58:07 To sell, right.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:58:07 And I think the property was actually sold about 1987 or so.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:58:10 Yes.

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- Thomas Kennealy: 00:58:11 Yes.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:58:12 And that was, those were the times when the alums, I think, became the most upset.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:58:17 Because again, then it was, people were beginning to realize that campus, that place that they knew, was no longer going to be there as Edgecliff College. And then also, as we kind of mentioned way back at the beginning, when the campus was sold, the new developers decided that they did not need the Emery building, and so that building was destroyed.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:58:41 So, that also was something very upsetting to the alums.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:58:45 Mm-hmm (affirmative). And then you moved up here-
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:58:48 Yes.
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:58:49 As did, how many faculty actually moved up here? I've heard about a third of the faculty moved here, but there were a number of rather important people who came up here from Edgecliff-
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:59:00 Right, yeah. Again, as I mentioned before there were two in biology-
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:59:05 Mm-hmm (affirmative).
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:59:06 Sister Elaine Charters and Chuck Grossman, and then myself in chemistry. Then Caroline Jenkins-
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:59:13 Yeah.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:59:13 For social work, because Xavier did not have a social work department, Carolyn Jenkins moved, and Dennis Long, at the time, was a faculty member-
- Thomas Kennealy: 00:59:23 Mm-hmm (affirmative).
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:59:23 At Edgecliff.
- Barbara Hopkins: 00:59:24 And then was here for a while at Xavier, then left, and now is back again.



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Thomas Kennealy: 00:59:28 Now back as Associate Dean.

Barbara Hopkins: 00:59:29 As an associate dean.

Thomas Kennealy: 00:59:30 Yes.

Barbara Hopkins: 00:59:30 So he came. There were faculty, Ida Casey herself did not come, but there were some faculty, there were faculty that related to the nursing department.

Thomas Kennealy: 00:59:39 Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Barbara Hopkins: 00:59:40 There were several other Sisters who came.

Thomas Kennealy: 00:59:42 Sister Ann Beiersdorfer-

Barbara Hopkins: 00:59:44 Yes, in the art department, Sister Ann Beiersdorfer and Bernie Schmidt-

Thomas Kennealy: 00:59:48 Oh yes.

Barbara Hopkins: 00:59:48 In terms of the art department-

Thomas Kennealy: 00:59:50 Yes.

Barbara Hopkins: 00:59:51 Those people came.

Barbara Hopkins: 00:59:52 And then there were a few staff members, Tim McCabe-

Barbara Hopkins: 00:59:57 Who was from, in the library, came.

Thomas Kennealy: 01:00:00 Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Barbara Hopkins: 01:00:00 So there was a good, a good number who did-

Thomas Kennealy: 01:00:03 How did you feel working on this campus then? Having been at Edgecliff, having come here under circumstances we've described?

Barbara Hopkins: 01:00:11 I must admit, again at the beginning it was all this, you were just sort of glad for that first year that you had a job, and then fortunately at the end of that first year I was told that I would be continuing, you know, you had to go through, I was not tenured at the time, so I had to go through the tenure process and everything.

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So overall, there was the fact that I was happy that I had a job, I was continuing to teach the nursing students. And the faculty in the chemistry department were very nice to me. I must say that I, as far as the faculty in the chemistry department were concerned, on a personal level they all welcomed me very much so.

Barbara Hopkins: 01:00:51 Even to the fact that now Dr. Harvey Dube was the chair of the chemistry department at the time, and his daughter had graduated from Edgecliff the year after I did, so I don't know whether that had, maybe had something to do with it or not, but I mean he was very welcoming. And within a year of me being here, I also then started teaching some of the chemistry major courses.

Barbara Hopkins: 01:01:14 So in that sense, I think I pretty much was, I was feeling pretty good.

Thomas Kennealy: 01:01:18 You were accepted.

Barbara Hopkins: 01:01:18 I was accepted by them. There were, I do remember one time going to, and I don't remember what office it was, I had to go to some office and I had to get something and they didn't quite know who I was, and there was some comment made to me as, well you know, "What are you doing here? Where did you come from?" Or something, and I said, well that I was one of the Edgecliff faculty, and the person who I was dealing with, who was not a faculty member, was a staff member-

Thomas Kennealy: 01:01:46 Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Barbara Hopkins: 01:01:46 Said something to me like, "Oh, you're one of them." And after that, I never, I tried not to admit that I was an Edgecliff, I shouldn't say this, but I tried not, when I'm dealing with certain people, I just tried to sort of blend in. On a personal level, I did not feel animosity or anything like that as, when I came here. And as I said, it wasn't that much different, in terms of again, the way the Xavier faculty felt about interacting with the students, treating the students-

Thomas Kennealy: 01:02:21 Mm-hmm (affirmative).

