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Interview with Charles Le Guin

Charles Le Guin

Heather Oriana Petrocelli

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Portland State University Archives Oral History Project

Narrator: **Dr. Charles Le Guin** [CLG]

Interviewer: Heather Oriana Petrocelli [HP]

Location: Le Guin Residence, Portland, Oregon

Date: May 16, 2017

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0:00:00	<p>Heather O. Petrocelli: Hi. This is Heather Oriana Petrocelli here with Charles Le Guin, on May 16, 2017, in his home. We are here today to talk about Professor Le Guin's time at Portland State College and Portland State University.</p> <p>So, I'd like to start by asking you a little bit about your educational background, and how you came to be employed at Portland State College.</p>
0:00:28	<p>Charles Le Guin: OK. Well, I grew up in Georgia, and all my education was in public schools there. I went to Mercer University, which was an old Southern Baptist institution in my hometown, in Macon. My time at Mercer was interrupted by a brief stint with the U.S. Navy, and then I came back with the G.I. Bill, which was very useful!—and finished up at Mercer, and I decided I wanted to have other experiences. I had fallen in love with Chicago when I was in basic training at Great Lakes, so I decided I would go for a Master's. I had enough G.I. time to go get a Master's at Northwestern in Evanston, in Chicago. So that's what I did, not knowing what I was going to do next because I had no more G.I. Bill! And not any income.</p> <p>I had one of the great bits of luck in anybody's life. I finished at Northwestern in December—I'd gone up in January and done my Master's in that year, and was headed back to my home in Macon, Georgia—and I got a telephone call from a Professor Galpin at Syracuse University. Professor Galpin was a Northwestern--had his degrees from Northwestern and was an enthusiastic Northwestern alumnus, and he was looking for someone to teach Western Civ[ilization]. And there I was, the only person coming out of the History department in December of that year, and so I got the job at Syracuse. I went up there and taught the rest of that year, and the following year, and was now ready to go back to graduate school. And I considered Syracuse, but I think, rightly for me anyway, it was best to go elsewhere. I thought, <i>Well, I think maybe I would like to go back South.</i> So I applied to several—Vanderbilt and Chapel Hill—several places... and Emory. I needed scholarship help, and I got the most money out of Emory [laughing] so I went there, and stayed until I got my doctorate.</p>
0:03:40	HP: Why History? Why did you pick History at the beginning?

CLG: That's a fair and interesting question, because as an undergraduate, and indeed all along in my career, I sort of did double major in History and lit[erature], English Lit. And well, I think I just decided I didn't want to spend all of my time grading lit essays! [smiling] And I loved History, and I actually had very good instruction as an undergraduate. So, that's essentially—it was just a flip of the dime, so to speak. And I'm glad I did that. I always took lit courses though, all through my career, right on up 'til I finished at Emory.

HP: And you finished in 1957?

CLG: I believe that's right, yes.

HP: So how, from graduating with your Ph.D. from Emory, did you wind up at Portland State College in '59?

CLG: Oh, sure. That I can remember quite well. Emory was pretty new in turning out doctorates. I was the sixth, and the first in European history. And I think the oldest, at this point... I think the other five are dead! [laughing] Anyway... I had to find a job, but in the interim, I had married and had one daughter, and I needed to have employment. So I simply wrote letters, about sixty. Because Emory was really new at graduate work, at running a graduate program and the whole thing, they weren't much help to me and that's all the help I had. So, I just wrote letters, sort of, to the places I might be interested in; I think I wrote sixty. Let me backtrack just a moment. The only real help I got from Emory is that the guy I did my dissertation with had a friend at Penn State and they were looking for somebody, and I got invited to come up, and I didn't get the job! [laughing] Needless to say. And as I look back on it, I think I'm really glad I didn't. Anyway. It was really just a matter of writing letters. Of course, the next step would have been some hiring agency, but I didn't have to go that far.

