

**Dr. Margaret Beaman, Professor**  
**Transcript of Interview for 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of SIUE History Project**  
**Interviewed by Ellen Nore-Nordhauser**  
**May 05<sup>th</sup>, 2006**

EN: It's May 5th, 2006. I'm recording Professor Margaret Beaman in an interview for the SIUE 50th Anniversary History. [Recording stops] I asked you first, you know, um, how did you become interested in the field of nursing and?

MB: I became interested as a child, really. I always said I wanted to be a nurse, and people would say I would change my mind, but I don't like to be told what to do so... [EN and MB laugh] [unintelligible]. I think it's because I had an aunt, or, uh, my mother's cousin or something who had lived with us for a little while. She was [unintelligible] Army Nurse Corps, and between assignments, she lived with us, so that was probably it. She's really kinda a fun lady, so...

EN: Mm-hmm.

MB: And I never was a candystriper or anything, but I just...

EN: Uh-huh.

MB: ...knew I wanted to be a nurse. And my grandpa was a Pharmacist at a hospital school of nursing in Nebraska, so I went...

EN: Oh!

MB: [unintelligible] ...Nebraska. I really wanted to leave home, so I went as far away as I could. [MB laughs]

EN: I'm from Nebraska.

MB: Oh really?

EN: Yeah.

MB: Where?

EN: Well, Genoa. It's...

MB: Oh, I know where Genoa is. [Unintelligible] is from Fullerton.

EN: Really?

MB: We used to play Genoa.

EN: Yes!

MB: Yes. [EN laughs]

MB: His parents ran the ambulance service and the funeral home there.

EN: Oh, they did.

MB: Right behind the furniture store.

EN: Oh, gosh. Uh, Fullerton was where all the county fairs were...

MB: Yeah.

EN:...Took all our animals there from 4H...

MB: We were out kinda at the north end of town in a big, tall house as you go north on...

EN: Mm-hmm. I think I remember it...

MB: Yeah.

EN: What a small world. [Both laugh] Um, and then I asked about, um, why did you stay after you became a notable scholar...

MB: Well, I have to say how I got here, which was really the important thing. I was active in the Midwest Nursing and Research Society, and I really had never heard of SIUE. [EN laughs] They didn't have anybody who went. Well, maybe Ruth Gresley went as an educated person, but, and it's the biggest, uh, research society in the country and there were a lot of, it's wonderful. I met lots and lots of wonderful people at this. So and then, I was looking for a job: somebody who knew the Dean, Forney then...at the time.

EN: Patricia Forney.

MB: And so I knew that my husband was coming to be the President of Magnum Trust, with, uh, when they formed the Magnum Corporation. And I was not real happy, 'cause I really wanted to stay in Chicago [both laugh].

EN: I'm sure.

MR: So he worked in Chicago, and it was clear he was more unhappy than I was to be... 'cause I lived in the central Illinois community to get my doctorate, so...

EN: Mm-hmm.

MB: Uh, Pat Forney called me. Called me personally...

EN: Oh, she did?

MB: I mean, my college, like you mean the Dean is calling me? Well, they're going to start a doctorate program at the time...

EN: Mm-hmm.

MB: And there was only one other person finishing a doctorate, and one other person had it, and that was Jackie Clement. And Betty Obershire from Texas, so I decided, "Okay, well I'll just come and visit it." And we were moving to Belleville, so I, uh, I moved to Belleville my senior year, in last year of my doctorate. And so Pat Forney called me, and the rest is history.

EN: And what year was this?

MB: Nineteen-'87. March had started.

EN: Okay.

MB: ...Started in March of '87 and graduated in May...and earned my doctorate.

EN: And where did you graduate?

MB: I graduated from, uh, University of Illinois in Chicago.

EN: Okay. In ah, Public Health Nursing, I was one of the second graduates in the country with a doctorate in Public Health Nursing.

EN: Oh.

MB: The first one graduated a week ahead of me.

EN: Hmm.

MB: So...[EN laughs]

EN: Goodness.

MB: That was a long time ago.

EN: Yes. Um.

MB: And I'd already been a teacher. I got my nurse practitioner master's degree in, um, at the U of I system. And uh, I was a bachelor's completion student from U of I.

EN: Uh-huh.

MB: And when I was looking for a doctorate program, um, the director of the doctorate program saw me at Midwestern [unintelligible] Surgery, because I started going as a master's student. She said, "Yeah, you really have to go to my school." I said, "But I have all my degrees." I mean I have my bachelor's diploma from the University of Nebraska from Lanning Memorial Hospital School of Nursing. So I said, "Well, I have these, uh, two degrees from U of I." And she said, "Margaret, I have all my degrees from Michigan. It really doesn't matter. What you need to do is go where you can go...and do what you can do." And I was like, "Well, okay." So, I finished my master's degree as a nurse practitioner, taught at U of I in Urbana for a year, worked as a nurse practitioner [unintelligible], which they didn't even have then, that what they call it know in Decatur. For a job search. So then, um, I went to U of I in Chicago and, got my doctorate. But I wasn't really familiar with the Belleville area.

