Ollie Cantos Interview

[START Ollie_Cantos_1.mp3]

[Phone ringing]

MR. OLLIE CANTOS: Hello?

MS. KAYLA BRAGG: Hi, Mr. Cantos, this is Kayla from the LMU Oral History Project.

MR. CANTOS: Oh good morning.

MS. BRAGG: Good morning. Well afternoon I guess for you. How are you?

[Pause]

MS. BRAGG: Hello?

[Pause]

MR. CANTOS: Hello?

MS. BRAGG: Hi, Mr. Cantos this is Kayla.

MR. CANTOS: Hi.

MS. BRAGG: Hi.

MR. CANTOS: Sorry about the signal. If you want we could try a land line phone, um--

MS. BRAGG: [Interposing] Um. Are you in an area--?

MR. CANTOS: [Interposing] I don't know if that would help the signal...

MS. BRAGG: Are you in an area where that's a problem. Would you just prefer to do a land line?

MR. CANTOS: Oh I'm okay if this works. We've already lost signal once and I don't know how your recording stuff works but if you--if the sounds coming through okay now then we should be okay.

MS. BRAGG: Yeah. The sound's coming through find right now.

MR. CANTOS: Oh okay great.

MS. BRAGG: Okay. Perfect. Well I just wanted to say thank you for taking the time do this. We really appreciate your
participation and the information you're going to share with us.

MR. CANTOS: Oh you're welcome. This is exciting. I mean can you tell me real quick how the Oral History Project is ultimately going to work? I mean will we all be able to listen to what people say about different aspects of LMU life or how does it--how does everybody envision this, uh, ultimately looking like.

MS. BRAGG: I admit I don't know precisely what the final package is going to look like. I know that we are compiling all the interviews and then we are all writing articles based on various aspects of the University, for example, my topic is diversity and issues of ethnic minorities at LMU, specifically prior to 1970 but we're doing interviews from all around the different time periods no matter what our specific writing topic is.

MR. CANTOS: Uh-huh.

MS. BRAGG: And I know that they're going to end up as articles but I don't know if it's coming out in a specific publication or if we're going to be displaying it on campus and an interesting format. That's really yet to be determined. But essentially they are coming out in article format at the end.

MR. CANTOS: Wow. That's really cool.

MS. BRAGG: [Interposing] Yeah, it's exciting.

MR. CANTOS: Do they--how many people are participating in the project?

MS. BRAGG: We have one advisor and then there are seven students including myself.

MR. CANTOS: And how many, how many how many alums are participating?

MS. BRAGG: How many alums? I am fairly certain we have approximately 50 people we're interview.

MR. CANTOS: Wow. That's cool.

MS. BRAGG: Somewhere around there. Yeah. Very cool I'm very excited--

MR. CANTOS: [Interposing] Well I'm really excited to get that--about and with everything this is just great.
MS. BRAGG: Yeah. We're very excited too. Okay. So just to clarify, your name is Ollie Cantos. You attended LMU from 1988 to 1992 and you graduated with a degree in Political Science?

MR. CANTOS: Right.

MS. BRAGG: Okay.

MR. CANTOS: And then I went to Loyola after that for--I went to the Law School for law school and that was--I graduated from there in 90--they're both part of LMU so I don't know if you need to mention the other thing or not.

MS. BRAGG: I think we are going to talk about Loyola Law school, yeah, so that's great.

MR. CANTOS: [Interposing] Oh - - .

MS. BRAGG: Okay. First I'd like to start with your decision to attend LMU. Can you tell me why you decided to attend LMU and how your family felt--

MR. CANTOS: [Interposing] Oh yeah.

MS. BRAGG: --about your decision?

MR. CANTOS: It was pretty much a no-brainer. I wanted to go to LMU because I went to Catholic high school.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: And I wanted to go to a college that had a strong Catholic emphasis. And that was also small enough to enable me to get to know people as opposed to being among thousand students where there's a lot of anonymity and there wasn't really any close community.

MS. BRAGG: Right.

MR. CANTOS: I wanted to be a part of a community where I could learn but that I--where I could also spread my wings and get to know people all at the same time and at the same time with all of that making sure to have an opportunity to have a religious experience with others who felt the same way as I did.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm. So the fact that LMU was a Catholic institution was important in your decision.

MR. CANTOS: Oh definitely. I mean there are other small
institutions locals that are like Redlands and other places that--

MS. BRAGG: [Interposing] Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: --I didn't even apply--

[END Ollie_Cantos_1.mp3]

[START Ollie_Cantos_2.mp3]

MR. CANTOS: --to, someone suggested it but a place--there were other institutions that were smaller but it didn't have the Catholic emphasis or influence that I, I really wanted to have.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: And so in other words there were spiritual elements of college life is also just as important to me as to get a good education and to be involved in community and to feel like a part of the community.

MS. BRAGG: Right.

MR. CANTOS: And on campus. Also just part of a, as a whole.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm. So how do you think your education at LMU differed from your peers at non-Catholic institutions during the early 90's?

MR. CANTOS: Well it differed in a sense that, that there was--because of the strong spiritual component and the emphasis of the education of the whole person--

MS. BRAGG: [Interposing] Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: --which is characteristic of our Jesuit institutions, it would--it made a major difference because there were some of us who also had a sense of social justice along side me and it wasn't just a few but it was literally the way we all thought.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: Where no matter who we were, no matter what our majors were, we all knew that we had a commitment to the broader world.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: Now whether it's just domestically or internationally
or whatever it literally didn't matter what major somebody had. But we knew that we all had to make a difference in the bigger community. Not to say that we didn't have that blend [phonetic] it's all combined... with [phone skipping] doing things that are both in keep [phone skipping] with what God would [phone skipping] to do. We need to maximize [phone skipping].