I got some interesting responses, and ultimately it settled down to two possibilities. One was the University of Richmond in Virginia, and the other was the University of Idaho. I took the train up to Richmond to be interviewed there. I have to tell you this story, because it certainly was the deciding factor. The chairman met me at the station, and he was very pleasant. He took me to his home to have breakfast, and he obviously was a devout Christian. I knew about those from going to Mercer, which was devoutly Christian. There was orange juice on the table, and I reached for my glass and he said, "Don't you say grace?" And I answered honestly, "Yes, but we never do it at breakfast!" [laughing] Which was true. I think I could have probably had that job, but I didn't want to go to a... I'd had enough of that as an undergraduate at Mercer. So I waited. Idaho came through, so we went to Idaho.

HP: From Georgia to Idaho.

	<p>CLG: Georgia to Idaho. Where I had never been, of course. I don't think Ursula [Le Guin] ever had either, but Ursula's West Coast, she's from California, grew up there, and loves California. We went there, and it was OK, but it wasn't... I mean, I didn't hunt bear, and fish, and do things like that, and there was an awful lot of that. We had three years there, and one child, and another on the way when we left. I had to start all over again, and I knew that if I—well, I thought at any rate that if I was perceived to be looking for another job, my days at Idaho would not be productive, for me anyway. So I just began to write letters, mainly up and down the coast, because we wanted to stay West. One of the positive responses, maybe <i>the</i> positive response, came from Portland State.</p> <p>I have to tell you about trying to get out of Moscow [Idaho] without my purpose being known—I really was concerned. It has to do with the whole nature of the university and the department there at that time. (Am I talking too much?)</p>
0:10:09	<p>HP: Not at all!</p> <p>CLG: We had a Volkswagen, which was not common in that part of the world at that time. You'd go into a [gas] station and they wouldn't know where to put the hose. The only place to get it serviced was in Spokane, which was a hundred miles away. I proposed that I needed to go get the car serviced on a weekend, but in that community, everything was known. I felt I had to have some excuse for getting out of town, so that's the excuse I gave. I was aided in my treachery, or whatever it was, by a really neat guy named Jack [...] who had come to fill in. One other faculty member in American History had died in the Fall term and so they hired Jack. He was just finishing up at Seattle, at the University of Washington, and he came and we got on really well. He helped me play the game, and drove with me over to Portland. That's when I discovered Portland State... which consisted then of Lincoln Hall—"Old Main," the old Lincoln High School—and a series of houses to the south of Lincoln Hall, in the first block. One-quarter of that block was being constructed when I came for my interview, which was in an old residence, a house on Broadway. The rest of the block was filled up with these houses. Anyway, I came to meet several members of the History department: George Hoffmann, who was the Dean, the head of Social Sciences; Fred Cox, who was the sort of chairman of History at that time, and who had founded the Middle East Studies Center, the first undergraduate such thing in the country, I believe; Charlie White; I <i>think</i> Basil Dmytryshyn; I think probably that was it. Subsequently I met the others—maybe Morry Webb was there that morning, but I know that Basil and Charlie and Jeff... [pauses]</p> <p>It's just slipped my mind. [recalling] Jesse Gilmore and George Hoffmann were there. They were really nice. I dreaded it, I always dreaded that sort of thing, but it was comfortable. They were interesting men, pleasant to talk to, and Charlie White was just amazing. So I had the interview and spent the night in Portland, and</p>

