**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. So yeah … dad was a… became a tile setter. Even though he had a college degree he 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. My mom was a house wife and although she did she took training at the high school she went to, Commerical High, she learned how to do stenography and short hand and did some of that kind of work before she got married. And then she actually worked at the Southside Sun Newspaper in East Point during the time I was in my teenage years so she could build up her time under Social Security and get the benefits she needed. So yeah, but they were married for over fifty years and lived into their mid eighties so they did alright.

**Feechi**: Wow! Sound like a very nice family.

**Kevin**: Yes we’re real blessed.

**Feechi**: Did your family or your father encourage you to follow in his footsteps professionally or

**Kevin**: Not really, although I did help him out on some. I helped him out on some tile jobs here and there some. I think I could have done that. But I don’t know he was pretty fast and really well organized and I don’t know if I could ever be as good as he was but, he did good work.

**Feechi**: Alright sounds good! What high school did you go to?

**Kevin**: I went to Headland High School in East Point, Georgia. That campus is now Paul D. West Middle School. Because the high school went through several mergers and if I was growing up over there now I would be going to Tri-Cities High School.

**Feechi**: Okay Okay, I know exactly where that area is. Interesting you have strong roots within this general local area. That’s very interesting.

**Kevin**: Yes ummhumm.

**Feechi**: Now from so more our line of questioning about your background, will kind of go into an area of your hobbies and interest. Many people on campus know you as for you love of cycling. And I have personally seen you riding around campus on a very cool bike so, my question in this area is, when did you become interested in cycling as a hobby?

**Kevin**: Well it goes back to when I was in grade school. I was a little late getting a bike. I didn’t get one until I was seven. But I was able to start bike commuting to my grade school. I went to St. John the Evangelist Catholic School in Hapeville and I lived in College Park. And I had been using the bus to get to and from. The bus system was predecessor to MARTA Atlanta transit. But when they changed the route it became a real hassle to take the bus to school. I would have to wait on a street corner for the bus for up to twenty minutes in the morning and up to forty minutes in the afternoon. So my brother sad on day “why don’t you ride your bike” and I said “you got to be kidding mom and dad would never let me do that”. But they did. They let me try it on a weekend and five miles later I was over there at one of my friend’s house near the school. So we started doing that and by the time I finished St. Johns, I didn’t get to go to eighth grade at St. Johns my high school was a eighth through twelve so I started Headland (high school) in eighth grade, But from the middle of fourth grade to the end of seventh it was over three thousand miles worth of riding.

**Feechi**: Wow

**Kevin**: So I was out there in real traffic no bike lanes. Yeah I could ride on the side walk in places, but other places I was right on the street. I had a couple different varioations of the route. I perferred a six route to take

**Feechi**: No

**Kevin**: Yes

**Kevin**: Ok.