

David Hugel Interview

Mon, 4/26/2021, 1:54:36

SUMMARY KEYWORDS

Baltimore, state, law school, university, Maryland, students, governor, Agnew, lawyer, photography

SPEAKERS

Interviewer: Laura Bell

Interviewee: David Hugel

Laura Bell

It looks like we are recording. Okay. So today is April 26th, 2021. It's about 1:57pm or 2pm. My name is Laura Bell. I'm an archivist at University of Baltimore Special Collections and Archives. And today I am with Dave Hugel [David H. Hugel]. We're on Zoom, and we're going to have an oral history interview. First of all, Mr. Hugel, are you okay with us recording?

David Hugel

Oh, yes, yes, I think I've signed a couple permission papers earlier.

Laura Bell

Great. So the purpose of the oral history interviews, *The UB Stories 100th Anniversary Oral History Project*, is to celebrate *UB's centennial* by preserving the memory of those influenced by the University of Baltimore over the years. We will be creating a digital exhibit and making all the recordings available online through the Internet Archive at the end of the project.

So Mr. Hugel, I know that, because I've had the luck of working with your collection in the archives, I know a little bit about your background, but you know, are you actually, were you born in Baltimore? Are you from the area?

David Hugel

Yes, I was born in Baltimore, at Maryland, University of Maryland hospital. And I lived - my family lived in East Baltimore on Biddle Street, Biddle street's one of those streets that runs almost the full width of the city, from the area where we were on the east over to past the University, past Charles Street. And it was a blue collar area, and we lived in a row house, the infamous Baltimore row houses. But without the marble steps, we never had marble steps, we just had white wooden steps.

Laura Bell

Didn't have to scrub them or anything then?

[laughter]

David Hugel

Yeah, we had to paint them though. And that was the downside, that the marble you did have to clean periodically. And of course, we had to sweep these off. But every few years, the adults, I was not that old to do anything. But my father would paint them, scrape them and paint them. And that's what kept them fresh. Ah, let me say that was from the time I was born until February of 1954. When my family made a decision, it was a big decision for them in those days, but to relocate. They wanted a single bungalow house in Baltimore County. And for those that don't know a lot about the jurisdictions, it's totally separate from Baltimore City. It's two separate systems, two separate school systems. And they just felt it would be a better place to raise myself and my sister there in the county.

Laura Bell

So that was 1954. How old were you at that point?

David Hugel

I was 11 at that time, but I turned 12 that summer.

Laura Bell

So, you had to change schools and everything?

David Hugel

That was difficult. As I said, they were two separate jurisdictions, and each had their own programs as a course of study. So when I got to the county, I had a little catching up to do. It set me back a little bit. Because the next step was Junior High School in those days, the public schools at least went one through six, sometimes kindergarten through six, and then junior high school - seven and eight, and then High School - 9, 10, and 11. Excuse me, no the junior high went through nine. And the high school was ten, eleven and twelve. Sorry.

Laura Bell

Got you. Wow. So then did you stay I guess, I mean, you went to the University of Baltimore, but did you? Did you stay in the area for all of your education and . . .

David Hugel

Oh, yeah, so high school education. And I graduated from high school in June of 1960. But two weeks later, I joined the Marine Corps.

Laura Bell

Oh ok.

David Hugel

In those days, the Marine Corps had a program and it was helpful to them and scheduling the training that I could sign up in June, as I did, and they gave you so long within which to report. And in my case, I

didn't have to report to go on active duty until September. So that left the whole summer free to do whatever I wanted. And I had a summer job, which I'll tell you about if you're interested.

Laura Bell

Sure, I mean, I'm actually very interested to hear because I could not um piece together at one point, you know, if you went straight to the Marines right after high school or not. So I know if you, I'd love to hear about, you know, that transition and how that worked for you -- how you got into photography as well in the Marines.

David Hugel

Well let me go back a year, the year before, the summer before the summer of 1959. For the spring, one of my high school teachers came to me and asked if I would be interested in working that summer '59 as a waiter, at a private boy's camp in Maine. And it sounded like a great, great opportunity, if you've lived in Baltimore during the summer, and it gets pretty hot and sticky. And here, what I would be in Maine, which is notorious for its cool summers, and it was at a camp, it was just wonderful. I just finished looking at a picture today that I took that summer from an airplane, a seaplane, of the camp, just a big open area for the fields and some of the buildings, and then huge athletic fields where the students or the ... not students, but what we called campers - kids that went there - could play and we could use it anytime that they weren't using a specific facility. It was open for use. We have six waiters, all high school boys. And it was just a great opportunity. I've written about some of the things that happened. I just told you about one. It was very close to the town. And I don't know exactly because I didn't have a car. But we walked for quite a ride. It was about two miles. And in that town, it was a quaint little town that was nice. Howard Johnson's was a place we would focus because we were young. And we would go there for what they call Fraps or milkshakes. And we go there for soda and things. And I went, and as I'm walking along, I looked across the street, and it's so fresh in my mind because I just wrote a small article about it for our community newsletter. And there was a seaplane. And I said before the summers over, I'm going to take a trip in that. And I did, I saved. I have no idea in dollars and cents right now how much it was, but it was relatively inexpensive. I'd say \$13- \$15 something like that. And I saved my money. And I went, paid for it, and went for this seaplane ride. I think it was about 20 minutes. But it was a ride of a lifetime for a city boy and to take that trip and to look out and see the vastness of that area was all the lakes and small campsites, private cottages and things. It was fascinating.

Laura Bell

Definitely. Was that when you fell in love with photography? Or was that when . . .

David Hugel

That came later, but I'll tell you that story too. I was always had a fascination with photography, but nothing really serious. There were always some kind of Kodak small and expensive cameras around the house. And my parents would let me use it. But I got to the point where I wanted to get more serious. And I was a big Orioles fan too, a big baseball fan in those days. And one of my classmates was a bat-boy for the Orioles then. And he said, if you want I could get some of the players before the game, like during batting practice or whatever to could come and pose. And I said that's great. So I didn't think any of these cameras were good enough--the ones we had. So this one high school teacher

knew a lot about photography. And he suggested I go to this one camera stop in Parkville, which is the name of the community where I grew up. Now, let me explain again, I said Baltimore City and County are two different jurisdictions in Baltimore County. There were and still are a number of communities, but no incorporated towns. So Parkville was just a residential area and had boundaries and for election purposes all that, but it's like I said, I grew up in a town of Parkville, it was a community. So anyway, I bought the camera and spent \$35. I forgot. And so I started taking pictures, mostly spots, color slides around the neighborhood and the house, a little bit at school. And when I got this job, I took the camera with me up to me up in Maine. And I got some very remarkable pictures. The seaplane ride was only one of the instances. Another one, and this is going to blow your socks off. If you know anything about early rock and roll popular music. The biggest star in the country was Paul Anka. You've probably never heard of it.

Laura Bell

Oh, Paul Anka. Yeah, I've heard of him.

David Hugel

Well, he's still popular to a lesser extent today. My wife and I have seen him in concerts. But anyway, he was really hot. He had the number one hit record of that summer, and was called lonely boy. And he came to the camp to perform, after hours, all just friendly, not a paid show or anything. And actually he came earlier in the day. And we did all kinds of things on the athletic fields, played touch football, and so forth. And I'm taking pictures during this period. It was a thrill. So between that and the seaplane ride was a pretty exciting summer for a kid from a city block in Baltimore. Right? Well at this time we were out in [the] county, my family had a bungalow. But that's why my interest in photography went back, really to high school.

Laura Bell

That's great.

David Hugel

And I've carried it forward to this day. I don't have it here. But I do have a later data version generation camera. And as I got older, I wanted more automatic stuff, and was part of the focus of it so it's pretty automated today. But I still enjoy taking pictures.

Laura Bell

So you said you joined up with the Marines? In I think 1960?

David Hugel

Yeah, so went on active duty early September 1960. And I finished what they call boot camp training and December, early December.

Laura Bell

Do you remember how you got to, you know, sort of incorporate your love for photography into your time with the Marines?