MS. BRAGG: Hello? Mr. Cantos?

[Silence]

MR. CANTOS: Hi.

MS. BRAGG: Okay. Awesome. Now let me switch over to a land line. You got cut out in the middle of your answer so if you want to go ahead and wrap up what you were saying that would probably be the best place to pick up again if you don't mind.

MR. CANTOS: Sure. But if you tell me where I left off...

MS. BRAGG: You left off telling me about the spiritual component on campus and the emphasis on the education of the whole person as opposed to a non-Jesuit institution.

MR. CANTOS: Oh yeah. When it comes to life on campus at LMU, the difference between being on the campus of a Jesuit institution and not being on one is that there's such a strong spiritual element that it's everywhere. It's in what we study. It's in the courses that we take. It's also in how, how people all know, how everyone knows about their commitment to the--to having to make it--the need to make a commitment to make a bigger difference in the broader world.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: If we were to be or any of us were to be at a non-Jesuit institution, let's say at a school that tended to be more secular, there could be groups, let's say of Catholics or Christians or whoever that have the same beliefs but without that critical mass of the number of people all concentrated in one place--

MS. BRAGG: [Interposing] Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: --believing generally in the same types of approaches to making a difference in the world then it doesn't have the same effect on one's life.
MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: Because in a broader community that would be let's say a non-Jesuit institution then the difference would be that there would be an enclave of let's say Catholic students or students of whatever faith in a broader world where there might not be people who have the same commitment as others. So the--being on campus at LMU actually lends itself well to everyone reinforcing in one another the need to make a difference and the commitment to make a difference no matter who anyone is, whether they're a biology major or Political Science major, history major, arts major or whatever, everybody has got to—we're all taught that we have to really do our part. Yes it's important for us to maximize our potential for our own career goals and of course we should have the highest ambitions to do whatever it is that we want to do out of life but completely integrated into what we are taught all the way through both in what's said direction as well as what happens on campus and around campus is that we all have to realize our place in the broader community. And that's what makes LMU different from being anywhere else.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm. So with that in mind how would you characterize the Catholic influence at LMU? Did you find--

[END Ollie_Cantos_2.mp3]

[START Ollie_Cantos_3.mp3]

MS. BRAGG: --that the majority of the student body was Catholic? Did you find that it was a very prominent influence or did you feel like it was only a select group of students that were Catholic? How would you characterize it?

MR. CANTOS: That's a really good question. People may think that going to LMU you generally should be Catholic and, and that's actually it and if you're not Catholic well tough. Actually part of the way we were and I'm sure the way it still is, is that if a person is not Catholic they're not looked at, looked down on in any way--

MS. BRAGG: [Interposing] Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: --as a matter of fact there was an organization of Jewish students on campus.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: There was a non-Catholic Christian organization on
campus. There were, there were other people who weren't Catholic or Christian at all. And yet they all decided to go to LMU and they all did well there. Even the person who was our--the most successful person in our graduating class who practically won every academic and community service award, she herself was not Catholic.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: And everybody knew that. But it didn't matter because the fact is that Catholic or not people all have the ability to thrive there whoever they are, to be the best whoever they can be. And the other thing that was really--that's--that's--your question really rings up which is really a great question is that when people come together and we have an ecumenical approach whether somebody is Jewish or Buddhist or Catholic or Muslim or Hindu or whatever.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: Everybody is supported there because for those who are not Catholic from the classes we do take, there's still an emphasis on understanding various religions but there isn't this feel like oh well if you're not Catholic though. Well you're kind of on the outs and your--the well. You know?

MS. BRAGG: Yeah.

MR. CANTOS: It's not like that at all. It's more like, yeah, this is a Catholic institution obviously there's going to be a Jesuit influence but if you're not any of those, you're not any of those

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: But at the same time there's still an opportunity for you to organize with other students on campus and others including Catholics would be supportive of you.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: And that's what I loved that there wasn't just a one way of thinking. There were--even on the political spectrum there were Democrats, Republicans, Libertarians, people of all--who had all sorts of backgrounds who had even a difference in political philosophy as well as a difference in religious upbringing and background. And all of us got together and did really well together and we got along.
MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: And we were taught by Jesuit and the priests on campus as well as the lay faculty. We were all taught that one of the most important elements of a university experience is to be around people that you don't agree with.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: And to engage in the kind of discourse that enables us to think critically and independently rather than simply to spit out and repeat and regurgitate what we've been taught and told our whole lives.

MS. BRAGG: Right.

MR. CANTOS: And that's really what--what really I just loved so much about the campus.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: There was never, ever any thought of oh well you're just a whatever, and you fill in the blank. It was always, yeah, well you're Jewish, awesome. I mean I can name instance after instance in which there were people who thrived and did really well there and none of them were Catholic. And yet they chose to come to LMU and they chose to stay and graduate from LMU. It's not--in other words the very presence of--the very philosophy of the education of the whole person is what allowed Catholics to optimize their experience in professing and exercising their Catholic faith but for those who weren't Catholic it also enabled them to be able to do everything they could to maximize their own potential in whatever they believed. And that's what made LMU such an awesome experience.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm. That's great. You mentioned earlier, you talked about the education of the whole person. Obviously along with this there's a commitment to social justice and academic excellence as well. Were these principles important to you before you came to LMU? And how did they affect your time at LMU?

