Transcription of Interview with Regina Markland

Interview Date: Oct 30, 2019, 4:30 pm

In the CCU Video Productions Studio, Hampton Hall

Introduction by Professor Andrew Busch:

Hello, this is the second year of Honors 306 Oral History in Action, an experiential learning course in the Honors College curriculum where students learn interviewing and research techniques and then interview people who made significant contributions to Coastal Carolina University. Our goal is to contribute to the broad community understanding of Coastal Carolina’s history and to strengthen ties between CCU and the Horry County community of which it is a part.

I am Andrew Busch (AB), Assistant Professor in the Honors College at CCU and the instructor of the class. The students doing today’s interview are Lauren Alcorn, a senior Intel [Intelligence and National Security] major, Brandon Davis, a sophomore communication major and Nik Urbanek, a freshman marine science major.

We are very pleased to welcome Ms. [Regina] Gina Markland former women’s basketball coach and now philanthropy officer at Coastal Carolina. Welcome, Gina.

Gina Markland: Thank you. I appreciate the opportunity to be here.

Andrew Busch: Great. We are really happy to have you, too. So I’ll ask the first question. What brought you to Coastal Carolina, Ms. Markland?

GM: Wow. That’s an interesting question. Actually, I did not have a plan to come here before I came. I was a grad assistant at Western Carolina University with women’s basketball there. One of my former people, who I knew through the head coach that I was working for at the time, called one day and was looking for an assistant coach. However, she was at East Tennessee State University. So I went up and interviewed with her. She did not hire me.

But when I was up there I met the then athletic director at East Tennessee State and a little bit of time goes by and so my head coach gets a phone call from the coach at East Tennessee State and said “You need to tell Gina to call Buddy Sasser at Coastal Carolina. He’s gone down there as the athletic director and they need a head coach.”

I was only interviewing for the assistant coach’s job at East Tennessee State. Now I’m thinking to myself, why would she recommend me for a head coach when she wouldn’t hire me as an assistant coach? I asked her about that a little bit later. So what happened was I applied for the job and because I had met the athletic director at East Tennessee State when he was up there and he became the athletic director at Coastal. I think that probably gave me a little bit of an in because he already knew who I was.

So I came down and interviewed. I remember when I left that day. It was a program that was just going to Division I. There were a lot of things that needed to be done. I was going to have to
coach two sports instead of one. But when I left that day. I thought, you know there is something about this place. If he offers me the job, I think I’m probably going to take it. In my head I subconsciously, I think I said that. So as it turned out, he did offer me the job and I decided I was going to come.

Brandon Davis: Very nice. So maybe just some background about you. What was your own background in athletics?

GM: Oh, wow. My own background in athletics probably started with my older sister who was about five years older than I. She played basketball and a number of sports. Her middle school coach lived down the street from us and I hung out down here all the time. She was in the eighth grade so I was about in the third grade. Her middle school coach, Gerald Austin, also later became a NFL official for football. He spent a lot of time with me because I hung out down there and I loved basketball. He taught me a lot of things. So I think that’s kind of where it started.

As I went on to high school, one year I played four sports: volleyball, basketball, ran track and softball. I quickly found out I didn’t have any softball background so I didn’t do that again. But I did play the other three sports. So basketball and volleyball are probably my most fun. I also did track, just to keep me in shape.

So I kind of sort of grew up in athletics. I had good mentors along the way. I had two high school coaches who were really good mentors for me. One of them was a female, Carol Ball, she was my volleyball and track coach. And then the other one was Bill Burroughs who was my basketball coach.

Lauren Alcorn: We’ve noticed that you’ve been in education for most of your career. What attracted you to university teaching and coaching?

GM: Wow – probably athletics on some level. I enjoyed school but athletics added a lot to that. So whenever I graduated from high school I went on and played. I went to Appalachian State. The first year I was there was the first year they were giving out NCAA scholarships so I didn’t get one. I wasn’t quite that good. But I continued to want to be in athletics. Because I had such a good experience through that process, I decided that I wanted to go back and teach.

So I got my degree in physical education with some health background and physiology background in it as well. I think probably the athletics kind of led me to that point. I think the biggest thing was the coaches that had an influence on me. I wanted to also be able to have an influence on people. I kind of subconsciously saw that as an avenue to do that.

Nic Urbanek: You spent a number of years as CCU’s head coach of women’s basketball and you discussed briefly about how you got that job but could you talk about the philosophies and leadership styles you used as a coach?