David Hugel

It was very instrumental, and very helpful to my career and advancement. Let me go back or let me just fill in some blanks here. So I graduated from boot camp, and you come out of that as just a Marine. For the first time you're called a Marine and not recruit, or other words that we use. Following that Marines go through other-- what they call infantry training for a month. And then you have to be put in a um... get additional training. If you're going to be an infantry man. That's one kind of training you get. But then there are skills. Well I want to say there's schools that can teach you skills, and I tested well in boot camp, and I qualified for aviation training, which is any field dealing with aircraft maintenance, or rareology [dinging noise] which other men things of that nature, and I wanted photography. But here's the kicker, I didn't have the necessary grades - academic credentials to get in. And they were pretty strict because the first month of the training, we never I saw a camera, the training was just to teach all the background and the formulas you need to know and mathematical things you had to do to plan missions for aviation and to decide which camera to use and the altitude the airplane should -- all those things and they wanted you to have all that background. And I didn't have it academically in high school. But when I interviewed for the position, because I impressed the interviewing Sergeant or petty officer, I don't recall. But it was a naval school. So the staff was split between the Navy and Marine Corps. I impressed him enough that he added me to the list of students that could go to the school. Now, here's another nice thing I didn't know at the time. The school was at Pensacola, Florida, which is a beautiful area on the Gulf Coast.

Laura Bell

Very nice!

David Hugel

So for the entire, well mostly the summer from the spring through August of 1961. And when I came out of there, then you get another assignment where you're going to practice what you learned at the school.

Laura Bell

Okay. [Nodding while Mr. Hugel takes a drink of water]

David Hugel

Okay, in the military, maybe in colleges too I don't know. You get a dream sheet where you can put down where you would like to go. The odds of you getting that are unknown. And the place I wanted to go? Virtually no one had come right out of school and gone was Quantico, Virginia. Most people didn't even know that there was an air station there. We all know that's where Marines are trained, at least Marine officers. And I had seen it going through that area on a train when I was going down on a vacation some years ago. And I got it! They say I was the first one out of that school in years and years that got Quantico as a base. It was a surprise. But ah?

Laura Bell

I was just going to say, that's really cool. That I mean, that you got your first pick!

David Hugel

It was exciting! That's where I kind of polished my skills. And you come out, you know a lot of things, but you've never applied it except in our exercises to school. We were given a camera. Eventually, we were given the camera, taught how to use it, and then sent out on projects, like say, take a portrait of another Marine, one in the sunlight, and use the fill flash. And then you come back and somebody grades. And I did very well on those. But I had never really done a real project. So that's where you get to practice those things. I mean, some of them could be mundane, boring, but you learn and other ones could be rather exciting.

And one of them I'll never forget, was getting a call from my boss saying the Vice President of the United States is stopping through the base on his way to a meeting. I want you to cover it. And he specifically, the Vice President, wanted to meet, his name was Lyndon Johnson, and he wanted to meet Marines from Texas. So they bussed them in from the other areas. And I took some pictures of the Vice President and the others, the generals and other officials, greeting these Marines. And as a good photographer is trained to do, I withdrew. I took about four pictures. And then I just stepped back several paces. And I was kind of looking at my camera just trying to be inconspicuous, and out of the way. I hear these footsteps. And I look up and it's Johnson! And he said hello Marine good to see ya, and and as he shook my hand, Oh, my.

Laura Bell

That is awesome!

David Hugel

Yeah, I was very pleased! And the other thing as a photographer, you always want to see the results of what you've been doing. One of the photos I took made the front page of the base newspaper the next week, of then Vice President Johnson greeting these Marines. Now, that was in November of 1962. By the following year, he was president.

Laura Bell

Yea ...

David Hugel

He had become president. And you think about that, you know, and I saw, and I saw him when! I've told that story to his daughter Linda, and son in law Chuck Robb, who I knew socially when I was living in the Washington area, and they both got a kick out [of] it. Unfortunately, Johnson was long gone. There's no way to have the picture autographed, but it's all water under the bridge. So that was uh

But I did a lot of other routine work that everybody got. It was all doled out, depending who was available and depending how senior they were and how much experience the boss felt they had to do something. And I was pretty happy there, until orders came in. And this is the way that the Marine Corps works. They needed ... well let me go back, your subject being transferred anytime at their call. But Vietnam broke, we had advisors there, in those days, just advisors. And we had to send troops to man those positions, and I got orders to go first to what they call the First Marine Aircraft Wing, which is headquartered in Japan. And then I never got off the ship, they changed my orders. And I went to a

base called Futema, Okinawa, which is a Marine Corps Air Base. And Okinawa is an island that we conquered during the war, about a couple 100 miles south of mainland Japan. And I got there, and I had direct orders for Vietnam. I was there in three days from the time I got to Okinawa.

Laura Bell

Wow!

David Hugel

And they did it in those days, based on the military specialty an individual had. And at that time, they needed a photographer to replace one who was going, what they call rotating back to their original base. They also need a supply person. And there are six of us on the ship that got direct orders for Vietnam.

Laura Bell

Wow

David Hugel

And that was in the spring, April of 1963. So I got there and it was a six month tour. And then I would have rotated back like, like everyone. Except I was enjoying it so much, I asked for another three months. So I was in Vietnam [for] a total of about nine months. You never knew what to expect, some of the assignments I had there. I had the distinction of taking pictures of three of the national leaders in Vietnam, within a few months I was, well nine months, but the time I was there. And that was exciting.

But let me tell you one other thing. And this leads directly with, gone a little bit off field, to University of Baltimore. While I was there, as I, you know, heard, I went directly from high school to [the] Marine Corps.

Laura Bell

Right.

David Hugel

And I did very well on the testing. And that's how I got into photography, because you had to have pretty good test scores to take these uh courses. And of course, I'd seen some of the world by then, and I decided, while I was in Vietnam, to go to college. So these guys, the officers, had been to college and pardon me, but they're not that much smarter than I am-- if, if they're smart. And I wanted to do that. I never had that motivation before, out of high school. I just didn't. But I had proven myself academically. And so I started, this is in the spring of '64 by now.

Laura Bell

Ok.

David Hugel

I've been there nine months, and I've decided well I want to do something else.

Laura Bell

[nodding head] Ok...

David Hugel

And so I asked for some assistance. And unfortunately, I was, I wanted to go to Towson.

Laura Bell

Here? Ok

David Hugel

To go to teach history, learn and teach history. And a friend I wrote to him back home, who was going to get me the paperwork and all that, let me down. And so when I got back home, I got out of the Marine Corps, got what they called a Convenience Government Discharge.

Laura Bell

Ok

David Hugel

Had a tour. I signed up for four years. And yet because when I got home, I had such a limited amount of time left on active duty. Instead of sending me to a new base, having me barely unpack my luggage, and get out. They let you out [indecipherable] in San Diego, California in the spring, May of 1964. So then I get home, I found out that I didn't - hadn't officially done anything to go to Towson. And so I started looking for options, where could I go? And fortunately, there was a boyhood friend who's a couple years older than that. Didn't go in the military but had a job, but told me about the University of Baltimore. And this program they had at the time, which you may or may not have ever heard. But they had a program where you went three years of night school for a total of 60 credits undergrad. And then you could apply for law school.

Laura Bell

Wow!

David Hugel

And if you passed, it was three years more, and you got your, well these days..., LLB law degree.

Laura Bell

Ok, that's very cool

David Hugel

And at some point the question is, so when did I decide to become a lawyer?

Laura Bell

I was about to ask!

David Hugel

I just wanted to get a college degree. When I got into that program, and again, I did fairly well. And remember, I've been out of school for four years at that point.

Laura Bell

Ok.

David Hugel

So I had to get back in the groove of going to classes and schools in the Marine Corps. College was different. And it was kind of shaky the first year, but I began buckling down and did much better.

Laura Bell

Mhm [Nodding]

David Hugel

And by the time, when that period came, I'm going to tell you one other thing that happened. This is the way life works.

Laura Bell

Sure

David Hugel

Because I hadn't, I took time off for various things that you hear about, um my political activities. And so I got behind in my studies. So the 3 the 60 credits took me longer than three years. And by that time, someone, who was a legislator, who I don't know, but it upped the ante. We had to have 80 credits to get into law school. So I had to go a little longer undergraduate to get those credits.

Laura Bell

Oh, ok. Gotcha

David Hugel

But I did get into law school in the fall of 1969.

Laura Bell

Yea, so...

David Hugel

1964 I began undergrad, '68, I began law school. And all this time I was living with my parents, but I still needed money, for expenses, tuition, I paid my own tuition. My parents were not wealthy. I paid my own tuition all along the way. Later, a few years later, what they call the Vietnam era bill took effect. There were two GI bills, which is fabulous.

Laura Bell

Mhmm

David Hugel

People who went into service got their education that way. And then the Korean era, but I was just too shy of that, that it hadn't been created, enacted or created a Vietnam era GI Bill. So I'd begun sweating [because of] it. And it kicked in a little bit along the way. And so I was working full time until ... ever since really. But, the whole time I was in school, I was working full time. And I went to night school the entire time, except for uh one period, where because I changed jobs. I was working at two television stations.