MR. CANTOS: Well the principles were important to me before because when I was in high school I was really religious and I actually went to church, I went to Mass every day and also participated in a lot of community service.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.
MR. CANTOS: But when I went to LMU that's when my understanding of a commitment to, to social service and of being of service to the world, that's where it really took on a broader dimension. I had no idea about the, about the magnitude of the atrocities that took place in different parts of the world and how people continued to be oppressed. I just--I just didn't really know.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: I didn't learn about liberation theology and about how there were different factions within the Catholic church of folks who were more--

[END Ollie_Cantos_3.mp3]

[START Ollie_Cantos_4.mp3]

MR. CANTOS: --conservative and folks who were more liberal in terms of well what is the role of the Church in political life. Does the Church take a more active role or does the Church take a more passive role? I learned that there were differences while I was at LMU. And we weren't told one way or the other how to think but we were told well here's one way of thinking, here's another way of thinking, and they both diametrically are opposed to each other.

MS. BRAGG: Uh-huh.

MR. CANTOS: And it was up to us to decide what we wanted to do. And so basically when I came to LMU I already wanted these--the feeling of being with people who were committed to community service and doing well in school and so forth but when I got to LMU what I thought I had wanted from LMU actually turned out to pale in comparison to what I actually got.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: I mean I wanted all those things but I had no idea about how proverbially speaking my eyes would be opened in terms of all of the myriad of possibilities not only of what I could do with my life but also of what I could do within the context of being of help to folks--

MS. BRAGG: [Interposing] Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: --whoever they were. And in my particular case, being blind, there was never any thought of oh well you're
blind you can't, you can't participate. You can't do whatever.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: I received the kind of support and accommodations that were necessary. And there was never any question of oh well I don't know if we can do this to help you. It was always well you need this, let us know what you need and we'll get it for you. It's--you know, and the whole tone was of course we're going to get it for you because if you do well then it'll make you a better person when you graduate and it'll be better for us. And that's what they told me. And, you know, I didn't fully understand it until later but it was amazing when with, you know, in my particular experience I was literally the only blind person on the entire campus until senior year.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: And then someone else came along following after me because of the university's experience with me and with when someone else came along they were supportive of her as well.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: And so my whole assertion to everybody and not just now but I mean literally when I talk about LMU it is that whoever you are, if you're a minority like I'm also Filipino by background--

MS. BRAGG: [Interposing] Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: --if you're, if you're a person of color or if you're not, if you're a person with or without a disability, if you're a Republican or Democrat or whatever, in my case I went from one to the other, so I--both sides I got to see how people reacted and everybody was supportive of whatever you wanted to do. Anything I was or wanted to be, I was strongly supported. And I will never, never stop in telling the world about how awesome and amazing LMU was for enabling me to be who I wanted to be and for letting me figure out what I wanted to be and who I wanted to be and what I wanted to do.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: It's literally affected me to this day. And there are people who are from LMU or at LMU now, I mean literally all these years later, we still talk about our days back
then.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: And we still have that feeling about the place. And every time I return to campus that old feeling is still there, that feeling of wow this is a community of amazing people.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: And literally whenever I go back there I--the feeling comes right back, just it--there's a magic on the campus. There's something special about being there and being with everybody. It's a feeling. It's really hard to describe. And for people who haven't experienced it, they'll experience it when they go.

MS. BRAGG: Uh-huh.

MR. CANTOS: It's something that's… it's--I--it's hard to explain but literally to this day when I go back there I feel that same whatever it is, that same magic that I felt when I first stepped on the campus all those years ago with LMU being the only place of choice. I mean it was a big risk but I only applied to LMU. I didn't--

MS. BRAGG: [Interposing] Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: --apply anywhere else.

MS. BRAGG: I did the same thing actually. I only applied to LMU [chuckling]

MR. CANTOS: Ha. Yeah, so you--

MS. BRAGG: [Interposing] Yeah.

MR. CANTOS: --know why then.

MS. BRAGG: Yes.

MR. CANTOS: Exactly Kayla. I mean you probably applied only to LMU 'cause that's just--you knew that's where you wanted to go. And there you are.

MS. BRAGG: Yeah. No, it was really interesting. I had been up and down the West Coast looking at different liberal arts school that I was interested in and--

MR. CANTOS: [Interposing] Uh-huh.
MS. BRAGG: --I'm kind of--I'm a big of a geek so I was taking notes on all the schools and the things I liked and the things I didn't. And we took the tour of LMU and I spent a little bit of time there. And we got back in the car and my mom asked me why didn't you take any notes. And I said well because I'm going to go here.

[Laughter]

MR. CANTOS: Yeah. I love that.

MS. BRAGG: It was the only one--that was the only school I applied to.

MR. CANTOS: Wow.

MS. BRAGG: Yeah.

MR. CANTOS: It's because you had--it's that same something. You know exactly what I mean then--

MS. BRAGG: [Interposing] Absolutely.

MR. CANTOS: --about how there's something amazing and magical about that place.