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- Barbara Hopkins: 01:02:21 You know, I was in a different place, but the whole tone of what we were here for-
- Thomas Kennealy: 01:02:26 In the spirit-
- Barbara Hopkins: 01:02:26 In terms of students-
- Barbara Hopkins: 01:02:28 And the, as you say, the spirit-
- Barbara Hopkins: 01:02:30 Was pretty much the same-
- Thomas Kennealy: 01:02:32 Very much the same.
- Barbara Hopkins: 01:02:33 Was very much the same. So in that sense, that was an easy adjustment-
- Thomas Kennealy: 01:02:35 Adjustment for you, mm-hmm (affirmative).
- Barbara Hopkins: 01:02:37 Now the first year, as I said, when I was basically only teaching nursing students, Xavier also had had a contract with another hospital before all this was separate from the Edgecliff thing, that their nursing students took chemistry courses here.
- Thomas Kennealy: 01:02:54 Mm-hmm (affirmative).
- Barbara Hopkins: 01:02:54 So the first year that I was here I would end up teaching in the morning at Edgecliff and then, in fact the class in the early afternoon, and then I had a half an hour to get up here to the Xavier campus to teach another class. And Harvey Dube always told me that if I got a speeding ticket coming up Victory Parkway, he would pay for it. Now I never did, because I mean, because I did have time, and I always worried, the big worry was when I got here, was I going to have a parking place. But it always seemed to work out.
- Barbara Hopkins: 01:03:23 You know, so that first year, I was doing that. And then the next year, I think I continued to teach some at Edgecliff and also some here. The chemistry department, Dr. Joe Klingenberg, who some people might mention, taught one of our laboratory courses for our chemistry majors, was moved down to the Edgecliff campus, because actually at that point in time the facilities at Edgecliff, in terms of the

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chemistry labs, were much better than what was at Xavier-

- Thomas Kennealy: 01:03:55 Oh. Interesting, yes.
- Barbara Hopkins: 01:03:56 It was newer.
- Thomas Kennealy: 01:03:57 Uh-huh.
- Barbara Hopkins: 01:03:57 And so this was again, something that the faculty in the chemistry department thought they'd try, and so they moved that down to Edgecliff. Now, Dr. Klingenberg was fine with it, but again, the students had to travel either on a shuttle bus or whatever. I don't think the Xavier students who had to do this were all that happy with it.
- Thomas Kennealy: 01:04:16 Yes.
- Barbara Hopkins: 01:04:16 So that only happened for a couple of years-
- Thomas Kennealy: 01:04:20 Yes. One of the issues, too, people really didn't want to use that shuttle. They wanted the convenience of either one campus or the other-
- Barbara Hopkins: 01:04:26 Right.
- Thomas Kennealy: 01:04:26 They don't have to go back and forth.
- Barbara Hopkins: 01:04:28 Have to go back and forth.
- Thomas Kennealy: 01:04:28 I think that was one problem, and I know those two years, or the three years-
- Barbara Hopkins: 01:04:33 Right.
- Thomas Kennealy: 01:04:33 Between the purchase of the option and the actual purchase, Xavier lost money-
- Thomas Kennealy: 01:04:38 To the Edgecliff College, that's probably part of the reason why.
- Barbara Hopkins: 01:04:40 Yes.
- Thomas Kennealy: 01:04:40 So ultimately, Xavier really took some very valuable departments and brought them up here-

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Barbara Hopkins: 01:04:46 Brought them up here.

Thomas Kennealy: 01:04:47 It would be art, I guess, music-

Barbara Hopkins: 01:04:49 Music.

Thomas Kennealy: 01:04:50 Theater-

Barbara Hopkins: 01:04:51 Theater, now for a while, theater at Xavier didn't flourish, I mean, they didn't invest too much into that, but now today they are-

Thomas Kennealy: 01:04:59 Yes, that's right.

