

## **Interview with Daniel A. Selwa, Professor Emeritus of Geography -**

**June 20, 2018 – by Charmaine Tomczyk**

Hello, I'm Charmaine Tomczyk, director of the Coastal Carolina University History Project that includes interviewing individuals who have made significant contributions to the development and growth of the university.

Today it is my honor to interview Daniel A. Selwa, professor emeritus who had been a part of the university since 1970. He earned his 30-year state service award in 2001 and retired five years later in May 2006. As the Senior faculty member during the early 2000s, it was his privilege to carry the University Mace at Commencements.

Professor Selwa taught Geography in the Edwards College of Humanities and Fine Arts and was Chair of the department of Geography and Politics from 1987 through his retirement in 2006. I believe that is a Coastal record for the longest serving chair of a department.

In addition to his teaching, he was awarded a Fulbright Scholar in 1988 to India and in 2003 to Poland. Also in his early years at Coastal, he served as athletic director and head baseball coach and men's basketball coach. He was inducted into the Coastal Carolina University Athletic Hall of Fame in 1991.

**Tomczyk:** Thank you, Dan for coming today and talking about Coastal and your many years at Coastal. You tell me you have 40 years?

**Selwa:** 42 and a half years at Coastal Carolina.

**Tomczyk:** 42 and ½ years at Coastal Carolina. Let's go way back and tell me how you first found Coastal. What made you come to Coastal Carolina?

**Selwa:** Back in early 1970, I was looking for a job primarily in a two year school, junior college. I applied to a number of places and went for interviews and stuff. I came down here for the interview and just sort of fell in love with the area. I just saw that it was an area that looked like especially like for Coastal would be growing and there would be a future here. So that was the primary decision.

**Tomczyk:** Where did you come from? You say you came DOWN here.

**Selwa:** OK. Originally, my wife and I are from Michigan. I went to school in Indiana. I was in grad school in Indiana when I started looking for the job, I guess you'd say I came from Indiana out of school.

**Tomczyk:** OK. Did you know Myrtle Beach or the South Carolina coast at all?

**Selwa:** Nothing. Actually, when I first applied, in fact the first school that I looked at was Francis Marion. It was sort of strange because they did not have any openings at the time. But they were one of the larger ones of the regional campuses that I found out through them I learned there was this network of regional campuses with USC.

**Tomczyk:** That's right, because Francis Marion University was then USC-Florence, I guess.

**Selwa:** That's right. Exactly.

**Tomczyk:** When you came to interview, you said it impressed you. What was it about it? What was your interview itinerary like?

**Selwa:** Well, I remember coming down. I think we came down on I think it was a Thursday. I'll never forget driving in. My wife, Jan, and I drove up to the campus. This was sort of a strange experience [smile]. We drove up and of course, there was the horseshoe. There is now the present day Singleton Building and the Atheneum building I guess you call it now. When we drove up, we drove up to the horseshoe up there by the Singleton Building.

I said, this must be the area for entry into campus and this is where you get your information and stuff like that. There weren't hardly anybody around. There wasn't hardly anybody around. So we drove around to the left of the building and there was this little house, this brick house. Well this is sort of strange. This is out here in the middle of nowhere. So we drove around a little bit. I said, "You know what? There is no more paved road. Where's the campus?" We backed out of there to drive around. There's not hardly anything to this place at all.

So we went to the beach. I told Jan, well, we will go through the interview and see what they have to offer. If nothing else we got a few days at Myrtle Beach which we had never been to.

We went back the next day and we talked with Dick Singleton who was then I guess, his classification, his title I guess was director. I talked with him. Had a really good interview.

**Tomczyk:** Was he the only person you spoke with when you came for your interview?

**Selwa:** I spoke with him and then I met Larry Biddle. Larry at the time I don't think there were many young people that were not from this area on the faculty. Originally, Larry was out of California. We struck up a good relationship right there. He was just really an outgoing guy.

**Tomczyk:** And he was Associate Director, I think.

**Selwa:** He was Associate Director. His office was in the now present day Atheneum Building and Dick was in the Singleton Building.

**Tomczyk:** I think it was the College Center, is what they called it at the time.

**Selwa:** Whatever it was. It housed the administration, the library and classrooms. It was everything, biology...

**Tomczyk:** and that little brick house you talked about was really where the caretaker was.

**Selwa:** The maintenance man and his family lived. John Anderson was the guy's name. And then there was a big – no, not big – a chicken coop with a rooster in it which was the Chanticleer.

**Tomczyk:** [laughter] Was that a real thing?

**Selwa:** Yes, yes it was. It was out there. When you look at the Atheneum building, it was just to the right of the Atheneum building just were you would have turned to go into the parking lot there.

**Tomczyk:** and it was actually chicken wire?

**Selwa:** Yep, chicken wire and a coop with this rooster in there and that was the mascot. It was sort of interesting to say the least.

Anyway, we got through the interview and everything really sounded good. Dick said “Well, go and think it over. I’d like you to come on board.” And all this sort of stuff. We left and Jan said, “What’s the matter with you? He was offering you the job and you didn’t give him a commitment.” I said, “Well, I didn’t see it that way.” So we talked about it and came back out the next morning, which I guess was Saturday morning and that’s when he said “Have you make your decision?” I said “Yes” and I took the job.

**Tomczyk:** Was he expecting you to come back Saturday morning?

**Selwa:** Yes, he asked me to come back Saturday morning to talk to him.

**Tomczyk:** So he wanted a commitment evidently. .

**Selwa:** Yes, he wanted a commitment. At the time I wasn’t really sure. To put things in perspective this was the spring of ‘70 [1970] and he said, “Well he said we want you to teach Geography but we have to clear you through Columbia at the time.” So I had to go through the Geography people in Columbia to be, I guess OK’d to teach geography here. I said Well you know that’s nice.

And he said “We will guarantee you summer.” He said, “A stipend for summer as long as you work here. “

So I was one of the few guys, there were only about a half dozen of us that actually had that contract. It was guaranteed summer whether your classes made or not. [NOTE: this policy applied to about 30 faculty. Dan may have been the last one to receive such payment before his retirement. I remember when I was in the Provost office in 1995 there were still a dozen or more who were “guaranteed” faculty. The policy held until they retired or left.]

**Tomczyk:** It was a great incentive wasn’t it?

**Selwa:** Yes it was. And then he said, “Well, I see you played ball at Indiana, at Ball State., basketball. “ He said, “You know what, if you would actually take the athletic aspect of it and build it, we could sweeten the deal by another \$1,500 dollars or something.”

Whoopee do. \$1500.

**Tomczyk:** Compared to today’s prices, that’s unbelievable. ...

**Selwa:** Compared to today’s prices coaches - what do they do? They make that in a week.

**Tomczyk:** A few hours.

**Selwa:** Yeah, a few hours in some instances.

**Tomczyk:** So you were asked to be the first athletic director as well.

**Selwa:** I took basketball and baseball and I was still teaching 3 classes in geography with labs. So I was working an awful lot of hours. As time would go by the baseball was a drain on me because I didn't have a baseball background. I didn't play at college. The basketball I did.