MS. BRAGG: There is. I agree. Earlier you mentioned that--you talked about all the--

[END Ollie_Cantos_4.mp3]

[START Ollie_Cantos_5.mp3]

MS. BRAGG: --different kinds of ideologies and people that you encountered in the Political Science Department. Why did you decide to major in Political Science? And did you always know that you wanted to be an attorney or was that something you discovered over time?

MR. CANTOS: Well I actually wanted to be an attorney since I was about 10--

MS. BRAGG: [Interposing] Oh okay.

MR. CANTOS: --there's a whole story behind that. I don't know--

MS. BRAGG: [Interposing] [Chuckling]

MR. CANTOS: --but the reason, the nutshell story of that is that basically when I was 10 years old I went on a trip to the Philippines with my mom. And there were--the vast difference between the wealthy and the non-wealthy there--
MS. BRAGG: [Interposing] Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: --rich and poor is pretty significant. And I remember that the roads were really rough and rock at different places and then suddenly at one point the roads felt smooth and then there was this gate, this high gate, and we drove in. Well actually this was with my uncle. My mom wasn't with me at that time; this was just with my uncle and other relatives. And I met various people who were equivalent of a provincial governor. A province in the Philippines is like a state here.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: And so there was the provincial governor, different mayors and so forth and so I was, as a 10-year old kid, sitting there, you know, with all this stuff, whatever I wanted, cotton candy, food, whatever--

MS. BRAGG: [Interposing] Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: --and they had a golf course and everything was really nice, the manicured lawns and everything. And then so, you know, we were all sitting there and then they told me what they did. They're the governor of whoever, you know, and I said well, I think I remember the name but I said so all of you, the people voted for you to--people voted for you so you could help them? And they said yeah, that's how it works. I said so if people voted for you to help them, then how come all of you are in here and all of those people are out there.


MR. CANTOS: I got in such trouble.

[Laughter]

MS. BRAGG: Yeah.

MR. CANTOS: But I'm like wow, so one thing is if I were to be a lawyer I can help change that.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: And have an impact. And I also felt like I wanted to do well financially myself but never would I forget the need to be of service to people who didn't have what I ended up having.
MS. BRAGG: Right.

MR. CANTOS: So that's when it all started. And then plus my grandfather in the Philippines was a congressman.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: In his earlier days. So the whole politics runs in our blood.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: On my dad's side and my mom's side actually. So I wanted to do those things, you know, to be... a lawyer from early on. But then when I got to LMU I got to sort of experience the nuances of what it's like to do, to push to do well while at the same time making sure not to forget where we are and how lucky we all are.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: To have what we have. And to always find a way to do other stuff. That's why I got involved with campus ministry where we went to the orphanage every month--

MS. BRAGG: [Interposing] Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: --to help build up the orphanage and play with the kids and have a lot of fun.

MS. BRAGG: Right.

MR. CANTOS: Did other things with senior citizens and with--we just did all sorts of other things that I never could have imagined would have tied into my role in life with what I wanted to do. But getting to do all those things enabled me to be of help to--I mean it just helped me as a person to grow and to feel like it was important for me no matter what I did to always do something in addition, to be of support to people who needed it.

MS. BRAGG: Right.

MR. CANTOS: I couldn't have gotten that anywhere else the way I got it there.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm. So how would you describe the department at the time? What were your classes like? What were your professors like? Do you have any specific stories or recollections regarding the Political Science Department?
MR. CANTOS: Well with the Political Science Department, people really had different personalities.

MS. BRAGG: Uh-huh.

MR. CANTOS: One professor was kind of a jokester. Another professor, the very first Political Science professor that I had, he had a less than animated approach to teaching--

MS. BRAGG: [Interposing] Ah [chuckling]

MR. CANTOS: --but even the--you know, but even though it was--his teaching style was not as animated as would necessarily be ideal.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: He's the one that I learned the most from.

MS. BRAGG: Uh-huh.

MR. CANTOS: Because I learned from him the difference between the liberal approach and the conservative approach, the radical approach, the mainstream approach, the basics of Poly Sci 110, you know, like--

MS. BRAGG: [Interposing] Right.

MR. CANTOS: --what are the ways that different people think and then sort of decide well which was is the truth. You know?

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: And from that point on, you know, I continued to go back to him just to get his take. And then--well I mean I don't know if you want me to name people, I can--

MS. BRAGG: [Interposing] Yeah, absolutely.

MR. CANTOS: --you know. Oh okay well Father Welch; Father Robert Welch was my very first Poly Sci teacher.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: Professor. And he was the one who showed me--

[END Ollie_Cantos_5.mp3]

[START Ollie_Cantos_6.mp3]

MR. CANTOS: --that there was the mainstream approach, and, you know, the--to politics and there's the radical approach which
more was an approach that most people didn't really embody at the time--

MS. BRAGG: [Interposing] Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: --or at any time really. And then there was Professor Blakesley [phonetic] who was just a jokester. He would, he would kid around about stuff in class and then he's the one who talked about different approaches to leadership when he taught Public Administration.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: There was also Dr. Seconrider [phonetic] who taught the way to come out, to analyze political data with polling and statistical significance and so forth.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: And she was really, really nice, but she was also the toughest. She was tough. I mean it took everything I had just to squeak out with a B in that class--

MS. BRAGG: [Interposing] Really.

