

Elizabeth Peace Stall

Interviewee: Elizabeth Peace Stall

Interviewer: Courtney L. Tollison, Ph.D.

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Transcript

Dr. Tollison: Today is November 1st, 2004. My name is Courtney Tollison and I'm sitting here with Miss Elizabeth "Betty" Peace Stall at her home on Serrine Drive here in Greenville, South Carolina. And today we're going to talk about Furman and the development of the city of Greenville, lots of community activism in your past and in the present as well. Why don't we start off by you just telling me a little bit about your life growing up here in Greenville? And then we can get into your relationship with Furman and your father later on.

Mrs. Stall: Okay. I was born here in Greenville – one of the few that's still around who was born in St. Francis Hospital – and grew up on Byrd Boulevard about four blocks from where I live now. I grew up in a newspaper family, a family that was very active in community and a family that was very aware of what was going on in town and around the world as far as communications went at that time. I went to the public schools here, graduated from Greenville High. Then I went to Hollins College, it was then, majoring in History with enough for a major in English too. I started Hollins intending to go into newspaper work but I ended up marrying three weeks after I graduated and worked on the newspaper for a while and then we began a family and I was a stay-at-home mom and somebody very involved outside of home too. All three of our children went through public schools here at a time when public schools were in turmoil. We had a deep commitment to public education and kept our children in public school for that reason. They went on and did well in college and were gone from Greenville, each of them, for about 20 years and one by one they've come back.

Dr. Tollison: They attended Greenville Highschool?

Mrs. Stall: They did.

Dr. Tollison: Let's talk a little bit about Greenville Highschool. I understand that you're in the Greenville Highschool Hall of Fame. (laughs)

Mrs. Stall: Oh my, a surprise.

Dr. Tollison: I saw some of your neighbors, the Wolf family, a few other people. I guess Dave Wolf and Dan, his father. They've done quite a revitalization at that school.

Mrs. Stall: That school has taken on new life and a lot of the credit, I think, goes to the alumni from the school who would not let it die. And the district has made a

commitment to it now and I have a granddaughter at Greenville High now.

Dr. Tollison: That's been nice to see again even in terms of the physical development. I understand they're renovating the building right now.

Mrs. Stall: It's exciting what's going on there academically and, of course, with the football team this year.

Dr. Tollison: I'm not as aware of that but I do know the stadium looks fantastic, which used to be, of course, the old Furman stadium.

Mrs. Stall: Raised money to restore that. Yes, they have a, this year, football team, I don't think it's lost but one game and that was to a Four-A team.

Dr. Tollison: I'm gonna have to keep an eye on that. That's exciting for Greenville.

Mrs. Stall: It has pulled grownups back to the games which is kind of fun.

Dr. Tollison: Well the stadium looks fantastic. I've been looking at all these old photos of when Furman was playing at Sistine Stadium. It's nice to see that stadium well taken care of and preserved.

Mrs. Stall: I married a Greenville native who knew a lot about Furman because he had dated there a lot.

Dr. Tollison: Okay, gotcha. And what's your husband's name?

Mrs. Stall: Edward Stall.

Dr. Tollison: Edward Stall.

Mrs. Stall: His father went to Furman and many of the Stall family have been there. His mother went to the Woman's College.

Dr. Tollison: The Woman's College, yes. Okay, great. So a long history there as well. Tell me a little bit about your grandfather and your father.

Mrs. Stall: My grandfather was a printer in the early 1900s and in 1919 bought the Greenville News. Later he added the Piedmont to that and in the early 30s they got into radio when it was new. The transmitter was on Church Street at that time. Later they built a tower out in the Gantt area. But after that they joined with the Furman family and the Jolley family and went into television. From that the firm, it grew, became Multimedia and grew to be a major corporation with radio stations, television stations, newspapers, and syndicated shows including Phil Donahue [inaudible]. A leveraged buyout was done in the company in 1985 and then the company was sold in 1995.

Dr. Tollison: Let's talk about his relationship with Furman.

Mrs. Stall: My father's?

Dr. Tollison: Mmm hmm.

Mrs. Stall: He went to Furman. He did not graduate from Furman but he went to Furman and he loved Furman. He loved the basketball team and he loved what was going on there.

Dr. Tollison: When did he attend Furman?

Mrs. Stall: He attended Furman in the late 20s.

Dr. Tollison: Did he graduate from another college?

Mrs. Stall: No. He and my mother married in '29. The first thing he gave Furman was a basketball scholarship and then later he and my mother, who loved travel, gave a foreign travel scholarship for study.

Dr. Tollison: Foreign study scholarship, right.

