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1 INTERVIEW OF DR. JOHN GAUGL, 1994

2 BLAKE HAILEY: Today's date is
3 March 8th, 1994. I'm Blake Hailey and we're pleased to
4 have with us Dr. John Gaugl, Associate Professor in
5 the Department of Physiology, is that correct?

6 JOHN GAUGL: That's correct.

7 BLAKE HAILEY: Here at the University
8 of North Texas, Health Science Center at Fort Worth.
9 And we're making this videotape in the Biomed
10 Communication Center of the Gibson D. Lewis Health
11 Science Library. Dr. Gaugl, after saying all that,
12 now I'm going to let you say some things, if you
13 could. I'd like to go back to your prior experience,
14 a little bit of background. Long before you came to
15 TCOM, if you could.

16 JOHN GAUGL: How far back?

17 BLAKE HAILEY: Well, how far do you
18 want to go? That's always interesting to see where
19 you -- what you did before you got here.

20 JOHN GAUGL: I spent my adolescent
21 years in Dallas, South Oak Cliff High School. Went to
22 college at North Texas State University. Received my
23 BA and MA from North Texas State in biology, and then
24 went to the University of California at Berkeley for
25 my Ph.D. I spent the time out there from 1961 to 1970

1 during the very tumultuous years on the campus, and
2 then I -- I taught for a year in the Department of
3 Physiology. Then I started putting out applications
4 to come back to Texas. One of the applications I put
5 in was to TCU.

6 BLAKE HAILEY: Oh.

7 JOHN GAUGL: And Dr. Hart, who was
8 our first dean, who at the time was looking for
9 faculty, had access to the -- to the academic file, to
10 the personnel file of TCU and caught my application
11 and contacted me and I came here.

12 BLAKE HAILEY: Oh, and you've been
13 here since -- so that would be --

14 JOHN GAUGL: 1971.

15 BLAKE HAILEY: 1971. What are some
16 of the things you've done here at TCOM, which is now
17 the Health Science Center?

18 JOHN GAUGL: Well, I was chairman of
19 the department of physiology from 1971 to 1981, and
20 served on a number of -- of college and departmental
21 committees, admission committee, curriculum committee,
22 I was in the first curriculum committee back in 1971
23 and '72. Recently I was put in charge of an ad hoc
24 committee to revise the faculty handbook, we just put
25 out a second revision of that in the past few months.

1 BLAKE HAILEY: So you're keeping
2 quite busy then, it sound like, in some of the
3 committees, then?

4 JOHN GAUGL: Committees, I'm first
5 director and have been for a year or two now in
6 physiology. And our course, as well as most of the
7 others in the college now, are undergoing a lot of
8 change, revision, and updating. And it's my
9 responsibility to make sure that is carried out in our
10 department.

11 BLAKE HAILEY: Oh. Okay. What are
12 some of the research things, perhaps, you've been
13 involved with in the past, or maybe you're currently
14 working on as far as research projects go?

15 JOHN GAUGL: Generally, I do research
16 in the area of cardiovascular physiology. I've been
17 working with two teams, actually. One with
18 Drs. Caffrey and Barron in the area, of the peptide regulation of
19 cardiovascular physiology. Endorphins, enkephalins,
20 that type of thing. And the second general area
21 I'm -- I'm working with Dr. Fred Dunning's group in the
22 area of regulation of the coronary circulation. An
23 area of particular interest to us is the regulation of
24 right coronary circulation . There appear to be many
25 differences between it and the left.

1 BLAKE HAILEY: Interesting. So this
2 is an ongoing research project you're involved in now,
3 right?

4 JOHN GAUGL: It is. I've been forced
5 to reduce it somewhat because of the academic
6 activities which take lot of my time now. But yes,
7 I'm still in the lab.

8 BLAKE HAILEY: Oh. I bet that does
9 take a lot of time. There was a -- a number of years
10 ago, I believe in the late 70s or early 80s, I don't
11 have the date in front of me, but an institute for
12 human fitness that you were involved in, in starting.
13 What was -- what ever happened to that particular
14 organization? I was curious about that.

15 JOHN GAUGL: Well, what happened is
16 it died a natural death. How it got started was that
17 there were a number of us in the late 70s, 1978, I
18 believe is when we got together and started talking,
19 but who were interested in the general area of health
20 and physical fitness. And knowing that the
21 osteopathic profession puts a large premium on
22 self-health, and not only disease prevention, but
23 health maintenance, that we thought it would be a good
24 idea if we could organize such an institute and get
25 the college, at that time to -- to support it. Our

1 first meeting was at the house of Dr. Joel Alter, Who
2 was a surgeon at that -- at that particular time on
3 your faculty. I was there. Dr. Bob Cayman was there.
4 And there were several other representatives from the
5 community who also were in on the founding of that.