Barbara Hopkins: 01:04:59 You know, I mean, as time has gone on. And then the nursing department-

Thomas Kennealy: 01:05:02 Nursing, and social work.

Barbara Hopkins: 01:05:04 Social work, yes.

Thomas Kennealy: 01:05:05 Social work, yeah those are the ones, and everything else disappeared, at least that was unique programs-

Barbara Hopkins: 01:05:09 Yes, all the other departments disappeared in the sense that they just became part of Xavier faculty.

Thomas Kennealy: 01:05:15 Barbara what did Xavier do to help reconcile alums and other students at Edgecliff, and the Sisters as well, perhaps, after the purchase?

Barbara Hopkins: 01:05:26 Well, I mean one of the things that Xavier Alumni Association was very welcoming to the Edgecliff Alumni Association-

Barbara Hopkins: 01:05:36 and even though the Edgecliff Alumni Association, even today sort of is somewhat separate, it's still considered very much a part of the Xavier Alumni Association, in that the Edgecliff Alumni Association still has its own events, every year there's a reunion, in the fall there's a, when Xavier has it's reunions-

Barbara Hopkins: 01:05:57 There's also the same thing for the Edgecliff people. There was also the establishment of the Sister Virginia Mary Sullivan award-

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- Thomas Kennealy: 01:06:05 Award, yes.
- Barbara Hopkins: 01:06:05 Which goes to an alum that demonstrates, either in their personal life, professional life, the ideals of Sister Mary Virginia.
- Barbara Hopkins: 01:06:14 There are also Edgecliff scholarships that are available for all students, any student who has some connection to an Edgecliff alum.
- Barbara Hopkins: 01:06:24 So certainly all those things helped, I think, in again bridging this gap and saying, you know, we want Edgecliff to continue in that sense.
- Barbara Hopkins: 01:06:35 Then the other big thing that happened, was that when here on the Xavier campus the Alumni Hall then-
- Thomas Kennealy: 01:06:42 Yes.
- Barbara Hopkins: 01:06:42 Being renamed as the, as Edgecliff Hall.
- Thomas Kennealy: 01:06:46 That's right.
- Barbara Hopkins: 01:06:46 Having that then be the home for the music department.
- Barbara Hopkins: 01:06:50 And that, as I mentioned before, there's an area in there where the walls are lined with many pictures of-
- Thomas Kennealy: 01:06:58 A lot of memorabilia.
- Barbara Hopkins: 01:06:58 A lot of memorabilia.
- Thomas Kennealy: 01:07:00 Yes.
- Barbara Hopkins: 01:07:00 That came from Edgecliff.
- Thomas Kennealy: 01:07:01 I think what happened, the building, which is really right on Dana Avenue there, was called alumni for many years-
- Barbara Hopkins: 01:07:09 Right.
- Thomas Kennealy: 01:07:09 It was renovated very nicely, fitted out with all these memorabilia-

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- Barbara Hopkins: 01:07:13 Yes.
- Thomas Kennealy: 01:07:14 Pictures, and renamed Edgecliff-
- Barbara Hopkins: 01:07:16 Renamed Edgecliff.
- Thomas Kennealy: 01:07:16 Yes.
- Barbara Hopkins: 01:07:17 And that, I remember going to the ceremony when that happened. It seemed that the alums that that was reaching and meant the most to, again, were the alums that say, are older than I am.
- Thomas Kennealy: 01:07:31 Oh.
- Barbara Hopkins: 01:07:31 So again, the alums of that time that would have been from the 1950s and the early 1960s.
- Barbara Hopkins: 01:07:39 Those people, it certainly meant very, very, very, much to. The alums that graduated with me, I have many friends who to them, Edgecliff truly is dead.
- Thomas Kennealy: 01:07:55 Oh.
- Barbara Hopkins: 01:07:55 And I try to encourage them, you know, that no, it isn't.
- Thomas Kennealy: 01:07:59 Uh-huh.
- Barbara Hopkins: 01:07:59 You know, that there are things at Xavier, but they have, still have some very, have ... I guess I shouldn't say totally negative feelings, but they certainly don't want to give any support to Xavier.
- Thomas Kennealy: 01:08:10 Uh-huh. To Xavier.
- Barbara Hopkins: 01:08:11 Because they don't see that.
- Thomas Kennealy: 01:08:13 Oh. Yeah.
- Barbara Hopkins: 01:08:13 But now, there are some who do. But I mean, there still is a group out there, and to me those seem to be more of the ones that were my age-
- Thomas Kennealy: 01:08:21 From your time.