Mrs. Stall: And then after he died my mother made major commitment which has funded a Chair in the Religion Department.

Dr. Tollison: Okay. And you mentioned that the basketball scholarship was given in honor of his mother?

Mrs. Stall: In honor of his mother and I'm not sure his mother knew what a basketball was. (laughs)

Dr. Tollison: Oh that's funny. Now the foreign study scholarship. Was that given in the early 60s?

Mrs. Stall: I don't remember the date on that. It may have been in the 60s. But when I cleaned out my mother's papers, she died in February, she had saved every letter that the foreign study students had written to her telling about their experiences.

Dr. Tollison: That's wonderful.

Mrs. Stall: So that meant a great deal to her.

Dr. Tollison: Certainly, certainly. I'm glad to hear the students wrote her as well and they were appreciative. That's great news. Did you ever hear about your father talking about Dr. Frank Bonner? Does that name sound familiar?

Mrs. Stall: I knew Frank Bonner.

Dr. Tollison: Okay.

Mrs. Stall: I did not hear my father talking about Frank a lot but I knew Frank and Nilaouise too. And, of course, momma knew them too. They went to First Baptist Church where my mother was very active. I knew Nilaouise in the Thursday Club where we did papers.

Dr. Tollison: Dr. Bonner, as you're probably well aware, was very instrumental in developing foreign study at Furman not only among the faculty but he sent the faculty off on some foreign study travels first and then they took the first group of students, I think, in 1969. But he was the big person who was pushing the development of that study.

Mrs. Stall: Well, Greenville at that time was somewhat isolated and people here needed to know what was going on in the rest of the world. Well we still do. The world is small. But I think it's important I think for everybody to be exposed to other cultures.

Dr. Tollison: So your father had just a lifelong – well lifelong developing, I guess, when he went to Furman – appreciation and a lifelong relationship with Furman.

Mrs. Stall: Yes. His brother Roger had graduated from Furman.

Dr. Tollison: And also the gift, you mentioned the gift of his family to the hospital.

Mrs. Stall: Yes, this was a gift from all the Peace family – there were six siblings in that family – to the hospital after Roger died to name the rehabilitative part of the hospital.

Dr. Tollison: Okay. Six siblings in... your father had five siblings.

Mrs. Stall: My father had five siblings. There were three boys, Roger, Charlie and B.H., and there were three sisters, Gertrude Leake, Laura Echols and Frances Graham.

Dr. Tollison: And did they all live in Greenville?

Mrs. Stall: Oh yes, they all lived in Greenville. In fact, most of them had lunch every day with my grandmother.

Dr. Tollison: Oh wow.

Mrs. Stall: It's been a very close family. (laughs)

Dr. Tollison: Well I guess it's just... what, did they all meet every day with your grandmother?

Mrs. Stall: Almost!

Dr. Tollison: My goodness. That's wonderful. You don't hear about that stuff happening very often these days.

Mrs. Stall: No, you don't.

Dr. Tollison: That's wonderful to hear about.

Mrs. Stall: Life was simpler then.

Dr. Tollison: Didn't take quite so long to get across town. (laughs) What about, so you all have, you and your sister primarily – and please let me know if I'm leaving anyone out – have furthered your father's relationship with Furman through remaining active.

Mrs. Stall: No, Mary Sterling is my cousin.

Dr. Tollison: Oh your cousin, I'm sorry. Was she, was Roger her...

Mrs. Stall: Charlie was her father.

Dr. Tollison: She's Charlie's daughter.

Mrs. Stall: And it's the Charlie Peace Wing that she funded for the library.

Dr. Tollison: Okay. And are the cousins very close as well?

Mrs. Stall: The cousins are very close. There's only one male in the group of cousins: my brother who's a lot younger than the rest of us but we see a lot of each other. We share a box at the Peace Center and go out for dinner a lot.

Dr. Tollison: That sounds nice. Well let's talk about the Peace Center. Tell me about the development of the Peace Center in the 1980s and your involvement.

Mrs. Stall: In 1985 when Multimedia was doing the recapitalization we realized the Peace family members were going to realize cash from the sale and David Freeman put together a core group. I was with him and we went and visited Peace family members and pulled together three who gave ten million dollars to do the initial funding for the Peace Center. At that time we were so naive we thought that it would build the theater. We did a charrette with cost estimates and found out it was going to be at least three times as much as we had anticipated so we went into a capital fund raising campaign. We hired a local architect Craig Gauden and Davis with consultants from, nationally recognized consultants, from the Chicago area in acoustics and theatrical design, raised money, drew plans and finally were able to build two theaters and put the whole complex together. It was a public-private partnership. The city played a major role. The state gave us

five million dollars for it in a bond fund. The county committed funds to it. And we were able to build it and open in 1990. Very quickly. These projects don't usually happen that quickly. This was just a blessed project in that people stepped forward and took part in it. Some thought it was premature for Greenville, because we were the smallest metropolitan area, to have a performing arts complex.