6 As you may know, we -- the institute
7 took over a building down at the River Plaza Complex
8 after the basic sciences moved out of that, back in the
9 mid to late 70s. And for several years, had a very on
10 -- very strong ongoing program both in the areas of
11 activities, education, and in research. But even
12 though the institute received several grants, for
13 example, for testing of Fort Worth firemen and
14 policemen, there wasn't enough money coming in to
15 support the institute, and the college felt that it
16 needed to be self-sufficient so it couldn't exist, and
17 so it went out of existence.

18 BLAKE HAILEY: No way to get the
19 funds in, to bring in, huh?

20 JOHN GAUGL: That's right.

21 JOHN GAUGL: I'm curious as to your
22 thoughts on why it was necessary for TCOM to become
23 the UNT Health Science Center. What -- how do you see
24 that as a good thing for the school? The growth and
25 success?

1 JOHN GAUGL: There are many
2 health-related professions that support the
3 physicians. Obviously, nurses, laboratory personnel,
4 physician's assistants, to name just a few of the many
5 that are available, who don't have training in
6 osteopathic theory or philosophy or technique. And I
7 -- I see it as an advantage to be able to help train
8 these health associates along with the philosophy of
9 osteopathic medicine. There is also, of course, the
10 practical advantage of being able to have a higher
11 visibility in the community and most likely we will
12 certainly hope we will be able to be more readily
13 funded because of that.

14 BLAKE HAILEY: How do you see things
15 as far as the Health Science Center is concerned in
16 the community? Do you have -- is it looking pretty
17 good for us, do you think? Got some good community
18 support?

19 JOHN GAUGL: Well, I'm not in that
20 aspect of the -- of the institution, so I don't know
21 that for a fact. I suspect is certainly ought to.

22 BLAKE HAILEY: Right.

23 JOHN GAUGL: And I'm certainly hoping
24 that it will garner some community support for the
25 institution.

1 BLAKE HAILEY: How do you see this
2 Health Science Center, or what does it have to offer
3 that the other, I believe there are six health science
4 centers in Texas, don't have?

5 JOHN GAUGL: Like I mentioned
6 earlier, the philosophies might be different. Right
7 now we're small. All we have is the medical school
8 and the directive school of biomedical -- the graduate
9 school of biomedical --

10 BLAKE HAILEY: -- sciences.

11 JOHN GAUGL: -- sciences. Right.
12 And we certainly will be adding more of those
13 medically-related professions in the future. What do
14 we have to offer that they do right now -- that the
15 other centers don't right now?

16 BLAKE HAILEY: Right.

17 JOHN GAUGL: Probably not a whole
18 lot. But we will.

19 BLAKE HAILEY: Well, that brings me
20 to a point then. What do you see some challenges are
21 and maybe you mentioned some other programs that will
22 be added. What would you like to see added in the
23 future. What challenges will the health science
24 center face in the next two years?

25 JOHN GAUGL: Well there would be the

1 physical challenge of it getting more advanced, a
2 larger campus. I suspect there might be some community
3 opposition to that. And I don't know. We need to
4 continue to upgrade the quality of all our professions,
5 the medical school, the graduate school, and to make
6 sure that whatever other services or professions come
7 on board, it will be at the highest quality.

8 BLAKE HAILEY: What do you see
9 challenges for yourself coming up in the future?

10 JOHN GAUGL: As I mentioned earlier,
11 I am course director and I think that developing that
12 course into what it needs to be, to continue the
13 evolution -- we haven't had a revolution, but an
14 evolution in the course, it's going to be an ongoing
15 challenge for me for the next -- at least half decade
16 I suppose. There is a growing demand, if you
17 will, throughout the profession that basic sciences be
18 more clinically relevant, be more accessible to the
19 students with regard to clinical cases. The National
20 Board of Examination as well as the USMLE are all
21 requiring that the questions and the students be able
22 to answer questions that are case-based. And up until
23 -- up until now, and even at this point, many colleges
24 and institutions around the country are still very
25 traditional. And it's a challenge to all of us to go

1 beyond that.

2 BLAKE HAILEY: So the Health Science
3 Center is changing that now, then, going more toward
4 that way.

5 JOHN GAUGL: Yes.

6 BLAKE HAILEY: A case-based
7 situation. How do you see -- what are things you see
8 changing in your role in the department of physiology
9 and what you're doing. What are the things you see
10 changing in the next few years with this creation of
11 the Health Science Center?