MR. CANTOS: --it took everything I had. And I thought I wouldn't make, you know, but even as tough as she was, she was brilliant.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: Absolutely brilliant. And then Dr. Genovese, he was and is one of the most respected and renown presidential scholars in the country.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: He can tell you about presidents, one after the other Tell you all sorts of things. He gave us readings that were just absolutely interesting. And he is the kind of lecturer where you could listen to him forever. You could just talk to him, talk to him during class about what it was that he was asking. You could ask him interactive questions. And everything he said had a poignancy about what was happening at that time in the real world. It wasn't just oh here's the classroom and here's the real world. And then another professor, I'm trying to remember where they all were, but Dirk, what is his last name, see 'cause I called--he went so informal he even went by first name.
MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: Dirk, oh, I'm going to have to look it up 'cause that's always what I called him.

[Laughter]

MR. CANTOS: But he taught International Political Theory.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: And he was the kind of person that provoked a lot of independent thinking where he would say, okay, read where it says this. So it says that but do you believe that's true.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: If you do, explain. Why do you think that's true? Explain yourself as to why you believe and agree with what's written here. Or if you don't believe it's true, say why. Or if you're not sure, what do you do to make the decision as to whether or not you agree or don't agree with something. And he really provoked a lot of thinking with people.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: You know. I mean I loved the Poly Sci Department. The diversity of thought and, oh, there was also a Father... oh holy smokes. Father Maloney.

MS. BRAGG: Uh-huh.

MR. CANTOS: I took Father Maloney in various classes too. And he was a very deliberate thinker. He taught politics in a way that enabled us to find a way to go beyond what's written and to look beyond what's in front of us and to research and do other things to really come up with our own ways of thinking. And he expected that we learn specific political facts because he said that if we don't learn the exact facts in terms of who was president and when, who was--what happened with--what were the general historical events, then we're not going to have an idea, a general idea of the pattern of how things go with the way the world works. And so he really emphasized that. And that had an impact on me. And so--and I mean that's not even to say--I could go through literally every teacher that made--had an impact on me with, you know, from other departments even.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.
MR. CANTOS: You know, of how all of it just came together where I learned so much that I still literally can recite to now, until--through now because of the way that the quality of the instruction.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: The professors were really engaging with us. They always had office hours and I took advantage of those office hours. And they never made it seem like well gosh we're bothering them--

MS. BRAGG: [Interposing] Right.

MR. CANTOS: --they always wanted to do whatever they could to enable us to understand the concepts better. They cared about not only the subject but they cared about us.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: Beyond just their being our professors, they cared about us personally. I know they cared about me personally.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: Because they made me feel like they cared about me. They--there's be times when I'd have a rough day and then a professor then in class, including within this particular one, there was a, you know, I was just having a rough time.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: This was life. You know? And then Father Maloney said, hey, Ollie, can I just see you after class when you get the chance. You know--

[END Ollie_Cantos_6.mp3]

[START Ollie_Cantos_7.mp3]

MR. CANTOS: --he just said I just need to speak to you after class. He said it really quiet. And then afterwards when everybody left he said it looks like something is bothering you. Can--you know, let's come--you know, can you come back, come back and see me later today? I just want to see how you are.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: I never, never forgot that.
Ms. Bragg: Mm-hmm.

Mr. Cantos: It was just a rough day. But he knew that I had a rough day. That has nothing to do with the class or with politics or whatever. He just wanted to know how I was and wanted to see if I was okay.

Ms. Bragg: Mm-hmm.

Mr. Cantos: Holy cats.

Ms. Bragg: Yeah.

Mr. Cantos: You can't get that in a class when you have 300, 400, 500 students--


Mr. Cantos: --that professor wouldn't care.

Ms. Bragg: Mm-hmm. Very true. Do you feel that your degree in Political Science and your education at LMU prepared your for your professional career?

Mr. Cantos: Oh definitely. Right from what I learned in Political Science, it helped my launch right into when I went to law school.

Ms. Bragg: Mm-hmm.

Mr. Cantos: And the kind of thinking that's expected in law school is far different than in undergrad. I mean law school, the pressure is really intense. I'm not sure if you may know but with law school your final exam is 100% of your grade.

Ms. Bragg: Mm-hmm.

Mr. Cantos: So if you--


Mr. Cantos: --have a bad morning or whatever, tough. Ha, you know--?

Ms. Bragg: [Interposing] Yeah.

Mr. Cantos: --so the whole time you have nothing other than to prepare for the final. That's all that you're geared for.

Ms. Bragg: Mm-hmm.
MR. CANTOS: And the pressure was really, really intense. And I actually had doubts of whether I could complete law school because it was so hard.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: But what helped was my--the grounding that I received while I was at LMU because of all that I learned in Political Science. The thinking was different but what ended up carrying over into law school was the fact that I knew that there was a need to think both sides and to argue both sides and to see people's different points of view as to why they think as they think.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: And then that actually helped me with being more analytical in law school. And even as difficult as times were, even at--I mean Loyola, people cared from the very beginning all the way to the time I finished, from the Dean all the way down. And I don't know if you want me to get into detail with that but it was really, really--it was a significant time when things could have gone really, really wrong, where I could have fallen off the track because I felt that law school was so hard that I can't--I just can't cut it.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: It's--I don't have the intellectual capability and I just can't. I thought that I was doing the best I could and well maybe there's a point that I should be realistic and say this whole attorney thing is just not for me. It's just not my thing.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: But because of the faculty, administration, and staff combined with my family, I was able to finish. And then ultimately I finished in a climatic was. Really in a way that I never expected.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: But it was amazing and even though there was no priest on campus at the law school level, the thing that was the same as LMU undergrad was that everybody really cared. I mean you read in admissions books, you know, admissions pamphlets how people are caring about one another. Yeah, I
mean it sounds good, right?