GM: Oh, wow, you would probably get a more better and real answer from my former players which some of them I still keep in touch with. It’s been a long time. I think a lot of my philosophy sort of came from - and this kind of goes back to my story. Those three people that I told you had an influence on me – had a huge influence on me from the standpoint of learning
work ethic, discipline, making me want to be better. Not that I didn’t have good parents, I had wonderful parents and I had a Dad who probably never raised his voice, almost never . . . but had an attitude of you are responsible. So through those people I really wanted to give back. I really enjoyed the teaching – learning process in doing that. I even found throughout my career still to this day I love students.

**BD:** What were some of the challenges you faced and maybe some of the successes too that you had as the head coach of women’s basketball?

**GM:** Challenges were when I first arrived here we had just gone --- . A lot of things had just begun happening at the Division I level. Coastal had just gone to Division I at that stage of the game. That was the first year. When I came, the volleyball program was in pretty good shape. Basketball had six players who really were returners. I didn’t take the job until late in the summer. So, therefore I had to depend on students who walked on. It took a while. That was the biggest challenge probably was to try to build a program when it wasn’t quite where it maybe should have been. Not to take anything away from the coaches that had been here before because Steve Taylor who had been here before had a pretty successful program at that level. It just kind of went downhill because we didn’t have the scholarships that we needed to have. It took a while to do that.

That was probably the biggest challenge was trying to get people to understand that we needed that money and that we needed to build that over time. Because I hadn’t been at the college level. I’d only been a graduate assistant at Western Carolina for a year. I wasn’t very well known. There were a few people that I knew that were helpful because of my contacts, either through high school coaching and that kind of thing. It took me a little while because that was a big jump. As a high school coach had only been head coach for track. I had been assistant coach for volleyball and basketball. Even though I learned a lot and spent a lot of time learning that.

It was a little bit different when you were the person all of a sudden who were in charge of making decisions about recruiting, discipline, those kinds of things. I had high expectations for players. I will just say that. I did. Probably when you look at the transition from the AIAW days up to the level that we were going to was one thing and then also I was very young in a lot of ways whenever I started coaching there.

Fortunately for me, Buddy Sasser saw something in me that he liked or he wouldn’t’ have hired me to start with. But if you ask my players they would probably say I was pretty hard on them.

**LA:** What role do you think Title IX played in advancing women’s sports?

**GM:** This is probably the hardest question for me to answer because there’s a lot of things that go into that. There’s a part of me that says we’ve come a long way in so many ways. But then on the other side of that I feel like we haven’t. I will try to explain how I feel about that. The number of scholarships and the number of sports that are fully funded for women’s athletics has changed tremendously.
I came through the era whenever we got women’s pro basketball and the other pro sports for women and other pro sports for women start to develop which were – back in the day when I was playing – I was fortunate enough to grow up in a place called Asheville, North Carolina where I had an aunt who had played basketball. And I had a team mate in college who her parents – she was from Salisbury, North Carolina – her parents had to fight the school board to get them to have a high school basketball team. So we had always kind of had it and they had not. Coming through that time, whenever yes there were some, but there was not very much. And up until the time that Title IX came along, women didn’t get paid very much.

It was almost like we’d see maybe with a club sport. You competed with other colleges but you just didn’t have that much in terms of scholarship. Like I say when I was first at App [Appalachian] State we had one scholarship and that was my freshman team mate that I had. We are still good friends today. That was the first scholarship we had at App State. All of that has changed tremendous. I have seen coaches’ salaries for women go up. The number of coaches and women they have on staff now have gone up.

In so many ways, it has changed but on the other level, I think, the fan base has not changed like I would love for it to change. I have to give Dawn Staley I don’t know if any of you follow women’s basketball at the University of South Carolina. She has done a phenomenal job up there in terms of getting fans to the games. They started that whole thing of getting there. We haven’t been able to do that as well down here.

Now I know our women’s volleyball team has gotten more people to come now. I think that while it has come a long way and we continue to fight for that, I think part of it is we still don’t have the fans that we should have across the board in my mind that we could have. It’s gotten better but we are not there yet. As you look at coaches’ salaries, there is still a big divide in a lot of sports. But when you look at that and this is where I struggle sometimes and part of this is the culture we created over the years. Because we don’t have that fan base the women’s sports don’t do what? They don’t made the money that some of the other sports do and the publicity which makes money for the university in other inadvertent ways.