Laura Bell

Right? You were in ...?

David Hugel

WBAL and WJZ-TV, and when I went to WJZ, being the low man on the totem pole, I got the worst shift. I got night work.

Laura Bell

Oh okay.

David Hugel

So I had to take a semester of days for which I hated because it was a different mix of students. Most of them were very you, and there were things that ... just ended the groove I was in. I missed being with people my age, or a little younger, older, mostly older, and going to school that way. And so the minute they hire new people at the TV station, I could go back to day work ...

Laura Bell

Gotcha ok.

David Hugel

and night school. And you may meet a lot of people in the news business. And I made some very dear friends. And that period where I was the low man on the totem pole. Another person in the same position was a guy named Wally Daniels. Wally was the first black newscaster on channel 13. And he and I did the same shift for six months. And we became very good friends.

Laura Bell

That's great.

David Hugel

And we talked about a lot of things. I learned a lot about black culture in Baltimore at that time. We remained friends for a number of years. Unfortunately, he died far too young. That was while I was in Chicago. But he would come to the house, and even when my mother was in and out of hospital, he'd come and visit her.

Laura Bell

Oh that's nice.

David Hugel

So he was a great friend, I missed him when I heard he had passed away.

Laura Bell

Are you ...

David Hugel

Where are we now then... So I reached a point, during 19... , actually, after the spring of 19..., Let me [be] confused, years and decades, but '68 after the Baltimore riots.

Laura Bell

Which you covered, didn't you?

David Hugel

I did! Again, I shot covered for two different entities. My job was WJZ, and I worked 72 hours covering everything around the city. And it's just over here in East Baltimore, Northwest Baltimore. I covered it all. Not everything. But you know, I was out there a lot.

Laura Bell

Sure.

David Hugel

And then two nights, I was approached by a guy who used to work in Baltimore, he was with a Canadian Broadcasting Company. I moonlighted [for] two nights. After I got off the [W]JZ. I did really cover the riots pretty thoroughly. And I've donated some of the film to the university.

Laura Bell

Yes, that's how I knew about it, actually.

David Hugel

Oh really?

Laura Bell

Yea, when I was working with your collection. Yeah.

David Hugel

All right. We were shooting 16 millimeter black and white film. That's the state of the art, with handheld camera. We had a bigger camera, do the sound interviews. But that was it. And it wasn't until later they went to cover [the] film. After I left, but only briefly, I had to find new processing equipment, and had to

do a lot of things. And then that didn't last. I don't know how long, but not long, because then they went to videotape.

Laura Bell

Gotcha.

David Hugel

Originally videotape was so cumbersome, and the reels were about a foot in diameter and tape was three quarter inch in width. And they could only use it with big equipment that you couldn't put on the street. So as they miniaturized that, they replaced news film with news videotape. Of course it was much more flexible, you could edit it, and do all kinds of things you couldn't do. Well you could edit news film, it was just much easier.

Laura Bell

Definitely ...

David Hugel

So where does that take us? That takes us to the spring of uh '68. I worked the riots, and it was demanding. And I knew I was going to law school that fall, already been applied and accepted.

Laura Bell

So you'd been accepted by then. [Nodding head]

David Hugel

I couldn't put in the hours that I was, that was demanded of you in the news business. You can get a call and say "I can't do it tonight. Sorry." But you can't do that more than once or twice a year or you're off the list.

Laura Bell

Right.

David Hugel

And so I decided to break off and go into public relations.

Laura Bell

Ok.

David Hugel

Why public relations? Because, as a news person, and by this time while I wasn't on the air and one of the personalities, I did write a lot of the background material. And so, I had developed my writing skills along the way, and went into public relations. And to me, having been on the other side of the fence for several years then, about three, three and a half. As a reporter, I had an appreciation for what a good PR person should do. They don't stand up there and just tell lies, lies, lies. They try to assist the news people in finding the story and providing the information they can provide. Again, you can't answer

questions you don't know the answer to or what they might call you know business secrets. But you can be helpful to the reporter whether they're TV, radio, or print. And that's what I tried to do. And I found a very good place to work, non-controversial, and the American Red Cross.

Laura Bell

Right.

David Hugel

And I went to work they're doing what we called community relations. Which is basically telling the public what the Red Cross does. So don't just sell blood, they don't sell coffee at the battlefields, they're all kinds of myths out there. They do a big blood operation. But it's all . . . the donations are, of course, donations. But there are charges related to processing the blood and all that. So I enjoyed that very much. And I worked with some good people there.

Laura Bell

And you were ... Were you still going to school at the same time throughout all of that? Wow, you were busy.

David Hugel

Oh, yeah. All this time, I went to college evenings.

Laura Bell

You were busy!

David Hugel

So in one of the questions, and I can answer that now, one of the questions was, 'well what is your schedule like?' It was hell. It was hell.

Laura Bell

It must have been. [Nodding]

David Hugel

Because I get up, go to my job, usually 8:30, nine o'clock, depending on where I was, and work the full day. And then after that 4:30 - five o'clock, drive downtown, look for [a] parking place, fight sometimes for parking, but University of Baltimore's parking situation was awful.

Laura Bell

It's a busy place.

David Hugel

huh?

Laura Bell

It's a busy place.

David Hugel

It is a busy place. And [they] don't ever allow parking on the Maryland Avenue Bridge before six o'clock. I'll tell you what.

Laura Bell

I'll remember that!

David Hugel

I'll never forget, they probably changed the schedule, but that you could enter and you try to get close to the building, because many classes started at six and you couldn't park there legally 'till six. So you park and stay in the car. But every now and then the police would run a crackdown. And they'd have what I call the congo line of tow trucks and police to ticket people and tow 'em away. If you had a car impounded in Baltimore, it's not easy to get back. And it's expensive. So a lot of people stayed in their cars, and if they saw the police come whoosh! So, I call it the Congo line. They drive around that block and go up umm. Mount Royal? Or, Oliver, I guess.

Laura Bell

Oliver, yea

David Hugel

We'd turn onto Oliver St. and drive around the block. [Laughing] And from time to time... The other thing was, we were competing with people who were going to the Lyric

Laura Bell

Oh, that still happens. [Laughing]

David Hugel

But, it was worse in those days! You... with no high rise garages like there are today.

Laura Bell

Right, right.

David Hugel

They never even existed in my day, the only high rise I ever parked in and it was where the Academic Center is the bookstore. When I started there in '64 that was a car dealership. And one of the features of the car dealership, was we had a ramp you could go round and round where they used to keep the cars that were selling. But the university opened it up, made it a parking facility and so I parked there a couple times. But then they closed it because of remodeling to build what is there today on Mount Royal and ... and but anyway, on that corner. [I think it's called the academic center]. And so parking was always a problem. And uh I wrote a memoir that was never published, but that's one thing I'll never forget was all these police people lined up. And it's police whoosh going around the block, around the block. [Makes circular motion with hand]

Laura Bell

They were just waiting for you.

David Hugel

Yeah. It was frustrating. But in retrospect it's funny.

Laura Bell

Sure, sure.

David Hugel

These are the things you remember.

Laura Bell

Yeah, definitely. So it sounds like the campus has changed a lot since you started and maybe since you graduated.

David Hugel

Both. When I started telling you about that building on the corner, and it was a dealer...well it was a closed dealership. But they made it into a garage temporarily. Across the street, where the new law school is?

Laura Bell

Oh ok

David Hugel

That was just a series of one a couple of story buildings, row houses and I'll never forget it was a restaurant there. And there was a bar for us to go there and behind the main building. The main building on the corner of Oliver and Charles was a place called Little Caesars. Ever heard of that?

Laura Bell

Yea, actually yes. Pizza, right?

David Hugel

Yeah, it was a little greasy spoon. And I survived. And I guess most people did. But it wasn't where you'd want to go or your place of first choice. But again, a lot of us, because of coming from work, didn't have time to eat before. So a lot of us... oh what else was I going to say? You asked a couple times in a couple different ways how the University affected my life.

Laura Bell

Yeah. I'm definitely curious.

David Hugel 40:53

And I think anything you do, becomes part of you somewhere. And there were times where things I learned or happened there, you don't recall 'oh that was class three or four.' But they do come. [indecipherable] And what I liked about the university, especially as an older student, was that the teachers, slash professors, not -- many of them didn't have advanced degrees, even the lawyers. They had law degrees, but they weren't academic lawyers. They were practicing lawyers. But you learned how things worked from a practical perspective.

Laura Bell

Sure, sure.