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- Barbara Hopkins: 01:08:22 In my time, and maybe a little bit later than that.
- Barbara Hopkins: 01:08:25 But certainly the ones, the ones probably too that go back to the Sister Virginia Sullivan ones.
- Barbara Hopkins: 01:08:31 Those are the ones too, that I think probably, things like memorabilia, things like all the pictures, maybe they mean more to them-
- Thomas Kennealy: 01:08:37 Right.
- Barbara Hopkins: 01:08:38 Now, and so to them, having Edgecliff Hall is, was a very nice-
- Thomas Kennealy: 01:08:43 I think we also have a Mary Virginia Sullivan room, don't we?
- Barbara Hopkins: 01:08:45 Yes, we do. In fact, that's a room, it's up close to the president's office, and much of the furniture in that came either from her office or I think came from Emery-
- Barbara Hopkins: 01:08:59 In fact, I often think of that, I've been in many meetings in there and I often think, you know, I'm the only person sitting in this room-
- Thomas Kennealy: 01:09:05 True.
- Barbara Hopkins: 01:09:05 That has any idea what the real significance of this furniture is, and there's some pictures on the wall in there that came from Sister Virginia's office.
- Thomas Kennealy: 01:09:15 Well, let me ask you, looking back, what are your fondest memories of Edgecliff?
- Barbara Hopkins: 01:09:23 A couple things, one again, as I mentioned before, that sense of family, that sense of camaraderie that was there among the chemistry majors-
- Barbara Hopkins: 01:09:35 You know, that when-
- Thomas Kennealy: 01:09:36 Uh-huh.
- Barbara Hopkins: 01:09:36 When we worked together in, up on the fourth floor of Grace Hall. You know, both doing chemistry and talking about the future-



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- Thomas Kennealy: 01:09:46 Sure.
- Barbara Hopkins: 01:09:46 So certainly that. And then also, the interactions with some of the faculty members-
- Barbara Hopkins: 01:09:51 Who again, like I said had taught me, and then later on were my colleagues.
- Thomas Kennealy: 01:10:02 A real family spirit.
- Barbara Hopkins: 01:10:02 Definitely-
- Thomas Kennealy: 01:10:02 And probably friendships that have lasted a lifetime-
- Barbara Hopkins: 01:10:02 Right, have lasted a lifetime, for sure.
- Thomas Kennealy: 01:10:04 Yes. Yes.
- Barbara Hopkins: 01:10:05 Yes.
- Thomas Kennealy: 01:10:05 Fond memories-
- Barbara Hopkins: 01:10:05 And also the, as I mentioned before, the going behind Emery. And anybody who went to Edgecliff knows if you just wanted a place to go and be quiet, the place to go was to walk behind Emery, there were benches there, and sit there and watch the river, and sometimes people would do that alone-
- Barbara Hopkins: 01:10:28 Or with a friend.
- Barbara Hopkins: 01:10:30 So that was something that was very special, and as I said, I think anybody who went to Edgecliff at some time would walk behind Emery and would see that view-
- Barbara Hopkins: 01:10:42 And would use it as a time, either just to be there alone by themselves, and kind of just appreciate nature and everything, or maybe go there with a friend and talk to them about something.
- Barbara Hopkins: 01:10:54 So that was very important.
- Thomas Kennealy: 01:10:56 Yeah. Good memories about Xavier?

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- Barbara Hopkins: 01:10:58 Oh yes. [both laugh] And actually, you know, the memories about Xavier, they're very similar.
- Thomas Kennealy: 01:11:06 Mm-hmm (affirmative).
- Barbara Hopkins: 01:11:07 You know, in the chemistry department as in all the science departments we work very closely with students on research projects-
- Barbara Hopkins: 01:11:13 So I think some of my fondest memories of Xavier relate to that type of interaction, and then seeing what those students end up going on to do.
- Thomas Kennealy: 01:11:22 To do, mm-hmm (affirmative). You've had some notable majors-
- Barbara Hopkins: 01:11:24 Yes.
- Thomas Kennealy: 01:11:25 In your department. And some wonderful colleagues, Bob Johnson-
- Barbara Hopkins: 01:11:28 Yes. Bob Johnson, Dick O'Neil-
- Thomas Kennealy: 01:11:31 Dick O'Neil, deceased, yes.
- Barbara Hopkins: 01:11:32 Father Thepe.
- Thomas Kennealy: 01:11:33 Father Ted, oh yes, yes.
- Barbara Hopkins: 01:11:35 Yes.
- Thomas Kennealy: 01:11:35 A wonderful man.
- Barbara Hopkins: 01:11:36 So definitely, in fact when I first came to the chemistry department, there were five men who, and one woman, Dr. Barbara Barker, that there were five men who were the faculty, and they were, they had all come to Xavier all at about the same time so there was a real bond there among that group-
- Barbara Hopkins: 01:12:01 But like I said, they were, they were very welcoming to me.
- Thomas Kennealy: 01:12:06 Mm-hmm (affirmative). Was Dr. Richard Garascia still on the faculty in your time?