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: But I know for a fact that they do. I've experienced it in my own life. And when they cared about me, both at the undergraduate and graduate level, they didn't do it with some camera around recording oh look, hey, they're showing that she cares about him or he cares about him.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: You know? They were just doing it because they're decent, kind, wonderful human beings who wanted us to do well in every way not just academically but they wanted to make sure that we were well prepared for the world.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: And that is an assertion I will make until my dying day that both LMU undergrad and Loyola Law School at the graduate level, both have that emphasis of really wanting us to do well and not wanting to tear us down but actually enabling us to find even at times of really, really significant despair, wanting us to hold on to that one bit of optimism that will carry us through the dark times so that ultimately we finish successfully.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: And it's not some speech that people, you know, would say but I know from my own life that that's what they did for me--

MS. BRAGG: [Interposing] Right.

MR. CANTOS: --and I will forever be grateful for--to LMU undergrad and to the law school for everything that they did. It's just--it's amazing to me when I think about the people there continuing to change lives today.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: You know, you're there, you're at the campus now at LMU and I can only imagine the stories you already have to tell.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: And combine that with the ways that they've touched the lives of tens of thousands of people before us.
MS. BRAGG: Yeah.

MR. CANTOS: You know. It's just a remarkable tradition.

MS. BRAGG: Absolutely. Just out of curiosity, you just mentioned your climatic finish to law school. Can you elucidate on that?

MR. CANTOS: Oh sure. At the beginning of law--

[END Ollie_Cantos_7.mp3]

[START Ollie_Cantos_8.mp3]

MR. CANTOS: --school, I was academically it was tough because I did everything I could and I still couldn't do well, you know, do that well.

MS. BRAGG: Uh-huh.

MR. CANTOS: And I just wondered if I could ever cut this. There are people who started dropping out in mid semester, you know, midyear and I thought gosh, you know, am I going to be next to just say I can't handle this.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: Then by the end of law school, my last semester I ended up getting the highest grade in one class and getting--I basically got an A in 2 of my classes.

MS. BRAGG: Wow.

MR. CANTOS: And in law school getting an A is almost impossible.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: Any attorney will tell you in law school that they hardly ever get actually an A.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: You know but I got 2 of them at the end.

MS. BRAGG: Wow.

MR. CANTOS: You know. And so it was, it really taught me a lesson that ultimately, even if I didn't think it was going to work, it really did work out ultimately.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm. Obviously you've become a very noted advocate for people with disabilities. As a former Associate Director
for Domestic Policy in the White House and as an attorney in the Civil Rights Division of the United States Department of Justice, can you tell me about your journey to these opportunities and positions?

MR. CANTOS: Oh sure. The journey, at a career level, started at Loyola Law School.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: There was, you know, I had worked on taking the bar exam and I had had a lot of difficulty with it. And during one particular time when I was waiting for the bar results somebody in the Registrar's Office at the Law School said well, hey, there's this on-campus thing called the Disability Rights Legal Center, while you're waiting for the bar results, maybe, you know, not to say that you necessarily would do disabilities because you have a disability, but it'll give you some experience while waiting for the bar results. Why don't you just go there and see how you can help.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: And all my time, during my whole time at the Law School I never got involved with them. I'd heard of them but I never even stepped foot onto their--maybe once, stepped foot onto the premises 'cause they actually had--were housed, the organization was actually housed on the Law School campus.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: Where the Executive Director headed this organization but yet also was an Adjunct Professor at the Law School. So-

MS. BRAGG: [Interposing] Right.

MR. CANTOS: --it allowed people who were on campus to gain direct legal experience. So I ended up working there just sort of helping out as a volunteer--

MS. BRAGG: [Interposing] Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: --at the suggestion of someone from the Registrar's Office. It was Chris Butson [phonetic] I think if I remember right, from the Registrar, himself, who suggested that I take a look at this.
MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: And then so then the bar results came out that said that I passed and the Executive Director of the Disability Rights Legal Center at the time, she saw the results too and so she e-mailed me. The results came out on Sunday. The next Monday morning she said congratulations for passing the bar. Next sentence: Want to work for us?

MS. BRAGG: Oh that's great.

MR. CANTOS: So then when I got the job, because it's this nonprofit organization, it's not like big law firm money, right?

MS. BRAGG: Right.

MR. CANTOS: At the time I got what was equivalent to $9.25 an hour--

MS. BRAGG: [Interposing] Oh.

MR. CANTOS: --for doing attorney work. And doing a lot of community building. And I actually built a strong coalition infrastructure that had not existed previously in Southern California--

MS. BRAGG: [Interposing] Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: --and I built it by the time I left there were 417 organizations that had been built too.

MS. BRAGG: Wow.

MR. CANTOS: But I basically, even though I got paid $9.25 an hour, I treated the job as if I were paid $1 million tax-free a year.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: And I went in every--I went in early every day, stayed late and at times stayed at the Law School overnight, just to get things done.

MS. BRAGG: Wow.

MR. CANTOS: And to the behest of my Executive Director who would say stop doing that. That's not good. Don't do that.