EN: Uh-huh.

MB: And so. Well, I've never been down this far. [EN laughs] So it was kinda nice to get here, and when I now recall, I was a computer person. I loved statistics.

EN: Oh, good.

MB: So I went online, and I looked up who was online 'cause you'll do stats then you did mainframe. You know, that kind of statistics. And there was just, absolutely nobody on there. I thought, "What was this place I'm going to?" So I got here...

EN: Were you looking for the school of nursing?

MB: Oh, you could go online, and you could have looked to see who was the, the computer people up there helped me figure out who was on, from SIU and what they had and what kind of programs and everything. And I was a SAS person, statistically.

EN: Uh-huh.

MB: Bnd when I got here, they only had SPSS.

EN: Mm-hmm.

MB: But it was just beginning to have software where you could do it on your computer. And I love computers, so when I got here, there was a woman who, uh, ran what we called the computer lab in the school of nursing in building three. And, uh, But she was not a sharing person.

EN: Oh.

MB: She hoarded information and, you know, didn't share a lot. So, I was excited, I got thinking, "Oh gosh, we're gonna, we're gonna have a class on helping people use a computer." Although I wasn't, I wasn't, I wasn't just a little bit [EN laughs] ahead of my. I may be in a little bit of trouble. I don't know, I'm not an expert in much of anything. So, um, then I, ah, she left, and I found out the Dean was leaving, and then this person also left who was a computer person, so then I opened up the computer lab, had lots of hours for students, and then tutorials and stuff like that, so that was great. And during that same time period, probably, with I think it was just within a couple years. Um, there's two parts to my story: the computer part and the nursing part. Uh, Dennis Hostetler and Jim...Jim...Why can't I remember that? I think he was here doing computers and he's retired. That's horrible. I can't remember.

EN: I'm trying to think of who that could be.

MB: Anyway, the three of us plus Mary [MB clears throat]...wanted to, uh, start, do, get together and have a computer lab that was bigger.

EN: Mm-hmm.

MB: And I said, "Well, you know. Let's get our schools together." And so we, uh, we got our schools altogether, and we started the computer lab.

EN: Mm-hmm.

MB: And we got IBM money, and course education time was a Mac. So we had the Mac lab, and the IBM had the other side. So it's still there. We were the first one on campus to have a computer lab, that was of joint departments. And we all agreed that we would give up our own workspace so that we could have this space.

EN: Pretty neat.

MB: So that was a fun thing.

EN: Yes! And that was about 1990?

MB: About 1990, we started that. And when I first got here, I remember how hard it was for me because I knew no one, and I showed up. I was told, "Oh, you know the Dean had courted you." [MB clears her throat, EN laughs] So you're thinkin', "Oh, this is gonna be great. I'm gonna have a little, you know, little cubical office." There was somebody else in it...

EN: Oh no! There was somebody else in your office?

MB:...Another person, they had never told the person, so I thought, "Well, you know, I can't, I will not, I will not take that office until they tell the person. And then it was the middle of the semester, and they needed somebody for med surge, which is hospital nursing, which I had not done forever, you know. I'd been, [EN laughs] I'd been a nurse practitioner, I'd been a researcher, I said, "Oh, okay,

I'll do it." And one of the women there, uh, who was also in the same hospital, I think it was Anderson Hospital. We went over to make assignments [MB laughs]. So I did that the rest of that semester, and from then on I didn't do that. I did public health nursing. At the time they, they had, uh, a psych graduate program and a med surge program and a public health program, community health it was called at the time. But they didn't really have any community health people. They had people who took a class in community health but really had never worked in it, so I was very glad to be able to be in my field and do that. [Papers rustling]

EN: Um...

MB: And immediately, I'd met in the hall. They were having a party for one of the women who'd just started there. I think she might have been a nurse, but I can't. Um, **Marlene Strader**. And, uh, she had used Dr. Fishbein's model for her dissertation on why people go on to nursing, and I had used Fishbein's model, and had met him when I taught at U of I. And I had used his model for his health belief model for, uh, some work that I did on breast cancer protection for my dissertation. And at the time, it was about 1989, and AIDS was just coming about.

EN: Yes.

MB: So Marlene and I said, I said, "You know, Marlene, we have to do this. We are gonna do some research, and we will use his model, and we are going to get money. And so we start developing a questionnaire, and we had, uh, Dr. Fishbein kinda working with us on this instrument. And we did some qualitative interviewing of people to develop the questions, and then we tested the questions on nursing students. And it was on...what you knew about HIV. It's called an HIV knowledge management questionnaire. And it was about behavior. Well, it was pretty sexual, so it was interesting to try to get it in. So we worked with students in various disciplines, and we had them do the questionnaire for us, and that kinda validated it. And then to also develop the questionnaire, we went, I went...They didn't even know we interviewed people...I went to the STD clinic at Eastside Health District...

EN: Uh-huh.