David Hugel

We had judges, active duty judges, that would teach. We had people in government. One of my favorites -- I never had him as an instructor, but [I used to hear lectures in the hall,] was Judge Charles Moylan. At the time I was there, he was State's Attorney for Baltimore City, and a brilliant guy, he's written a lot. He's been published a lot about criminal law, law of evidence, things of that nature. And when they started switching it over full time, he couldn't do it anymore. And so many others, I think, but it was a practical experience they imparted to the students and that was very important. Obviously, as times changed the academic standards in the University have gone up up up. I don't know if I could make it today. [But I think, the practical knowledge past time in school in particular is missing today.]

Laura Bell

I'm sure you would! [Laughter]

David Hugel

[Laughter] Well, you weren't there! [Laughter] But, that's a big change. And for the most part, early days, it was rather rough, because what we would get was retired federal bureaucrats who would teach courses. [Laughter] They were full time! Had this push for full time faculty. This was, I'm talking '68--'69 when we first did that. Had a full time dean. The dean used to be part time. He was just another lawyer who wore that hat. I think it was one of the Hesses. Hesses had a lot to do with the early days of the university.

Laura Bell

Oh ok.

David Hugel

So there's no question, the academic standards of the university and the quality of a lot of their well, you know, Byron Warnken was behind me in school. But he turned out to be one of the best professors they've had there. Then there was Royal Shannonhouse. He was from North Carolina, and [had a lot of practical advice.]

Laura Bell

Oh.

David Hugel

He was a lawyer, of course. And he had been with something in North Carolina called the Institute of Government, [which was] very similar to what my wife was doing. She's not a lawyer. Was doing at Delaware, but the university set it up to provide services for counties and jurisdictions that couldn't afford to do it through a private source. And so he had much practical experience in dealing with issues related directly to the government. Of course if you read, most of my career has been government related.

Laura Bell

Yes.

David Hugel

And we really hit it off one time and stayed in touch for many years. But, uh I'm rambling but . . . that was a slew of memories. And I think uh, aw I don't know. Go ahead, uh next question! [Laughter]

Laura Bell

[Laughter] Well did, it sounds like you know, it sounds like he may have had a pretty substantial influence on some of your interests and in your career. Did more of your classes or your time just as a student help you decide to go into umm transportation law? Forgive me, I may be saying this wrong. But so much of your law career, and then your role as the you know, the administrator of the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration and then Deputy Administrator for the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, in the US Department of Transportation that's been ... you've had a very heavy excuse me, you've had a very transportation and public oriented career.

David Hugel

Well, let me let me go back and say: one of my favorite subjects in law school, or one of my most interesting, was criminal law.

Laura Bell

Okay.

David Hugel

And that sort of gets forgotten. But I actually and this is where I feel proud that having graduated with no prior practical experience, as a lawyer, and in the motor vehicle field, I wanted to be a prosecutor.

Laura Bell

Okay.

David Hugel

And it may not sound like it, but it's, it's difficult to get those jobs. In Maryland and some states, how many I don't know, it's strictly whoever's the elected official gets to appoint the staff.

Laura Bell

Oh ok.

David Hugel

From top to bottom.

Laura Bell

Got you.

David Hugel

And there's a lot of competition for those jobs. Not because they pay well, because they don't. I left a \$17,000 job as a state employee, for a \$10,000 job as an Assistant State's Attorney. And that's the way it is, when I get in here, and you got qualifications, here's what we're going to pay you.

Laura Bell

That's hard.

David Hugel

That's a big addition. It is. But that's what I wanted to do. And it took me several months to land that after passing the bar, first time out incidentally. As a part time student working every day to do that. But that's what I wanted to do. And I did. And uh then I'm there in Baltimore County, which is my home jurisdiction at the time. And there's an election and the person that appointed me lost. And they elected a new State's Attorney.

Laura Bell

Okay.

David Hugel

And just like that they can say you're going and on and on. And fortunately, they didn't. And it was Sandra Day O'Connor.

Laura Bell

Oh.

David Hugel

Who was, God forbid a Republican. I mean, that's very rare to elect a republican to a statewide, excuse me, countywide office, like that. She was very objective. And she looked for skill, not political connections. Maybe I was just low enough on the totem pole that . . . but I stayed on. And I learned and again, I was in court. From the beginning -- the circuit court, most everybody starts in the district court, or the juvenile court, or domestic relations cases. And they started me in the circuit court. And I just go over there. And again, the -- in those days, they were very flexible. They didn't care if you were there, every day at nine o'clock, or whatever, as long as you got the job done they didn't care. But in my spare time, rather than opening up a private practice, like many of my colleagues did, uh. I would hang around, I'd go to court, I'd sit in the jury box when it wasn't a jury trial. Listen. And I became friendly with one of the senior judges. And he smoked. And it's, uh 'I think it's time for recess.' And the little door right behind the bench. He'd go out there and [makes waving motion with his hand], and say Mr. Hugel, 'what he just did ...' you know, and so and so and so and so. I learned a lot that way! And he wasn't commenting on the case, he would say I'm going to rule on the case, but he was a critic of the way

people tried cases. To me, trying a case is like telling a story. And you can't get up [and] say everything. But you try the case using your witness. I can't say what words to use. But, I'll say, 'now what I want to convey is your impression of what happened and who did it . . . you know'. And he would pick out things like that. So 'Mr. Hugel, so and so, and so and so.' And it was very very instructive. So here's the story I'm trying to get to. So I would be in court, not active right away, but for the first couple of weeks I'd go and just listen. And we had usually two courts sitting [a] criminal on a given term. One was non-jury, which is where I was, and the other was jury. And [in] one of the cases at the last minute, the defendant says, 'I want a jury trial, your honor' [raises hand]. And you can do that. It's like sandbagging the prosecution. But, you can do that. And he was angry. And he said to his clerk, 'Go across the hall and see if Judge Turnbull can take this case.' And he does. And the other guy sitting at the table was this particular lawyer so, 'Well, Your Honor, we have the so and so case.' And he used to wear these half-ring glasses, and looks down, he said, 'Mr. Hugel, you take that.' I'd never seen the case I never... [Laughter] I knew nothing about it! And he said, 'I'll give you 20 minutes.'

Laura Bell

Oh! [Laughter]

David Hugel

We took a break!

Laura Bell

Oh gosh!

David Hugel

I go over the case. And luckily, it was a fairly simple case, it was a uh I don't want to use the word robbery, because everybody's misused it. But it's like a theft from a warehouse or a clothing store. And the police come by the shopping center, like two o'clock in the morning, and there's this car leaving. And they see all the clothes packed up in the backseat of the car, which gives the police probable cause at least to pull over and talk to him. 'What are you doing here?' And they did. And I won the case. My first.

Laura Bell

You only had 20 minutes?

David Hugel?

I never had one! Huh?

Laura Bell

You only had 20 minutes?

David Hugel

Oh, yeah, roughly.

Laura Bell

That's crazy.

David Hugel

[It's true and I often think if it had been] given to me the day before, somebody given it, I'd be nervous, you know, but you didn't have time to be nervous. So uh I was off to a good running start. And I had an average, you got to realize, when you try a case, there's so many factors that can enter that you don't know anything about until you're there. And, you know, you have to know the law. You have to know your rules of evidence, and things of that nature. But other than that things can happen that you never ever anticipate. And I tried my fair share of jury trials too, so I think about 25 or so, which is a fair amount for some lawyers [who have] never tried one.

Laura Bell

Wow.

David Hugel

But, I enjoyed it, but it wears on you.

Laura Bell

Okay. [Nodding head]

David Hugel

Give you an example. I'd come back to my office after a long day, pretty successful day in court. Go by my office, which I shared with another lawyer. And there's a stack like this on my desk. I don't know if you can see my hand, about a foot of new cases. They could be tried next week or the following week, you know, but they don't give you like six months to work. And it wears on you after a while. And so I was getting to the point where I felt it was time for a change.

Laura Bell

Sure.

David Hugel

And I'd done some part time teaching at UB in the criminal justice program. Even as you know, from my background, I got a master's degree in criminal justice.

Laura Bell

Right.

David Hugel

And so I applied and got a job at Northwestern University, at a division they call a Traffic Institute, a special division that trains law enforcement officers.

Laura Bell

Oh, okay.

David Hugel

All over the country, but I had to move to Evanston, Illinois. Alone. And it was very cold weather out there.

Laura Bell

So that was um...?

David Hugel

That was the fall of '77.

Laura Bell

Okay.

David Hugel

But, let me get back to something else. Because it leads to many other things that I'd like to at least say a little about was politics.

Laura Bell

Yes.

