

**INTERVIEW WITH MARTIN TRAVIS  
FORMER CHAIRMAN DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE  
SUMMER INSTITUTE OF AMERICAN STUDIES DIRECTOR**

**October 22, 1987**

**Dr. Hartzell:** An interview with Martin Travis, former Chairman of the Department of Political Science in my office October 22, 1987. All right.

**Dr. Travis:** My name is Martin Travis, Department of Political Science, Professor, and Director of the Summer Institute of American Studies. I came to Stony Brook in the fall of 1961; I'm not sure how old I was at that time.

**Dr. Hartzell:** When were you born?

**Dr. Travis:** I was born in 1917, September,. I came from Stanford University and as an Associate Professor of Political Science.

**Dr. Hartzell:** Who was chairman of the Department of Political Science then?

**Dr. Travis:** Professor Robert Walker.

**Dr. Hartzell:** Walker.

**Dr. Travis:** And I was interviewed by Dean Sidney Gelber and the then President.

**Dr. Hartzell:** Who was it, Lee?

**Dr. Travis:** Lee.

**Dr. Hartzell:** John Lee

**Dr. Travis:** John Lee. I came both for the reason and desire of coming back east, of being a little regretful of the nature of the public schools in California and being closer to my research in Washington, D. C., not to mention salary. At the time I came the purposes behind the creation of Stony Brook were changing. It was originally established as a needed Long Island institution of higher learning, and it was designed to be a four-year college, liberal arts college. The time I came it's mission had changed, it was changing from a interdepartmental science and arts oriented to a departmental graduate institution. It was transformed into reality with the organization of new departments, but the original professors resisted the new mission and I found myself in a conflictual situation.

**Dr. Hartzell:** Can you be more specific about that, what was the nature of the conflict?

**Dr. Travis:** Well, the original people

**Dr. Hartzell:** They were divisionally oriented.

**Dr. Travis:** Were divisions and I think President Lee had just arrived that last spring on campus and was to depart, be removed from office in the following October after I arrived. Before that the college was headed by, I think, a Dean Carlson

**Dr. Hartzell:** Olsen.

**Dr. Travis:** Olsen, yes, who had come down from Albany. The nature of the conflict was those members of the staff that were looking forward to a major graduate institution and those that had looked forward to more of a great books undergraduate liberal arts center. At the time I felt that the conflict was over ideas, I now think it was more a matter of the group that had been in power losing it, and the new group assuming it.

**Dr. Hartzell:** I see. Okay, who was the leader of the new group, would you think?

**Dr. Travis:** I was projected as one of the leaders of the new group with, I certainly didn't seek that position, but in that group were Sid Gelber and, of course, the new President, and Fran Bonner and

**Dr. Hartzell:** Irvine, Tom?

**Dr. Travis:** And Tom Irvine and Ed Fiess was in it to some extent. Ed was not playing an active role really.

**Dr. Hartzell:** Frank Erk was on the other side?

**Dr. Travis:** Yes, but not too active. He seemed to be more diplomatic in his positions that he took.

**Dr. Hartzell:** Who were the leaders on the other side, on the side from Olsen?

**Dr. Travis:** Well, one of the more articulate ones was Ben Nelson.

**Dr. Hartzell:** Ben Nelson, Sociology.

**Dr. Travis:** In Sociology. Also Michael Parenti, who was a junior Assistant Professor and also lived in the dormitories over there and also was responsible for faculty leader for student strikes when they occurred. Jay Williams was very much on that side, he had been the first chairman of the Political Science Department for a month or two when the new reorganization took place, and he resigned.

**Dr. Hartzell:** I see. Where did Walker come from, Walker's a new name to me in Political Science?

**Dr. Travis:** Bob Walker in Stanford.

**Dr. Hartzell:** He came from Stanford?

**Dr. Travis:** No, he was the chairman; oh, you mean you asked who was the chairman here when I came.

**Dr. Hartzell:** Yes.

**Dr. Travis:** Nobody, I was brought in as chairman.

**Dr. Hartzell:** Oh, I see.

**Dr. Travis:** And they asked me to be chairman, and I had not in my interviews had not met anybody in the Political Science Department before I was appointed. There were only two: one was Jay and the other was Parenti. And so I said reluctantly I'd be an acting chairman until I got a sense of community. And I was an acting chairman indeed until you became acting president and appointed a regular chairman.