At the end of three years, I talked with Dick. John Vrooman wanted to be the head coach. He was my assistant coach actually. I said that's great because that's one less poker in the fire I have. John took over the baseball program in 1973, I think.

**Tomczyk:** And that was his passion, wasn't it?

**Selwa:** Yes it was. Yes it was. John is an excellent coach and he really knew the game inside and out. More so than I did. That was a good decision on behalf of everybody.

**Tomczyk:** And by that time, I would think that the basketball program was getting pretty big and by itself was enough to handle.

**Selwa:** Yes, it was. What had happened was, the first year that I had coached, they always had a tournament. It was called the Palmetto Athletic Conference. I was like nine regional campuses all came to Myrtle Beach and we went out to the air force base because they had a gym, a facility.

**Tomczyk:** The Myrtle Beach Air Force Base.

**Selwa:** Yes. We played our tournament there. The first year was the first tournament that Coastal every won. I got the tournament win, the first basketball tournament win in the history of the school, which was in '71.

**Tomczyk:** and was there a trophy with that?

**Selwa:** Yes. There is a picture that I have of me holding it over my head. You'd have thought I won the NCAA tournament with the size of the trophy.

Then that spring we had the baseball tournament and lo and behold, we won the conference tournament there too. So I had two tournament championships and I guess most coaches at that point in time would have looking to greener pastures.

**Tomczyk:** That's right, moving on to other school.

**Selwa:** And I didn't. I kept hanging in there. It just was something that was different for me. In college I was a player, I was never a fan. I was not really up on where the leading scores were in the nation or records or anything like that. I was more concerned about you know, the team I played on and who we played.

**Tomczyk:** The game.

**Selwa:** Yes, so the athletic part of it was starting to wear me down. It was getting to the point where I was having to get out and recruit more. You work all day in the classrooms. Then, you coach on the evening. On the weekends you would go out recruiting. It was really ridiculous, is what it was.

**Tomczyk:** It gave you had no family life either.

**Selwa:** Right.

**Tomczyk:** And you didn't have any children at that time? And Jan was working?

**Selwa:** Yes, it really put a drain on our relationship. It was to the point where I had to make a big decision in my life. Do I want to stay in athletics or do I want to stay in academics? My position here - I was hired in academics. I went to college to be in academics. Athletics was just a means to the end. That's what I used my scholarships for. I went to school on full ride scholarships. I'm an only child. My father had a ninth grade education. My mother had a tenth grade education.

**Tomczyk:** So you were First Generation College.

**Selwa:** I was First Generation College.

**Tomczyk:** And what was your major?

**Selwa:** It was geography. Geography and geology. I just stuck with that straight through.

**Tomczyk:** with the intention of teaching.

**Selwa:** Yes and what happened was; you have to put another thing in perspective, too. When I came here, one of the carrots that was offered up was if you come here we are going to build this facility and you'll have it in two years. And that was the Williams-Brice building. They said, It's going to be a nice building and your office would be over here and all this sort of stuff.

**Tomczyk:** And they could promise that because the money was coming from USC, I believe. . The donor had a will that was very specific about the building of Williams-Brice.

**Selwa:** Yes and so prior to that I was doing my daily duties at the university. Then, I was having to convince these kids on the basketball team to meet at 7 or 8 o'clock at night in a local gym, a high school gym and practice. Then we'd play our games there on off days when the high schools weren't playing. So it was really sort of a tough pill to swallow. Today if I look at that through these eyes, I would probably have say "No way. I wouldn't do that."

**Tomczyk:** It's a stain on the students, too. Because as I recall at that time a lot of our students were local like you said and they had jobs and they had families. So for them to come back in the evenings after class.

**Selwa:** And still it was in that point in time a lot of the kids worked on farms. They had to have time off. They didn't want to come back and practice over the holidays. I was used to that because when I was in Indiana when the students went home on holidays; all that did we wrapped up the practices to two a day and we were going six days a week. It was really tough. We were playing three games a week. And we were on the road and flying here and flying there. I just didn't have a life for many years other than just academics, basketball, academics, basketball.

As I grew older and the new Williams-Brice building came online, everything was really nice. And then all of a sudden Dick said, Well, I'm going to be in charge of this building. Larry will be in charge of the Atheneum building and you are now in charge of the Williams-Brice building." So I had to – basically saying I need a cleaning staff to clean the building, the floor, and all this sort of stuff. Over the holidays, I remember Steve Nagle came over – just a great guy.

**Tomczyk:** Professor of English.

**Selwa:** Yes, Professor of English. He actually helped me. We had these big machines that washed down the floor, it was a tartan floor, not really tartan but it was supposed to be. But anyway, we did all this stuff ourselves. Clark Parker [student, later Chair of CCU Board of Trustees] was involved in that. There were a lot of things that were being done that a lot of people didn't know about.

Some things were not so good. I can remember when unfortunately one of the faculty members was going to be fired. I remember Dick calling me saying "Were is this faculty member right now?" I had to know where they were, and what classroom they were in. Here again I was an AD, a basketball coach and teaching and also had to run herd on everybody else in that building.

**Tomczyk:** A lot of responsibility.

**Selwa:** It is. I had zero life. One good thing – my office had no windows. So, I had no concept of what it was like outside. Sometimes, I'd say "Wow, I'm done early. I'm going home early." I'd open up the door and it was storming out.

**Tomczyk:** Or it would be dark.

**Selwa:** Yes, it would be dark. So yes, there was a lot like that. Then finally in 1974 I pushed to get the athletic program to compete against four year schools. You see, we had already moved up in academics at Coastal to add the third year and the fourth year. I said we need to do away with all these junior colleges and tech schools. We need to play a four year schedule. In 1973/74 was when the building was finished and Frank McGuire, head coach at USC, came down with the Gamecocks and they had an expedition game and all that sort of stuff. .We played the first year there.

Then, the second year, it just sort of got to me. I got to the point where some of the ball players that I talked to said "Well, what can you give me?" That just struck a nerve with me. .Lo and behold, today it's nothing new. But back then, it just didn't settle with me at all.

**Tomczyk:** Especially given where we came from.

**Selwa:** Really.

**Tomczyk:** We really made such a big step for us to get to that level.

**Selwa:** Exactly.

**Tomczyk:** And they still wanted more. We weren't ready for that yet; we shouldn't have been.

**Selwa:** I was able to, in that last year that I coached, I was able to secure great ball players like Howard White who is probably one of the best guards that ever played here, in my opinion. I remember going down to the College of Charleston for the first game. It was a tip-off tournament. It was College of Charleston, us - and I don't know - , Aiken or somebody like that. We had to play Newberry and they were ranked number one in the NAIA in the state.

I remember talking to the coach Neil Gordon at the time. I said, "Look, I would appreciate it. We are the new kid on the block. We are not an overly powerful team obviously. You are well established. I'd appreciate it that in the last four or five minutes of the game if you're up by twenty, you call off the dogs. Don't run the score up on me. I said, please don't do that."