MB: And did some work there...So then we decided, "Okay, what are we going to do?" We had a lot of opportunities to like television stations were calling for information about the sexual behavior of SIU students. I said, "Oh, we're not going there." Because our students were exactly like everybody else even though they thought we were all so pure here. [Both laugh] So she and I wrote, uh, two grants. We wrote the American Nurse's Foundation grant and, uh, I think that was funded in '91. We found. We did a Sigma Theta Tau grant. National, these are both national grants, and we got money. We also had money, internal money, you know with the Research office, er, office is probably one of the major reasons that I stayed. They are the support and the money; there was a lot of support from writing grants, but, because we didn't have much staff at the time. It was just Steve. But we had, uh, they were just so encouraging. And, um, so I, Marlene, and I worked together. Marlene loves libraries and loves that part. I love people. I like patients, and I like, I could talk to anybody about anything. Probably my public health background. And so between the two of us, it was a wonderful partnership, and we eventually got a, an NIH grant. And it was, the difficulty was I came out of a doctorate, and I did not have any mentors here. You know...

EN: Uh-huh.

MB: I didn't have any senior people to help me. I just kinda leaped right in, you know...

EN: Right.

MB: I think that my scholarly activity probably is weak because of that. I did not have; when Marlene and I were together, we did a lot of publishing. But when she moved about two years after we had the NIH grant, and the NIH grant was...

EN: And that was '92, wasn't it?

MB: Yeah, and that was, you know, we did not have significant results from our study. We developed a videotape. We used the person over here in, um, we used actors from the school over here in communications.

EN: Uh-huh.

MB: What was that guy's name? Uh, he's still here. And he runs, like, TV, radio, kinds of stuff. I'll fill in the rest with the tape.

EN: Okay, okay.

MB: And so I said, "Marlene, we'll just use the resources we have, because we don't wanna have a lot of money." And so we, um, we had actors from here, and it was videotaped here. Boy, his name starts with an N but I can't think of it. And he, it was just a wonderful opportunity for the people. It was aimed at African Americans. I remember when they called us about the grant. I was, they called and I called the office. It was before cell phones and I, I was on a payphone and, uh, I was in the lobby of the Galleria calling NIH, and there was a question about my grant because it was all African Americans.

EN: It was?

MB: Yes, it was the opposite problem that they used to have. You know, it was the opposite problem. It was all African Americans; they didn't feel it was right. Well, it was targeted for African Americans. We'd, we had developed a videotape with the money from Sigma Theta Tau and ANF [American Nurse's Foundation] targeting African American sexual behavior. And [MB clears throat]...Let me think what it's called. I think it's called Condom Sense or something like that.

EN: Yes, some, I remember.

MB: So, um, I got the clinic up in Alton to agree also to be in the study...And so, um, you know I worked with the state a bit after the grant, after the film, and the research was done to try to get them to change STD counselors' behavior because it was clear...

EN: Uh-huh.

MB: ...They were not; they had a speech they did no matter what somebody said when they came in. [repeated banging noise while quoting]"You shouldn't do this. You're gonna be in trouble. You're back here with Mrs. Smith or Jane or whatever your name is..."

EN: Uh-huh.

MB: And, so we couldn't get money to support that thing, but I did some survey work with them, and it was clear that they didn't pay attention to the message. You know, I had some...

EN: Yes.

MB: A scenario, and then I had them. "What would you say to this person, you know, since you're the expert?" And get them to use condoms. They didn't pay attention to what the Marlene had said. So I kinda lost my thunder a little bit when Marlene left, and at that time, Martha Welch was leaving as the research person.

EN: Uh-huh.

MB: And so I love helping other people. It's kinda what I do. So I, uh...

EN: She was leaving...

MB: She was...

EN: She was retiring.

MB: Well...She wasn't retiring, she died in office.

EN: Uh-huh...

MB: She died in...

EN: That's right...

MB: She died in her office.

EN: Oh, I see.

MB: She left her office that Saturday, went to the hospital, and was dead within a week.

EN: Oh, okay.

MB: But, and it was hard for her to leave the office, uh, But she really didn't have, you know. The school had kinda surpassed her...

EN: Mm-hmm.

MB:...Ability. She really wasn't connected. She was, she had a doctorate in psychology. And she was absolutely wonderful helping people, but she wasn't really connected for external grants. So, I took over kinda as acting director...

EN: The Director of Research.

MB: ...Of research. And then I became, the Associate Dean for Research. I became the Director of Research, and then it became an Associate Dean position. And whenever one of the Deans was there, it was horrible. We did not fit together, and so...

EN: So, so this was in '93 that you became Associate Dean?

MB: Yeah.

EN: But you became Director of Research I know in '92.

MB: Right, and I became the Director of Research. So I became the Associate Dean, and I came, and I was here until about probably two years or three years into Dean Ashley's term.

EN: Okay.

MB: I was kinda the informal lead.

EN: So that was, you were there until about 1998 as the Associate Dean? '93 and '98, about five years?

MB: Yeah. Yeah, at least. Yeah.

EN: Okay.

MB: And she, um, she and I were just at odds. I was kind of an informal leader. It was clear she was [MB laughs]. Monarchy was...

EN: Uh-huh.