Dr. Tollison: Nationally, or the state?

Mrs. Stall: Nationally.

Dr. Tollison: Really. That's very interesting.

Mrs. Stall: We visited centers, you know, all over the country. Some of the things in other centers you can see in the Peace Center. But it has worked. The acoustics I understand are an art, not a science, and the acoustics are really good.

Dr. Tollison: It's a beautiful facility.

Mrs. Stall: It's on its feet now. They're doing well.

Dr. Tollison: Do you remain involved with them today?

Mrs. Stall: I stay on the telephone with them a lot. I'm not officially involved with them today. (laughs)

Dr. Tollison: [inaudible]

Mrs. Stall: Oh no, just one thing and another. I was so interested in the POP, the Peace Outreach Program and educational component of that. I was so thrilled that that has really bloomed, touching fifty-sixty thousand kids a year in the Upstate, some from North Carolina come down.

Dr. Tollison: Are you talking about the program where there are certain performers from certain shows that are presented during the daytime and school children...

Mrs. Stall: And children are bussed in.

Dr. Tollison: We did that with Carolina Ballet Theater. It was high school. The public schools came in and we did – I cannot remember the ballet that we did – but it had a bunch of animals. We were all animals. So that was a lot of fun

Mrs. Stall: With this program they do study guides and all kinds of... They do some teacher training. They have summer programs with credits for teachers in how to use the arts across the curriculum. So it's exciting.

Dr. Tollison: It is. It sounds exciting and very important as well. Let's talk about some your

involvement with other areas such as St. Francis, other community development areas.

Mrs. Stall: Well I've been here a long time so I've had a lot of time to be involved with a lot of different organizations. I was a trustee of St. Francis hospital and, of course, was involved with the Community Foundation. It began with the Junior League I guess. I became president when I was another naive thirty-one and I learned a lot from that about managing a family and doing things away from home, too to keep me sane.

Dr. Tollison: That's a big job.

Mrs. Stall: And had been very involved with schools, PTAs and those things as my children grew up.

Dr. Tollison: What do you feel has been your greatest contribution to Greenville thus far?

Mrs. Stall: Probably my involvement in the desegregation of the schools. It was a time that could have been volatile and very violent and the schools were integrated peacefully.

Dr. Tollison: Let's talk a little bit about that.

Mrs. Stall: Ernie Harrill was chairman of that group with, a Furman professor.

Dr. Tollison: Was this the bi-racial group that worked together to desegregate the schools?

Mrs. Stall: Yes.

Dr. Tollison: And you were the volunteer community chair of the citizens committee for integration of Greenville schools.

Mrs. Stall: That's right. I coordinated and tried to involve volunteers in all the schools across the district to help move chairs, books, desks, whatever, and help reassure parents and greet children and keep the community involved and get them some peace about it.

Dr. Tollison: Yes, Greenville did initially [inaudible] some very explosive incidents or potentially could have been very explosive incidents.

Mrs. Stall: Economically probably my biggest involvement, of course, was the Peace Center because I think it has brought development to that end of south Main Street and that's gone across the river with this wonderful new park that's opened.

Dr. Tollison: Yes, that's very exciting

Mrs. Stall: And my daughter has been very involved in that so the family continues to be

involved in downtown.

Dr. Tollison: Well that's a nice legacy. So would you say that the desegregation issue would be the accomplishment of which you were most proud in terms of your contributions.

Mrs. Stall: Mmm hmm.

Dr. Tollison: That's certainly something to be proud of. Let's talk about being trustee at Hollins and Presbyterian and how that sort of, if you'd be comfortable, making some comparisons and some contrasts to serving as a trustee at Furman in terms of southern education.

Mrs. Stall: Of course Hollins is very different from Furman in that it's a small, single-sex women's school with a small alumni base, a historic old campus and lots of women involved. And, of course, there are women involved at Furman, too, but it's bigger with a new campus and a lot going for it. PC has strong, strong church ties. All three of them, of course, are liberal arts. And I'm a believer. I think that prepares people for changes that life brings and life is full of change. There's a difference in size, there's a difference in potential. I see Furman on the cusp of becoming a national university, as mentioned in the paper last week.