**Tomczyk:** Because they would have had the win by then.

**Selwa:** Yes. And he said they laughed about it.

So what happened, we upset them in two overtimes. Then we came back the next night and College of Charleston, we played them for the championship. Alan LeForce who was the women's coach out here for many many years, he was the basketball coach.

And to this day I still tell him "You were lucky you won that game because the officials took it away from us in the last minute and a half of that game.. They were calling fouls no one saw happen." They ended up winning by a few points. But Howard White scored 52 points in that game and that was before the three-point line.

**Tomczyk:** Wow, that's phenomenal.

**Selwa:** Yep – so anyway we went on to play some schools like Presbyterian and Wofford and whatever and we lost a good number of them. I had a lousy season. At that point in time I thought I didn't go to school to be a coach.. I becoming disenchanted with this. So, I walked into Dick's office. It was right around Christmas time I guess. .

**Tomczyk:** And what year was this?

**Selwa:** It would have been around 1974. I told him I said "I want out." I said, "Here's my resignation from Coastal".

**Tomczyk:** Completely. Not just from the athletics but totally.

**Selwa:** Yes, from everything.

**Tomczyk:** Wow, you were really in the doldrums.

**Selwa:** Yes I was ready to move on. And he said "I won't take it. I want you to stay here and teach. I understand the athletics. I don't know how you put up with it this long anyway. I will take the athletics."

**Tomczyk:** Off the table.

**Selwa:** Yes. I want you to stay on as a professor. And that was the biggest monkey off my back. I remember that day walking out. What's ironic about that was around November or December

nobody knew that I had resigned until after March. That was the best-kept secret in Coastal Carolina University history. No one knew.

**Tomczyk:** So you had a nice holiday and were able to relax a bit.

**Selwa:** Yes I did. So I got out of that and I went into teaching.

**Tomczyk:** I think with both feet because was it then that you became Chair of the department?

**Selwa:** No, I have to do the math on it. I had 19 years as a sitting Chair. I think I was the longest sitting Chair in Coastal history?

**Tomczyk:** Yes, yes, you are.

**Selwa:** Let's see, I was trying to think, who was the Chair? I think Richard Collin – Professor of International Studies, was Chair for about one week. He just threw everything up and said I'm out of here. Eddie Dyer said "Dan, see if the guys will support you." He said, "You'd be good because you are a geographer."

In politics like in the department of politics and geography at the time, you had American national government people and you had international government people and the two of them didn't get along. They just didn't see eye to eye. I had some very very strong personalities. It made for some interesting faculty meetings to say the least. It kept me on my toes. But they wanted me to stay Chair because they knew I was fair and I would listen to both sides when I made my decision I would explain to them why I made my decision the way I did.

**Tomczyk:** And your discipline was able to be neutral on issues

**Selwa:** Yes it was. That was primarily accepted by both sides. I had no vested interested in going one way or the other on a decision. Like I said, I had some really strong personalities in there, not only in the department but they were known on campus as strong personalities. But they were also highly talented. We had the only two-time professor of the year won by Richard Collin and that has never been repeated. We had two other professors who won Professor of the Year, too. We really did a bang up job in the classroom and there were a lot of books that were published. I had a great group of guys.

That was one of the other things. You don't have any women on the faculty. I said "Yes, you're right." And then I hired Pam Martin, Dr. Martin it was Pam Burke at the time. What a great addition. I always say she is my shining star.

**Tomczyk:** And she still is. An excellent faculty member.

**Selwa:** Yes, I just think the world of her.

**Tomczyk:** A good hire there, Dan.

**Selwa:** Yes, I did. I pushed for that. Another thing I always told my faculty I said I will try to facilitate anything that you want. I will be the person to take care of that; I will be your advocate. I'm not the administration's advocate watching over you. In that respect, I caught some grief on

that but on the other hand; I got a lot of respect for taking that position. I guess you can say – nineteen years. I'll never forget the last day of my position.

I was looking at the clock. I said at 12 noon I'm done. A student called and said "I would like to come in for advisement and they said you would be the person I should talk to." I said, "Son, I'm sorry but I'm retiring in fifteen minutes" [laughter]

**Tomczyk:** I hear the clock ticking!

**Selwa:** I assigned him to someone else. It was a good run.

**Tomczyk:** You must have had a lot of students who really were shining stars as well that may have come back and told you how valuable your advice and your mentoring was.

**Selwa:** I've had some like most professors are going to have some. I always felt bad when a good student would have something personal happen in their lives whether it was a boyfriend / girlfriend or a death in the family, or something like that. I tried to reach out to them and to make sure they realized we cared and we are going to take care of you and make sure that everything goes OK.

**Tomczyk:** I think that's something very unique about the early years of Coastal. We did have counseling services of course but it was a small staff and I think a lot of faculty took on that role of being a counselor as well as an advisor when it came time to evaluating a student's performance.

**Selwa:** Yes, It did. When I first started at Coastal - this sounds terrible to say this because it really dates me - but I just turned 71.

**Tomczyk:** Congratulations!

**Selwa:** The total population of Coastal faculty staff and students was just a hair over 300. In the period I can remember and I told Jan this, I said, you know what I had these goals when I was a Chair and I told my administrative assistant, Bonnie Senser who I couldn't have never done anything without her. She just really sort of kept me between the lines and made sure I was on time for this and that.

**Tomczyk:** She was very efficient.

**Selwa:** Oh Lord, she was. My greatest fear was that I guess at the time when President Ingle wanted her to go into his office and she didn't want to leave. She stayed with us.

**Tomczyk:** Good for her.

**Selwa:** Yes, but I told Jan, you know what? From a perspective, this is ironic. Every day I drive into work. I came down here on University Blvd looking at the Singleton building. I said, "They had these oak trees planted out there. They were small. You know what? The day I can't see the Singleton Building will be the day I announce my retirement."

And I told the faculty when I took over as Chair I don't know, we had 30 or 40 majors, something like that. Some day if we grow and we will hopefully retain the number of 200

[majors], I think I've done a job that I pushed to do and it's time for somebody else to look at it with fresh eyes.

**Tomczyk:** Did you accomplish those goals? The oak trees grew and the majors grew?

**Selwa:** I achieved both those goals. I achieved both those goals. I drove down there and I looked down there at the oak trees and they had covered the Singleton Building. I had gone and submitted my paperwork for retirement. Our majors were like 215 or 220.

**Tomczyk:** Wow, a job well done and accomplished.

**Selwa:** I felt good about that. I just sort of felt it was time to move on. The department was getting bigger. There was talk about splitting apart for international relations and national security. And geography actually grew. They had three or four people teaching geography.

**Tomczyk:** And then archaeology came on.

**Selwa:** Archeology was there. Everything was growing. I can remember also at one time when we were in the Edwards building, that was the last building I was in, that the population was just a little over 4000. I said "Wow, this is so incredible that we have grown to this." And within a few years it was 7000. I can remember when I had told the Dean at the time, Lynn Franken, I said, "I'm done. I'm just not going to work anymore." She said, "Well, if you can find your replacement, OK, but if we can't find your replacement you got to guarantee me you will stay one more year. " Well they didn't find a replacement.