We still have to work on that. I think sometimes the powers that be; it’s difficult to make that change over. I think down the road in the future, will it change over? Eventually, I think it will. And I think part of that is because women are going to college at a higher rate than men are right now. Some of that power shift economically I think will also help Title IX and help women’s sports as well.

**NU:** Going off of actually what you were just discussing, during your time as a coach would you say that you saw a change in the way the University valued women’s sports and if so, how?

**GM:** I would say yes, it did. I guess sometimes for me it wasn’t enough and it’s because of the things I just talked about. I think the University, when they went into the Big South Conference and became Division I, because there were stipulations on being Division I that you had to have so many scholarships and so many sports and that kind of thing. Of course, the University made
that commitment when they decided to go to the Big South Conference. From that standpoint, there was a bigger commitment from the funding standpoint with that.

As time has go on, as you can see and like I say with volleyball and the other sports we started to add, volleyball is doing very well now, which is also part of the NCAA regulations, the University has done a pretty good job with that. I really think they have. Our women’s softball team at times has done very very well, women’s’ volleyball is doing very well now. So I think there is that there.

Do I still think we have a way to go? I do, but I think the rest of country has a way to go in most instances. You’ve got some instances and pockets in certain universities where I think the value is there as it should be but I think the rest of it goes back to what I said. It is a cultural change which doesn’t happen overnight. So yes, I think the University values its women’s sports now.

**BD:** You kind of mentioned that your work with dealing with the Big South Conference and the NCAA. Would you like to tell us a bit about dealing with them?

**GM:** OK. You know it’s funny I had to go back and think about this and how that happened. I was coaching women’s basketball still at the time whenever the NCAA made some changes. We had this position we called the SWA – which is the senior women administrator. This was the NCAA’s way of also helping with the Title IX issue. They had created this position you really couldn’t call it a position but it was supposed to be the highest-ranking woman administrator at your institution – PL - that would get that title, the senior woman administrator. The idea of that was whenever that SWA – or senior women’s administrator – that SWA could then serve on some of the NCAA committees because universities serve on committees; you know all kinds of different committees. Before that happened there really weren’t that many women who served on those. It was a male dominated organization. So what they were trying to do is to pick up the women side so that there could be more people.

I probably shouldn’t tell this but I’m going to tell it anyway. I was coaching women’s basketball. And Jess Dannelly who still works here – he’ll probably deny this – not really he won’t. He was our compliance officer for the rules and regulations. I was coaching and one day I went in and asked about who had the SWA title. Well he did. I went “What?” He said, well he was the women’s softball coach and did an outstanding job when he was coaching and he did very well. And he was also our compliance officer. I said that doesn’t seem right, you’re not even a woman! It ended up what happened was. He said well you have to be working in administration. He said maybe we can make you make you like a co-, not co- but do some work in compliance. That’s sort of what happened. I started doing some stuff in the compliance side for Jess. So when that happened I got the title senior woman administrator. So when I got that title then I got more involved in what was going on administratively. What I would have to say about that, at that time many of our women’s basketball coaches in the conference were SWAs and were doing things from that perspective. That’s kind of how I got started. For me that was a lot of fun and I really really enjoyed it.

So then, what I have to say about that, as time went on I got more involved in the administrative side. And when I got out I was able to transition to do that. So that was some of the most fun things that I did. I got to serve on some of the NCAA committees and that sort of thing.
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Probably the most fun I had when I was on the student athlete reinstatement committee. In reality what that was when students had been deemed ineligible for some reason then they could appeal to get their eligibility back. Then we heard those cases. That was a lot of fun and I enjoyed that.

**LA:** In regards to your student athletes, we know they face different challenges than other students. What’s unique about working with them?

**GM:** You know I had to think about this question quite a bit too, because I see that on two sides. I do think student athletes have challenges, but our other students have challenges, too. They are more in the public eye most of the time, not as much at this level but at the higher level. I think that’s what we hear so much about. They do put in a lot of hours. We supposedly limited, unless they got rid of that ruling I don’t know right now since I don’t work in athletics anymore - we had this 20-hour a week rule for the longest time that said you couldn’t participate any longer than 20 hours a week. That was a limit – OK – that you had and I think that probably doesn’t include a lot of the other things they tend to do.

They are putting that time in. They are in the public eye. They are being asked to perform in the classroom at a certain level and on the athletic field at a certain level. They travel. And now that we are in the Sun Belt Conference they travel a lot because our schools are no longer close. They are away from campus and that kind of thing. So they have to be pretty disciplined to get both the classroom done and to also get their athletic stuff done. They are in the public eye. If something goes wrong it can end up in the newspaper and that kind of thing and I think it can be very difficult to do.