Dr. Tollison: Do you think... What are the qualities about PC that, you mentioned its potential, that you think hamper its potential that perhaps Furman does not have?

Mrs. Stall: Part of it is Clinton. They're in a small, backwater town. It's very difficult to attract a diverse faculty. I think probably the location as much as anything.

Dr. Tollison: Do you think the strong church ties have anything to do with it?

Mrs. Stall: I think the strong church ties provide a niche for PC that many students and parents want.

Dr. Tollison: So, I guess, the atmosphere is a bit different than...

Mrs. Stall: The atmosphere of the campus is not that different.

Dr. Tollison: Perhaps the dynamics?

Mrs. Stall: Young people, 18 to 22 years old, have the same issues. (laughs) Many of them.

Dr. Tollison: Yes.

Mrs. Stall: And the same interests

Dr. Tollison: Would you say the dynamics were a little bit different?

- Mrs. Stall: The dynamics are a little bit different. There's an excitement about Furman, an energetic feeling about Furman.
- Dr. Tollison: I'd certainly have to agree about that. Growing up here in Greenville what was your mindset regarding Furman? It's interesting, having grown up in Greenville myself, it's interesting to think about the evolution of how I thought about Furman growing up and how I thought about it as a student and how I think about it now.
- Mrs. Stall: It has changed. I did not think of it high academically when I was growing up. I never considered going to Furman. I needed to get away from Greenville too and it was kind of part of Greenville and didn't have the broad perspective that I think Furman has now. Or the diversity.
- Dr. Tollison: And, of course, it was located downtown.
- Mrs. Stall: It was downtown.
- Dr. Tollison: As someone who is so active in the Greenville community but who also has very strong ties with Furman, how has this relationship between Furman and the Greenville community evolved since its location downtown and where it is now?
- Mrs. Stall: When they moved out, you know, moving out presented some problems with being downtown and being a part of downtown. But with David Shi one of the focuses and one of the things that Furman has tried to do is have closer ties with Greenville. Of course transportation's a little bit easier now than it was back in the earlier days. Kids have cars and can get into town. And Furman faculty is doing a lot with downtown, particularly with the arts. You look at the Greenville Symphony and there are Furman faces peppered all through that. And I look at what David and Susan Shi have done and their involvement in Greenville, Susan with the Y [YMCA] and the Community Foundation, Six by Six [6x6], and all the community things she's interested in. And she's just been a wonderful leader for Greenville.
- Dr. Tollison: Yes. I think it's very important not to underestimate the impact that she has had in developing this close relationship between Furman and Greenville.
- Mrs. Stall: And Furman people are involved in the community boards in town, the History Museum, the Community Foundation, the United Way, it just goes on and on and on. It's a leavening that Greenville has really benefited from.
- Dr. Tollison: So would you say that you think it's David and Susan Shi that have rejuvenated this relationship?
- Mrs. Stall: They made it a stated purpose to do that and it's working.
- Dr. Tollison: Do you think that relationship was not as much of a priority with Gordon

Blackwell and John Johns?

Mrs. Stall: Different times have different issues. John Johns was dealing with church. Gordon Blackwell was dealing with other social issues.

Dr. Tollison: And it probably took them some time to realize the impact that moving out from the city would have on...

Mrs. Stall: Well you can't do everything at one time.

Dr. Tollison: (laughs) That's very true.

Mrs. Stall: Different times call for different skills.

Dr. Tollison: Have to prioritize.

Mrs. Stall: Different priorities. I don't think they ever turned their back on Greenville.

Dr. Tollison: Certainly not. But I do think there has been an increased emphasis on developing this relationship and, of course, David Shi chairing the Vision 2025 is very important and sort of symbolic.

Mrs. Stall: And he was businessman of the year.

Dr. Tollison: Yes. (laughs) Someone mentioned to me the other day that they're afraid that certain people in Greenville don't quite, or perhaps underestimate the economic impact that Furman students have on the city of Greenville with...

Mrs. Stall: With restaurants.

Dr. Tollison: Right, 2,500 young people with, most of them do have a certain degree of disposable income going shopping, going to visit restaurants, this kind of thing.

Mrs. Stall: I see them everywhere. (laughs) And I know who they are.

Dr. Tollison: I'm surprised. I even see them coming over here on Augusta Road to go to some of the Mexican restaurants and stuff like that and that's not really something I did much of when as was a student at Furman.

Mrs. Stall: I saw a couple at the Chamber Music Concert Saturday night, run into them in restaurants.

Dr. Tollison: Let's talk about Greenville's downtown development and, of course, the Peace Center being such an important part of that. How has that evolved in the past two decades, I guess I would say?