**Tomczyk:** What a surprise.

**Selwa:** I had one more year.

**Tomczyk:** So you stayed on longer than you had planned.

**Selwa:** Yes, longer than I planned. Because I started in '70 and the year 2000 I had 30 years.

**Tomczyk:** That's state retirement; beyond state retirement.

**Selwa:** Right. And so they brought Ken Rogers in and everybody loved Ken. And for some reason Dr. Franken wasn't sure that she was comfortable. And then she up and decided that she was going to take a job up in, I guess, Illinois.

I went back to her and said "Not to be disrespectful, but you are a lame duck. You have no vested interest here in what's going to happen here now. We want to call Ken back."

Ken, came in and I told Ken, "We are at 7,000 right now and the growth is just phenomenal. I said, "In the last year or so it has grown by leaps and bounds. It would be nothing to see Coastal to jump up to 8 or 9,000 in the next year or two." Well lo and behold we are what at over 11,000 now?

**Tomczyk:** [nodding] You prophesized correctly.

**Selwa:** Yes, and so what they did it was and it was probably the best - I say this – probably the best laid plans. I recommended that we bring Ken in for one semester and let him teach a reduced load and have him shadow me for one semester so he could see what I was doing and get to know the faculty and all that sort of stuff. Then I could walk out the door. He could sit down in my Chair and he would be the new Chair and he would not have to say, “Well, Dan, what did you do here and what did you do there?” “The transition from my position to Ken was probably one of the best transitions that I’ve heard of.

**Tomczyk:** It should have been a model for future Chairs.

**Selwa:** Right. It was really great. Even Ken said this was so great. Even though afterwards I had an office right across from Ken. I had retired and I was teaching one class then. He would come in and say, “What would you do in this situation?” I would say, “Well, in the past this is what I did and this would work and this didn’t.” He would said “Ok and then he would leave.” He would make his own decision.

**Tomczyk:** What a wonderful benefit that he had you to bounce this off of to help him.

**Selwa:** I thought that was sort of a nice way to transition without losing a lot of time.

**Tomczyk:** An ideal situation actually that you were willing to do it and that he was agreeable to it. You know a lot of new people coming in might not want their predecessor to be there. They want to start their own thing. In this case, you worked well together.

**Selwa:** Yea, and I can remember in meetings sitting down and we’d be talking about something and they would say, “OK, Dan what’s your decision.” And I said, “Well, it’s not my decision. I give it to Ken because it will be under his watch. So I don’t make that decision. He makes that decision.” And it really worked out great. Ken had two terms. And then, let’s see, who came after Ken. Holley Tankersley I think, who he had hired. .OK and then I think, what’s his name...Wood. I can’t remember his first name. Isn’t that terrible. But it was a nice transition.

**Tomczyk:** I’m sorry, I can’t remember his name either. Was it Richard?

**Selwa:** No. I can’t remember. But anyway I think he is now the Chair as such.

**Tomczyk:** Frederick Wood.

**Selwa:** Frederick. There we go, Frederick! He’s a great guy. I always felt like the old codger in the department because sometimes I would screw up something on the computer and I’d yell down the hall and say “Frederick, can you come here for a second?”

**Tomczyk:** He knew how to handle it.

**Selwa:** He knew how to handle it. He was such a good guy.

**Tomczyk:** Well, Dan, because you were really in administration for that time I know you were looking at yourself as the faculty advocate. Really you were the middle manager between administration and faculty. You must have been involved in administrative kinds of decisions

during that time. Do you recall during those years maybe any university wide committees that you were on?

**Selwa:** You know I served on basically every committee there was to my knowledge with the exception of one, I never served on Promotion and Tenure.

**Tomczyk:** Was that by design?

**Selwa:** You know, no, I was never asked to and felt very thankful I didn't.

**Tomczyk:** It could be difficult.

**Selwa:** Yes. The hardest part of my job I think was at the end of the year writing evaluations on people. I can remember going in to talk with the Dean and she didn't agree on things with me. And I held steadfast. I don't know, I think she may have liked me or she valued my opinion because she would go with me. There would be times she walk into my office, sit down. She would just start talking. I would just stare at her. Then she would get up and say "see you later". And she would walk out.

**Tomczyk:** She just had to make her case I guess.

**Selwa:** She just had to vent of something. Sometimes it had nothing to do with me. There were other times when I had other faculty coming in from other departments to talk with me about some of their concerns. I kept on saying, "I'm not your Chair."

**Tomczyk:** No but you had a good listening ear. They knew that your faculty also held you in respect so they respected your opinion.

**Selwa:** Maybe so, I can remember going back to the early days something happened at Coastal that was controversial. I can remember Dick calling Larry and me in. He said "Here's the case and I want your input right now."

**Tomczyk:** You were valuable advisors to him then.

**Selwa:** Yea. Yes.

**Tomczyk:** Especially at a time when we were with USC. We really had issues with USC as well. We had to have our own strong case.

**Selwa:** Exactly. I remember one of the things you referred to about times that stick out in your mind. One of them was when Dick Singleton retired. It was because so many of us had been hired by Dick and now he was gone. You were looking at a new person. Fred Hicks came in. He had not internal position.

**Tomczyk:** Very different management style.

**Selwa:** Yea, different management style. We had different groups that he established and stuff. Coastal just sort of transitioned. We went away from initially a small family type of atmosphere where everybody knew everybody. Everybody knew who had kids or when they had kids. We

used to do things together. I mean there used to be what we called the campus activity bus. It was just an old school bus painted white with Chanticleer on the side of it.

**Tomczyk:** And what was its purpose?

**Selwa:** That was for athletic events and for student activities. We had one bus. [holding up his forefinger] I can remember times where Dick would say ‘OK anybody who wants to go we are going up to the USC Duke game on Saturday so be here you know at 6 or 7 o’clock in the morning.’ We would pile in the bus, the faculty and with pimento sandwiches that Mildred Allen made. And we drove up to watch South Carolina play Duke and we were able to do that. I can remember at least two or three trips to North Carolina to Duke or maybe NC State or something like that. There was just a smaller group.

**Tomczyk:** I’m envisioning a smaller vehicle; not the big vans that we have now.

**Selwa:** No, it held maybe forty or something like that. .

**Tomczyk:** And they were fairly full then when you would go to these events?

**Selwa:** Yes, it was but you know what? That was the way it was.

**Tomczyk:** It was a whole day to drive up and drive back.so you spent a lot of time with those people and their families.

**Selwa:** And every year at Christmas, there was always a Christmas party which everyone attended. And at the beginning of the year I think it was the Higher Education Commission would have a reception for the USC dignitaries. The president of the university would come down and the regional campus director would come down and we would go to the Dunes Club. Everyone would say, “Wow we get to go to the Dunes Club.”

**Tomczyk:** I remember those. They were really kind of fancy. And there was a receiving line when you came in and would shake hands with all the dignitaries from USC.