	<p>managed to get back to Moscow without being discovered! [laughing] I <i>think</i>! That's how it started. I had to wait to see, as I had no other fish on the line, I really wanted to hear. I decided it looked like a really neat place to come to, and these were neat people, and it would be nice to live in a city again.</p>
<p>0:14:52</p>	<p>CLG [continuing]: It did come, I can't remember how soon, maybe ten days, an offer which I quickly accepted.</p> <p>HP: What were your first impressions of Portland, or Portland State College?</p> <p>CLG: Well, I've told you all that existed of Portland State College! [laughing] These fine old houses and the one-quarter of Cramer, the southwest corner of Cramer Hall. They were working on the southeast quarter as well. I was delighted. We were both, Ursula as well, delighted with the prospect of living in the city, though you can't believe what a small city it was. The tallest building in town at that point was the Pacific Power building, just down from Portland State toward the heart of town, I think about twenty-five stories maybe. I got to know it pretty well because it was the closest place to bank to the campus and we banked there until we moved into this neighborhood.</p> <p>So I got the job and boldly asked if there was any help for moving, and they gave me two hundred dollars more a year! [laughing] I thought that was pretty damn fair. It looked like a good place to come, and I know Ursula was glad to get out. We moved here, and everybody was very helpful in trying to find a place to live. We rented a house on Southwest Third, just over by the Burlingame Fred Meyer, in that area, a nice little place. It looked like anybody's little farmhouse, up the hill from the market. So my years at Portland State started.</p> <p>HP: In 1959, a French Revolutionist from Georgia landed in Portland!</p> <p>CLG: Yes I did. Basically teaching Western Civ! [laughing] It was wonderful.</p> <p>HP: I know you wrote thirty-eight (or so) pages, "Remembering Portland State College," for Portland State University. One thing I wanted to ask you is about the intellectual and cultural life of Portland State College, as it moved into Portland State University in 1969. It seemed that you and Ursula were very actively involved...</p> <p>CLG: I do talk about that in that thing. It was amazing for a place that didn't have facilities. Wonderful things went on. Theater, and particularly music. There was no... music was mixed-up, in terms of occupying space, with everybody else. They didn't have proper facilities. They managed to do all sorts of wonderful things. They started doing opera, as they have ever since, and very, very well. I heard numbers of pieces I have never heard elsewhere before. David Block, who was in the Music</p>

department, founded the New Music Ensemble, which was pretty spectacular. Bob Crowley was deeply involved with musical activities both in the city and at the college. He was one of the founding fathers for the Community of Music [Community Music Center?]. I don't know whether you know about that; it's a real conservatory for kids up to, let's say eighteen. All of our kids went there, and our oldest daughter is a musician. We got to know those people, because we loved music. It was very, very exciting. Of course, there was the symphony orchestra, which we could... [there was] no opera company at that time, though operas were put on, they were just ad lib. There were the things that you get in a city. At that time, it was a small city that you weren't afraid to drive across town in! [laughing] It was really ideal.

HP: You had a quote in that paper, where you mentioned your arrival in 1959. You said that "What was wonderful about it all was the sense of growth, of expansion, of development, and optimism about what PSC was: a close-knit college full of energy, hope, and striving collegiality." Could you expand a little more on what it felt like to... When you mentioned the History department, I think you mentioned five other men? Maybe there were six of you total? But it was a very small campus?

[phone rings]

CLG: (Ursula will get it. It's probably for her anyway. She's got a phone right by her bed. Sorry.) Well, we were certainly—because of limited space—we were certainly all mixed-up together. They did sort of keep the social sciences in a corner of Cramer Hall, as it developed. That corner, at first, was the southeast corner, and now it's basically the southwest corner of that building, when we were moved over there. It wasn't just us. We shared with Geography, and I think Sociology. I'm not sure about that. But I know Geography, because Clark Brooke and I shared an office. All office space, proper office space, was shared, and in fact once there were three of us in an office, all historians in this case. Then there was the so-called "bullpen," a big hall or room with little divisions, which gave you a place to hang your hat, but not really adequate for getting your business done. It was OK. But the lovely thing about this, it meant that you got to meet and become real colleagues with people in other social science divisions. Joe Blumel and I got to be friends because he was in the bullpen with me, and that was true of others. So there was the physical stirring-up dictated by the lack of space to separate people out. I'm not sure but what that was a good thing, particularly in the developing years of the University; I'm sure it was. I don't know about now, but it was really very exciting. There were two bullpens, one—well, I won't try to describe it because it, my geography would get confused.

HP: Physically, the divisions were all kind of together, but then also intellectually, you have this...