Mrs. Stall: Yeah, it was the vision of Max Heller to make Greenville have a European feel

that was pedestrian friendly. And it began at the Hyatt and that complex up there and has moved south. The Peace Center anchored that end of Main Street and that's leapt across the river. With the development in that park I can just see the West End is going to blossom.

Dr. Tollison: It's very exciting.

Mrs. Stall: It's a fun place to be. It's a place, obviously, that people want to come to. When you go downtown and you can't get down Main Street because there's so many cars and so many people it is certainly a change from the days when my mother came to Greenville and they would ride downtown for their entertainment and park and see who walked by, always parking places.

Dr. Tollison: That's certainly important or beneficial to Furman as well because students from all over the country are now coming in and they obviously want to see Furman being situated close to a town that offers...

Mrs. Stall: That offers some things.

Dr. Tollison: Cultural offerings and some international in terms of the food and coffee houses and entertainment and stuff like that.

Mrs. Stall: I love seeing the Furman kids downtown.

Dr. Tollison: Yes, and I know the Furman kids appreciate it. Sometimes you have to get out of the bubble. (laughs)

Mrs. Stall: You have to get out. (laughs)

Dr. Tollison: Out of the iron gates. Let's talk about your experience as a Furman trustee and you mentioned that you've been a trustee since 2000 and that you currently serve as secretary of the Board of Trustees and you have served on the Student Services and Development Committees and the Building and Grounds Committee and you're currently on the Student Services and Development Committees. Let's talk about what have been some of the issues in the past three and a half, four years or so... well let's talk about that first and then I'll get to my next question. What do you think have been some of the more important issues that the trustees have dealt with?

Mrs. Stall: Probably having enough money to do what Furman needs to do.

Dr. Tollison: And what does Furman in your eyes need to do?

Mrs. Stall: To have a top quality faculty which we do. So you have to pay the salaries to compete. To have a campus that lends itself to the learning that goes on there, that attracts students.

Dr. Tollison: Talking about top facilities.

Mrs. Stall: Top facilities. Scholarships so that students who are qualified can come to Furman. It is not cheap. That's enough but you know there are other things too. But I think the major thing has been funding and the policies that are needed to keep Furman open and make it a nationally recognized university.

Dr. Tollison: Have there been any controversial decisions? I'm thinking specifically about, and perhaps, I'm not exactly quite sure what date this occurred but the policy to give insurance benefits to same sex partners. Would you say that was perhaps the most controversial decision?

Mrs. Stall: Yeah, that's the most controversial. But, interestingly, the negative side was not large, it was just a very vocal minority.

Dr. Tollison: Was it a controversial issue within the board?

Mrs. Stall: It wasn't just within the board. It became a community issue. Always community comments.

Dr. Tollison: But was the board in agreement for the most part?

Mrs. Stall: For the most part. But there were some who disagreed. One resigned, maybe two resigned. John Cothran was chairman of the board at that time and he really handled it well. He wrote a very beautiful letter about why he agreed with the administrative decision to do that.

Dr. Tollison: So this was... The impetus for this decision came from the administration?

Mrs. Stall: From the administration.

Dr. Tollison: And obviously they felt that there was a need by looking out at the faculty and understanding that certain times had changed and that this was important.

Mrs. Stall: Important.

Dr. Tollison: Let's talk about Student Services Committee.

Mrs. Stall: I love Student Services Committee. We talk about student needs and of course that's why all of us are there for the students. We talk about a lot of different issues, social issues, cultural issues, pressures that students have. Our goal is to serve students and be their voice.

Dr. Tollison: As the quality of the student body has increased, along with that comes students who are perfectionists, very, very hard workers.

Mrs. Stall: Double majors worried about what graduate school they get into.

Dr. Tollison: Exactly. They're very hard on themselves. Certainly this would have an impact on some of the issues that are going on in the student body and that would concern student services.

Mrs. Stall: It does. Concern about counseling and about mental health. All of the issues that young people, high achieving young people, have now.

Dr. Tollison: That from what I understand that the counseling, the need for counselors, is at its highest in the past several decades and this is something that people who have been with student services for several decades say it's a unique change.

Mrs. Stall: I don't think that this is true just at Furman.

Dr. Tollison: Oh no.

Mrs. Stall: I think it's demographically it's this group of young people.

Dr. Tollison: And of course along with that would go the high rates of eating disorders that go along with students who do expect so much of themselves and who are such high achievers. Has that been something you all have discussed?

Mrs. Stall: Yeah, we have talked about eating disorders, yeah.