MB: ...Losing ground. And so, I said to her, "You know, I'll stay through the accreditation visits 'cause we had a new accreditation group and an old one, and we were doing both at the time, and I was in charge of the data collection and the analysis of students and, you know, collecting all that stuff. It wasn't stuff that we already had. [Rustling paper noise] It wasn't really. So I told her that I would. I think it was best if I stepped down. And I mean it just was not gonna work at all. And I said, "I'll stay through that." Well, one day, she called me in the middle of Fall that year and said, you know, I want your resignation by noon.

EN: As Associate Dean?

MB: Yeah, and so I, I said, Fuh... Well, I knew I was leaving at the end of the semester but not quite then.

EN: Uh-huh.

MB: So that was kinda disappointing, but it was clear it was gonna happen anyway, so, I resigned. And I think the ad was due in the journals that week or something. So she did it to have me out of there. Well, you know, we interviewed several people, and she never hired anybody. She got her buddy who was already here that she had recruited to be that, and it was not a, a match was just not there. So finally, when this new Dean came, they decided it was just not. They wanted you to make your own money, but you know, until your faculty do all the work that they need to do, have to have a credible record, they are never gonna get...

EN: They're never going to invest your money.

MB: ...No. And so it's gonna take a while.

EN: Uh-huh.

MB: So, um...

EN: And what's the name, what's the the new Dean that's the one there now?

MB: Marcia.

EN: Marcia, Marcia...

MB: Maurer. Mm-hmm. She served for a year.

EN: Okay.

MB: So we had, we went without. We wanted it with another person for about a year and a half or so, and then when the Dean left, she took the other person with her.

EN: I think the reputation of, of the School the Nursing, among external constituencies, is, is that they're always doing a lot of research.

MB: They really are. I mean, it's unbelievable. 'Cause think of it. Over the last, since I've been here in '87...[MB scoffs] All the Assistant Professors have doctorates.

EN: Uh-huh.

MB: You know, at the time, you were allowed to become an Assistant Professor even if you haven't, didn't have a doctorate...

EN: Uh-huh.

MB: ...when I first got here. And so the people are really doing it. At Saint Louis U, our graduates are really not from very far away, and we're gonna get into a little trouble with that...

EN: Uh-huh.

MB: ...When it comes to graduation time. 'Cause they're all Saint Louis U graduates, a couple of UMSL graduates, uh, we do have two or three now who the public health people...well one went to Barry University that was in our dissertation committee. Rita Eris has gone to, uh, and a couple of others, have gone to Carbondale because you get free tuition. And now, I was, uh, kind of a mentor to somebody who's in the military doctorate at Indiana. [Unintelligible] And I said, "I know it's gonna be difficult, but you really...we've gotta get people from other places 'cause it's gonna look kinda bad if every person is from the same place when you get accreditation. So anyway.

EN: Well, the nursing school is accredited.

MB: Oh yeah.

EN: Now, I know they had a problem...

MB: We only...We only had a period...

EN: ...With the, They were not passing the...

MB: Well, we did low pass rates. I think what we had enrollment problems. We lowered the admission standards. And, uh, it was clearly, uh, not a wise choice. And, um, so we never, we were only on probation. We never lost accreditation.

EN: Okay.

MB: And that was, and the problem was when we heard that we were gonna be on probation, I met with the Dean. A number of us went in and said, "We must immediately [call the different locations?]. Immediately. Before they hear it from somebody else. We're not doing that." Well, I remember her, the minute a senator called, or a newspaper it was. She was flying, and almost knocked me down, running to the copy machine to make the copies of stuff, that thing that was gonna out. Because you have to be so public. You have to immediately let people know because.

EN: Yes. Yes.

MB: And then they're not caught off guard. So we were on probation for, I think, almost three years. You know it's been off since Marcia got here the first year, and it's an excellent pass rate. It's in the 90-some percent.

EN: Right. It is back there, I noticed.

MB: But it is, uh...you know, we increased our standards. We did some work, what would you call that, well not remedial, that's a bad term. But to help people at midterm, making sure that they're on course and...

EN: Tutorial.

MB: Right. And so I think that it's, it's just a-. We always had an excellent reputation. I mean I have gone to Chicago, and I'm doing some work at the university up there, and I've done some research

with people up there. I go up there, and if they have ever met one of my graduates, it's excellent. It's excellent. Now, we had trouble at the time when we were on probation with parents perhaps not wanting to send their children here. They didn't understand the difference between probation and accreditation. And so I think we didn't have a good relationship with the media. If we had that good relationship, then they would have been our allies.

EN: Yes.

MB: For St. Louis publicity. And so, but we're through that period, and it's really good admissions are overwhelming. We can take the top people...See our problem is, when nursing students come in, they want nursing, and then they meet a professor of Chemistry, a professor of Psychology.

EN: Yes.

MB: Somebody in English who turns them on and they're on their way because we do not teach but one interdisciplinary class and that's about mental illness. And so they don't talk to us. So now we have the Scholar's Program where we're doing things with people who declare a major, inviting them to functions, you know, touching base with them immediately, um...We're also...I think there's a wing of the dorm where if you're a scholar person, you can do that, and I think some faculty are working with students that way. Because you have to.