Students that I have found since I got out of athletics though, also tend to do a lot of different things. Some of them may work 30 or 40 hours a week while they are going to school. So on their time limits may be somewhat similar. The publicity thing may not be quite as similar. I kind of see both sides of that. The thing about being in athletics I think that students have that we fail to recognize too is they do have academic tutors. They’ve got some extra help in some places because people want to also see them graduate. So sometimes, when athletes start complaining about that I want to go, yeah but think about all the advantages you have as well. So I do think that there is an expectation but I also think there are other students that have expectations, as well.

**NU:** To take a little step away from athletics, how has your experience as a coach and an associate athletic director influenced your other jobs you’ve done around the campus?

**GM:** Let me just think about what the other jobs I’ve been – one is teaching which I did and then the other is probably and I taught in two different scenarios. When I first came to Coastal after I’d been here for a little while, I taught in the physical education department and I only had one or two classes and I did that for quite a while. And then I taught in recreation and sports management when I first came back and did that for a year and then I got the job at the Coastal Educational Foundation.

I think probably my background in education helped me with the teaching part. When physical education needed something I had a little bit of that exercise physiology. I had some
administrative background that I had gotten through coaching and athletic administration. So I had those two things which were kind of pretty much a mix and a match.

Then when I got the Educational Foundation job – part of that is - and I guess this is something for all of us to remember – if you work somewhere and you are fortunate enough for people to think you did a good job, then people will rehire you a lot of times in other positions. And so if they had not known me or I hadn’t been here, they might have hired somebody else in the Educational Foundation at that stage of the game.

The other thing that helps me with that is because I had gone and gotten my Series 7 [an exam and license to sell securities, except commodities and futures] and done some work with Edward Jones and financial services and BB&T for about four years. I had a little bit more background to fit what I do for the Educational Foundation. I think that probably was something that helped me in going into that transition.

I also do believe that depending on what you are doing, your communication skills with people and your ability to talk to people and relate to people is very important. Coaching and teaching a lot of time helps you with that, particularly coaching because you are always trying to solve a problem somewhere. You do become somewhat of a problem solver. I do think that relationships, that communication piece and a little bit of the education background helped me get to the Educational Foundation, to be honest with you.

BD: So you briefly mentioned your work as a financial advisor. We were wondering why you chose that path and how your experiences at Coastal helped prepare you for that job?

GM: I was at a place where I had been associate athletic director for a while on the one side and I had done all this work in the NCAA and that kind of had ended because it was time for somebody else in the conference to do it, to be honest with you. I think I had just – our soccer coach, Shawn Docking, had been serving at the time on the NCAA Championship Committee. He just had a lot going on.

He had come to me and he said to me, “I don’t want to do this anymore.” It was like a year. He was at the end of his term. [term] I called the Conference office and they decided to let me do it instead of him. I was afraid we were going to lose it out of the institution. I had just gotten to that point - because that was the last dealing I had with NCAA stuff - I had gotten to that point where I felt like – in the position I was in, because I had been here for while - that I sort of had done all I could do and I was trying to figure out what my next move would be.

One of the individuals who used to be an assistant track coach, Shawn Walsh, Shawn grew up in New Zealand. He is an Edwards Jones financial advisor down in Surfside area. I knew Shawn very well, we had been friends throughout the time he had been here and I had been here. I had kind of seen what he had done and I had in an interest in maybe doing something like that for a number of reasons. I had dealt some with our budgets and that kind of thing. I really didn’t have a background in business. I just felt like it was time for me to do that. There were some things going on in my personal life that also made me want to do that. I ended up going, I want to try this and do it. That’s kind of how I got to that place to be very honest with you. I probably had
enough background in talking to people and that kind of thing for me to be able to do some of that.

Probably the hardest thing for me though somewhere in this in one of the questions it talked about recruiting and sales and that kind of thing. Recruiting to me was one thing, sales was another thing.

Because recruiting I was really trying to solve a problem it was something I really loved. When I went into the financial services business and went to work for Edward Jones, that’s who I went to work for. It’s truly is a sales business and it was more of a sales business than the financial side. So I think probably for me when I got in it, on some level it was fun but the sales part for me over the long haul was probably not something I really really wanted to do. I ended up working for BB&T down in Charleston for about a year and I realized at that point, it was a little bit different. I really liked the Edward Jones scenario a little bit better.