Dr. Tollison: How did you all approach that in terms of solutions?

Mrs. Stall: Looking for adequate counseling

Dr. Tollison: As a way to alleviate some of these problems. What kinds of changes have been made? Does Furman have more counselors now?

Mrs. Stall: I don't know numbers on that so I really can't comment.

Dr. Tollison: I think there is a psychologist that spends maybe a few days on campus now that I don't recall was there when I was there.

Mrs. Stall: Was there when you were there.

Dr. Tollison: I think Steve Dawes, is it maybe? And then Prater... Mary Prater

Mrs. Stall: Mary Prater.

Dr. Tollison: I think were the only two when I was there. I think I did hear something about there being a psychologist on campus now. I'll have to double check. What about Buildings and Grounds? You guys have been busy.

Mrs. Stall: Oh yeah. Some of the facilities were outdated and Furman campus was designed for a much smaller student body. We're able to add the apartments so

that upper classmen could come back on campus. Then the academic buildings weren't large enough and were outdated so, you know, there's major renovation with that. The wonderful new library that has been completed and the students now would like to study there. But it's beautiful. Then Plyler Hall's rejuvenation and now we're looking at raising fifty million dollars for a new Science Hall.

Dr. Tollison: You all just passed that this past week.

Mrs. Stall: Yes. We looked at plans Saturday for that, exciting plans. The building's exteriors are harmonious with the rest of the campus.

Dr. Tollison: It looked like there were two wings that will be built onto the existing Plyler Hall.

Mrs. Stall: That's right.

Dr. Tollison: And those two wings will extend towards Riley Hall?

Mrs. Stall: Yeah, one connects with Riley Hall and will be an entrance. And the back wing goes down the back with some space there for additional building if it's needed later. But I was on Buildings and Grounds at Hollins had worked with those old buildings and with building a new part of the complex there and the challenges of marrying a new building with an old campus were dear to the hearts.

Dr. Tollison: And I would think putting technology in older buildings as well.

Mrs. Stall: In older buildings, yes. And it's been interesting to how well Furman has handled this.

Dr. Tollison: I think so as well. Certainly the developments in technology were not a consideration in the 60s when most of those early, some of the buildings were built and what an impact that has had to have had, I would think, on architecture.

Mrs. Stall: Furman's grounds are so exquisite. The trees, the mature trees. And I can remember when my children were young and we would ride up there on Sunday afternoons where that red field where they were planting all those trees to see what had gone on the past week. But the campus is so beautiful with the trees that... I've been involved with gardens too.

Dr. Tollison: At Furman, or in Greenville?

Mrs. Stall: Yeah, I was chairman of the garden symposium that we did out there. I worked with David with the symposium where we pulled in some national speakers, nationally recognized speakers.

Dr. Tollison: Was this in an effort to also preserve the natural beauty of the campus?

Mrs. Stall: Preserve the natural beauty and add more garden spots at Furman. I know David's been interested in the Japanese garden and it does need help. And there are other spots where perennials and smaller shrubs would enhance the campus.

Dr. Tollison: There's a lot of potential for that Japanese garden isn't it?

Mrs. Stall: Uh huh.

Dr. Tollison: When we were there it had nothing. There was not much Japanese about it and I think it had sort of been forgotten about for several years. And as students we weren't even aware that there was a Japanese garden.

Mrs. Stall: Well Furman is so interested now in the green ecology and sustaining our environment. They're a leader in the county and the state. And of getting even broader recognition, I think, for the buildings, the LEED [Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design] building that Hipp Hall is and the other construction that we'll be doing that will qualify for...

Dr. Tollison: It's always interesting to see the cabins across the lake and all the solar panels and that kind of stuff. People are probably gonna be listening to this interview thirty years from now thinking we're so outdated. (laughs)

Mrs. Stall: So outdated. It's got to turn some things around the thinking of people.

Dr. Tollison: Recycling to them will probably be second nature. What about Development? One of the two committees you currently serve on. What are some of the priorities?

Mrs. Stall: I've only met one time with the Development Committee but every organization I've been in I've been involved with development. That seems to be where they stick me. (laughs)

Dr. Tollison: [inaudible] person on those committees.

Mrs. Stall: Right now they're looking at another campaign to increase endowment and do the science building

Dr. Tollison: Are we talking about another campaign as a general endowment and new science building would be included in that general campaign?

Mrs. Stall: Both. Both focuses.

Dr. Tollison: And when would you think that that campaign would begin?

Mrs. Stall: That won't begin for a while.

Dr. Tollison: For several years perhaps? Seems like we just finished.

Mrs. Stall: Most people haven't finished paying for the last campaign.