EN: Yes.

MB: They're so vulnerable when they first get here because our students come from many small schools and they're never. You know, they may have had one powerful teacher in high school. For them to meet up with a hot professor in whatever courses they have as a Freshman, it can turn 'em around like that. [Snapping noise] But what we love about nursing is that you can do anything you want to do. I mean you can do Acute Care, you can do Public Healthcare, you can be a Practitioner, you can be an Anesthetist. You can be an Administrator.

EN: My daughter is a nurse practitioner in gerontology.

MB: Oh, really? Where does she...

EN: She went to Case.

MB: Oh really?

EN: Uh-huh. And she's in, she lives in Florida.

MB: [MB laughs] Gerontology is a perfect vocation.

EN: Yeah. [Both laugh]

MB: Yeah, it's just excellent. It's just, um. The care. When I was a doctorate student, I didn't know much about computers, and there was a little job, and I thought, you know, if I'm gonna really do this, I have a pre-doc fellowship which should help me quit my job because I was teaching at the time, at Urbana. So I said, "Okay. I will quit my job, but I'm gonna have to, you know, get a graduate assistantship and figure, know you, what I'm gonna do to help pay the cost of this 'cause when you get free tuition with a...um...sort of a pre-doc fellowship." So anyway, I took a job managing the first data set about nurse practitioners. And there, I knew nothing. The man who did it first helped me a lot, and he was leaving. He was going on for a doctorate. He was a nurse for pretty long I think with statistics or something. But I managed that data set for a long time and then wrote a chapter in a book about nurse practitioners by Judy uh, gosh I should know...Judy...she was my dissertation chair, and she was in charge of this data set.

EN: I'm like that, too. I can't remember names right now.

MB: I can't! I can tell you what they look like...

EN: Right. And if you see them, it probably pops into your mind.

MB: Yes, right. Yes. So anyway, Judy is, um, gave me that opportunity, and it was just excellent. That's when I got my computer skills. So...um...I just think the people here, I, I brag on this place about the opportunities. I really thought I'd do more with the faculty club. You know, remember there was a Building...



EN: Yes.

MB: And they tore down all that stuff.

EN: That's how I always thought of you, too, as a big faculty...

MB: Oh, it was wonderful.

EN: ...person.

MB: Yeah!

EN: Used to wear that little necklace with little birds on it.

MB: Oh yeah! I still have that.

EN: [Both laughing] You're very notable!

MB: But anyways, so I, um, I didn't go down to that building but a few times 'cause nobody really went there. But when the faculty thing was up here, they'd started, I was a center on their Chair of the Welfare Council for a little while.

EN: Yes, that's what I remember, too.

MB: I was a senator and Chair of the Welfare Council, so we did a lot of things I wish I could tell you. I'd have to look at the record of what we accomplished at that time. But it was, um, just being with people from other disciplines and having the same goal in mind, and...

EN: Who was the President of the faculty senate when you were the Chair of the Welfare Council?

MB: Well, Steinberg...

EN: Oh, David Steinberg? Okay.

MB: Yeah, he came after Mary Ann Boyd. And she kinda got me along in terms of the senate.

EN: Right.

MB: You know, I enjoyed that at that time. I...knew people I'm so sure that's the best thing for them 'cause it takes a lot of time and you really...the scholarship I think suffers a bit if you do that, too much of that. I mean you have to be a committee. I think it's important with university service, but to be Chair of something that big, and then the President of the University was the guy who, um...

EN: Earl Lazerson.

MB: Earl Lazerson. You know, he, I think he was important to have us on the map because he was so frugal. You know, uh...I've been on a number of Chairs, a number of committees and we did the, the looking at the University as, for accreditation and I remember meeting with the people...I was in charge of the people over in the boiler room and that...

EN: Yes!

MB: ...and that was wonderful. I loved that, you know? And they just loved it, that we were talking to them. You know, 'cause I don't think in the past they'd ever done that. It was my idea, but I just said, "I offered to do that." But, um, I don't know, it's just a very, very nice place to work. I enjoy it. It was a wonderful career here. I um...I appreciated the support that I had and I...the colleagues that I had and...I wish I had done a little more interdisciplinary research. You know, that probably would have helped a bit when I was done, but the Sociology Department. It just...You've gotta have players who are willing to do some interdisciplinary stuff. At that time, it didn't happen.

EN: Oh. Okay.

MB: So...It might be better now.

EN: Yeah, I think John Farley and...

MB: Oh yeah.

EN: Marv Finklestein...

MB: Marv. Marv came at the same time I did or shortly after, so it was nice to see him get that award this last year.

EN: Yes. Yes.