**Dr. Hartzell:** I see. Well, I think that was one of the good things I did.

**Dr. Travis:** Well, I feel grateful.

**Dr. Hartzell:** Number 8.

**Dr. Travis:** Number 8. Well, Stony Brook, rather Oyster Bay when I arrived was very much in turmoil. Students were rioting and were not happy with the new direction, and in October as I said the recently appointed President Lee was dismissed by Albany, and an acting president, Harry Porter,

**Dr. Hartzell:** He was Provost in the Central Office and formerly president of Fredonia.

**Dr. Travis:** That's right. Reluctantly came down to campus and as soon as he could, which was the following summer, was able to recruit you to replace him, and that was the beginning of a settling influence I noticed on campus to the point where a lot of us were so grateful to you we petitioned you to be our full president. Do you remember that?

**Dr. Hartzell:** I remember something.

**Dr. Travis:** We had a committee meeting, a group of us did, and we thought this would be the most stabilizing influence that Stony Brook could have, and you refused.

**Dr. Hartzell:** Well, I didn't quite think it was that way. I have a document signed by Ted Goldfarb that went up to Albany, and I tried to get him not to send it because I'd had past experience of being the golden haired boy, or the fair haired boy of the faculty at another institution; and while the president was on leave and was accused of being the leader of that, which I was not, by some of the members of the Trustees, and I didn't want to go through that thing again.

**Dr. Travis:** This, of course, was a different proposition because there was no one else at the time that was an active candidate.

**Dr. Hartzell:** Well, at any rate I was only supposed to be here for a year.

**Dr. Travis:** Were you going to return to Bucknell?

**Dr. Hartzell:** No, I was going to return to Albany.

**Dr. Travis:** I see.

**Dr. Hartzell:** I joined the University system as Executive Dean in the Albany office immediately on detail down here.

**Dr. Travis:** I see.

**Dr. Hartzell:** For a year until they could find a president.

**Dr. Travis:** And you were acting President for

**Dr. Hartzell:** Three.

**Dr. Travis:** Three years.

**Dr. Hartzell:** Because Tom Hamilton resigned a week after I got here; he was the one who had appointed me. He resigned as of December 31st of 1962, and it took Frank Moore about 18 months to find Sam Gould. Meanwhile, various people were brought in.

**Dr. Travis:** I think Tom Hamilton was, as I heard the story, forced to resign and in part because of his role in firing Lee. Governor Rockefeller at the time was unhappy with that and made room for Lee when he left here in the Rockefeller Brothers Foundation, I believe, or one of the Rockefeller

**Dr. Hartzell:** Yeah, it was the one out of Washington that was Develop something or other. At any rate. What event, what persons, well, what about the faculty, you say it was split, and let's get away from 1961, if you can, and talk about 1962 to 1965 because a lot of these interviews have focused heavily on Oyster Bay and seem to have forgotten the first three years before John Toll came.

**Dr. Travis:** Well, personally, those first three years I think of the new campus the old war of words continued, but in diminished by a great deal. But I as acting chairman, and then subsequently chairman, of the Political Science Department was confronted with the problem of Michael Parenti, who continued for a short time at least to be active with, against my administration, and enlisting support from other members of the faculty, including a mathematics professor whose name was Martin. And at one point Martin prepared a two-page single spaced memorandum addressed to the faculty and which was flattering to me in a sense because it suggested I was the most powerful person on campus and that I was not doing justice for one Michael Parenti. And I think Martin at that point was on just leaving for the Peace Corps in Africa, and this was his parting

**Dr. Hartzell:** He had caused us, caused Harry Porter, who really took charge of his case, no end of grief and waste of time. He was a perfect example of the way an institution failed to save itself some trouble by not screening him back on the previous job. If they had done that, they would have known the chap was a little bit off base, a little bit of a crackpot.