**Selwa:** That’s right. I’ll tell you how small it was. Jan and I were living at the beach over on Highland Blvd, about 62<sup>nd</sup> Avenue north. Somehow, someway that party got out of control and ended up at our house. We had about 20 or 30 people in our house and out in our front yard. Everyone was drinking and having a great time.

**Tomczyk:** I do remember that the alcohol beverages did flow very freely at all of those events. That was a USC tradition as well that we continued on with for quite a while.

**Selwa:** Yes. But I think, as time would go by things transitioned. As Coastal grew, like I said to so many of my friends there are things that you see when universities grow, the bad side of it is if you have some sort of thing happen that is not good let’s say, if you have one or two of those a year, when you triple or quadruple your population, that figure also triples and quadruples. With the growth also comes the growth of the undesirable things.

Also the university, when we transitioned to a freestanding university. That was another time that all of a sudden “Wow, we are out here by ourselves.” It was almost like it was destined

because if you think back and you look at the USC system everything was USC- Lancaster, USC Aiken, USC-Union and then there was Coastal Carolina College.

**Tomczyk:** That's right. None of them had that name.

**Selwa:** No, and it's just like Horry County. You have Williamsburg, Berkeley, [etc] and then you have the Independent Republic of Horry. See, So it's ironic.

**Tomczyk:** Don't you think, the founding fathers – really from the very beginning -- because I've had this thought myself, from the very beginning, anticipated that we would be a free-standing independent institution?

**Selwa:** That's a hard one to answer. That's a hard one to answer because of all the regional campuses; how many were four years Aiken and Spartanburg.

**Tomczyk:** Yes, they call it USC – Upstate now.

**Selwa:** I can remember periodically when we are talking remember when we transitioned to our third year and trying to get those numbers up. We had this one course the History of Horry County” had 300 or 400 students in it. Oh. Lord, it was all numbers but in the back of our minds, everyone was saying “We aspire to be like Francis Marion.” Now look at Francis Marion, they aspire to be us. [laughing]

**Tomczyk:** Yes, what a turnaround.

You were talking about the challenges at Coastal as we were growing and transitioning and some of these two or three problems a year you said and then of course as you get a bigger population you have more problems come up. As you look back, what were the really big challenges for Coastal through its history when you were here?

**Selwa:** I think there were a number of them. I don't know that they would be in this order, but housing became an issue. Because we didn't have dorms. We really didn't have dorms. When they said we had apartments that we could people in, they weren't dormitories. So that was an issue then.

I also think too, that when you get to a certain point when you push to get population let's say, student population, then you need more room and when you build the buildings and you hire the people then you need more students to pay those bills. It's one of these things. It's like a ball rolling down the hill, it never stops. It just keeps going.

It's just like right now look at Coastal's campus. I think I heard at one time; I'll throw out some of my geography. The geographical footprint of our campus here between 544 and 501 would sustain about 8,000 students and anything beyond that we would have to go to the periphery.

**Tomczyk:** You mean a footprint of an individual?

**Selwa:** In other words, buildings; and what could you support in terms of number of students. I could be wrong on this I'm sure there are people who could crank out the numbers. We are already across 501.

**Tomczyk:** Quite a bit and down 544.

**Selwa:** Yes, and going back to my place of education, the tech schools aren't like they are down here. What a monster it would be if Tech and Coastal were one. There is some duplication there. And I don't understand duplication. In some instances, you know it's what I call the blue-light special in some courses

**Tomczyk:** What is the blue light special? [chuckling]

**Selwa:** Well I mean you can take courses cheaper there than you can here. Like the Wal-Mart [actually K-mart} blue light special here and [switch] people runs over there.

I'm sure there is some logic behind this madness that continues. Tech is a great institution and I see the need for a lot of their services but on the other hand I don't think they would appreciate if we started a culinary school over here.

**Tomczyk:** I think it really comes down to SC Higher Education Commission, doesn't it? As the state organizational structure for higher ed. I found it unusually when I moved down here, that we had technical colleges that really were community colleges. That is the community college system in our state.

**Selwa:** Yes, that's the concept.

**Tomczyk:** But they call them technical colleges. In a way, we are lucky in that they can have a two-year degree there and transfer it over. But that wasn't always the case. You may recall when we used to have two year degrees here at Coastal then. We had to give it up; they said we couldn't do that.

**Selwa:** Nursing went over there.

**Tomczyk:** That's right.

**Selwa:** I just, I can remember as they have grown in size, I mean really a great size.

**Tomczyk:** Their culinary is international now.

**Selwa:** They provide a great service and then across the street you have Miller-Motte [technical college].

**Tomczyk:** They give the workforce of the state, I think.

**Selwa:** Absolutely. In this area you have to entice people to come in here to establish jobs because we are not close to I-95. If I-95 ran through Conway this would be a big industrial area, but it doesn't.

**Tomczyk:** Like the BMWs and the Boeing plant nearby, but we are a resort town and we're tourism; that's what we are about.

**Selwa:** Absolutely. I think that overall everybody serves a purpose of what they are doing.

**Tomczyk:** What do you think the future holds for Coastal? Given that scenario, and where jobs might be and geographical how our area has been growing, what do you think Coastal's future should be like?

**Selwa:** Well, I think Coastal is now competitive in the state with other institutions. I think there are people that are saying you may want to go to Clemson or Carolina because those were the two major universities in the state when we came here. And Furman was there. And College of Charleston was over here – not a dark horse – but it is a big school and an impressive school. If you take SC, Clemson, College of Charleston, Furman, and Coastal, some of those schools are expensive to go to. Coastal is still a good buy from what I remember.

I think that the people who are looking at the future of Coastal would keep in perspective quality versus quantity. Because you can keep building and let that ball roll down the hill. We could have 15,000 people here in a short period of time. We have an awful lot of out of state students here because of the attractiveness of the tuition. Also not everyone has Myrtle Beach in their backyard.

I really hope, I really thought the ideal size of Coastal would be about 8000.

Once it hit 10,000 I pretty much think that ship has sailed. It will be whoever is on the Board of Trustees. And what they want to do Do they want to make it the top four or top five whatever it is premier institutions in the state.

**Tomczyk:** Do you think we turned a corner when we started getting Ph.D. programs?

**Selwa:** Absolutely. That was a biggie. That was a biggie there. I was glad to see that happen because then that brings in a whole new demographic to Coastal and in the areas, the areas they are in.

**Tomczyk:** Marine Science. Education.

**Selwa:** Yes, Education. We all know the state of education and what's going on. We see it in the news about every night now. What more could you ask for with marine science being right here on the coast.

It's really great. I think the master's programs are there.

I think Coastal really offers an awful lot to a student. I always used to tell – when I met with the parents of the students – I would always tell them, I've been here a long time; I know the area. I can tell you it's a very safe area. You have very very strong academic people and you have people that care about your sons or daughters.

I always told them, "You have my number. You can call me anytime during the day. I can't divulge the grades or anything like that. But if you need to talk to me, I'll be there. Just call this number."