MB: Great guy. Um, you asked me to describe the research projects at that time. Research probably...I really...I liked to do research that's action-oriented. [papers rustling] I really am too lazy

to do any, well probably not lazy, that's wrong, uh, to do the survey kinda stuff. I'm more into "let's do intervention" stuff, and um, so that was...wonderful...I...I'm now work, doing some evidence-based project stuff for research. I found a grant before I left, and I couldn't; we couldn't do it because you had to go partner with the National Library of Medicine. Um, and it was a National Library of Medicine grant, and so I gave it to UIC, the University of Illinois in Chicago, and then they became a partner and then the, it was partnered with the Illinois Department of Public Health people, their education department, and Cathy Bing was involved. So when it came time for money after they received the grant, I dropped off the grant 'cause I made too much money to even get anything 'cause U of I has a huge indirect cost rate.

EN: Oh, yes.

MB: I mean like 60% or something, you know. It's horrible. So it was clear there was no money, so Rita Arras took my part, and I stayed on as a consultant for free. Cathy Bing was wonderful. She did not want money, but she was just absolutely a key person with this project. She did one of the modules. There's six modules that are online, and it's called 'Disseminating Evidence-Based Practice for Public Health Nurses,' and there's an Illinois thing in there. So we'd call it EVPHN. And, uh, the grant has ended and, uh, you know, we spread it to all the Health Departments, and it's just, um. It's probably the crowning thing that I did even though you did it, but you're not; you didn't make money for the first [MB laughs]. It was an important thing for...

EN: So what exactly did you spread to the Health Departments?

MB: You know...

EN: Recordkeeping or...?

MB: You hear about evidence-based medicine, but it's really evidence-based practice no matter what you're in. Where's the evidence, where's the research? And so, these modules that are developed, uh, that the librarians developed is a library grant, and it was the College of Nursing in U of I and our School of Nursing, and all these partners worked together on this thing. And so, public health nurses don't have access to libraries. You know, think about acute care people. Many of them are connected with universities, and they have a big library, and they can add access to finding the evidence and, you know, they didn't even have the skills. I mean, uh, in the southern part of the state, and they define that as south of I-80, up there, they have, maybe over 50% of their people have bachelor's degrees, perhaps 75%. We don't even have 30% with bachelor's degrees who are in public health agencies. So they don't have the library skills to look up things. And, you know, I remember going to, this is a terrible story that I probably wouldn't wanna put in this, but you know, I go to these agencies in the southern part of the state 'cause I have a lot, we did a lot of public health nursing teaching out in the far ends out the state and we went out to...You know, they did get journals made; they'd be still in the plastic, on the shelf.

EN: Oh! Okay. [EN laughs]

MB: So at first, we got our students in public health nursing to give little staff development things about, you know, some problem they wanted, and they'd look up the research, but there was really never a formal way. So this project allows this to be on the web and this public health nurses, as we go around the state and we teach them how to use it, and there's modules about...The first one has to do with public health nursing and the shift to population-based versus individual care. The second one talks about 'why evidence' and the third one is what is the evidence, where do you find it, what kind of databases are there'. The fourth is 'how do you use it, how do you judge whether it's good'.

EN: Yes.

MB: There are, I think there's six modules, and, um, so it's now on the website in Chicago. We really wanted a place for our students to put their thesis online that were population-based and you know, the library system wasn't ready quite yet for that electronic thing. I went to a couple meetings, and I talked to Cathy about it. But I thought let's put that in a grant that we'll, that UIC was willing to house this, but you know, you, our school has had few master's theses anymore. They don't do

research. They do projects. So we don't have any in the depository, but they're starting to get projects that are done, and evaluation research, put it on the website. And we only really have three projects up there right now, but it's gonna be a depository. U of I has agreed to keep that. And I'll have the modules up. I'm just now putting together something for a national dissemination of where the location is and, you know, how you get there, 'cause you get continuing education points for that. But University of Illinois Chicago has, like, a consortium issue. They, they're up there, and they meet periodically with nurses and public health departments 'cause, you know, they already have bachelor's, they're trying to get admitted into master's. They have a big grant on advancing public health nursing education. So, and I've been on the State Advisory Board for that, and we had thought there'd be HRSA money for us to get some of it later, but we never got it.

EN: Uh-huh. So there, so we don't have a consortium here?

MB: We do not. There's no natural way...

EN: Is there a public health agency...?

MB: No, but there are regional offices and there's regions of public health nurses who meet but they don't meet often because they have to travel so far.

EN: Sure.

MB: ...So, we agreed that we would go out and do this, and Cathy had one session where we were online with people. You know, they'd call in. Webinar, is it? Where you have access to the web. It's called 'webinar'. I think 'w-e-b-i-n-a-r,' and then you'd call in, and we'd talk on the phone, but then you'd see something on the screen.

EN: Okay.

MB: That was poorly attended. So Rita Arras had other people, called in other people in the...in the school who teach not just public health nurses but are out in the agencies, hospitals. [Phone Ringing] Let me turn this off. And so, um...so anyway we, um, uh...we teach them how to use this, how to use the modules [unintelligible, MB coughs]. And, uh, so I agreed this summer that what I'll do is, is I'll go out and visit the health departments that haven't had anybody come.

EN: Mm-hmm.