**Dr. Travis:** Well, I think the University would have saved itself some trouble too by doing the same thing with Parenti. When I left for the summer, after Harry Porter had come down, he assured me that Parenti would be continued only for two years; but he gave him a full three-year renewal. But the last year of Parenti's teaching at Stony Brook he had moved to the city, had remarried and was only spending either Monday, Wednesday or Friday or Tuesday and Thursday. And so when we made the final decision on his non-renewal, he had distanced himself pretty much from the campus.

**Dr. Hartzell:** He saw it coming probably.

**Dr. Travis:** No, he didn't, because he suddenly gathered a file and gave it to, directed again against me, and gave the entire file to a Martin Buskin, who

**Dr. Hartzell:** Oh, newspaper, Newsday.

**Dr. Travis:** Yes, in Newsday, and Martin Buskin subsequently told Bernard Semmel, who happened to be commuting from the city and happened to be sitting next to him one day that he began to realize then that Parenti was not a reliable source for news.

**Dr. Hartzell:** I found that the carrying on of the feud in the newspapers was a source of irritation and kind of bewilderment, as far as I was concerned. Buskin came in, and I think I kind of straightened him out. He asked me some questions that obviously had been planted, and I think that after a while this whole newspaper business calmed down.

**Dr. Travis:** A think a turning point, there were two turning points from my experience here. The first was your arrival, and tensions had reached such a point before you came it took all of your diplomacy and time, which was three years; that the second turning point, I thought was the arrival of Johnny Toll, but with him his, suddenly our newsworthiness became different. It appeared in the New York Times, and suddenly we were no longer the strife-torn campus.

**Dr. Hartzell:** Yeah. We had looked at John Toll for the deanship of the Graduate School, remember that?

**Dr. Travis:** Yep, and didn't, was it, yes, for the graduate school, yep.

**Dr. Hartzell:** We had that line. I tried to tell Harry that if we were going to go into graduate work we ought to get ourselves a first rate dean.

**Dr. Travis:** We did the same thing, I understand, the same thing was done for Lee. He was looked at as the dean of the School of Engineering.

**Dr. Hartzell:** That's right. Okay, did you have any conferences between 1962 and 1965 in the field of the social sciences that you remember? Were we active in organizing anything outside the departments, like the Nixon business?

**Dr. Travis:** No, no, we weren't. We were so preoccupied with growth, with recruiting, and I was still pretty active, in my first two summers that I was here I took off to teach in Mexico, because they were prior commitments, and I was still active in research in Washington, D. C. that I was

**Dr. Hartzell:** What kind of work were you doing?

**Dr. Travis:** That particular work was subsidized part by the Ford Foundation and the Rockefeller Foundation, and it was a study of the legal advisors office in the Department of State. It sort of was both political and legal, and it crossed both my interests in teaching. So I was preoccupied with that too.

**Dr. Hartzell:** What were your interests in teaching?

**Dr. Travis:** Well, at that point in time when I came here I was interested, I was teaching a course in American Foreign Policy and a course in International Law and Latin American Politics, which I had been teaching and publishing in, I did publish in for twenty-four years. So, in terms of organizing programs like this, it didn't occur to any of us that the time was right.

**Dr. Hartzell:** Right. okay. Well, let's see.

**Dr. Travis:** Some of the, in building that department we were successful in some of our recruits. One of them, Sandy Lakoff, became a special assistant to President Toll, and was the originator of the idea of having naming the dormitories as colleges and having, and reducing the size of a huge university to more like the Harvard college form.

And of course Howard Scarrow arrived; he was a former graduate student, teaching assistant of mine at Duke University.

**Dr. Hartzell:** Were you at Duke?

**Dr. Travis:** I taught at Duke for four years before I taught at Stanford.

**Dr. Hartzell:** You recruited Howard?

**Dr. Travis:** I brought Howard, yes.

**Dr. Hartzell:** Good. Let's see, um, were any of the members of your department active in the Senate or active in faculty organization, what can you say about faculty life.