	<p>CLG: Yeah, yeah, all the social sciences. Social science was basically in the southeast corner of Cramer Hall, and then as the northeast corner was finished, some of them moved into that, and in time History moved into the southwest corner. The northwest corner was occupied variously by Music, but also then for a long, long time by the President’s Office and University administration. Different things happened on different floors, but I’m describing the top floor, which was where History was always located, on the top floor, of course!</p>
<p>0:25:12</p>	<p>HP: You had a career that started in 1959, and you retired in 1995?</p> <p>CLG: I think that’s right. 1995 or 6, yes.</p> <p>HP: A decades-spanning career. I have a question about... We’ve talked about the fact that my research was with Andries Deinum and the Center for the Moving Image, which was incredibly decentralized—<i>meaning</i> to exist in that milieu of intellectual and physical co-mingling between divisions. In your time, there was the departmentalization of all of PSC/PSU. Living through that, could you talk a little bit about what it was like when it went from “divisions” to more entrenched departments?</p> <p>CLG: Before the departments became so entrenched.</p> <p>HP: Yes.</p> <p>CLG: I think part of the flow and mixture was dictated by the simple physical fact of space. We had to be all thrown together. I think it was wonderful. Some of my very best friends came from other departments. This process of building classrooms and so forth by bits and pieces continued—Smith Center, which is in the block south of Cramer Hall, was built in halves, and then subsequently Neuberger Hall was done the same way. And somewhere along the way the Shattuck School was acquired. So—I can’t give you the date now, but in time, let’s say in a matter of ten or a dozen, fifteen years, a solid physical campus appeared. As it did, things got separated out. You didn’t find an English professor in the office next to you (this may be an exaggeration), he would be over in Neuberger Hall. In the early days, it got really wonderfully stirred-up together and became—that, in a sense, how we met the Deinums. I mean, got to know them. You would know other people because of the fact that it was not that large. You could still recognize a fellow faculty member, but getting to know them socially and as close friends was expedited by the stir and motion before people got shuttled into their own building and so on. That is how we met. We met them through the Nussbaums [Rudi and Laureen] and Physics—now, that’s a long throw from somebody who had trouble getting through science courses, but somehow, I think it was basically on political issues that we got to know the Nussbaums, and our children went to school with them down here at Chapman. Rudi was very active in all sorts of ways, but very</p>

	<p>active politically, and these were exciting political times. And through the Nussbaums, we met and got to know socially the Deinums, and similarly I met people in the English department. Hildy Weiss—she was gone by the time you came, but she was a wonderful, wonderful woman. We taught night classes. That’s how we met, we would come out of our classes at night cross-eyed and make for the bar up the street. She was wonderful. And we met Jim and Helen Hart, and they became very close friends of ours, and the Biermans [Judah and his first wife, Marjorie]. Our social and intellectual community expanded, and it was easy because people weren’t shuffled off into a corner with only their own kind. I think it was a wonderful thing to come into.</p>
<p>0:30:47</p>	<p>CLG [continuing]: Historians are nice people, and I’ve never regretted that I chose History, but I would hate to think of going through life and not knowing people other than historians! [laughing]</p> <p>HP: I feel like we have covered a little bit the <i>cost</i> of departmentalization, what is potentially lost—there is a loss of that constant intellectual co-mingling. You have the Middle East Studies Center, the Center for the Moving Image, the New Music Ensemble (and we’ll get to the Honors program)—you have these innovative and vigorous programs that you mentioned...</p> <p>CLG: Yeah.</p> <p>HP: ...that I think did come out of a lot of that co-mingling that was there.</p> <p>CLG: Yeah.</p> <p>HP: Could you talk a little about the benefits when departmentalization happened, and as the History department was becoming more... when there were policies all of a sudden, and how it developed?</p> <p>CLG: Well, I didn’t mean to deride departmentalization. It’s just that it—well, to be quite frank with you, I would regret... [pausing] I would have probably been less happy if I had only been able to have friends in the History department. Part of that is that my wife isn’t an historian; she’s a literary person and she enjoys that type... So, without any intent, but a good deal of luck, by the nature of the place we were, we got to know and become close friends with people like the Nussbaums, Deinums, Jim and Helen Hart, and others. But those especially. It was wonderful, and it was so easy to translate that into academic terms. Jim Hart and I taught classes together. I had been an English and History major in my undergraduate days and I always took literature courses in my graduate work. There was no problem, and I don’t know whether this is still true or not, I hope it is, but we could just mix it up. We did it for several terms—and then he got ill, and died. The tightening of the academic model into what is the generally accepted academic model was beginning</p>