[Laughter]

MR. CANTOS: I did it anyway. And then so eventually she said,
hey, there's this award I want to nominate you for. You know, it's with the American Association of People with Disabilities in Washington, D.C. It's called the Paul Hearn Leadership Award. It comes with money and everything. So maybe it'll supplement your salary a bit if you get it.

[Laughter]

MS. BRAGG: Yeah.

MR. CANTOS: Well but before that though, my position that I was hired for ran out of grant money.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: And so the Executive Director actually, she called me into her office and she said I'm sorry, Ollie, the funding has run out for your position. But we really need you to stay. If you're willing to stay at your current level I--

[END Ollie_Cantos_8.mp3]

[START Ollie_Cantos_9.mp3]

MR. CANTOS: --will pay you out of my salary if you stay.

MS. BRAGG: Wow.

MR. CANTOS: Luckily the money came in so it turned out to be okay.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: But the fact that she was willing to do that just to keep me around.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: You know. And then she nominated me for this award and I ended up getting it. And then I got to know the people at AAPD.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: And then I started doing some work for them, strategic planning work, other stuff. Like they wanted to have membership growth in California so, long story short, I got them 1,000 members in 1 day. And because of a benefactor that agreed to pay for everyone's membership it raised for the organization, $15,000 for the day.

MS. BRAGG: Wow.
MR. CANTOS: You know. And so stuff like that. So that enabled me to get to know the staff there. And then later on I got recruited to come to D.C. to work for them.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: But I would not have gotten that had my Executive Director not nominated me for this award which enabled me to get to know these people.

MS. BRAGG: Right.

MR. CANTOS: And then so when I left, by the time I left--oh I should also tell you too, when I was at the Law School I learned about the loan forgiveness program 'cause I was making such little money that there was a new program, a relatively new program, that enabled people who weren't making very much to get their salaries supplemented where if you make below a certain amount they supplement your salary to the higher amount so that you can pay your student loans off.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: So that actually enabled me to survive for three years.

MS. BRAGG: Wow.

MR. CANTOS: And the reason why the money was available to help me supplement my salary from being super low to just being low--

MS. BRAGG: [Interposing] Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: --[chuckling] is that people who are alums from the Law School gave and contributed to this fund to enable people to work in what's called public interest law.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: Which is, you know, working for the common good basically. And so, again, LMU people who I--Loyola folks who I never knew were my benefactors enabling me to stay there and to make some semblance of money by supplementing my salary. And they supplemented it rather intensely. I think they gave me a year, roughly $10,000 or $11,000 or $12,000.

MS. BRAGG: Wow.

MR. CANTOS: Which wasn't a lot lot but the fact that without that I would have not been able to survive as much.
MS. BRAGG: Yeah.

MR. CANTOS: So eventually, you know, I went to D.C. Then when I was in D.C., I worked hard there and I took a program that was just in 37 states. I built it to all 50 states plus D.C., Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and 19 foreign countries on 5 continents in 2 years.

MS. BRAGG: Wow.

MR. CANTOS: And that drew a lot of attention from the Justice Department.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: Because we got to know some political leadership there. And then there was a job opening at the Justice Department and I came on board. And immediately when they made me an offer to be an attorney at the Justice Department, I was immediately brought to the leadership level as a Special Assistant to the Assistant Attorney General.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: And then I was there for a while and the same approach, I basically treated it like it was my--just my passion, which it was.

MS. BRAGG: Yes.

MR. CANTOS: And that drew the attention of the White House. And the White House brought me--they tracked me down, they called me in, and then they asked to see me, and three weeks later I was Associate Director for Domestic Policy.

MS. BRAGG: Wow.

MR. CANTOS: So all of this was within 7 years of becoming a lawyer.

MS. BRAGG: That's incredible.

MR. CANTOS: So in basically, every step, you just make yourself--the way this all happened is that I made it a point to distinguish myself as the best whatever it was that I could possibly be. If I were, I mean proverbially speaking but in spirit it's the same, if I was hired as a janitor I'd be the best darned janitor that they ever had.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.
MR. CANTOS: You know? I didn't look at the money at the time. And now I mean it's great. I mean I make a 6-figure income now.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: You know. And I'm pretty happy with how things turned out. But it didn't start our this way--

MS. BRAGG: [Interposing] Right.

MR. CANTOS: --I didn't start off making that. But I--but it all happened because of wanting to do whatever I could just to make sure that I was better at my job than anyone else could ever be.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: You know. That's just how my mindset was. I'm like I'm going to be whatever. Whatever I am, I'm going to be The Best, hardest working, whatever it took to get it done.

MS. BRAGG: Right.

MR. CANTOS: And so that's literally even since then, you know, there've been job offers periodically and so forth to take me somewhere else. But I really have loved it at Justice--

MS. BRAGG: [Interposing] Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: --so I've stayed. But I've literally been offered other jobs in other parts of government.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: Because of the same approach. So I guess the takeaway of all this is that if everybody puts in their very best and doesn't look at the--

[END Ollie_Cantos_9.mp3]

[START Ollie_Cantos_10.mp3]

MR. CANTOS: --bottom line for a while, they just make sure that they optimize their contribution and their value to others, that everything else works itself out.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm. Going back to LMU, how would you rate LMU in terms of its attention to and efforts on behalf of students with disabilities?