**Dr. Travis:** Well, probably I was the only one that was overactive in faculty life in those days. It seemed, as I recall it, I was overcommitted, I was on the Curriculum Committee, I was on the Graduate Committee, I was, we didn't have a special Senate as I remember, we had the faculty meeting as a Senate.

**Dr. Hartzell:** Yes, that's right.

**Dr. Travis:** And I remember each one of those committees in which Ben Nelson participated was long and tedious, and it always included a monologue by Ben.

**Dr. Hartzell:** Yes, right. I don't know when he came, or I know nothing really about his appointment, do you have any idea.

**Dr. Travis:** He must have come at least two years before I arrived. I also recruited Stan Ross.

**Dr. Hartzell:** Did you.

**Dr. Travis:** He was in the field of Latin America, and he, it was clear when, Dick Morse was the chairman of the History Department and shared my interest at that time in Latin America, and Dick knew he was leaving for Yale, and we were both interested in having someone in the History Department for Latin America, and also with the idea that Stan might become Dean. If you recall, you appointed Stan Dean.

**Dr. Hartzell:** Yes, I know. And the reason I appointed him was that in talking over with him prospective candidates for the History Department, I liked the way he handled the search process and the kind of criteria he had for screening his candidates. And, you



know, I was appointed Acting Chief Administrative Officer and Dean of Arts and Sciences.

**Dr. Travis:** Oh, really.

**Dr. Hartzell:** Yes, and I soon felt that I couldn't effectively wear two hats. I thought it was just foolish, so I decided we ought to have a dean, and I'm not sure that I gave sufficient thought to going outside and getting a dean from outside. I thought Stan would do a good job. What do you think about the job he did?

**Dr. Travis:** I thought it was terrible, and I always blamed myself for it because I recruited him with half an eye that he might indeed become a dean. And I think when we were entertaining him at Sunwood, in those days we took him to Sunwood and would have dinner at the Three Village Inn and then spend the night there, I think I may well have mentioned this to him as a possibility. And it was very clear that he very much would like to be a dean at the time. That should have made me suspicious when I saw that he wanted it that much. But I think

**Dr. Hartzell:** Why do you think he did a terrible job?

**Dr. Travis:** Well, I think, first place I think a good dean should have a, try to develop and recruit a balanced faculty, and it's clear that he gave special preference to one department, and within that department he gave special preference to one field. While I myself wanted Latin American to be represented, I think it was very much overrepresented by the time he was finished recruiting. I think also he had a personality that was not the easiest for, not only his own department, but for others to deal with regularly. And in those days, when the whole University was small, it was, all of us got to know each other better than sometimes we wanted to know.

**Dr. Hartzell:** Okay, well, I wonder how he handled the scientists. You're judging from the way he handled your department and the others?

**Dr. Travis:** Well, in those days the social sciences and the humanities were all housed, along with your office, in one building, so I don't have an idea, I don't recall, I'm sure I talked with people like Bonner and other scientists, cause I knew them well, and I'm

sure that, I don't feel that I was alone in this judgment of Stan. Stan's aspirations for, within Stony Brook, I think, were higher than that of a Dean, and I think one reason that he was prompted to leave for Texas was that he didn't see a future here at a higher administrative level, although he put his name in as a candidate for President when

**Dr. Hartzell:** Here?

**Dr. Travis:** Here, I think

**Dr. Hartzell:** I didn't know that.

**Dr. Travis:** You might confirm that. I think Sid Gelber told me that, and he was on the screening committee for that one.

**Dr. Hartzell:** I see, okay. You were on the Graduate Committee then, do you remember our talking with Malcolm Muir and Lester Evans of the Commission on Education for the Health Sciences? Do you remember talking, do you remember Harry Porter bringing me in to meet with a group of individuals, I don't know who they were.

**Dr. Travis:** You were here when I returned from teaching in Mexico in the summer of 1962, so was that in the summer of 1962?