	<p>to set in, I think, probably in the 90s. This sort of hodge-podge thing that I liked so well continued a long, long time. I don't know if there was any intent that this happened, it was just the way. As a building was built for Physics, it moved out, or English, they moved out. It became, in some ways, a more traditional college and university by the time I retired. It was headed that way.</p>
<p>0:35:12</p>	<p>HP: Was it exciting to watch that transfer? When you were living it, did it [...] moving around you. Because when you started, there were a handful of buildings, and as of 2015 I believe—that's the last time I knew a count of the buildings—PSU has fifty-four structures now.</p> <p>CLG: Good Lord. I didn't know that. But I know they have sort of grabbed a building here, built a building here, and grabbed a building here. This is fine. After all, for many years, five to seventy-five hundred students was, for the early years, the way it went. And it got to be three times that big. You've got to accommodate that. I'm just glad I had the earlier experience. But I didn't retire because it was changing in the direction it was, because of growth—I retired because of age! [smiling]</p> <p>HP: What has retirement meant to you?</p> <p>CLG: What has it meant to me? It's meant a lot of time to garden, which is one of my great pleasures—alas, I can no longer enjoy it because I am not physically able to. It grieves me to look at my garden—everything is growing so at this point! And it meant a certain amount of freedom. I suspect I read more literature than I do history now, for example. Which is sort of going back around to my early days. It meant having some really close ties develop and continue with some of my colleagues. I see Charlie White, for example, basically once a month for coffee. He's a most remarkable man. And Linda Walton, who lives just up the hill from me, I also see her for coffee. And I saw [...], who just died. We had a really nice coffee group: Hildy Weiss, Michael Reardon used to come. It's degenerated by death—[...] but it carried on for a very long time. I do not go to campus—I don't mean to say it's so absolute, but I felt, watching certain retirements before my own, when the retiree couldn't let go, and was in some respects either patronized or resented by that fact that he was always "hanging around," you know. I was determined I wasn't going to let that happen. I figured I had done my duty, and so I returned to gardening and reading! [laughing]</p> <p>HP: It sounds lovely—you've had a few decades of that...</p> <p>CLG: That's true retirement!</p> <p>HP: Going back to your time, because you have had that career that starts in the fifties and ends in the mid-nineties, I was curious to go through the list of the presidents that you've known at PSU.</p>