You have to understand, when I was working for Edward Jones, I had worked in a situation where I dealt with a lot of people every day and very much a team. And now I was working in an office all by myself and one administrative assistant and I just found I needed to have more people around me, too. That was part of it.

**LA:** What brought you back to Coastal in 2012?

**GM:** Let’s see, probably because I realized that I didn’t think I wanted to be in the financial services business forever. At that point, I go OK, Do I want to do this or do I want to do something else? Well, I get a phone call from someone at Coastal. I won’t say who. Who knew me and said there might be a position opening but it’s just an instructor position. I hadn’t sold my house here. I still loved it here, although Charleston was fine too. I had to think about it because I knew in reality to be come an instructor and come back to Coastal I was taking a risk from the standpoint of they could tell me at the end of the year they didn’t want me back. And I was not going to be making a very high salary. I said OK. I was at a crossroads.

My experience at Coastal had been really really good. So I decided that - I still had my place to live. I just went you know that’s really where my heart is and so I decided to come back as an Instructor. I told the department after I said Look – they really couldn’t make me a lot of promises, in terms of it being long term. I didn’t have a doctorate degree, my master’s is in physical education. I knew that was just a chance for me to get back in and that I probably couldn’t do it for a long time. I just said, “Yeah, I’ll come do it.” We made no promises beyond that and that’s exactly what happened with that. In reality, I was very fortunate I was able to come back.

And then, it was a new position when the Coastal Educational job came open. My title is Compliance and Planned Giving Officer. A lot of people don’t understand this so I will educate you guys a bit if it’s OK. We have the Coastal Educational Foundation and we have the Office for Philanthropy. The Office of Philanthropy is part of the university. The Coastal Educational Foundation is actually a charitable foundation in and of itself, an organization in and of itself. It exists for the purpose of supporting the University, but they are two whole different entities.
Now there was a time in the history of Coastal when they were together. But some years back and this was a Dr. DeCenzo decision which I think was a very good decision, he separated the two. And part of that is the objectivity sometimes that you need in doing that. Does that answer your question?

**NU:** You mentioned the Coastal Educational Foundation. Can you tell us a little bit more about what exactly that is and how you got involved in it?

**GM:** OK. So I think I sort of answered that when that position came open, but let me kind of explain it to you too and you guys may know this. The Coastal Educational Foundation was here before the University. It started right not too long before the university was created. It was the Foundation which gives us tax-exempt status. We are a charitable foundation. So that was created in Horry County. And then what happened was they decided to start the university with that. When they did, we were first a two year university. Then eventually we went four years and we grew and where we are now.

The Coastal Educational Foundation as you see it today is the Foundation that supports the University. We are non-profit, a private institution. So when people give money to the Foundation they can get in many cases tax breaks and that kind of thing in doing that.

My position was created because they needed to expand a little bit. In compliance and planned giving, what I actually do – is I write all our gift agreements and I help the philanthropy office with planned gifts. Those planned gifts might be gifting from your IRA. When you turn 70 ½ and you have to take money out and if people don’t need it, it might be they want to put it in a good place. It might be somebody wants to give something through their wills. I help people with that. It might be somebody wants to set up some kind of trust. That’s kind of where I fall in, helping people to do.

Now the other part of that job or of mine, because I write the gift agreements, any time something happens and we’re not giving out the money, or the gift agreement is not working right. I am the advocate for the donor. So I try to help solve the problem with that. So I’m not as much in the sales side. Sometimes I find myself in that position just by virtue of something that we are doing as I am on the compliance and background side, putting gift agreements together and gift agreements can kind of be tough sometimes. You are not only dealing with the donors, you are dealing with our regulations and what we go by and you are also dealing with the university. It doesn’t make sense to write a gift agreement that’s not going to work for all three. So a lot of times, I go in between people a lot to solve problems in doing that.

**BD:** You mentioned earlier that there are obviously a lot of differences between recruiting and working in sales but are there any similarities maybe that you noticed during your time working in both?

**GM:** Absolutely there are. Because what you’re really doing – if I remember the wording of the question, you are trying to convince somebody to come to your University, that it is good for them.
First of all, you are selling the University. I never had an issue doing that to be very honest with you. Because I loved it here. I loved living in the area. Whenever I first came here, we were much smaller. The people were friendly. We had the opportunity to start something new and build up to the Division I level. I never thought of it as selling, but I was really selling.