David Hugel

I have my own political views and so forth. And I'm a Republican. And I've worked on a number of political campaigns as a volunteer. In 1966, this guy who actually at the time, was a part time professor at the law school, Spiro Agnew. And I worked on his campaign for governor, which was kind of an upset, but we were very pleased with that. Nobody anticipated he would be the nominee for vice president.

Laura Bell

Sure.

David Hugel

And as a result of my work, one of the leading Agnew supporters called me one day, I was working at the Red Cross, and he was calling from the governor's office in Annapolis. And at one point, I almost dropped the phone, the secretary said, 'ah it's the governor's office.' And he said, 'Dave, we're getting together a bunch of businessmen who knew Agnew, when he was just a lawyer in Towson and were in the Loch Raved Kiwanis Club together, and had formed a committee to handle all aspects of the Maryland inaugural activities for Nixon and Agnew. And next he said, 'and we're also going to put on a ball honoring, as he called him, Ted, at the fifth regiment Armory in Baltimore. And we'd like you to handle the public relations, and we'll pay you for this.' Everything I'd done before was volunteer.

Laura Bell

Oh, ok.

David Hugel

So we agreed on a price. And I took a leave of absence from the Red Cross, and they were very accommodating. Very helpful. And did that from December through January.

Laura Bell

Wow.

David Hugel

Which is why I lost some time in law school. It'd be nine years...

Laura Bell

Okay. ... Well, when I've worked with your collection, you know, there's, there's so much there's so much I, you know, at points was trying to piece together the timeline. And so I was very curious to find out how, you know, you're doing all of these different things. How did you have time to do PR for, you know, for the campaign...

David Hugel

I wondered that myself! Really, I was burning the candles at both ends, and sometimes burning it in the middle as well.

Laura Bell

Yeah.

David Hugel

It all fit together. So anyway, I did that and was very successful, and sent to the archive some of the things I did, news releases and photos from that time.

Laura Bell

Yes.

David Hugel

And then I went back to the Red Cross, and they were very accommodating. To accept me back and just got back in the groove. But all this time, my name's out there in the political community.

Laura Bell

Yeah. [Nodding head]

David Hugel

And that being '70. Because Agnew was elected in '66 left in '69. Marvin Mandel became governor. But republicans were looking for a successor. And nobody knew anything about all this business that developed later with Agnew and corruption. It was all out there, I guess. But nobody knew about it. And, republicans were looking for a candidate to run, and again with the assumption that Agnew won, and the next republican gonna win too.

Laura Bell

Forgive me. Forgive me, is this when you're working in the State's Attorney's office or before? During the Red Cross stil?

David Hugel

I was still in law school.

Laura Bell

Oh, you were still in law school. Got it. Okay. Busy!

David Hugel

Oh, it was difficult. I mean, I'm just trying to get tell it like it is.

Laura Bell

Yeah.

David Hugel

But um, imagine grades reflected it sometimes. But here's the turning point. So in 1970, a well-qualified candidate. Stanley Blair.

Laura Bell

Oh ok.

David Hugel

Who was a delegate from Harford County, Maryland. He ran for the Senate seat. Lost that, but then with Agnew appointed him Secretary of State, which is an appointed position. But in those days it had much, much more responsibility than it does today. Because there was no lieutenant governor position in 1970. Anyway, he decides, with some urging from people like me to run for governor, and he's looking for people to staff his campaign. And I guess the truth is, there's just that there weren't a lot of people willing to take that risk. That I was. So I did. And again, this time I left the Red Cross full time. Just went to work for Blair.

Laura Bell

Okay .

David Hugel

It was very exciting. Very exciting. Summer, spring and summer, actually, almost summer when I took the job in 1970. I traveled the state with him, I got into inner circles of the Republican Party. Lots of things I did. And if I hadn't given them all to the university, yet, many have much to go. And but, we lost. As many people anticipated, it was just overwhelming. Mandel had a lock on money he collected. Here's a story you may not have heard. What Mandel was kind of, well he was elected by the legislature, as I told you before Maryland, had no Lieutenant Governor at the time, so there was no automatic successor to the governor, if the governor decision became open. So the legislature elected the governor, and because Marvin wanted the Speaker of the House, and the democrats overwhelmed republicans in registration, he became governor.

Laura Bell

Wow.

David Hugel

Of course, the democrats thinking he's untested, he'd never run for office outside his home district. And of course, he's Jewish. And at that point in Maryland I don't think [I] had ever had a Jewish governor. Which are, these are things you look at you listen to. And one of the people who had put some words out, but he wanted to be governor. Sargent Shriver, who was a Maryland resident. And at the time, he was ambassador to France. I guess that was when Johnson was president. And, Mandel scared him, because you got the Kennedy mystique and the Kennedy money. And so he was out there raising money like crazy doing a lot of advertising than a normal incumbent governor wouldn't have done. So the bottom line was, he had a tremendous name recognition. And that was one of the problems we faced was that Blair was not known anywhere outside his own county. And so. So that was one of the factors that led us losing.

Laura Bell

Gotcha.

David Hugel

So all that, you know, as I said, all the volunteer work I'd done over the years was paid off with a full time job. But definitely --- you lose you are back on the ground again, say, where do I go? You know, what, what's my next step? And again, I still had a year and a half, I think, of law school. So I couldn't really say, 'alright, I'm ready to become an attorney now.' I couldn't. So I plugged away back to school. And, again, you're home and you wonder, what am I going to do? And I got a phone call from a friend. And he said to me, I'll use names and what we much, but, you know, Johnny Johnson, I said, no. He was, in those days, called a commissioner of motor vehicles.

Laura Bell

Oh ok.

David Hugel

And I said, No, I don't. He said, well give him a call. He's looking for a new public relations guy.

Laura Bell

Oh!

David Hugel

So I called and we hit it off. He's a former newspaper guy. And he hired me. And what do they call it? Well, public relations for those days was the DMV. And I started in January of '71. So you asked earlier, how I ended up in, in motor vehicles, that's how I got there. And then of course, you do that job. And you get a reputation and your name is in there. Oh Dave Hugel, DMV or then we changed the name. They created the Maryland Department of Transportation. And the first secretary was Harry Hughes, who was my not direct boss. And we became friends and they renamed all, not all, but several of the

agencies combined them under the Secretariat, the Port Authority, aviation DMV, [and] state highways all became administrations. And there's probably a couple I missed. But in the new department of transportation. And when you take over a job like that, again, whether I wanted to or not, you have to learn motor vehicle law. As I would field mostly inquiries from the media, and letters to the editor. Two columns in those days, The News American, it's long gone. And one in the Sun, Evening Sun. And I got to know and like the people that ran them, and I could kibitz with them and throw and I always gave 'em a straight answer. Don't get me wrong. That's why I said earlier about public relations. You've got to be honest with the people you can't...and there's typos. I'm sorry, I can't help 'em, shoulda done this shoulda done that. But so I became the answer guy, but anything related to DMV.

Laura Bell

Oh ok.

David Hugel

[You] know there was one time, I got an inquiry. And they sent me back a response. And that's what I hated about bureaucrats, way down. They gave me the easy and they staple six pages of law to it, you know, this, from the law book goes on so and so and . . . And I tried to get the answers for the people and if possible, resolve the issues. So what was I saying? But uh... That gave me I guess the persona, Mr. DMV. And I moved on to other things.

Laura Bell

Right, so this was before the state's attorney's office?

David Hugel

Yea, [it was where I worked while still in law school.]

Laura Bell

Okay, so you're, you're still a student?

David Hugel

Go ahead.

Laura Bell

So I'm just keeping it straight. So, you're still a student, you're still going to law school and busy with all of that . . .

David Hugel

You should have a chalk board up

Laura Bell

I need one! You had so many things going on. And then when you finished, you transitioned. Go ahead, sorry.

David Hugel

Let me put things in perspective. It was a great job. Yeah, nine to five 8:30 to five, and not all heavy lifting. And it gave me plenty of time, after work to study, I could even read for maybe an hour before I had to drive up to school. And it was a wonderful job. And again, I could relate to either fellow students or to the uh professors with real life problems. Shannonhouse in particular remembers talking to him about some issues that came up. So that got me through, it didn't get through, but I worked there until I passed the bar.

Laura Bell

Okay.

David Hugel

Which was ... well I got the results of December of six, six geeze. I graduated in 1973, I took the July bar and got the results in December. And from that point on, I was looking for a job as a lawyer and my first preference was being an Assistant State's Attorney. Get that. And trying a lot of cases. So that was let's see . . .

Laura Bell

That's in '77 you said you - you got your master's in criminal justice?