It's amazing when you talk to people afterwards. Tell me what you like and what you didn't like. It was always "we like the idea that the faculty were there for our sons and daughters." They

really honestly seemed concerned and they wanted us to know that this is a safe place to go to school.

**Tomczyk:** So when you were department Chair and you were hiring people for the department, are those the kinds of attributes you were looking for when you tried to hire people? It wasn't just their credentials, you were looking for someone who would care for the students as well.

**Selwa:** Absolutely. I think anybody that's been in that position, you get a feel for the people you are interview. Some people are primadonnas. They really don't have an interest in the teaching. They were there for teaching one or two classes. I want a big travel allotment and stuff like that. I always wanted somebody that was strong in the classroom and to do the academic research or whatever it was they were into at the time. There are a lot of people out there like that.

I felt very very fortunate with just about everyone in my department. I was very very proud to be a Chair of that department, because I could brag an awful lot and back it up.

**Tomczyk:** The students really enjoyed those teachers and they were very productive in their research as well.

**Selwa:** Yes, they were, and you know what? They were also a challenge. Our department was known across campus as a volatile department within its own rights.

**Tomczyk:** Well you know, in academe that's what it's about, right? You are supposed to push the envelope and ask the tough questions. And your group did.

**Selwa:** They did. They would get all huffy and puffy and an hour later, they would be talking to each other. It was always a challenge.

**Tomczyk:** It's interesting to learn more about the history of Coastal because I always wonder what it's next step is going to be. We started with the idea of a liberal arts education.

It will include things like geography and politics and learning about the Constitution and the basic liberal arts education. But now, it seems like we are moving into an era of Ph.D. programs and more research.

**Selwa:** Well I think you know as time goes by, things change in what is necessary. Where at one time a high school diploma got you a job. A baccalaureate degree got you a job. Now all it does is get you maybe into grad school. If you get your master's you are on your way if you really want to get into higher education, or into big time research, then a Ph.D. obviously is necessary.

And the other thing too is to know the areas. I think universities need to be upfront and honest and forward with "what can I do with this? What can I do with this degree?"

I can remember going for a job interview when I was looking at Coastal. It was with Continental Can. They offered me a great contract. The guy told me, he said, "Unfortunately you won't be using any of your training." He said, "We are going to train you to do what we need you to do".

**Tomczyk:** they had their own program.

**Selwa:** Yes. He said "We are impressed with your academic record."

I think a lot of students should know that and to know that some employers look at it with the idea “I can do anything” put in front of them as opposed to say a person going to med school saying I’m going to be cutting something, or you know..

There’s a lot of programs and a lot of majors, I’m sure you can agree with this, some of them I kind of wonder who in the world thought that up that thing ; what are they going to do with that? What can you do with this? What can you do with that?

**Tomczyk:** I always think there was one faculty member coming in knowing there would be a major in that area, or they were told they could build a major, and there it was. We have kept adding on. I don’t recall a major... Well I do, Spanish. It fell away.

**Selwa:** And that’s surprising.

**Tomczyk:** We don’t have a Spanish major anymore. It was a surprise to me as well. I agree with you, I think of all the majors, they made me scratch my head a little bit and say “why that one?” They all stuck, which tells me they must have enrollments to sustain themselves.

**Selwa:** Yes, what do you do with a major in how to study in college?

**Tomczyk:** You stay in college. You become a career student, I guess.

**Selwa:** Yeah. It’s changing all the time. It’s just like Coastal. This is the first time I’ve driven through the campus here in a long time.

**Tomczyk:** What’s a long time, Dan?

**Selwa:** Months. Months.

**Tomczyk:** And has it changed in that short time?

**Selwa:** Um, I just discovered that there’s another building on the other side of Wall building over there.

**Tomczyk:** The Academic II building it’s not named yet. If you would like to make a big donation, it could be the Selwa building

**Selwa:** Everybody it seems like I get letters from “we are starting some sort of a scholarship and this and a scholarship over here.” I don’t have enough money to give out. Everybody and his brother has a scholarship in their name now. .

**Tomczyk:** Well we have a big campaign going, the 20/20 campaign.

**Selwa:** I heard that has been met.

**Tomczyk:** I guess it has. You know in philanthropy you don’t announce a campaign until you’re half way there. And you always go into it with the idea it will be accomplished before the end date. So, you are always a winner.

**Selwa;** I like the idea of how the campus has grown outside. I like that they shut down the horseshoe. That is pretty. That really nice out there. Overall, it really developed nicely.

**Tomczyk:** I like the lack of horseshoe too. I thought it always replicated Columbia that has a horseshoe. And I thought that's another idea of USC that we are dispensing with.

**Selwa:** You know Francis Marion is like that. Francis Marion you park out in the parking lots and their campus is all-walking.

**Tomczyk:** It is. That's right and it's beautiful.

**Selwa:** And right now with the population we have I'm still trying to figure out where are all the students parking cars because they are not parking out there on 544. I don't know where they are parking their cars.

**Tomczyk:** I think a lot of them don't bring their cars.

**Selwa:** A lot of schools say no car freshman year. And Coastal now with living on campus for two years. That's sort of nice because that involves them. Although, I would love to see more involvement, the student involvement especially in athletic events, specifically basketball. I wish; I have a lot of wishes, but nobody asks me.

**Tomczyk:** When Eddie Dyer was here [for his interview] he told me that same thing. Compared to years past we have less people – proportionately - going to basketball games.

**Selwa:** After I got out of basketball, we used to have over at our house, people would come over for a pre-game drink. We would go to the ball game. There were tons of faculty members there and then afterwards we'd have people come over and discuss the game.

Now you could probably count on one hand or two hands, And the students, I don't understand, we have all these students on campus and they don't attend. Maybe it's national thing; they have lost interest or for whatever reason.

**Tomczyk:** There are a lot more activities on campus in terms of clubs. There are a lot more clubs and sororities and fraternities. Maybe those are the activities that students are involved in. and a lot of community service. I'm surprised at the number of students who provide community service in the area.

**Selwa:** I wished they would have taken the HTC Center and taken the first 10 rows or 15 rows behind the benches and made that all student seating and so that it could be like a Duke or a North Carolina where you had a crowd right there to sort of harass teams.

**Tomczyk:** Well, and it gives them their own space; they have more ownership

**Selwa:** You don't want to put them up in a corner somewhere and unfortunately that's what we've got. .

**Tomczyk:** Great idea. Anything else you like to see changed at Coastal, Dan, while we are on the topic?

**Selwa:** I'm anxiously awaiting to see how this football stadium is going to look. It seems like they are taking a lot of time. But I guess when you have thousands of people sitting on bleaches

you need to be sure you have a sound foundation. I think that's going to be sort of a unique positive addition that will make the football stadium look nice.

Dr. DeCenzo, I think he's done a marvelous job. I can remember when he first started out. It was a real challenge. He stays busy. Every now and then some of us get together and he would attend a little dinner with us. We would talk and stuff. He has an awful lot on his plate. There's a lot of things happening obviously. Speaking of having no life! How can you have a life?