But I was also trying to give students an opportunity that wanted to come play in doing that. So I did have to sell from the standpoint that students were being recruited from other universities. I had to get them to understand why it might be good for them to come here as opposed to going to another institution. So I think that is selling on some level.

I think for me I didn’t see it as selling though. I saw it as trying to build that basketball program. I think probably when I went to the financial services business because of the structure I saw it more as selling which was harder for me. Somebody not too long ago said something and this person was an athletic director and she looked at it because there’s a lot of sales they have to do in that. She never looked at hers as sales, she looked at it as solving a problem. It reminded me of why much easier it. If you can get yourself to look at it in a different way, in sales, you are just trying to solve somebody else’s problem then it might make it easier to do. I just never got there. If that makes any sense.

I learned a great deal about it and I met some really really good people in that process.

LA: How has Coastal changed during your time here – inside athletics and outside athletics - and how do you see it changing in the future?

GM: Wow. You know there were only about 5 or 6000 students here when I came here and now it’s gone what, about 10,500 now or 10,600 now. That has changed in and of itself. You know, it’s interesting I thought about this today when I was thinking about this interview. Part of this was personalities that we had too.

I can remember because it was smaller you knew people on a more intimate level. I can remember at lunch from time to time because I was one of these people who ran every day and that kind of thing, Dr. Eaglin [former Chancellor at USC-Coastal, 1985 - 1992] who was here at that point in time every once in a while he would call me up on the phone and say “Do you want to go run?” Now I can’t imagine Dr. DeCenzo doing that now. You see what I’m saying? And then, Dr. Ingle [CCU first president, 1993 – 2007] would go play golf with us occasionally or something like that. When I was dealing as a administrator, and I did academic administration to help students-athletes in academics for a while, which happened to be one of my favorite jobs that I had here on campus.

I dealt with a lot of professors and stuff. At that stage of the game I knew most of them and that was later in my career but I still knew a great deal of them. The campus was much smaller then. When it was much smaller it was kind of more one hub. Now that we’ve grown we have all these different entities and you don’t know people as well. You have to jump through more hoops probably to get things done. I’ve heard several people who have been here over a long period of time say they miss those days. So on some level so do I because you have to jump through hoops to get things done.
But that’s true of every organization that grows. Unfortunately and fortunately on some level, we made choices, I can remember before Dr. DeCenzo. And when Eddie Dyer and Dr. DeCenzo both were going for the Presidency. Eddie had one vision; Dr. DeCenzo had another. Dr Dyer had one and Dr. DeCenzo had another. It’s was just really interesting how it happened. I think that Dr. DeCenzo had done a really good job with this and we have grown and I think it has helped us on a lot of levels.

I see it changing mostly from growth. I still think we are pretty student-service oriented. At least that’s kind of what I see. I like that part of that in doing it. But I think growing a lot of times just makes change in and of itself not always bad.

I think we’re going to grow again. At least I hope so. I think that our challenge is going to be – based on everything that I’ve learned - is the student population over the next four or five years is down as a whole across the United States. I’ve heard the Provost talk about it a little bit. I think that’s going to be our next challenge is how do we deal with that. Right now we have a lot of out of state students. I think we are going to see our getting more in state students because there are not as many out of state students that we may be able to get our hands… you know that are wanting to come. That will be interesting to see and that’s just my point of view.

NU: Well, thank you for sharing so much about your life experiences and your career here. Is there anything else you’d like to add?

GM: What can I say? It goes by fast. I’ve had a great time here. It’s been a lot of fun to watch it grow. There’s a lot of things you can do at a university level. That’s the other thing people talk about is, “What is it about the university?” There is something about the University to me. I laughed at Bob Bulsza who in Career Services one day because we would go over and play tennis occasionally a couple of summers ago. He worked out in the business world for a long time. He goes, “It’s kind of like being at the country club. You got all this stuff. You got games you can go, you got tennis courts, you got a gym.” And I just never thought about it that way. I think part of it’s because it’s a community within itself. I said this in the beginning. I still love students and that’s part of it.

I just really say that I’ve really enjoyed my career. It’s one of those things that I feel very very fortunate and grateful that I’ve had the opportunity to spend most of my career here.

AB: OK well we would like to thank you once again Ms. Markland for being so kind in sharing some of your memories of Coastal with us and we’d also like to thank you so much for all you’ve done for the University. We wish you well in your future endeavors here at Coastal and elsewhere. Thank you.

GM: OK. Thank you.