**Dr. Hartzell:** August, I think, yes, something like that.

**Dr. Travis:** And I returned in September.

**Dr. Hartzell:** I see, then you weren't part of the group, then, okay.

**Dr. Travis:** I wish I could say I were because it was an excellent choice.

**Dr. Hartzell:** well, that's nice to have some people think that way. Well, I was somewhat amused and a bit puzzled because I was simply presented as a *fait accompli* to these people, and

**Dr. Travis:** Well, you must have remembered Ben Nelson if he were in that group.

**Dr. Hartzell:** At the time very few people stood out. Sujishi was there and Bradfield and I know that Alec Pond was there, who else I don't know.

**Dr. Travis:** No, Alec couldn't have been there.

**Dr. Hartzell:** Yes, Alec walked out with me after the meeting because he was Chairman of the Department of Physics, he came the same time I did.

**Dr. Travis:** Oh, I helped, Arnie Feingold recruited him, and I remember a party at Arnie's house in which I met Alec for the first time. That's right, I somehow, and it was Alec that recruited Johnny Toll.

**Dr. Hartzell:** I think he certainly put his name into the hopper, yes, right. He certainly recruited him in the sense that I think he was responsible for his coming first to be considered as Dean of the Faculty.

**Dr. Travis:** That's right.

**Dr. Hartzell:** Or, Dean of the Graduate School.

**Dr. Travis:** Graduate School

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**Dr. Hartzell:** But I was later on, with all this list of names that the Council had, Judge Sullivan asked me if I thought Johnny would make a good president, and I told him that I thought he would, and his next question, would you go down and interview him in Maryland, and see if he would be interested in the job, which I did; stayed overnight with him. And his question was, why aren't you interested in the job or are you interested in the job. I said I was not because I had already had, this was 1964, I'd already had my fill of administrative work that was not connected either with the work of the faculty or students, the academic work of the students, and I was too far away from what was going on in terms of cerebration teaching .

**Dr. Travis:** But, because of your track record you were never really allowed to get very far away from administration, and you really stayed in it, Karl, didn't you.

**Dr. Hartzell:** Yeah, yeah.

**Dr. Travis:** Well, you know a lot of us thought that you should have not been so deferential and should have taken the job as President. I think the important, your important contribution, however, I can't think of anyone else who would do it as well, and that is to, oh, you might say, pour oil on very troubled waters, and that was done beautifully.

**Dr. Hartzell:** Well, it was certainly necessary to get people straightened out and going ahead all in the same direction.

**Dr. Travis:** And also a lot of people on both sides of the conflict were very able, and getting them straightened out and no longer spending their time in conflict was a contribution for everybody concerned. Well, I wish I remembered more about those days. I think when you are in a troubled period, memory is fickle and you might remember some of the highlights, negative as well as positive, but my memory has always been that I forget a lot of the negative.

**Dr. Hartzell:** Yes, well, I think that's a good thing to do. I think it's a self-protecting kind of function, and I think it's good for us, it's good for us.

**Dr. Travis:** Well, of course, Anne was a great contribution too, wasn't she, to have this kind of administrative leadership and social leadership I think just did wonders in restoring sort of harmony.

**Dr. Hartzell:** Well, she was that kind of a person right from the start, right out of college she was made alumni and placement secretary at Wheaton.

**Dr. Travis:** At Wheaton.

**Dr. Hartzell:** At Wheaton, then she went to the New England Telephone as a service representative, collecting 4,500 bills from Charlestown and Chelsea, two of the toughest neighborhoods; and then she'd had experience with me as a college professor in two different places, and a dean in two different places, a dean in two different colleges. She was perfect as a confidant for the younger faculty wives and as my hostess for any kind of function.

**Dr. Travis:** She certainly was.

**Dr. Hartzell:** Yeah. How do you think Johnny did?

**Dr. Travis:** I think Johnny did a great job. I think with real odds. You needed a person who was going to build and towards the end of his administration the approval from Albany became more and more difficult to get these buildings through and through

hook and crook he was able to get approval. Until the point when he left, Albany was very, very dissatisfied, but nevertheless Stony Brook was built.

