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Summer 2009

# Interview of Richard Grande

Richard Grande  
*La Salle University*

Frank Hopper  
*La Salle University*

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## Field Notes

**Interviewee:** Richard Grande

**Interviewer:** Frank Hopper

**Interview Date:** June 25, 2009

**Interview Location:** Penn State University – Abington, Professor Grande’s Office,  
Sutherland Building, Abington, PA

### **The Interviewee:**

Richard Grande was born and raised in South Philadelphia. He was educated in the Philadelphia Parochial System from kindergarten through high school. He graduated from Bishop Neumann High School in June of 1960. He attended La Salle College from September 1960 through May 1965. In 1964, he was on the team of scholars who brought national recognition to La Salle College through their appearance on the nationally televised quiz program, the GE College Bowl. He majored in English at La Salle College and received his Bachelors degree in May of 1965. He received a teaching assistantship from the University of Dayton and earned his Masters degree in English in May of 1967. Since 1985, he has been employed full time teacher of English at Penn State Abington where he is currently a Senior Lecturer. Since 1989, he has also taught at La Salle University on a part time basis as an Adjunct Professor of English.

### **The Interviewer:**

I, Frank Hopper, am a retired State of New Jersey administrative employee with thirty-two years of service. Since my retirement in 2001, I have received a Bachelor’s degree from Penn State Abington in a major in history in May, 2007. Currently, I am a student in the Graduate Program in History at La Salle University and enrolled in History 650: Oral History: Theory and Practice for the Summer Session 2009.

### **Preparation for the Interview:**

I viewed the videocassette, *Finding a Place...making a name: the history of La Salle University*, written and produced Tonya S. Ellis to obtain a general understanding of the history of the Christian Brothers and the evolution of La Salle University from its founding in 1863 to the present. I reviewed a pictorial history book of La Salle University written by Jeffrey LaMonica published in 2005 by Arcadia Publishing which contributed to my awareness of significant campus happenings over the years. I visited the La Salle Archives and obtained from Archivist Bro. Joseph Grabenstein copies of pictures and articles relating to Professor Grande’s appearance on the GE College Bowl

in 1964 representing La Salle College. From these sources as well as materials provided in History 650, particularly Paul Thompson's *Life Story Interview Guide*, I prepared an outline for the interview that contained more than 100 questions.

### **Description of the Interview:**

I arrived at Penn State Abington campus on bright and sunny Thursday afternoon, June 25<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 and met Professor Grande at his office in the historic Sutherland Building. His large shared office with high ceilings provided a comfortable area to conduct the interview with Professor Grande. He was very busy completing his work for the three English courses that he was teaching during the Summer I session, but he generously and graciously made time for this oral history interview. Our session was interrupted briefly when Professor Grande had to leave the interview site (his office) for a few minutes to address a student matter. But the interview was completed within the time available.

### **Follow-up:**

On July 8, 2009, I wrote to Professor Grande that the audio of the interview was good and the transcription process was under way. I included some photos from the La Salle archives of his appearance on the GE College Bowl. I indicated that I would send him an audio CD of the interview and transcription when completed.

On July 18, 2009, I mailed Professor Grande a copy of the transcription of the interview and a copy of these field notes.

### **Note on Recording:**

For recording, I used my Sony IC Recorder model ICD-UX71 on battery power. I did not use an additional microphone. After the interview was completed, I connected the Sony recorder by USB port to my Dell Inspiron 600 laptop and uploaded the audio files for storage in wav format. I burned them to a CD in wav format as well. I formatted the CD as a data disk so that I could store a transcript, a list of questions, and field notes on it, in addition to the recordings. I used NCH Express Scribe software to slowly play back the recording while I transcribed it. Then I played the entire interview again at normal speed in order to edit it.

### **Editing the Transcript:**

My editing decisions included:

- 1) eliminating repeated words, unless the words were repeated for emphasis
- 2) eliminating most false starts, unless the false starts seemed significant
- 3) placing information about pauses and visual cues or nonverbal sounds in brackets
- 4) using empty brackets [ ] to indicate inaudible words or phrases
- 5) providing limited additional explanation in footnotes
- 6) placing a time indication at or near the top of each page and at the beginning and

- end of each recording session
- 7) usually eliminating transitional words such as “and,” “so,” and “because” in order to make sentences shorter and easier to read
  - 8) using a dash to indicate an awkward transition in the middle of a sentence
  - 9) using a period to show a sentence that was not completed and a dash to show a sentence or question that was interrupted
  - 10) capitalizing and using hyphens between letters of words the interviewee spelled
  - 11) using **bold** to indicate emphasis
  - 12) using quotation marks to indicate reported speech
  - 13) using the Baylor University Style Guide for Editing Oral Memoirs regarding issues of grammar, punctuation and general presentation