12 JOHN GAUGL: Well, like I said, I
13 don't think it's going to be a major change, there's
14 not going to be a revolution -- an evolution. There
15 will always be a -- a -- a -- an emphasis on research.
16 And even those of us who are more deeply involved in
17 the academics will still be required and desire to do
18 research. So, this -- there's always wide open fields
19 for that, what we can do with that and along with, of
20 course, the students.

21 BLAKE HAILEY: Well, I don't know how
22 you have time to do research with all the other
23 academic parts that you're doing, the committees that
24 you serve on. We've covered a few -- a number of
25 topics here Dr. Gaugl. I'm sure I missed some things.

1 Is there subject areas you'd like to bring up or some
2 things you'd like to mention that I haven't already
3 asked you about off the top of your head?

4 JOHN GAUGL: Well, there are some of
5 the early development of the college that a few of us
6 around here are still witness that you might be
7 interested.

8 BLAKE HAILEY: Please. Feel free.

9 JOHN GAUGL: You know, Dr. Harrison,
10 Dr. Libby Harris and Dr. Mary Shunter were here for
11 the very first year of the college, 1970, '71. I came
12 on board the second year, 1971, '72. And they and I
13 have taught every one of TCOM's graduates. So
14 whenever you see them out there, it's to some extent
15 the product of what we have been able to accomplish.
16 There have been many moves -- well, physically and
17 administratively, that have occurred during -- during
18 the last couple of decades. Association with North
19 Texas, the sometimes rough pathway that we had during
20 that time. And then the coming back to the Fort Worth
21 campus, which I believe was a good thing for us.

22 BLAKE HAILEY: You said there was a
23 rough time with North Texas. Was there any specific
24 events you can recall that you'd like to bring up
25 concerning that change from a private institution to a

1 state-supported?

2 JOHN GAUGL: Well, there are -- there
3 are differences in philosophy, perhaps. When those of
4 us who originally with TCOM went up to the North Texas
5 campus for the four or five years that we were up
6 there and intermingled with the ongoing North Texas
7 faculty to teach the basic science courses. And like
8 I said, sometimes there is a difference of opinion as
9 to what should be taught, who should do the teaching,
10 what should be the role of our faculty and their
11 faculty in the -- in the Osteopathic College.

12 BLAKE HAILEY: Has it always been
13 kind of a -- well, not a strain, but maybe a tough
14 relationship with North Texas? Has there been -- it's
15 kind of leveled off, I assume, with the North Texas
16 faculty and the Health Science Center now?

17 JOHN GAUGL: Oh, I think so. Yeah.
18 I think the marriage has gone along a lot smoother in
19 its later years than it did at first. I think that both
20 institutions see the mutual benefit and advantages of
21 being together, and I see nothing but good for the --
22 for the relationship in the future.

23 BLAKE HAILEY: Sounds like, to me,
24 that everybody refers to it as a marriage. It's like
25 it's been a relatively successful marriage, then. And

1 there is a lot of talk about working between the two
2 campuses with other departments at North Texas in here
3 to advance the Health Science Center. I assume there
4 is a lot of possibilities then, as far as linkage
5 between departments and the Health Science Center.

6 JOHN GAUGL: Linkage with -- between
7 us and North Texas?

8 BLAKE HAILEY: Right. With the
9 education and maybe business and those types of
10 departments. Do you see a lot of --

11 JOHN GAUGL: There has been talk of
12 that for -- for years now. And not too much has come
13 from it. One would think that, for example, the with
14 the business school and the history department that we
15 might have more linkages, but it just hasn't happened.
16 And you know, 36 miles between us, it's a big
17 distance. Those of us who traveled it in the early
18 years know how big it is. Maybe -- maybe in the
19 future.

20 BLAKE HAILEY: I guess this is a
21 problem. I mean, it's not that far but then it is a
22 good distance away.

23 JOHN GAUGL: Uh-huh.

24 BLAKE HAILEY: Is there anything --
25 other things you'd like to bring up? You want to

1 explore off the top of your head?

2 JOHN GAUGL: Well I think you've done

3 a pretty good job. I appreciate being here.

4 BLAKE HAILEY: I appreciate you

5 taking the time out of your busy schedule to meet with

6 us. I know that you've been a great asset to the

7 health – UNT Health Science Center and will continue to

8 be in the research and definitely in the educational

9 aspect of it. And the school is indebted. I'm glad

10 you are a part of it. Thank you again for taking

11 time to meet with us.

12 JOHN GAUGL: Thank you.

13 BLAKE HAILEY: And with that, I will

14 conclude this interview. Thank you and have a

15 pleasant day.

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