	<p>CLG: You'll have to help me with that!</p> <p>HP: You just missed [John] Cramer, so I don't know if you'd have any...</p> <p>CLG: I just missed Cramer, yes. He had just been replaced by [Branford] Millar. He and I started the same year. I was chatting with Charlie White, who was more deeply involved with administration and everything than I ever became, not too long ago, about presidents. And he said, "Who do you think was the best president?" And I said, "Well, I have to say Branford Millar." And he—maybe I shouldn't say this, but he said, "I agree." He was a charming man, and a true academic. He also was in a... the cake was rising, and he was happy to be a part of it, but he could also take time off to come over and have coffee with [the faculty]. There was a room in Smith Center for the faculty to meet for coffee, and he would be there every morning at a certain time, and he would sit and chat with us. He could also be very hard-nosed. [laughing] I saw some of that, being on his... there was a little elected council. But he was a nice man, and I was so pleased that they named the library after him. I'm sure he would be, too. Let's see, who came after Millar?</p>
0:40:50	<p>HP: Gregory Wolfe.</p> <p>CLG: Gregory Wolfe. Well, Gregory Wolfe was a man of great charm. And... oh, I'm just going to speak my mind... who could never quite forget that he wasn't at Reed College. He really found himself in a very tight and tense situation. The Vietnam War was raging, and there was a lot of opposition to it, and there were big demonstrations on campus. That sort of thing was not something he was gifted in handling. I think Portland State College was not the right sort of college for Gregory Wolfe, nor was he the right sort of president for Portland State! Anyway, he didn't last long. He was a charming man.</p> <p>HP: You mentioned the political turbulence during... he was there '68-'74, so he saw it become Portland State University. Do you have specific memories of the May 1970 student strike?</p> <p>CLG: The big demonstration in the park, with the police? Yes, I do. Bob Crowley, in Music, instituted a weekly vigil in the Park Blocks in front of Smith Center, where you could just come and stand. It was totally silent, you didn't respond to any provocation, and there were almost—I don't remember any real provocations. People just didn't see you, or didn't want to see you, or just walked past, or sometimes they would come and join you. That went on—I wish I could tell you exactly how long, but probably three years, two at least. Because there was a lot of activity in town. There were marches involving students and faculty and townspeople, and it was a tense time... [The strike of 1970] was a sort of</p>

	<p>culmination of all that. It was very tense. Gregory Wolfe was incompetent to deal with that, to put it bluntly. My colleague and friend, Frank West, who was involved in these things, as I was, sort of flipped during the middle of that charge up the Park Blocks, and had to be taken off to Pill Hill [Oregon Health & Science University] to the hospital. It was a very, very tense and a very fascinating time. I was so proud of the students. They were really active, in marching and in demonstrating, and in having what were called “Be-Ins” on the weekend. People would gather in places like Lair Hill Park and have sort of picnics and talk about things, it was nice. It was a good time. I was very proud to be in the community that was doing that.</p> <p>HP: The next president...</p> <p>[off camera] Charles?</p> <p>CLG: [standing] Excuse me. Yes?</p> <p>[recording is paused and resumed]</p>
0:44:48	<p>CLG: ...That was where we left off, the big demonstration and Greg’s not-very-able handling of all that.</p> <p>HP: Then from Greg it goes to... You had mentioned that he was a friend, Joe Blumel?</p> <p>CLG: Yes. Joe was a young faculty member when I came, in Economics, and we got to know one another in part because we were put in one of those bullpen things. He was a person of great charm. He was unmarried at the time, and my wife thought he was just luscious! [laughing] He was a nice fellow, and that has little to do with his presidency. He had a good long run, didn’t he?</p> <p>HP: Yes, ’74 to ’86.</p> <p>CLG: Yeah, that’s about as long as anybody held the job. Perhaps he held it a little too long. I don’t know enough about it, really, to comment, but there was a sort of clique of people who were perceived to be running the university gathered around him. And he... well, the university continued to grow and flourish while he was president, as I recall. He died very soon after he was replaced. Who came then?</p> <p>HP: Nat Sicuro.</p> <p>CLG: Oh, my God. [laughing] Oh, that was a really exciting time! Oh, my heavens. That was a really exciting thing, that used-car salesman. That was a sort of wonderful general rallying of the faculty, or some of the faculty, to get rid of him, and we succeeded. One of the moving wheels in this whole operation was David</p>

Horowitz, who still teaches in the History department. He was very active. A large part of the faculty were very active in trying to get rid of him, and we succeeded. I think he was only around about two years, wasn't he? Yeah. And then he went off to someplace in Rhode Island, and had the same experience! I think he's selling used cars in Los Angeles now. [smiling]

HP: Before we continue the list of presidents, when the University changes hands from president to president, how different is the felt reality at the departmental level, with leadership changes?

