



TRANSCRIPTION COVER SHEET

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This is an oral history interview with **SUZANNE ROGERS**. It is being conducted on **JUNE 10th 2022** at **DOMINICAN UNIVERSITY** and concerns **Rogers' time of being a student at Rosary College (now Dominican University) she is class of 1961**. The interviewer is **DONALD JOHNSON III**. This interview is a part of the **INSTITUTIONAL LEGACY PROJECT**. This interview has been **RELEASED**. Documentation of permissions is included in the **MCGREAL ZOTERO 'INSTITUTIONAL SAGA PROJECT' LIBRARY > ORAL HISTORIES** archival record.

Suzanne Rogers Interview

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SPEAKERS

Suzanne Rogers, Donald Johnson III

Donald Johnson III 00:00

—necessarily mean we have to start just yet. So, before we do, though, just for documentation purposes, can you tell us your name, the class year, today's date—June 10, 2022—and just like, any idea of what you'd like to talk about.

Suzanne Rogers 00:15

Okay, my name is Suzanne Lawrence Rodgers. And I graduated from Rosary in 1961. Today is June 10. And we're going to be talking about my impression of my college years. Okay.

Donald Johnson III 00:35

All right, perfect. And if there's any direction, you want to take that the floor is yours.

Suzanne Rogers 00:40

Alright. I came here as a junior, and I was a day-hop. And of course, there were no computers at that time. So, as an English major, I literally lived in the library. These kids today really have such an easy time of doing research. It's, you know, very envious, but I didn't know what to expect. I had always been in a Catholic school. And I was thinking maybe I would go to Michigan or someplace like that. I went to a woman's college first, another one, and I didn't feel challenged, and I was going to go to Michigan. And then my parents decided I would go to Rosary. So, I went on a—there was a group of us, five of us from Elmhurst that came—and I ended up marrying the cousin of one of them. So, just that alone was— I knew I was, I was supposed to come here. It was extremely challenging and extremely wonderful. The English department, Sister Jeremy, Sister Julie, Sister Cyril were absolutely wonderful. They all had their Oxonian. You would walk into Sister Cyril's class and feel like you had visited the 16th century. I mean, I left there, just—just loving Shakespeare and enjoying theater. And—and then of course, Sister Gregory, that was like having an hour with People Magazine. She was friends with Mary Martin, she had served on the Board of Directors advisor for the Sound of Music, and spent time at Mary's ranch in Brazil. She knew Arthur Miller and Marilyn Monroe, and would say he's—he's going to be known as a good playwright, but not a great one. You know, so you really felt like you knew that. And then preparation for teaching. You know, in those days—I don't know if it's changed much here—but if we wanted to teach, we had to get our teaching credits, in addition to a major because their theory was—and I truly agree with it—how are you going to teach? If all you had is education classes? What are you gonna— you know, you have to know your subject. And that was— that was a wonderful thing about it. In placement, Sister Liam said, you should be in junior high. And I wanted high school, I thought, and she found me an interview in junior high, and I could walk to the school, and I loved it. I absolutely loved kids at that age. And so, I did that for a time. Then— then I left here to—Oh, back to Sister Gregory. She taught us group discussion. That was the best class because I've gone on great decisions, you know, lectures, I've been to book clubs. She taught us not only how to listen, but where to sit if you weren't prepared, which was wonderful, as you know, in graduate school. So, when I did go to Northwestern for graduate school, though, I wondered if it was going to be terribly difficult because I had only been in Catholic schools and I thought, I bet this is gonna be really hard. I had two full professors. They were all you know, assistants and grad students and whatever. It was not as challenging as it was here and I just, I just loved every minute of this...Candle and Rose, the logic teacher, Dr. Papadopoulos from Greece, Ms. Moyas in Spanish conversation, she was from Barcelona. I never did get my accent to suit her. But it was just a wonderful experience. And I'm really grateful for all of it.

Donald Johnson III 05:00

Alright, perfect. Well, we are right now at five minutes, we do have a limit of like 10 to 15. So, we do have a lot of wiggle room. If there's like another story you can think of you'd like to tell me about, that'd be great. Otherwise, like, say if you think you're ready to wrap it up, maybe if you want to give like a little statement on how it feels to be back for reunion, feels to be back on campus, that also be good.

Suzanne Rogers 05:24

Okay, it was wonderful to come back and we see the library and that staircase is so beautiful. And the nuns are gone. And they were certainly a big part of it. Some— but I'm sure the spirit goes on and I hope Candle and Rose will continue too. It's more of a girl's thing they say, but, you know, Caritas and Veritas, they're for guys too, right? Okay, that's all.

Donald Johnson III 05:53

Alright. That's perfect. Thank you.

Suzanne Rogers 05:56

Surely.

Donald Johnson III 05:57

Let's see...