

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Dr. Judith “Judy” Everson

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library
Education is Key—Higher Education Oral History project

Interview # EH-V-L-2021-053

Judy Everson, Professor Emerita and a founding faculty member of Sangamon State University (now the University of Illinois at Springfield) was interviewed on the dates listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library’s *Education is Key—Higher Education* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: July 15, 2021 & September 30, 2021

Location: Illinois Information Services Studio, CMS Building, Springfield, IL

Interview Format: Digital video

Interviewer: Kathryn Mahaffey, ALPL volunteer

Technical Support: Mark Suszko, videographer w/Illinois Information Service

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Transcript
being processed

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 1:22 + 1:09 / 1.37 + 1.15 = 2.52 hrs.

Session 1: Sangamon State U. early history and influential faculty

Session 2: More pioneer Sangamon State faculty and highlights of Everson’s career

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on December 7, 2021.

The interviews are archived at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in Springfield, Illinois.

Abstract

Judith “Judy” Everson, *Education is Key*, EH-V-L-2021-053

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Dr. Judith Everson was one of forty-five faculty members hired at the founding of Sangamon State University (SSU) in 1970, now the University of Illinois at Springfield (UIS). Born in Indiana in December 1942, Judy grew up in Crawfordsville, graduating from Indiana State University in 1964, majoring in speech. It was there she met her husband, Dr. David Everson. Despite few female role models at the time, she aspired to earn advanced degrees. She and Dave both pursued master’s and Ph.D.’s at Indiana University in Bloomington. Judy earned a master’s degree and a Ph.D. in Speech and American Studies. After graduation, Dave accepted a job as a faculty member at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale. While living in Carbondale, their son Christopher was born in 1968. Judy and Dave eventually decided to find work at a University where both could be faculty members (SIU had a nepotism policy at the time). They were intrigued by the new, innovative university being created in Springfield, IL. They joined Sangamon State in 1970 when the university was first being established, Judy in the English department and Dave in political science. Judy earned two teaching awards during her career. In 2010 she was given a distinguished service award, recognizing her commitment to and advancement of UIS, and in 2011 an endowment was created for the Judith Everson Professorship in English. While teaching was her passion, Judy took on several administrative roles during her career, including English Department Chair, Associate Dean of Arts and Sciences, Assistant to the VP for Academic Affairs, and Special Assistant to President Lynn.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Judy Everson; Sangamon State University founding, 1970; George Hoffmann (Springfield attorney and community leader); Mary Jane Masters; Dr. Robert Spencer (first President); SSU founding faculty; Cullom Davis; Gus Stevens; Larry Golden; Dennis Camp; Jackie Jackson; Mark Heyman; John Keiser; Gari Lesnoff-Caravaglia; David Everson; Naomi Lynn; UIS Capital Scholars;

Note to the Reader: Readers of the oral history memoir should bear in mind that this is a transcript of the spoken word, and that the interviewer, interviewee and editor sought to preserve the informal, conversational style that is inherent in such historical sources. The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library is not responsible for the factual accuracy of the memoir, nor for the views expressed therein. We leave these for the reader to judge.

COPYRIGHT

The following material can be used for educational and other non-commercial purposes without the written permission of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library. “Fair use” criteria of Section 107 of the Copyright Act of 1976 must be followed. These materials are not to be deposited in other repositories, nor used for resale or commercial purposes without the authorization from the Audio-Visual Curator at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, 112 N. 6th Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701. Telephone (217) 785-7955