Dr. Tollison: Right. (laughs) And what of the science building do you think – this is probably a very premature question – but what would you think would be some of the priorities with the second campaign other than, or not the second campaign...

Mrs. Stall: Another campaign. Mainly endowment. And that building.

Dr. Tollison: Furman, from what I understand, sits fairly low in terms of...

Mrs. Stall: Furman is very low in relation to other universities with endowment and you need to have that predictable income stream for the things that a university does.

Dr. Tollison: Is this a priority, a concern at Hollins and Presbyterian colleges?

Mrs. Stall: Yeah, their endowments are even smaller than Furman's.

Dr. Tollison: But of course Furman, as we mentioned, is trying to compete on a national level.

Mrs. Stall: That's right.

Dr. Tollison: So perhaps the standards might be a bit different.

Mrs. Stall: Yeah.

Dr. Tollison: Any other thoughts about the development of Greenville, your activism in Greenville, or your experiences at Furman.

Mrs. Stall: I'm just thrilled to have lived in Greenville during this period when there has been so much change. And good change. I see Greenville is concerned with the quality of its growth and I hope it continues to do that and can control it so that the growth is good growth.

Dr. Tollison: I agree.

Mrs. Stall: Growth has been wonderful for Greenville. It has brought in a diversity of people from around the world. They're not many cities our size that have Japanese, French, German groups living in town and taking part.

Dr. Tollison: It's interesting that Furman and Greenville have almost grown symbiotically. They've just reinforced each other's growth and development.

Mrs. Stall: They have. I guess they're married. (laughs)

Dr. Tollison: They are sort of. And are becoming increasingly so I guess as they used to be when Greenville was downtown right on the Reedy River. I don't think I have much of anything else to talk... Actually let's talk about the purposes of the Community Foundation of Greater Greenville. I'm not exactly quite sure that I'm aware of what the purpose of that organization is.

Mrs. Stall: Probably you'd say it's a two-fold purpose. It serves philanthropists who want to direct their funds and don't know quite where to do it now. They do that through donor advice funds. It serves charities in Greenville in that the Community Foundation looks at charities and makes grants and I think by making those grants they give a stamp of approval that leads other people to give to them too. Roger Peace was one of the founding trustees of that, one of the seven men who started it. I can't remember the year when it started but it has grown a great deal since then and I think people are really using those donor advice funds now.

Dr. Tollison: What do you think your father would think about the development of Greenville and the development of Furman?

Mrs. Stall: He would love what's going on at Furman. He loved Furman and would be very proud of it.

Dr. Tollison: Was he an active presence in terms of going to the sporting events?

Mrs. Stall: We were at every basketball game. We had four seats in the balcony of old...

Dr. Tollison: Textile Hall?

Mrs. Stall: No, Memorial Auditorium.

Dr. Tollison: Memorial Auditorium.

Mrs. Stall: I was at that game where Frank Selvy shot a hundred points.

Dr. Tollison: You anticipate my next question.

Mrs. Stall: In Textile Hall.

Dr. Tollison: Tell me about that.

Mrs. Stall: (laughs) Well, I was just there.

Dr. Tollison: It must have been very exciting.

Mrs. Stall: It was very exciting.

Dr. Tollison: From what I understand there was a feeling that something very weird and

special was going on. That is was the first televised sporting event, perhaps the first televised basketball game, in the state of South Carolina. And I've even read some sources that say that the head coach recognized what was going on about midway through the game and sort of ran the plays and took some people out to give Frank Selvy...

Mrs. Stall: Selvy a chance...

Dr. Tollison: The opportunity to achieve what he ultimately did achieve in that game. Tell me about the crowd. What it was like to be a member of the crowd watching that?

Mrs. Stall: Oh it was just really exciting but Textile Hall was not big. It was just a very lively crowd at Textile Hall, really exciting night.

Dr. Tollison: Did you, at the time, did you think that this one particular game, this one particular feat would have the legacy that it's had?

Mrs. Stall: I think probably so.

Dr. Tollison: So there was a recognition at that point?

Mrs. Stall: There was a recognition then of what a big deal this was that night.

Dr. Tollison: Well it's impressive that Furman has that in its history.

BREAK

Dr. Tollison: Well I think we've pretty much wrapped it up. Thank you so much for meeting with me today.

Mrs. Stall: Well it was my pleasure.

Dr. Tollison: I think it will be very, very beneficial. So many of... You're being modest. I think a lot of people don't understand that... and it's something that we all do... you know, how important certain things that seem insignificant to us today will become very important in the future.

