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# Interview of Diana Regan, M.A.

Diana Regan M.A.

*La Salle University*, [regan@lasalle.edu](mailto:regan@lasalle.edu)

Melissa Nichols

*La Salle University*, [nicholsm3@student.lasalle.edu](mailto:nicholsm3@student.lasalle.edu)

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## Field Notes

**Interviewee:** Diana Regan

**Interviewer:** Melissa Nichols

**Interview Dates:** March 16, 2015 and March 23, 2015

**Interview Location:** Diana Regan's Office, Olney Hall Room 244, in the La Salle University  
Foreign Language Department

Field notes were written on April 12, 2015.

### **Interviewee:**

Diana Regan was born in Philadelphia, on an undisclosed date, and grew up in Bryn Mawr, where she has spent her entire life with the exception of a brief time in the 1960s when she lived in New York City. Her father had his own business distributing home heating fuel oil, and her mother worked with him. She had one brother who is now deceased. Regan attended St. Thomas Aquinas elementary school in South Philadelphia, followed by high school at Mater Misericordiae Academy (now Merion Mercy Academy) in Merion, Pennsylvania. In pursuing her higher education, Regan first attended Immaculata College for one year, before receiving a Bachelor's degree from Rosemont College in 1963, and a Master's degree in French from Temple University in 1969. Regan has been teaching French since 1963, starting as a high school teacher at George Washington High School, Frankford High School, John Bartram High School, Masterman Demonstration High School, and Olney High School, where she also served as the head of the Foreign Language Department. She began teaching at the college-level in 1997, first as an adjunct at Chestnut Hill College, followed by a position as a French adjunct at La Salle

University, starting in 1999, where she continues to teach today. Aside from teaching, Regan also devotes time to several organizations, including the American Association of Teachers of French, the Alliance Francaise de Philadelphie, and the Chestnut Hill women's committee for the Philadelphia Orchestra, as well as organizes a travel study program through La Salle University, in which she takes students to France for ten days in a course titled 'France in WWII, Under German Occupation'. Currently, Regan teaches at La Salle as a part-time adjunct professor, and continues her involvement in her professional organizations.

**Interviewer:**

I, Melissa Danielle Nichols, was born on February 1, 1990 in Wynnewood, Pennsylvania, and grew up in Drexel Hill, Pennsylvania. I obtained my B.A. in History from Iona College in New Rochelle, New York, and began work toward my Master's degree at Central European University in Budapest, Hungary, before continuing my studies at La Salle University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Since graduating high school I have lived in New Rochelle, Perth (Australia), and Budapest (Hungary), before returning to the Philadelphia area. I currently work as an assistant teacher at The Goddard School and am working towards a Master's in History.

**Background:**

As a result of my interest in European History, specifically Hungarian History, I had originally spoken with Dr. Barbara Allen about talking to John Lukacs, a Hungarian-American who had been a member of the La Salle University History Department. Unfortunately, Dr. Lukacs had been interviewed for the Oral History course recently and could not be interviewed at this time. Dr. Allen then suggested I interview Diana Regan, because she was involved in the travel study program to France every year and worked as a professor in the Foreign Language Department.

Regan, as an adjunct professor who was also involved in several professional organizations, and who had spent considerable time in Europe, taking students abroad since the 1960s, proved to be an excellent candidate for an oral history interview.

After Dr. Allen approved my interviewee selection, Regan and I emailed back and forth discussing the requirements and goals of the interview, and establishing a rapport. Throughout these emails, Regan seemed to be excited and enthusiastic about the project. Regan sent me some background information which I used to create a questionnaire, and we agreed to meet at her office on March 16, 2015 at 11:00am.

On the day of the first interview, I arrived at the Foreign Language Department about five minutes early, and Regan's class was running five minutes late, so I spent approximately ten minutes reading the study abroad posters that were displayed on the department's walls. Finally, I met with Regan, the first time we had met face-to-face, and we proceeded to an office in the department which, judging from the several names on the door, she shared with several other professors. We sat down at her desk and closed the door to prevent any interruptions and, after again discussing the goals of the oral history and where the interview would be stored and how it could be accessed, we officially began the interview, using my iPhone 5s to record, and equipped with my questionnaire and a pen to keep track of the questions which I would be asking Regan. The interview ran incredibly smoothly, except that we had to end after only 45 minutes as she had a meeting to attend at 12:00pm that day. Because we had ended early, we planned on meeting the next Monday as well, and I immediately emailed the interview, recorded through the voice memos app, to myself to ensure I had two copies.

For the second meeting, March 23, 2015, I arrived to the Foreign Language Department on time and met Regan right away. We proceeded to her office and after briefly asking how each other were, I started my recording and we began the interview where the last had left off. This interview session lasted about an hour, as it concluded asking Regan about where she sees herself in the future. After the recorder was turned off and the interview was over, Regan and I spent several minutes speaking about our similar interests, particularly in Europe and in foreign languages, as well as the Philadelphia Orchestra and music. After thanking Regan for her interview, I departed. Following the interview, I attempted to email myself the recording, which failed due to the large size of the recording, leaving me with only one copy.

**Note on Recording:**

I recorded both interview sessions on my iPhone 5s voice memo application. Prior to the interviews, I made certain that my phone was fully charged with 100% battery, and that the phone was both in airplane and do not disturb mode, in order to prevent any interruptions. While I was able to successfully email the first interview to myself, the second was too large and could not be emailed. Therefore, I had to sync the voice memos from my phone to my iTunes account on my computer, which saved the interviews in m4a format. Because I needed to convert the m4a to a WAV file, I had to download a program which converted the files, and it does successfully.