MB: And I'll do some more training. So, but it's how to use the, you know, the National Library of Medicine, how to use PubMed, how to get, you know, how to find the evidence, how to use those various places that do, um, like the Cochrane Collection, and so forth. So, it's just wonderful. So, it was, even though it's not a research project, it's...it deals with research. So...

EN: So are most of the people in, in regional public health agencies in southern Illinois, are they, are they political appointments as they are around in Madison County on some agency...

MB: Well, you go through an interview process, but I don't think you have to declare whether you're a democrat or anything.

EN: Uh-huh.

MB: It used to be terrible. I mean I was involved in a project with this AIDS thing. I brought this, I wanted to bring to the African American community, and it was years and years ago, and I worked with Eastside; I got money from all over the region to bring a play in about AIDS with African Americans. And, Eastside gave me a thousand dollars, and I, I had, I had a little political problem with all these counties, Madison County, St. Clair County, and, and um, Eastside Health District because...you're wiring white money, you know, for AIDS, you counted your number of patients. Well, you know, patients would go anywhere just to get services, and so they were counting really the same people. And of course, Madison County and St. Clair county thought they could raise more money, and I said, "I'm sorry. If we raise money, it'll be divided into three ways to bring the play here get money for services for HIV people. Well, so, I went...That was when Eastside health district had this big shakeup because the...the director of the health department was taking money and when people were going out on business, and they were seeing people just sitting in their car. I mean, it

was horrible, and I was afraid because I'd been doing this audit; I was afraid that I wouldn't get the money, wouldn't get the money. And it was okay.

EN: Okay?

MB: Yeah. So, but the women, um, the playwright ended up going, you know, bigger on her play. So it was; she's wonderful to have that opportunity. It was an icy weekend, very few people came, but...It was okay. So, anyway, but I really enjoyed that being at SIUE. You're not in a building all by yourself, you're with other people, and you can visit with other professionals and other disciplines, so it's kinda fun. So anyway...

EN: Okay. What I asked, I asked about turning point. You said that in the School of Nursing [MB coughs] that, um, one of the biggest changes has been the higher expectations for the faculty in terms of their degrees and their research.

MB: Yes.

EN: And that's been a real change since you came in 1987.

MB: The merit document we used to, if you served on the community, you get a point, and we all laughed, and it was a big joke. But they'll do that, and you get a merit point on your merit document. And we still joke about it, but it's not, you know, you gotta be careful. And I think that the scholarship productivity of the people with these advanced degrees...

EN: Yes.

MB: ...you know, is better. We've always done great with internal money, not as well, I think since the research position is gone. I think more people would do it, but you really have to almost mark them. You know, write...

EN: You have to...

MB: ...rewrite it. You know, I mean it was just, you really have to do that. And I know there's a team of people who've gotten external money. I think that Trish Fazone, the department chair of Public Health is outstanding. Ann Perry is outstanding. Um, but Laura Berner has had money, Cindy Schmidt has had some money. I think Rita Arras has had a little money, but you know, with the department situation, your department chair is supposed to mentor the person. That's how it's supposed to be. But you know, they're really; still, they don't have time to go out and look for sources of money...

EN: No.

MB: ...without an associate dean or even without somebody's who's part-time.

EN: So someone in the grad school should be doing that, shouldn't they?

MB: Well, they do a little bit, but you need, you need somebody who's discipline-specific. I talked to Steve when I laughed about coming back and for working for the pharmacy...sociology, you know, health ed or whatever there are, and nursing, and if they would pay my salary, and I would work let's say two days a week...

EN: Uh-huh.

MB: And they would each pay a fourth of that...

EN: Yes.

MB: And Steve says, I'd talked to him about it once since then, and he said, "Margaret, I will not hire you unless you can bring in money." But I think you still need to have somebody who, you know, has more time specifically. 'Cause, there's one person to help all these people, it doesn't work very well.

EN: Yeah...No, it doesn't.

MB: So, but that office is absolutely wonderful, and I think as people get, I think if they get their feet wet and do more publications, they'll be getting more external money.

EN: Okay. And then, the students, you said the students have been getting, that you...you had your standards, and then you dropped your standards, and now you've raised them back up again.

MB: Oh yeah, it's wonderful. And the number of students is unbelievable. We are nurse practitioner programs bringing in people. Our master's in Public Health and Psych are low 'cause, you know,

people wanna be nurse practitioners or nurse anesthetists. You know, high-paying....positions, more acute care, more exciting.

EN: That's what Kate does, acute care.

MB: And so it's, um, it's hard to recruit, you know, especially when our pool are people that live at a distance, and if you think about, you know, they have to have bachelor's degrees before they come into the program. Um, we used to actually deliver our best completion program out in the region. I mean, we would physically drive to...

EN: Yes, I remember that.

MB: I drove way, way way way down south, wasn't, not Elm, someplace down there [MB laughs] and, um, people appreciate that. I think that, you know, our online thing, I think they're rethinking. And yeah you think, I think people thought of it as a moneymaker, look at how many people you can teach at once, but you know, [unintelligible]. And these classrooms, they hold your hand when you're there and they never call you again. Or they sit with their head down, but if they're online, everybody has to sign in because they have an assignment that they have to do, so you have a lot more responsibilities online. But I think nursing is one of the first to do all online stuff. So...Um...And they're...

