**Clayton State University Archives**

**Staff Oral History Project #003 Transcript**

Transcription of the “Interview with Kevin Fitzgerald” was conducted on 26th day of April, 2019 at 10:00 am. Oral history subject Kevin Fitzgerald, CSU Network Support Specialist, as has held the titles of Computer Operator and Computer Technician throughout his 30 plus year of service to the academic institution. Mr. Fitzgerald was interviewed by his University Archivist Feechi Hall. Introduction statement giving general information about the recording session appears at the start of the audio recording. The interview recording took place in the CSU Archives Department’s Reading Room located on the second floor of the Library Building. Pictures of this interview session are contained within this collection’s materials of the Oral History Project.

**Feechi:** Well good morning Kevin and thank you for participating in the CSU Archives Oral History Project. It is such a pleasure to have to here today I was so happy that you agreed to participate in this project and program, so as long as you are comfortable we’ll go ahead and get started with our line of questioning.

**Kevin:** Your most welcome.

**Feechi:** Oh thank you! [Laughter] Well my first question is when and where were you born? And did you grow up in the same place?

**Kevin:** I was born in Downtown Atlanta when St. Joseph Hospital was located there. And I lived in College Park, Georgia until I was thirteen when the airport required our family to move for airport expansion. And so our family moved to East Point and I was there for years. I ended up living there for quite a long time. And then now I’m living in Forest Park so umm I lived near the airport my whole life.

**Feechi**: Wow very interesting! Who were your parents and what did they do for a living?

**Kevin**: My mom was Rose Rere Dan Fitzgerald and she grew-up across the street from Grant Park in Atlanta. My dad was Gerald Fitzgerald. He was from East Providence Rhode Island and they met I guess during the war time years, the World War II years. Because my dad was stationed at a military post northeast of Atlanta, which now I think Peachtree Dekalb Airport is located there where Fort Gordon once was. That’s where he was located, so they met got married. They lived in Rhode Island for a while but then they moved to Georgia in 1948. Soo yeah … dad was a… became a tile setter. He had a college degree and became a tile setter and he actually put in some of the floors here at Clayton State in the original buildings.

**Feechi**: Oh wow? So you have strong roots here at this institution.

**Kevin**: Yes, that’s why there’s a picture of me in front of the round building the Lecture Hall that was taken while the College was under construction. Because he wanted to bring us down here and show us this new college they were building in Morrow.

**Feechi**: Wow!

**Kevin**: Yes that’s right. So that’s the story behind the picture.

**Feechi**: Oh. Okay. Um do you have any siblings? And if so, what are their names?

**Kevin**: Um my sister I have an older sister name Stephanie.

**Feechi**: oh. Um, where did you go to high school?

**Kevin**: Umm, I went to high school up in \*\* Oak...Ga? \*\*(Not sure what part of Ga she said) Shepherds Ridge Academy it’s a private school.

**Feechi**: And, what was it like in high school for you?

**Kevin**: (Brief Pause)… Um, (Another Brief Pause)….Is a difficult question and I need an answer (Chuckles in between her sentence) Umm... (**Feechi**: No, take your time) ... High school was... relatively easily for me in terms of school work. Umm constantly busy be... Managing both sports and (Not sure what she said after this)

**Feechi**: Okay and so that goes into my next question. Uh did you participate in any activities growing up and yes. Um and..... Did you enjoy participating in athletics? And what sports did you?

**Kevin**: So I did gymnastics I did it for about (10 or 20 years not sure how many years she said). Umm I have a love, hate relationship with gymnastics. (**Feechi**: laughs) I don’t want to go into too much detail with it. I miss it, but it.... it umm...I, I got injured about 8 times. (**Feechi**: Oh my gosh) So, it um, I had a hard time um when I was in high school and all until I sophomore year in college it kind of (in and out of … not sure what she said right here) because of the sport.

**Feechi**: Oh, my goodness. I have a good friend whose half-sister was a cheerleader in high school and coming out of high school into college she got a umm career ending injury as well so yeah I’ve completely understand how that is (laughter while saying this). (**Alex**: saying yes and agreeing in the background)

**Feechi**: Ok so now we’re going to move into more of the questioning on regarding your academic experience.

**Alex**: Ok.

**Feechi**: Umm as a perspective student, what made you apply to Clayton State University?

**Alex**: Soo the reason I came to Clayton State was because, 1.) I had a sister who went here and that’s the only reason I was familiar with it. (**Feechi**: mhmm in the background) I actually had a scholarship to go to Michigan umm and could not do that due to injuries so that’s how I ended up at Clayton State. (Conversation in background couldn’t hear but Alex says Yes).

**Feechi**: Ok. Ok. So were there any other motivations regarding coming here? (**Alex**: silently says no)

**Feechi**: No? Ok. (Chuckles). Was your family supportive in that decision of you coming here?

**Alex**: Yes, cause it was really just for deferment of my...of going to Michigan but that didn’t really workout either so.

**Kevin**: Ok. When was your first semester attending Clayton State University and how long have you attended the institution?