David Hugel

Right, right. Yeah. Yeah, you asked why, you asked why. I got into law school under the law in accordance with the law. I always feel I needed to achieve more. By this time I was working. And let's see, was I Assistant State's Attorney at that time... I think I was. Coming out of law school and was working there. And teaching part time at University of Baltimore criminal justice. And so I decided I did want to get a master's, and got in the program. And then the guy that ran the program wasn't a full timer was Dr. Alvin Zumbum. And he asked me if I would teach for him. This one also works of course. So I taught a couple courses down at the campus, the best one I ever had was a one course. But they offered it twice a day. Not every day. But twice a week, morning and evening for the police officers for shift work. So I had to prepare the lesson once, deliver it twice and get paid twice for delivering that. And then he gave me one up but Hagerstown Community College.

Laura Bell

Oh really?

David Hugel

They had a satellite program up there, but it was a lot of driving.

Laura Bell

Yeah, it's ...

David Hugel

Well how you do it? An hour and a half round trip. So I did all that. And again, I was getting restless. So that's when I applied to Northwestern Traffic Institute. And I went there. I enjoyed the program, it was an excellent product. Let me go back and say, I'd met this woman, in the state's attorney's office and when

I got the job, she was disappointed that I'd be moving away. And we commuted a couple times each way. We met when we figured it out that Cleveland was the midpoint.

Laura Bell

Yeah. [Laughter]

David Hugel

We set up a weekend, and she had a woman working for her who was engaged to a Naval dentist, at the Great Lakes. So he and I met the girls in Cleveland.

Laura Bell

That's great.

David Hugel

Anyway, but I was growing weary. It was the coldest winter on record at that point. '77. As Casey Stengel said, you can look it up like I started a newspaper. The most snow, coldest, everything. And yeah, so luck of the draw. And that year, I have nothing to do with it. I'm in Chicago teaching my courses. And let me say one other thing. I don't know what has happened recently with police acting so renegade-like, but one of the courses I taught was police civil liability.

Laura Bell

Okay.

David Hugel

And told them what they could do and what they couldn't do, and not be subject to lawsuit. There are all kinds of theories out there that were in play. And I thought at least those that took my courses would know better than some of this rough stuff they're doing, and brutality. So anyway, this position was created by the legislature called State's Attorneys Coordinator. Have you heard of that?

Laura Bell

I think I saw it in your papers. Yes.

David Hugel

The purpose of it was to provide educational programs for all Maryland State's Attorneys. They created it under the Attorney General's Office so it's non-political as far as any of the state's attorneys were concerned except they had it counted. I was not a long shot, because state's attorneys are pretty powerful political entities and their own jurisdiction.

Laura Bell

Okay.

David Hugel

And I knew there were a couple candidates that some of them had. But somehow, I got the job, which brought me back to Maryland. And therefore my fiancé and I could get married, which we did. It'll be 42

years this fall. And, again, it was a one man shop. And when I had ever had to do everything, first again, I had a budget to hire a secretary, but not a law clerk. So the next legislative session has put a law clerk in the budget. And what would a law clerk do, a law clerk would read all the published criminal opinions within a given year time for the Maryland courts. And the Supreme Court. We couldn't get into every case in the country, but significant criminal decisions from the Supreme Court. Would edit them down to a synopsis and I'd write the commentary, plus news of training programs. Other things. So that was one thing. We published 11 issues a year. We created.... First of all, we got permission from the courts to reprint, publish the judges' trial manual, it's public domain, created by the courts, but we have permission and got the money to print that so every State's Attorney's office had the same reference that the courts were used was very important. I would put on training programs. Again, when you're running those kind of programs, you look for the best talent to actually like Judge Moylen or others...We were so lucky to have a resource like that, I would use him a lot in the training program. At no cost, except his traveling. Because we're so close to Washington, I would use FBI, Justice Department and other Washington lawyers as faculty preference.

Laura Bell

Very cool

David Hugel

And then I had a guy help me develop two trial scenarios and do moot court. And again, I got permission, got money in the budget to buy one camera. And I could always borrow one from the police training Commission and set up these trial programs. A couple of years, it [was] labor intensive. You need to have students to come, but the faculty advisor, then you need people to play the role, victims and other things. And I enjoyed it and it got great marks but then they switched. So the first case they may do would be a felony serious case. And the other one may be just a misdemeanor, petty bar of assault, which believe me, you got a lot of as Assistant State's Attorney. And I think it was a very good program. But again, labor intensive, and it would take I think we did it over two days is a great place used to be up there. I don't know if it's still there. Called the Donaldson ground center. It is a state facility. It was a huge estate, built during the 1930s though it looks colonial style, and several rooms round. When Donaldson died he willed it to the state, because taxes woulda killed the family's estate. And so we would use that, it had food service available. And we take them up there [with] no phones, I think [it] was two and a half days of this program. And then the other thing I did was appear before the legislature on behalf of the state's attorneys, if they could come to a consensus on legislation. If you believe it. There was legislation they didn't support, but there were ones they did. And I would represent them. Individuals may come on their own too. But as the association. It was a challenging job again, I started with just an office in a trailer on the grounds of University, Maryland law school.

Laura Bell

Oh okay.

David Hugel

And here's a telling thing I called the guy who's Assistant Dean in charge of property. He called me, he said, "Dave, your typewriter's in". I said, "Oh, good. Can I come get it?" He had to get maintenance to bolt it to the desk....

Laura Bell

Oh, my.

David Hugel

Oh, yeah, yeah. This is right. The law school, in the same place, but I was in an open area behind the law school.

Laura Bell

Wow, ok

David Hugel

[Laughter]. So that was one of the challenging jobs I had. More than I thought I would, but seven or eight years. But again, how does it tie with the University of Baltimore? Well, I talked to a lot of people there and got some ideas of how to present programs that could be challenging. We wouldn't just say ABC and we had lectures, but we tried to do some practical things too, this was with Shannonhouse too. To draw the students into this trial practice.

Laura Bell

Makes sense. It sounds like you sort of internalized or reused the practical knowledge. Or you were saying earlier how University of Baltimore was very focused on application of real world things. It sounds like you carried that forward.

David Hugel

I tried to. I tried to. Now let me go back again. I don't want to sound like ancient history stuff, but it is. But when I went there, it was strictly lecture, take note statement, and some of the fraternities I never belonged to one. Some of the fraternities would print those up. And, and you had to be a member, but you have a copy of the syllabus for towards the syllabus for criminal justice.

Laura Bell

Dave Hugel

Yeah. Oh, yeah. And, of course, it was a whole lecture. And you did nothing until the finals.

Laura Bell

Okay. That's interesting.

David Hugel

And you sank or swam, based on the finals. I was an old system. And then while I was there, and actually when I was on break for the Blair campaign, all of that changed, and that's when they came in and did the Socratic method of teaching, where they got students involved from the beginning. The first night, I was really, my mind was blown. Because [of] the old system you walked in, you have your schedule, go to class, and um blah, blah, blah. This is towards one and thank you for coming and so forth. And see you next Tuesday. That was it. When you walked into Shannonhouse's class, he'd say Mr.

Jones, tell me about the Smith versus Jones case. He'd already put a reading list I didn't know about it. That's when I learned to check the bulletin board. Luckily I didn't get called on, I would have looked like an idiot! [Laughter] And not really get caught up on it. But I just didn't check it out enough. But things like that greatly improved the caliber of student they were turning out.

Laura Bell

Sure. Makes sense. I didn't realize the University of Baltimore had uh fraternities.

David Hugel

Well, they used to.

Laura Bell

They used to.

David Hugel

I didn't know much about them. But you know, yeah, I don't know what else they did besides publish the syllabi.

Laura Bell

It's funny, though. So. Wow. So you really got to be there ...

David Hugel

They also used to also have athletics.

Laura Bell

Yeah. I've seen that.

David Hugel

I can't get it exactly. But a cousin of mine, the only other person in my immediate family who went to college, was there on a basketball scholarship. He was a star basketball player in Baltimore County. He got a scholarship to go to UB playing basketball. And the year he was there, which would have been the very late '50s and '60s. And they won the Mason Dixon basketball championship.

Laura Bell

That's pretty cool. And he was in the game?

David Hugel

Oh, yeah. He was a star. Most of the basketball players weren't as tall back then. I saw him shoot from center [of] court [to the] basket in high school.

Laura Bell

Very cool.

David Hugel

Yeah.

Laura Bell

So you got to be at University of Baltimore, basically, when they were changing the teaching method.

David Hugel

That was the law school.

Laura Bell

Yeah, the law school. That's pretty cool. Actually, just to really see it happening.