EN: When did they start the online?

MB: It had to be in the late 90s.

EN: Okay.

MB: Because what we did was, we had websites where you'd have some assignments. You know, you wouldn't meet every week, but they'd give you something in-between kind of. And uh, I think Janelle Backes was instrumental in doing, there was a grant that they had, uh, in terms of getting the B.S. completion program which was at a distance online. And, uh, then we opened our Springfield office. We used to just drive up there; we didn't really have a building. But that was one thing under Dean Lashley; we got a building up there 'cause what happened was UIC took over the capstone program in Springfield. I forget what the name of that was before. And then the nursing program didn't fit with their goal, and in fact, with our medical school there, it really wasn't fair. We tried to get that. I mean, SIU bid for that university, and we didn't get it because University of Illinois is a lot more powerful, lobbyist, and connections to legislatures because of the population base they have. So they got connected with that campus, but then nursing broke away within a year and a half, and we got the nursing program. And I think the philosophy people there were slightly different from UIC, and our medical school was there, and so it seemed more logical that we would go there. So now we had, uh, a permanent recruiter there and we have a secretary there and a building that we have, that we can have class in and meet with students and, so it's pretty nice. But we used to the distance stuff for the video thing, and we used to do video that way, and that was a little better because you could see the people. Once you're online, it frees them up. They want it, and yet when they don't get, if it doesn't go perfectly then, there's a lot of complaints.

EN: Yes.

MB: 'Cause you know, evaluations in class, they sit there to get out. They just circle one, two, three, four, and turn it in. But you know, when you do the online thing, there's certain questions that are really different verbally. So I think that, it's just difficult, the online thing.

EN: The School of Business has kind of let go of their online, 'cause they thought it wasn't effective.

MB: Well, you get, people get angry. I mean, they want perfect service. And you know, it's, downstate, when we first started with that video thing, you know there were lines that were cut. We had dealt with three different phone companies, and it was terrible. But they liked it that we would come periodically and see them. But um, I don't know. We'll see what'll happen with this online thing. In fact, I've had a couple offers to teach online with other universities, and I'm not doing it. 'Cause I know what they'll do. I'll have a low salary, and I'll have like thirty people...

EN: Yes, and a lot of work.

MB: It's just wonderful. It's all over the county. In fact, I checked into Phoenix University, and they give you all the stuff that you have. I mean, the work was unbelievable and my, a couple of my friends, one in Phoenix and one out in California, tried it and said it was awful. [EN laughs]. It's great that you get the material, the syllabus is done for you, but you still have that constant contact with people. [long Pause] Um, let's see. I don't know about my relationship with administration. I really haven't...

EN: Okay.

MB: I mean, I've done some things, but it...It was uh, not a problem. Probably my closest relationship's been with Steven Hansen in that office. Just absolutely wonderful. I did have a time at a provost where I really felt she was not responsible, had a really terrible time with Dean Lashley. It was just awful and people were dropping like flies. People were transferring, people were leaving, and I went over to see the provost, and she would; she said, "Oh, this is just your imagination." And, um, so I think after the new Dean came, and she talked to Sharron, she said, "You know, these people are, like they've been through post-traumatic stress." And for her not to listen, we felt that there was a relationship between the Dean and Sharron that, that superseded her role as listening to us. So we were quite thankful that the ombudsman thing came in, and it came in right after Sharron left. After the Dean left. I really kinda wanted to be an ombudsman, but they wouldn't let me do it because I wasn't, you know, I wasn't a faculty member here. But I think really an ombudsman who's not a faculty would be, useful.

EN: Yes. Yes, it might be.

MB: And so, I didn't ever apply for the job because I really liked that. You know, you try to work with them to figure out how they could do it politically without unrest and, so, um, probably all university committees is the one, the two committees are the Welfare Council and then that, uh, Computer Lab Committee. The Building Three Computer Lab Committee. Jim Anders.

EN: Yes. Okay.

MB: Jim Anders is his name.

EN: I'm gonna interview him.

MB: Oh good.

EN: I have a date with him.

MB: Oh, do you? When is it? I'll come in.

EN: Well, it's not until June.

MB: Oh, okay.

EN: And I don't know where it is yet. He's, he's coming back from vacation. He has a lot of stuff online.

MB: Does he? Yeah, he is wonderful. He's always done that. He was, um, my mentor using online things 'cause he taught that class in the School of Education, how to teach online stuff, and I took, I sat in on his classes and, um, he was just, um. You know, I admire him a lot. And since he's moved, I haven't seen him much. Used to be in my neighborhood. [Long pause]

EN: And then I thought, did you have any memories of students or colleagues and the buildings, or...

MB: Well, that's the bad thing about not having a good name memory. You know? I think my B.S completion students are stars because they all had to work full time and do that. You know, I've had a couple Master's students who've gone on for PhDs really through... [Recording ends]