Mrs. Stall: Well, hindsight is one hundred percent when you look back on things you have done and can put them in perspective. But it's been a really exciting time to be a part of the history of Greenville and to be a part of the history of Furman. Both of them have matured so well.

Dr. Tollison: Well you've been such an integral part of all that stuff.

Mrs. Stall: It's been fun being part of it.

Dr. Tollison: This will be a very interesting interview for people in the future. Let me go

ahead and also get your, just for purposes of the transcript could you give your father's full name as well?

Mrs. Stall: My father was Bony Hampton Peace, Jr.

Dr. Tollison: Could you spell his first name?

Mrs. Stall: B-O-N-Y

Dr. Tollison: Hampton. H-A-M-P-T-O-N.

Mrs. Stall: Correct.

Dr. Tollison: Peace.

Mrs. Stall: Junior.

Dr. Tollison: Junior. So your father was Bony Hampton.

Mrs. Stall: And my mother was Dorothy Pedrick Peace.

Dr. Tollison: P-E-D-R-I-C-K. Pedrick Peace.

Mrs. Stall: And she's the one who gave the Chair in Religion.

Dr. Tollison: And you said she passed away recently.

Mrs. Stall: In February.

Dr. Tollison: I'm sorry. Okay, terrific. Anything else that you'd like to add?

Mrs. Stall: No.

Dr. Tollison: Great.

Mrs. Stall: You may call me if you need any dates. I'll look them up, I might not remember them.

Dr. Tollison: Let me explain sort of where we're gonna go from here. This tape will be sent to the transcriptionist and she will type the transcription and I will get the copy back and then I will send it to you. You're welcome to read over the whole thing and if there's any dates that you think about that are different from what we talked about here or if there's any other information or details that you think might be pertinent feel free to write them in on the side, or if it's extensive you can hand write it on a separate piece of paper or type it, whatever you're comfortable with and I then can incorporate that into the transcript later. If you see that there's a whole bunch of other things that we didn't cover today, then

let me know and I can come back and visit if that's okay with you. And I will get that information back from you and then we'll go through and sort of incorporate all of it into the transcript. And, of course, we didn't really cover anything very sensitive but you do have the right to seal off certain portions of the interview if you're uncomfortable with it.

Mrs. Stall: No problem.

Dr. Tollison: Thank you very much for meeting with me. I appreciate it.

Mrs. Stall: Well I enjoyed meeting with you.

Dr. Tollison: I enjoyed our conversation very much.

Mrs. Stall: I know your students love having you teach. (laughs)

Dr. Tollison: Well thank you. I hope so. (laughs) I try to make things interesting. It's been fun being a young person and being able to be in that capacity. I try to present things in a way that would appeal to them and strike some chord, some familiar chord, with them then that piques their interest.

Mrs. Stall: Well history is so fascinating when you get down to people.

Dr. Tollison: It is. And who doesn't like to study talking about other people?

Mrs. Stall: I think they remember that.

Dr. Tollison: I try to get them to think about history as being a story.

Mrs. Stall: Well that's what it is, a story. (laughs)

Dr. Tollison: There's so many things. And history has really evolved in the past several decades to be inclusive of so many different types of people. And there's something in history that has got to appeal to everybody. The neat thing about teaching a class like World Civilization or Western Civilization is that I'm able to bring in music and the arts and literature. And I tell students, I say "If you're a science person, if you're a math person, if you're a music major, if you're a biology, there will be something in this class that will appeal to you, that will interest you, you know, whether we're talking about Albert Einstein or the Industrial Revolution or whatever else we talk about."

Mrs. Stall: Let me make another comment about Furman to add what a pleasure it has been for me to be involved. Not every organization where you are is there the same sense of similar values and similar purpose. And it's just exciting and fun to be with that kind of people and that's what I found with those trustees and I know Mary Sterling says that she has found her family there.

Dr. Tollison: That's very nice...

Mrs. Stall: In staff at Furman and the trustees. It's a warm group that can discuss things they disagree on and yet be agreeable.

Dr. Tollison: A lot of times people ask me "There's a lot of good schools in this country, etc., etc. What makes Furman special?" and I always say "It's the quality of the people."

Mrs. Stall: It is the quality.

Dr. Tollison: It's an incredibly bright, some of the brightest minds in the country but they're good people.

Mrs. Stall: Yeah, they're not just bright. They're just good people and they're fun.

Dr. Tollison: It's a wonderful group and it was wonderful to be so influenced and educated by a group of people like that, as well, so I think those people tend to flock to Furman. Well thanks so much. I've appreciated this. I'll go ahead and turn the tapes off.