CLG: I don't think it's very great. The most immediate authority would be the Dean of Social Science, and as that was stably in the hands of George Hoffmann, a quite wonderful man, throughout most of my career, I don't think the average faculty member, unless he was more deeply involved in politics and things than I was, was affected by these changes. Except for Sicuro, most of the people stayed around awhile, so they sort of got used to them.

HP: From Sicuro, after the ousting, there was the Interim... Roger Edgington?

CLG: Oh, Roger Edgington, that's right. He was a long-time faculty administrator and a very, very quiet, unassuming, able man. Getting rid of Sicuro was a very unifying thing for the faculty, particularly the young faculty who spearheaded the movement, like David Horowitz and Don Moor in Philosophy. Firebrands, some called them, and they perhaps were. But they succeeded in getting rid of a bad apple. And then Roger sort of filled-in in the interim period until... Who was chosen?

HP: Judith [Ramaley].

CLG: Judith, right. The first woman, who was an impressive person—and she is still around! She went on to Vermont and then someplace in Minnesota, and is now back at Portland State on the faculty.

HP: Were your impressions that she was a good president for the University?

CLG: I think so, yeah. I think she really was. It may have been hard for her to be the first woman president... the *only* one! I think it was. There were certain elements in the faculty who didn't approve of her, but everybody I knew... Michael Reardon, who became acting president a couple of times, at any rate, and who was much more involved in that sort of politicking than I, thought very highly of her. I thought so, too.

HP: You retired during Judith Ramaley's presidency; do you follow...?

	<p>CLG: No, I have not, really. I'm curious, who came after her?</p> <p>HP: After Judith was Dan Bernstine.</p>
<p>0:51:11</p>	<p>CLG: Dan Bernstine, yes.</p> <p>HP: Then it was Michael [Reardon] as interim, until they found Wim [Wiewel], the current, and they just announced... yesterday?</p> <p>CLG: Yeah, yesterday.</p> <p>HP: Rahmat Shoureshi.</p> <p>CLG: The new charge, yes. Well, I wish him well. I'm sorry, I have to say I would have preferred someone from the liberal arts side of things. I don't think it necessarily means the reading I see in it, that... you know. Yeah. OK.</p> <p>HP: So you had mentioned—I don't know if this was in person or in your paper, probably both—that your longest and most consistent college committee service was on the Honors council, and you helped oversee it.</p> <p>CLG: Yes.</p> <p>HP: I was curious if you'd talk to me a little about the formation of Honors.</p> <p>CLG: Who talked to you about it?</p> <p>HP: I believe you talked to me about it—when we met last time.</p> <p>CLG: All right. Well, I don't know how much more I have to add. It was a fun thing. I think it's very different from the Honors program now. It was largely the creation of Judah Bierman and Jim Hart and a few other people, and I got involved in it and taught in it. It was less organized than perhaps... It didn't really, in those early days, offer courses as a unit. It just selected certain courses that were offered—this is my memory, at any rate—in various departments, and made up a sort of core curriculum for Honors students. I'm sure it still does some of that, but I know that it now has a faculty of its own, and it really didn't have a faculty of its own when I was doing that. Some of us taught in it, but most didn't, I think. It was pretty much Jim and Judah's creature. It just sort of arrived and took off. Mike Reardon got very involved with it, subsequently, and I think helped to make the transition into what it is now, a sort of self-sustaining unit of the college. I guess it really wasn't a unit of the college in the days I knew anything about it, it was a sort of curriculum that people who wanted to be a part of the program had to take. It varied from time to time.</p>