**Tomczyk:** He's a real workaholic. Even when he was Dean of the College of Business he had a full course load and he was pumping out textbooks. I think his textbook on management's has many editions. I heard tell he's one of those people that gets up at 4 in the morning and works on it. He just has that personality and that drive to be busy all the time.

He is going into his tenth year now, I think.

**Selwa:** Yeah. It will be a transition. Looking back on all the years I've been here, every now and then I sit down and wonder "How many Presidents have a served under?"

**Tomczyk:** Good question. How many have you served under? Singleton hired you.

**Selwa:** Singleton, Hicks, Eaglin, Ingle and then DeCenzo – five. Yeah and then if you look at the Provosts - Good Lord, I think that's 11 or 12. And I think there's an equal number of Athletic Directors.

**Tomczyk:** And even Deans within your own College. You had a good number.

**Selwa:** Yeah, we went through those.

**Tomczyk:** Who was the dean when you came? Was it Durrell?

**Selwa:** Um, actually no, I'm trying to think. The first time I remember there was a dean it was John Vrooman. And then I think Betsy Puskar and John Durrell and then Eddie [Dyer] for one year and then Lynn Franken and you had John Beard in there somewhere for a year.

And you had what was his name? He went out to Pepperdine. I can't think of his name.

**Tomczyk:** [Bill] Richardson.

**Selwa:** Richardson, yeah. OK and then the present dean, Dan Ennis. So it's a lot,

**Tomczyk:** That was a lot.

**Selwa:** You always wonder when you see these changes. I used to sit back and to watch and see what they were going to do to establish themselves with the faculty. Not necessary to say "I'm in charge" but to say "I have my agenda." I'm going to do that. I can remember Lynn Franken when we were talking about core curriculum. Walking in there and people were talking about what they should do. She said, "OK – I've had enough. As far as I'm concerned, unless you can come up with something, we are going to go with 12 hours. We are going to push for twelve hours in core curriculum and that's it." And everyone, aarghh [expressed disappointment].

**Tomczyk:** Not exactly shared governance is it?

**Selwa:** [smile] No. No. But there have been a lot of people in positions, you know, and they come and they go, and faculty stay.

But when I was hired in. I came in and Carl Freeman, he is still around but he's not in real good health right now; and Reinhold Englemayer was hired and Sarah McDonald [McDearmon?]. There were four of us that came in that year. Englemayer died and I don't know where Sarah is. I don't even know if she is even alive. Carl is in extended care and so I'm sort of the Last of the Mohegans.

**Tomczyk:** But you know, it's interesting that you remember that. .I think faculty remember who the other faculty were when you came in You kind of hung together and learned together.

**Selwa:** There weren't that many of us. At the time over in the Atheneum at one time that was the cafeteria over there.

**Tomczyk:** The CINO Grille.

**Selwa:** The CINO Grille and between 11 and 1 o'clock you pretty much saw everyone that worked at Coastal.

**Tomczyk:** That's right, because there weren't any other restaurants in the area. It wasn't built up.

**Selwa:** No, it wasn't. I can remember the last year I coached that was one of the things that got to me. I secured this one ball player, Howard White. He was a diamond that I had gotten. I was very lucky to get him. There was another guy on the same team that was a fabulous player. I said if I can get this guy then I know I'm going to have a great year. I did everything possible to get him to come here. .

**Tomczyk:** And what would you do? How were you able to recruit such great people to come here?

**Selwa:** Well you sold them on the college, you sold them on who they would they be playing against.

**Tomczyk:** You personally would walk them around and talk with them?

**Selwa:** Yes, and I would get in the car and drive to where ever it was, to see them around and take them to lunch then back on the road

And you just tell them we can offer you this academically. It's not going to cost you anything to come here. This one guy said "do you have a cafeteria?" I said "no, we don't". That was the deal breaker. That was the deal breaker.

**Tomczyk:** Because athletes have to eat – do you think that was it? Well everyone, but .

**Selwa:** They could get apartments. We could find apartments for them to live relatively cheap. They wanted a place like the Commons Someplace like that you walk in and flash a card and you

could sit down and eat whatever you want to and as much as you want. That was what he was looking for and we didn't have it.

**Tomczyk:** So that was the deal breaker.

**Selwa:** Yes, that and dormitories.

**Tomczyk:** We did eventually get both.

**Selwa:** Right now we have everything that any other school has for the most part. I'd like to see them do something with the pool. [wide-eyed look]. That building, that addition onto that was not a good add on.

**Tomczyk:** They have worked on that pool a couple of time to upgrade it.

**Selwa:** Well they were supposed, to the wall facing the university out there was supposed to be moved further out so that you could have spectator bleachers in there for swimming meets. There's no place in there to sit.

**Tomczyk:** Ah, so that was part of the original plan but it was cut.

**Selwa:** yes, just like the racquetball courts when they put those in . They didn't put the opening above them. So when you went in there hit a ball you, it about blow your eardrums out.

**Tomczyk:** I've been in there myself playing racquetball.

**Selwa:** You could yell in there and just about kill yourself. "You don't need that; cut that out." That was somebody making a decision they didn't know what they were talking about so, too bad.

**Tomczyk:** There are lots of plans that never came to fruition here. Some good some bad

**Selwa:** A friend of mine, dear friend of mine, Steve Nagle, I remember him saying one time we were all taking with – I can't remember who it was, maybe it was Fred Hicks at the time. Yeah I said the buildings on this campus some of them leave a lot to be desired. Steve said I think they should be a rule: don't ever let anyone build a building on this campus who has already built one." [laughter]

**Tomczyk:** If that could only be true, right?

**Selwa:** The campus is beautiful. It's really a beautiful campus I don't know if you have ever been to UNC-Asheville?

**Tomczyk:** Yes, I have.

**Selwa:** That's sort of like potpourri. There is a red brick building here then there is a wood building over there.

**Tomczyk:** Yes, it's a hodge-podge. I went to the library and then some classrooms and the art gallery – very different.

**Selwa:** Very eclectic

**Tomczyk:** Yes, nothing goes together. They are just sprinkled down the mountainside.

**Selwa:** I know.

**Tomczyk:** But here we have that beautiful Georgian architecture which gives us which I think a certain ambiance that looks academic.

**Selwa:** I still think, I bet you. I hope I live long enough to see it. I bet you we will see a bigger arena built out by 501 where the parking lot is.

**Tomczyk:** Well now, Dan you know it's funny you mention that. As I was taking about plans that didn't come to fruition. The arena was one of them. In the archives I have a big folder from Ron Ingle that talks about the arena that they tried to get built in that very space where the parking lot is on 501. A perfect location. It could be a great ticket seller. But it never came about.

**Selwa:** I don't know. I heard rumors which I wouldn't want to repeat. That just didn't have a chance and we settled...

**Tomczyk:** It might have been political; it might have been a fund raising issue but in any case it never came about

**Selwa:** It's going to grow. We are going to grow. If you go down 544, it's like a little city.

Did you see those little houses by Wild Wing? That's not in the true sense an urban village but it's getting real close to that. I've never seen so many small houses so close. One place I've seen them closer is Market Common. And these are geared towards students.