David Hugel

It was challenging, you know, I began with the old lecture system and then they changed it.

Laura Bell

Yeah.

David Hugel

I'll say this too, I started to tell you earlier, but coming back from the Blair campaign, I had to reapply.

Laura Bell

Oh!

David Hugel

It was marginal ... from when I went in. Because of my past record. But from then on, it was a different story.

Laura Bell

Oh oh okay.

David Hugel

It was a 4.0 semester, including Shannonhouse. And then the dean whose name escapes me Curtis I think it was. He taught estates and trusts which I hated, but oh well...

Laura Bell

Did you have a favorite class?

David Hugel

So where do we go from here?

Laura Bell

I was going to ask, did you have a favorite? Did you have a favorite class?

David Hugel

Shannonhouse was [my] favorite. He made it exciting [to] come into the classroom Well, two things about him. One, he would go down the roster alphabetically, start picking out people, and they would be a law firm. Three people. Who we got here, Hugel, Wiley, Miller, three students. And we were a law firm. And there was a case book, of course. And you have to read maybe 20 - 25 or 30 pages. And what he would do is he's say, "you guys tell me about the Smith versus Jones case?" He'd lay out scenarios based on two or three cases. And he said, "oh you're going to be the defense and these three over here are prosecutors". And that kind of mixed it up. He'd come in, pull out a thing of paper in his pocket and lay it on the table. And he'd say, using the same system with different people, you're over having a drink, at the Chesapeake restaurant. This guy starts talking about a business deal. And here's what they talked about - a piece of property. Sold the property and all this. And, again, now as follows through or one's renegeing on a contract. You're the defense, not the prosecution, but the other side. How would you what would... What's your response? And it got you involved, got you thinking. One other part, thing I was going to tell you. Slipped my mind.

Laura Bell

No worries.

David Hugel

Trying to think also, you go ahead. Oh, these things will come back. I hope

Laura Bell

Oh, yeah. Sure, interrupt me anytime... No, just, if you -- if there's anything in particular that you want to, you know, talk about or tell us about? You know, that's totally fine. We don't have to stick by any questions in particular....

David Hugel

you said you've looked at the collection?

Laura Bell

I was processing it. Yes.

David Hugel

Yea. When ... I forget his name now-- previous president. Meb Turner

Laura Bell

Oh, ok yeah at UB.

David Hugel

I would send him. And again, I think I wrote one for the University of Baltimore, not the Law Review. But the other document that was published was surprising. And then when I'd have these articles published, legal, mostly published, published in the United States and Canada, you've seen some of that. I'd send a copy to Meb Turner [H. Mebane Turner] with a little 'Dr. Turner, I would like to give you this to keep on

hand at the university. And I was amazed years later. I mean, they always write a thank you. That [was] when I asked, but it was another guy in the archives, a young guy, the only thing I can remember about it. We talked a lot but he retired and he's doing histories of churches or something. Do you know who that is?

Laura Bell

Umm I do, I know who you mean, but the name is ... I'm totally blanking at the moment. I think his first name might be Robert?

David Hugel

Anyway, I never knew what happened to some of that stuff. And I was amazed that so much of it is in the archive. And when somebody used the term Hugel Collection, I thought, Oh, I didn't know it was a collection. So that motivated me. It was just articles. And the problem was they weren't sorted. So that was one of my first chores when I retired. The extra and then I started talking about or thinking about, you know, I'm giving them a lot of documents, but I've done a lot of things in my life and I think to have some of the background would be helpful. And so far it's been accepted. But that's my point. I wanted to submit stuff that would, oh, Dave, you wrote 27 articles or something like that.... but that's not important. It's the things that someone else may be able to use based on what I've submitted. And I feel good about that. So doing some extra things...

Laura Bell

No, I'm glad you do. It's ... go ahead.

David Hugel

Well, I was going to say, let me at least take you, you probably know all this, but through the end of my career ... so I but you asked about my interest in motor vehicles. It kind of was stuck on me. My first interest was criminal justice as I said. I was an Assistant State Attorney. Then I ran the programs for the state's attorneys. And I wanted, I'd like to stay in that area. But that's not where the opportunities lie. For me. Like, I've been a longtime supporter, and I'd like to say, politicians is such an elusive term, but a friend of Governor Ehrlich - Robert L. Ehrlich Jr. and when he was elected, I said, Bob, I hope you'll be able to find something for me. And right away, he puts me in the slot at motor vehicles. Because of my background, there. [Laughter]

Laura Bell

Right.

David Hugel

I would have, honestly, preferred to be high up in the public safety field.

Laura Bell

Oh sure.

David Hugel

[But the Governor wanted his staff to be at the MVA.] And that's what I did. Have to be honest with you. I feel it did a pretty decent job. Certainly changed the attitude around the front office. So much of the DMV or then it was MVA was political, a lot of hang-ons, people were there [from] administration to administration. And again, look at the history of the state. There might have been, I used to say three now it's four I think Republican governors in my lifetime. Theodore Roosevelt McKeldin, during the '50s, Spiro Agnew, you know, -- only two years in the '60s, and then Bob Ehrlich and now Lary Hogan. And so there's that history of being run by one party and a lot of political appointments. When I say political, they're made by a certain governor, and truly political, but they're in the system, and they stay in the system.

Laura Bell

Okay.

David Hugel

So there are a lot of things I felt needed to be changed when we trained new employers. Some, few I think made it professional, but that's for others to judge. So that was one I didn't.... I wanted to get a job in state government, I'll be honest with you, those few years I did serve, rounded off my retirement. I worked there... there in the 70s. And then I worked with the attorney general, it all fell into place with my retirement. But what I always wanted to do, going back 20, 30 years was be in the federal government at a really decision making level. And that don't come easy. [Laughter] And don't come quickly unless you're really connected... like Strom Thurmond's son, to get a peachy job, young lawyer, but I can't find a father who was Strom Thurmond and my father was Henry Hugel, an auto mechanic. You gotta do it on your own. And finally, and I think working in the Maryland MVA, gave me enough credibility, that Republican leadership, whatever call it but the people who make the appointments and decisions, so I was eligible for a position like that...

Laura Bell

That's pretty cool.

David Hugel

It is, it is. And I'm very proud of that. And I'm proud of serving. Like that, you go out, they send you around debate, speeches, talks, you know, fun places, like somewhere in Minnesota takes two airplane rides to get there and then I couldn't get out because of the weather to speak to the ... damn what was it... the Iowa Trucking Association or something like that. But you open up and tell them who you are, and representing President Bush's Department of Transportation, and on behalf of Secretary Mineta, Norman Mineta was the secretary. And I mean, you come in with that kind of authority. It's an interesting position to be in.

Laura Bell

And all because you got to be in the Maryland DMV, and even when that wasn't your first choice

David Hugel

That's right. That's right

Laura Bell

Pretty cool. You're .. that's very cool.

David Hugel

Well, it is pretty cool. Now, you reflect back on it, but yeah. God I took some terrible assignments.... I've been in every state but Alaska.

Laura Bell

Was there one in particular that was? Oh, you went to Alaska?

David Hugel

No, I said, I've been in every state but Alaska. Oh, no. Why? But nothing to do with the job. That was a personal thing, [I] had my nephew's wedding there, but it was at the same time, same timeframe.

Laura Bell

Did you have a least favorite or most favorite assignment in any state in particular?

David Hugel

I hate to to be honest. The travel grows old though. I'll tell you that. That's a fact

Laura Bell

Yea... all the plane rides.

David Hugel

Oh, and particularly since enhanced security doesn't let anyone...I. But this is ... let me get off the given trail. But I still write. Have you seen any of that?

Laura Bell

I've seen many of your articles. I was actually going to ask about that. You've really continued writing, you know, throughout your career and your photography.

David Hugel

Yeah. Yeah. You know, here, let me just say this is an aside, but I feel that way today. Years ago. I took my mother on a trip toto Florida, [where] her parents lived there. And she said, "Would you mind if I write [to] my cousin?". Oh I can't remember his name right now. Okay. He worked for the Sun papers as a printer. But his part time job was being in a band. And she remembers as a younger, he was a couple years older. And she remembers going to dances where he played. He's retired and for a lot of it while we're down there. And I said, no of course, she writes [to] him and he invites us for lunch. He lives in one of those high rise, condo buildings, nothing luxurious, just practical. And he's on the water canal. A lot of canals in Florida. And his hobby...well, not every day... he'd go out and catch crabs a little line ... what they sometimes called "chicken neckers." It just took a little bait, put it on the line. And wait ... [indecipherable] and catch enough crabs for his wife to make a crab salad lunch. Here's the point. Oh, and the other thing he did. He had retired from a newspaper down there. He went to work for a newspaper and retired from it. But he still played in the band. And I said that's great. And it was a

simple game or something. Jungle queen or something. He'd meet them at the dock at a play for a half hour or until they go to this location where they had other things, and then he comes home. So what a great life, you know, to do what you want to do you still enjoy playing. And I'm sort of doing the same thing myself but with my writing. It's nice not to be under anybody's deadline. You can sit and look at things and think about it.