	<p>HP: How long did you stay involved?</p> <p>CLG: Oh, until I retired.</p> <p>HP: This is kind of going back toward your retirement time, and Judith Ramaley’s time as president, so you might not be able to answer this. But it seems that with Michael Reardon and Judith Ramaley—the creation of University Studies was their thing...</p> <p>CLG: Yeah. I think it very much was.</p> <p>HP: ...With the Capstone...</p> <p>CLG: It very much was.</p> <p>HP: Did you notice changes in the classroom when that happened?</p> <p>CLG: Something like... “The good students were all fleeing somewhere else?”</p> <p>HP: Well, no—I mean, was it—all of a sudden, when University Studies became part of the PSU curriculum, did the demographic of History, the lower [division] History classes change a lot, or did they just stay the same?</p> <p>CLG: I don’t think it changed a whole lot. The lower-division classes remained fairly large and heterogeneous. As I recall, I may be wrong about this, some of the upper-division classes were double-listed for the Honors program and just regular. And those, I think, there would be more [of], as the Honors program became a self-organizing, sustaining thing. But it really wasn’t, mostly, when I was involved with it. It was just sort of selecting certain courses that made up a preferred program.</p> <p>HP: For Honors. For University Studies, did you see a larger influx of people taking history classes when University Studies began?</p> <p>CLG: Not to my knowledge, no.</p> <p>HP: Also, for Judith’s time, “Let Knowledge Serve the City” became the thing—a collaboration between the urban university with the city of Portland and the county of Multnomah. Was there any felt difference in your time as a professor when that was taking root more?</p> <p>CLG: I personally can’t recall any. By that time, I was perhaps less deeply involved in general college affairs than I had been in the past.</p>
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HP: I take it from your “Remembering Portland State College”—I can’t remember the line you had, but it made me laugh—it seemed that the administrative side of higher education, academia, had no appeal.

CLG: It never interested me. I was acting chairman for one term, or a very large part of one term, just before—I think it was Barney Burke became chairman. And that was fine, and that was enough. No, I never had that ambition, or that desire.

HP: Because you had that long career at PSU, starting at a very small college and ending at a large urban university—sitting in the History department, first you were a division, then you were a department—could you notice massive shifts between faculty and administration in your time?

CLG: You mean tensions between them?

HP: Yeah.

CLG: You know, I can’t say that I did. No, I can’t. I’m sure they may have been there. But as the structure of the department, any department, merged, it would be largely the chairman that would handle the relationship with the deans and so forth. Before that all became so structured, it was more give and flow. Not step by step. I just think that in the early days, the Faculty Senate, for example, it was just a debating society. If it still exists, I don’t know what it has become. We would meet—there was one dean of the faculty, and sometimes the President came, this was in Millar’s time, he was very active—and there weren’t so many of us, so we just could sit and talk!

HP: This will be my last question for today...

CLG: OK.

HP: Looking back, are there certain things that you’re particularly pleased with, or proud of, or excited about during your tenure at PSC/PSU?

CLG: Oh, boy. Maybe we’ll have to come back to this question—I’ll have to think about it. The main thing that I’m pleased about is the success of that really podunk college that I came to. Over the years, some of the things that have happened I’m either less interested in or would not have chosen to happen. This is going to sound really awful, but—I don’t know the man who’s just been named president, but he’s obviously in the technological business side of things. We’ve had some real nuts for president, like Sicuro, but they all had their roots in the liberal arts, I think, more or less. That sort of disturbs me, but that’s where the money is, I guess. Anyway, I’m very proud of the place, though it’s quite different from my time. I keep hearing about it, now I’m not mobile and can’t get down there, which I regret, because I

	<p>loved to go to the plays and the music and the opera. But there is a time for everything.</p> <p>So, are we going to talk again?</p> <p>HP: Yes, sure! Thank you very much for your time, Dr. Le Guin. I appreciate it.</p> <p>CLG: This is just a footnote—one of the things that pleases me most is the setting up of an archives, and she’s a wonderful person, Ms. [Cris] Paschild. More power to you. I think, as I told you earlier, our papers would have probably gone to Portland State, but there were no facilities. I think there probably are still not proper facilities for an archive, and mainly Ursula’s papers are of some importance. There is an institute of women in science fiction at Eugene, and that’s where her papers go, and mine will go with her.</p> <p>HP: The Le Guin papers are together?</p> <p>CLG: Yes, well—I want to be with her, anyway. [laughing]</p> <p>HP: Thank you.</p>
1:02:58	[concludes]