**Dr. Hartzell:** Why was Albany dissatisfied do you think?

**Dr. Travis:** Well, I think in part because, in part simply because he was able to end run them so many times. When the University administration said no, he found another way of getting approval, and I think maybe this had reached a point, and the attractiveness of Maryland too, that it was time for him to move on. But I think this may also have conditioned Albany in the selection of his successor.

**Dr. Hartzell:** You mean that Alec was too closely identified with him.

**Dr. Travis:** Oh my, yes, and also I think, on the other hand, I think Alec might have been his successor had he not been so precipitous about being the number one candidate. If there were four candidates recommended and Alec was in that order, number one, number two, number three, number four, if I recall.

**Dr. Hartzell:** Alec was which one?

**Dr. Travis:** Number one, and if Alec had settled for number four, the chances that the top three would have taken it if it were offered them is very slim. One of them might, it might have been 50% chance.

**Dr. Hartzell:** Who was that?

**Dr. Travis:** I've forgotten. But then they would have, you could say to Albany, well, look we have these top four, Pond is number four and we've come down to him, and, on the other hand, I think the sentiment on campus about Alec was strongly divided; and I'm sorry to say I was against him, because in retrospect I think, and the kind of administrative job he's done at Rutgers according to all reports, has been excellent. But I think the negative feeling is just natural when you have a number two man who has had to do a lot of hatchet jobs on campus, and has made a number of enemies, hatchet jobs which any administration needs to do occasionally.

**Dr. Hartzell:** Yeah, well, right. I think there's a possible feeling which may be quite understandable, but when you have a continual line of presidents with scientific

backgrounds, with all the good will in the world, they know less about the way in which the other disciplines are organized and who the top-flight people are, and they are not as ready to delegate the search to people who do know where the top-flight individuals are to be found.

**Dr. Travis:** I think that's very true. I think scientists tend to feel that social scientists particularly, they have a greater respect for the humanities and the arts, and but the social sciences fall in between and they have a lesser regard for them. And they also have a feeling that their quite well qualified to make judgments in a field, in a second-class field. I think that's very true.

**Dr. Hartzell:** That's right. They don't know when they're over their head or out of their field.

**Dr. Travis:** But in a sense I suppose that you could say that Johnny Toll in the social sciences relied heavily, if not too heavily, on Stan Ross, and this gave him more authority than he otherwise would have. I see Karl you're not making any of these judgments or agreeing or disagreeing, which is for the record.

**Dr. Hartzell:** Well, I'm trying not to in my interviews. I'll show you who, this is a list of the people I've interviewed, that's the up-to-date list.

**Dr. Travis:** Well, this first one, you probably got more than, you interviewed John Toll

**Dr. Hartzell:** Sure. At 7 o'clock in the morning after a snowstorm for breakfast at his home.

**Dr. Travis:** Was his wife there?

**Dr. Hartzell:** Debbie, oh, yes, but not while I was interviewing. She was getting the meal.

**Dr. Travis:** Did Harry Kalish move to Florida?

**Dr. Hartzell:** Harry Kalish, Herb Weisinger, Leonard Eisenbud has a home down there too. They are within a stone's throw of each other.

**Dr. Travis:** I didn't know Lou Faron had retired.

**Dr. Hartzell:** Yes, he's down there too.

**Dr. Travis:** With the same crowd?

**Dr. Hartzell:** He's about ten minutes from them, but he's only a quarter of a mile from Sam Gould.

**Dr. Travis:** You know I got to know, surprisingly I got to know a lot of the Chancellors very well because I was appointed to the, I think they called it a all university committee on international affairs, and it's only responsibility was to convene for a couple of days in Paris every year.

**Dr. Hartzell:** That was nice.

**Dr. Travis:** I remember, Karl, you asked me, because you were on another committee very much like this, what was the difference between the two committees, and I remember answering that the difference yours met in Buffalo and mine met in Paris. But at these Paris meetings the Chancellor was always there, and they were fairly small so you had quite a lot of socializing in intimate ways.