**Tomczyk:** I think they are condos. They are attached. Aren't they attached?

**Selwa:** No, they are free-standing. Some are duplex but most are free standing individual.

**Tomczyk:** Well building code must have a requirement of at least five feet, I think.

**Selwa:** I think it's 10 feet between buildings. Zero lot lines. They are close. A tremendous number of them.

**Tomczyk:** And they are wood; they are not brick, which concerns me, too.

**Selwa;** Especially if you think about that unfortunate situation with that fire...

**Tomczyk:** In Carolina Forest.

**Selwa:** That could very easily happen. You like to think that would never happen

**Tomczyk:** So if we have an arena, what do you envision that arena to be like? a bigger one that would accommodate more seating or a basketball court. Would it have a pool in it? When you say an arena out there. ...

**Selwa:** I guess someone would say I probably shouldn't have said that.

**Tomczyk:** We are just dreaming

**Selwa:** The HTC Center should have seated more. It should have been more plush seats than the ones they have in there. It should have been a bowl inside.

**Tomczyk:** A bowl?

**Selwa:** Continuous around.

**Tomczyk:** Rather than rectangular?

**Selwa:** Yes, rather than rectangular.

**Tomczyk:** Like the football stadium rounding out the corners.

**Selwa:** The other thing I was a little taken aback was the lack of locker room facilities. If you go over to the football stadium, they have some really nice locker rooms. These over here are not that nice. There's not any room- not that I know of - to expand the building – to really enhance that

**Tomczyk:** Unless you take out the bookstore; a big part of it is the bookstore in the HTC building.

**Selwa:** When you start looking at other institutions, you need to have room for meetings and locker rooms. You don't want it to be like a high school locker room. That was one of the shortcomings of it. I think the building itself is real pretty. .

When you walk in to see the area for activities, for working out - that's really nice. Overlooking the campus out there over the pond. That's really pretty. It really is, I think. They did a real good job with it.

**Tomczyk:** The rock-climbing wall. All of those really nice machines for treadmills and all those are top of the line.

**Selwa:** If it were me, I guess I'm conservative. I would have gone to Winthrop and said "Sell me your plans for your building" and build that building right here because they have a nice facility. It's bigger. I don't know what ours seats; 3,000 or something like that.

On the other hand, unless we are playing someone like USC or somebody really notable, we don't fill that stadium.

**Tomczyk:** You almost have to guarantee before you start that building that they will come.

**Selwa:** You can't get by with "build it and they will come." That doesn't always hold true. That old Williams-Brice building, that filled. And I can remember lines outside of it. Now, I don't see that happening. You just don't know.

Programs – Cliff Ellis is playing the big name schools and drawing in some teams that should draw from the community. But anyway that's in the future.

**Tomczyk:** I'm glad that you came as athletic director because I really think that it really laid the foundation and the support that you needed to get these other sports off the ground and going.

**Selwa:** The thing I feel good about I moved us into the four year competition.

**Tomczyk:** The NAIA.

**Selwa:** Yes, I pushed for the women's sports. I never quite understood why we have all these men's sports and nothing for the women.

**Tomczyk:** And this was before Title IX.

**Selwa:** Yes.

**Tomczyk;** So, Bravo.

**Selwa:** I can remember when our secretary had taken the position; that's when I was Chair. We were interviewing people. We interviewed Bonnie Senser. We have to have her. She was working for someplace at the beach. She didn't want to leave because she couldn't leave right then and there.

I called the guys together and said we need this person If we can all suck it up and do our own stuff here for a month. She will come here, and then I remember..

**Tomczyk:** You were delaying her hire to basically enable her to come here. .

**Selwa:** For her to transition out of her other job. I went to Human Resources and I remember saying I want this package for her; this much money. I was told, "Nobody on campus makes that much money for that position." I said, "Are you serious?" They said, "No." [no one cared that much] I said, "This is ridiculous. This is what I want." [they said], Well, you're not going to get it.

Well, I would like to submit it. I can remember the comment coming back "this will not go over well at all." I said, "You know what - if it goes over there are going to be a lot administrative assistants that are going to get a raise because of what I'm doing here. And you know what?

**Tomczyk:** What happened?

**Selwa:** It went through. Bonnie was the first one that we pushed. . It caused everyone else to [motioning up].

**Tomczyk:** All boats rose with the tide.

**Selwa:** It didn't seem fair to me and I didn't think anyone was looking at it closely. I didn't understand why anybody would oppose it. It was just out of line.

**Tomczyk:** As you said there were a lot of strong personalities in your department.

**Selwa:** Yeah [smile]

**Tomczyk:** Well, Dan is there anything else you would like to mention about the history of Coastal or your experiences while you were here anything that really stands out. We covered a lot.

**Selwa:** Not really, it was 42 ½ years. Like I've told everybody, my generation, you got a job, your first or second job, and you pretty much hung onto it. Today people stay five years and go to another job. I remember someone telling me that in 10 years Coastal will not have anybody with more than 10 or 15 years seniority.

**Tomczyk:** Wow, that may be true. We are seeing a lot of retirements now.

**Selwa:** And people come in and stay 5 or 6 years and take a position someplace else.

I have to say this. I loved my job. I even loved it more after I got out of athletics. I never regretted coming to work. It was always - not necessarily a super exciting thing to do, but it was very pleasurable to be able to come to work here and work with people that were really talented and highly educated. Just great people. In all those years you know I used to always say "it was a great ride. It was a great ride."

So, I always remember...I walked into Holley Tankersley's office when she was the department Chair at the time. I said, "You probably know why I'm here". She said, "I do." I said, "OK, I'm retiring officially and no more part time or anything. I want it to be official on the twelfth day, of the twelfth month of the twelfth year."

**Tomczyk:** Ha, no kidding?

**Selwa:** That's the only way I remember when I stopped teaching.

**Tomczyk:** That's wonderful.

Well Coastal just was very fortunate to have somebody like you that agreed to come here when it was small and really did not have a lot to offer and had an awful lot of work for you to do early on but you hung in there and really made a difference at Coastal.

**Selwa:** Well one last thing if I can sum it up "We had fun." We had fun doing what we did for a living at Coastal. Now it's just a different scenario where now you have colleges that are bigger than the whole of Coastal Carolina was back in the 70s.

It has transitioned out into a true university. People in the sciences don't know the people in humanities and in some instances some of the people in the humanities don't know the people in humanities. I'm just using that as a thing. I could say.

**Tomczyk:** It could be any of them.

**Selwa:** When you have faculty in the hundreds or so. When I see people and they talk about stuff I say you know you should be grateful. This is a great place to live, it's a great place to teach. You should just be thankful.

**Tomczyk:** Well, I'm thankful that you came by today, Dan.

**Selwa:** You are more than welcome. I probably rambled on more than I should have. .

**Tomczyk:** No, every bit of it was fascinating to me. Thank you.

**Selwa:** OK. [smile]