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- Barbara Hopkins: 01:12:09 Oh yes, Dr. Garascia was on the faculty-
- Thomas Kennealy: 01:12:11 What a wonderful gentleman he was.
- Barbara Hopkins: 01:12:12 Yes, definitely. I think at the time, I think when I came he was about ready to retire, then also continued to be part-time for a little bit.
- Thomas Kennealy: 01:12:20 Part-time.
- Barbara Hopkins: 01:12:20 But no, he was definitely part of that group.
- Thomas Kennealy: 01:12:25 Well, is there anything further you want to add, Barbara, or have we covered-
- Barbara Hopkins: 01:12:29 I think we have, but I think again, and this alludes to something that I sort of said before, that when I'm here and when I do think of the art department, when I think of the music department-
- Barbara Hopkins: 01:12:41 The theater and when I think of the nursing, and this is purely my opinion, but you know, those departments are just flourishing departments here at Xavier right now. I mean the number of students, and with the nursing department, the number of different types of degrees that they have developed and then the art department, if you go up to Cohen Center where their galleries are-
- Barbara Hopkins: 01:13:05 And everything. And then the successes, too, now, the growth in the theater department and the music department-
- Thomas Kennealy: 01:13:11 And the music department, yes.
- Barbara Hopkins: 01:13:11 Music department.
- Thomas Kennealy: 01:13:12 Made notable progress.
- Barbara Hopkins: 01:13:13 That to me, all those things happened because their roots were from Edgecliff-
- Thomas Kennealy: 01:13:19 Edgecliff, yeah.

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Barbara Hopkins: 01:13:20 And the people, the people that came, Sister Ann Beiersdorfer, and Helmut Roehrig, Ida Casey's successors from Edgecliff-

Barbara Hopkins: 01:13:30 That all those people-

Thomas Kennealy: 01:13:32 Dennis Long-

Barbara Hopkins: 01:13:33 Dennis Long, I see all that as being, again if we go back to the concept as I've said, that to some people, Edgecliff doesn't exist anymore, I guess I wish that they would be able to appreciate-

Thomas Kennealy: 01:13:43 Appreciate.

Barbara Hopkins: 01:13:44 What Xavier now has because of the Edgecliff acquisition to begin with.

Thomas Kennealy: 01:13:52 So that Edgecliff in a real sense, lives on.

Barbara Hopkins: 01:13:54 Yes. I feel it does.

Thomas Kennealy: 01:13:56 I think that's right, I think that's a good point.

Barbara Hopkins: 01:13:57 Yeah, in that sense.

Thomas Kennealy: 01:13:59 Anything further to add then?

Barbara Hopkins: 01:14:00 No, I think that's-

Thomas Kennealy: 01:14:01 Good.

Barbara Hopkins: 01:14:02 You know, I mean, I've, it's made me remember many pleasant things.

Thomas Kennealy: 01:14:06 It is, it's fun.

Barbara Hopkins: 01:14:07 And so in that sense-

Thomas Kennealy: 01:14:09 I'm really glad you feel that way.

Barbara Hopkins: 01:14:10 It's been very enjoyable.

Thomas Kennealy: 01:14:11 Well this concludes our interview, and I want to thank you very much, Barbara, for joining us this morning, this has been a lot of fun for me and very informative

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as well. I hope you've enjoyed it as much and I'd also like to recognize Anne Ryckbost who is sitting here, she is the Archives librarian at Xavier, and without her technical skills, this would not have happened this morning. Thank you, Anne. Goodbye, one and all.

End of interview

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