Laura Bell

Yeah

David Hugel

I'm waiting [on] an article to be published. Probably next week of something I did when I was working at this camp in 1959 and what I did, I told you I took a seaplane ride and took color slides.

Laura Bell

Yeah

David Hugel

I still have the original slides that my son helped me convert into images, digitized images that I sent to my community newsletter. I'll send you a copy. It'll be sometime next week. That's what I enjoy doing.

Laura Bell

And you've been.... Have you been doing it for I forget what year did you retire? From? What year did you retire from the federal...?

David Hugel

I didn't retire. I was forced out when President Bush's team was out. That's a [given] when you take a political job, you know, the day you take it, when you're going to leave. That's under normal conditions, you could be fired any time at these jobs. But I knew at the end of the Bush administration, all of us who were political would be gone. Ok. Because of the way the calendar fell, so Friday, we had to be out when we could be here, but they actually wanted us out by Friday. And Monday was a holiday. And Tuesday is a ... I don't know. And so I was on the payroll but I was and they wouldn't let you in the building.

Laura Bell

That's interesting.

David Hugel

But you knew that... It's no secret. And it's why when one of Bush's ... came in or whatever, 'oh he fired me'...it goes with the game you want to play in that league. You got to accept the rules.

Laura Bell

Got you. Okay. But you've gotten to focus on your writing and your photography since basically 2008 then. Okay. Very cool. It sounds, it sounds nice.

David Hugel

Ok. Well, you can't predict what will happen in your life. But I did, to some extent, make choices that I feel were pretty good.

Laura Bell

It's really amazing to see how...

David Hugel

Let me give credit. This was one of my concerns, when the university joined the state system that it provided me with an opportunity I normally to go to college. There were rough moments along the way. It gave me the background I needed to ultimately succeed in life. If you call that success.

Laura Bell

Seems like a success from where I'm sitting. You've definitely had a long journey. And it's really interesting to see how it's all pieced together and flowed.

David Hugel

And here's another piece. You probably don't know. I told you I was working at this camp.

Laura Bell

Yeah.

David Hugel

Summer of '59. Summer of '60. Some years later, they said they would recruit high school students from Baltimore high schools. And the job paid nothing. I mean, so little, but you have the use of the facilities, freedom up there. Someone you know, went through that same program years, some years later.

Laura Bell

Somebody I know went through the camp at Maine?

David Hugel

As a waiter

Laura Bell

As a waiter ...

David Hugel

Kurt Schmoke

Laura Bell

Really? No way.

David Hugel

I didn't know him. I mean, [it was several years after my time there]. But friends [told me], they were very impressed with him even in those early days when he was going to City College.

Laura Bell

That's very cool.

David Hugel

He and I've talked about it once or twice.

Laura Bell

That's crazy how I mean, and then you obviously you've met and met later in life, and...

David Hugel

Oh yea, I supported him when he ran for State's Attorney some years [ago]. And I had to be very, very circumspect, because my job was non-partisan. I worked for the elected ...Council, the elected state's attorneys. And I can't tell you as a fact, but I'd say probably two thirds of them were Democrats, and some of them became very good friends, but I can't tell someone who I'm supporting, and work with the other 23...

Laura Bell

Gotcha.

David Hugel

So, but I did, and another coincidence was do you know the name Larry Gibson?

Laura Bell

Yes, I'm familiar with the name. I've never met him.

David Hugel

His office was next to mine at the law school, which is where I worked out of I wasn't faculty or anything; but the legislation creating the office State's Attorney Coordinator put it at the University of Maryland law school and I was treated like a third rate stepchild.

Laura Bell

Yea? It's interesting how you just, you know, met everybody and it all pieces together.

David Hugel

Well, when the movie Forrest Gump came out I enjoy[ed] it, I enjoyed it a lot. And of course it's fiction, as I said to my wife, I feel like for us, I didn't do much. But it was around. Saw this. But I do have a lot of pictures. And that's one of the things I haven't even. Let me tell you what I'm looking at right now. I got two, three rings, [and] binders. About an inch thick roughly and one is stuffed with photographs of John Hager. Do you know who that is, that name?

Laura Bell

Uh, I don't think I do?

David Hugel

Well, let me tell you. He was Lt. Governor of Virginia. When we first lived here, I was, we lived in Fairfax. And when Jim Gilmore was the governor just become a very good friend. And George Allen had just left office. And then he ran for the US Senate. And he won. Hagar didn't. And I've got I'm looking for a place to give it. I finally said he wasn't from Maryland. But they've been good to me down there. I think it'd be a good piece for that collection of all kinds of pictures, including [the one] I took standing behind him. He's at the podium making his opening announcement. And Sue and I were invited, and we were right on the platform with him. Things like that. It's a bit of Virginia but I was indirectly involved and we both even were delegates for him to the nominating convention, which is one of the ways Virginia has of nominating a candidate rather than a primary.

Laura Bell

Oh ok. Gotcha

David Hugel

But it was uh.... but he passed last year. I talked to him once and he never alluded to it but I got the impression he wasn't in good

Laura Bell

I'm sorry to hear that

David Hugel

I had hoped to see him before he passed. And that's the thing, try to stay in touch with people I'd really...Not always possible.

Laura Bell

No, it's not always possible. Well, you know, I can't say I think that you've really covered every topic that we had any questions for you about but you know are there are there any final memories about your career or about your time at UB that you just want to make sure you tell us about or anything else you'd like to share.

David Hugel

The list of things you sent earlier ... I told you about filming the riots?

Laura Bell

Yes.

David Hugel

Problems parking, kinda of got stuck in the DMV arena.

Laura Bell

Stuck, but it went well.

David Hugel

It did. That's another one of my philosophies: Make the best of what you got. Oh, it's not on here. But in line with the keeping up my photography, writing. My wife and I've done a lot of traveling together, and then I've done some on my own. On my own, I went back to Vietnam for a week in 2011. I had an opportunity to go to Iwo Jima on a tour, commemorate the 70th anniversary of the battle and I did that. And then I wrote a story about it that's been published. And then Sue and I have been a couple times [to] Spain, England, the Netherlands, she has two... This is another fascinating story. But when she was in high school, her family posted two AFS, not AFS, but foreign students, one was AFS one was another program, and they remained friends all these years. And one woman was from Argentina, and the other was from the Netherlands. And as recently when we still exchange emails, and the best news is the one woman has three children all grown. And our boys who are ... Johnny's 42, and the other one Robert is 38, have visited them, their children.

Laura Bell

That's great

David Hugel

But the biggest thing was ... Sue and I made [it], it was only like 10 days, but a fabulous trip to South America. In 2018, and then, I wrote a three part article. But I don't know what they have. I know I sent it to the Dean, Roger, who else may have in the collection. I'll send you the published version if you're interested. And this one place we visited, we toured Patagonia. We stopped on an island with 70,000 penguins . It's where they come to breed.

Laura Bell

That's cool

David Hugel

It was really neat. It was really nothing there but penguins and some birds. But we saw glaciers actually drinking water from a glacier. Things like that. I'll send you the articles that broke it down. And so you know, again, but that was before her stroke. She came home from that and went back to work, I was retired.

Laura Bell

Oh, okay.

David Hugel

And within three months, she had a stroke, which greatly limits her mobility. She can walk and she can get around. It limits her mobility. And for that you had to be mobile. Up and down. A couple points she was dragging.

Laura Bell

So sorry to hear that about her health.

David Hugel

Thank you, but we're doing okay with it.

Laura Bell

Okay, good. I'm glad to hear that.

David Hugel

But we [are] both [very] active anyway. She takes any exercise class offered.

Laura Bell

Well I think ...

David Hugel

Well ... let me know we'll set this up again, I need to employ my son and his electronic skills to do it.

Laura Bell

Sure, no problem. Well, it's been really, really wonderful to hear about, you know, your experience at UB and how it let, I mean, how your career continued and moved afterwards. So thank you very much for your time for talking with me

David Hugel

You're quite welcome. And for your purposes I hope it's instrumental for other people. I mean, don't give up. Fight obstacles.

--End of Interview--