**Dr. Hartzell:** What was your opinion of Sam Gould?

**Dr. Travis:** I have a positive feeling about him, but I can't tell you exactly why, I just as a person.

**Dr. Hartzell:** What about Ernie Boyer?

**Dr. Travis:** I knew him better than Gould, and I didn't like him nearly as well. But he's certainly very prominent since. He and I left the committee I think the same year. He because he left the University, and I because my second five-year term had been completed and there was an effort to replace me with someone else from, Ray Jones

**Dr. Hartzell:** Oh, yes.

**Dr. Travis:** And I tried to help in that, unsuccessfully, but the committee met only one more year, and then it was disbanded, so I found it was a good time to be retired from the committee.

**Dr. Hartzell:** Okay. How do you think Stony Brook is doing now? How is your feeling now?

**Dr. Travis:** Well, in our department I think undergraduate program is seriously deteriorating. We are, our resources are going to the graduate program, and the graduate program is, always takes a long time to establish, and ours has been unusually long in getting established. A surprising number of our graduate students are foreigners who don't speak English well, and who are commissioned to teach undergraduate courses. And my own teaching is very rewarding in the department and particularly my course in international law, and I've been watching with great interest a lot of my former students who've caught fire in that course went on to law school. One for example, most recent one is today the editor-in-chief of the Law Review at Hofstra, has been offered in his recruiting this year four offers, one of them from Dewey Ballantine, all the law firms are among the ten best, ranked among the ten best in the city, and the Dewey Ballantine offer is \$71,000 offer for his first year. So, when you have students like this that, and he was, his cum average was about a 3.1 and his LSAT was 37 out of 48, the new SAT, but he had amazing resources which he demonstrated not only in my course but with Howard Scarrow and Bernard Semmel and Jay Williams, who always attracted, was very good with the best students and very bad with the worst students, this international law course. So I've agreed to continue teaching it even though I'm, as you know, retiring this year, for nothing for the University.

**Dr. Hartzell:** Oh, really, so you're glad to do it.

**Dr. Travis:** I enjoy it. I'll stop if I don't the classes, but

**Dr. Hartzell:** Students are holding up in quality in political science?

**Dr. Travis:** So far I'm getting them. There's always ups and downs. I have had, until this semester, I've had two bad semesters, but no, this semester we are getting a good crowd again. But I'm concerned particularly with the President's interest now in soliciting money now from alumni, to see the undergraduate program deteriorate is self-defeating, because it's the undergraduates and not the graduates that are the strong contributors.



**Dr. Hartzell:** That's one of the things that I'm not sure they understand. They ought to take a close look at Harvard or Yale.

**Dr. Travis:** Yale.

**Dr. Hartzell:** And Harvard. The support comes from the college, not from the graduate school.

**Dr. Travis:** And they know it, and so they maintain, but it's an expensive thing to do. They maintain a high level undergraduate with emphasis on teaching and a high level graduate research faculty. We did that at Stanford to a great extent too when I was there, both were rewarded.

**Dr. Hartzell:** Were you a graduate of Stanford?

**Dr. Travis:** No, Amherst.

**Dr. Hartzell:** You're an Amherst grad.

**Dr. Travis:** Yes.

**Dr. Hartzell:** Amherst is a good place.

**Dr. Travis:** It ranks with almost as good as Wesleyan, doesn't it?

**Dr. Hartzell:** Yeah, that's right.

**Dr. Travis:** Wesleyan has recently gone coeducational too, hasn't it?

**Dr. Hartzell:** Not recently, but it is coeducational. It started out coeducation with an M. A. in Liberal Studies about twenty-five years ago or something like that, and then it's now coeducational, which raises problems of living, dormitory living.

**Dr. Travis:** Yes, well, the same thing with Amherst, but Wesleyan had greater reason to go coeducational than Amherst did, and the alumni were very much against it, and a lot of Trustees were because we had Smith and Holyoke right next door.

**Dr. Hartzell:** Sure, okay, well, thanks very much. I always enjoy reminiscing with people, and I think .....

[end of interview]