MR. CANTOS: The only way I could say it is amazing.
MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: They... the Office for Students with Disabilities at the time I was there constituted one person, Sidney Stansbury [phonetic]. She's the one who actually called me to tell me I got accepted to LMU.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: She was the first person I knew with, you know, at the very beginning she said, okay, what do you need. Do you need someone to read textbooks to you? Do you need equipment? Do you need--what actually do you need to do well here?

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: And then from that point on, all the way through, I was always given whatever I needed because any request I had was always reasonable. I always made sure I had good reason to ask for what I needed. And there was never any feeling like, do you really, Ollie, do you really, really need that?

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: I mean that's expensive. Do you really want--I mean that's a lot of money, that kind of thing.

MS. BRAGG: Right.

MR. CANTOS: They never--I mean not that I asked for things that always cost a lot of money--

MS. BRAGG: [Interposing] Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: --but they were awesome all the way to the very end. There was never any difficulty. Whenever I needed anything with the professors, they would actually help with that, in that regard.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: By explaining to the professors how I work and what I needed and how I operated and how I was able to do well. And it made things really a lot easier.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: And they, at the same time, said it's your responsibility, Ollie, to make sure to tell us what you need. We're not going to assume what you need. That's up to you to
tell us.

MS. BRAGG: Right.

MR. CANTOS: So don't hesitate to tell us but at the same time if you're having trouble, don't wait until you're in dire circumstances to tell us by, you know, that you need something 'cause if you do, then even if we help you later, you won't be able to save your grade.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: And they told me that early, like from the beginning. They said don't let something become a crisis before you ask us for help. Tell us early so it's easier for everybody where the help we can get you will be in time enough for you to get what you needed and at the same time it'll be minimally stressful for you because you'll have what you need and you'll be able to thrive better on your, you know, as best as you can.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: And yet they didn't coddle me which is what I really appreciate. They didn't just say well we'll do this and this and this and we'll do all of this for you. She expected me to do my part.

MS. BRAGG: Right.

MR. CANTOS: And she didn't say it that way but there were other places that I've heard are more coddling like, okay, we'll just do everything--you know, we'll just take care of everything. You just come in and then everything is set.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: She literally said look because you're an adult we're not going to baby you here. We--she didn't say that, it's not that we don't care, it's just that we respect you enough as an adult to be an adult.

MS. BRAGG: Right.

MR. CANTOS: If you need something, you let us know. If you don't and you don't express it we won't know that you need something.

MS. BRAGG: Right.

MR. CANTOS: I loved it.
MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: I absolutely loved it. It was the best thing. And it was always love. It was--she was never mean or tough or like, oh well, tough, go for it, you know?

MS. BRAGG: Right.

MR. CANTOS: She was always nice about the whole thing. And she said when we don't--when we don't coddle you here, it's because we believe you're an adult. Just because you have a disability doesn't mean that we should make the assumption that you can't do something. If there's something you need help with, tell us.

MS. BRAGG: Right.

MR. CANTOS: If not, we're going to assume you're good.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: Awesome way to handle--I mean I can't even tell you how much I appreciate that. And then the same philosophy was true with the Law School. They said the same kind of thing. And none of them know each other.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: It's fascinating. They don't even know each other and yet they said the same kind of stuff. It's just remarkable. And when I was at the Law School, you know, there was this new technology that came out that enabled, you know, books to be scanned in and converted to electronic text, like into Microsoft Word or whatever.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: And, you know, she said well what's the name of this company and I gave her the name. And then this technology was really expensive, it was everything, you know, so she said, okay Ollie, we're going to have you try out this stuff. And then they brought in the sales person and everything. And it's like all the bells and whistles. Anything that I possibly--just--they said don't--just--just tell us the kind of things you need, whoever needs to be there, just see what it is that you need and tell us.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: And I'm like okay. And they said don't worry about
it, just if you could have a magic lamp and have anything you wanted. Not that we'll give you everything you wanted but just--

[END Ollie_Cantos_10.mp3]

[START Ollie_Cantos_11.mp3]

MR. CANTOS: --just tell us.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: And then so I tried this technology out and everything. And I was sitting there with the Dean. And she said so does this stuff work for you. And I'm like does it work, this is amazing, I love this. Wow. Well thanks for showing this to me. And that was it. I just figured that they just wanted to see what was possible technologically.

MS. BRAGG: Right.

MR. CANTOS: But the next second the Dean of Students leans over to the administrative assistant next to her and she says, okay, he says what he wants. Get it.

MS. BRAGG: Huh.

MR. CANTOS: Like.

MS. BRAGG: Wow.

MR. CANTOS: I'm sorry, what?

MS. BRAGG: Huh.

MR. CANTOS: Well you said you needed it. Well I--yeah, yeah, but I--well--and I said but Dean Yamamoto, that's $16,000. She said yeah. $16,000 but we expect that you do well here. You become rich and you give us a lot of money when you're an alum.

[Laughter]

MS. BRAGG: That's great.

MR. CANTOS: So I never forgot that. And I used the technology the rest of the time and, you know, she just--it was just like nothing. She's like, well, well he needs it, get it. That's it, no, not another word. She literally leaned over to the person next to her, asked her to process it with the guy, to just get everything I asked for.
MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: No exception. She got me everything I asked for.

MS. BRAGG: That's great.

MR. CANTOS: $16,000 back in 1993.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: Was a lot of money.

MS. BRAGG: Yeah.

[Laughter]

MS. BRAGG: Absolutely. So--

MR. CANTOS: [Interposing] So I mean that's the kind of commitment they had. And I still talk to Dean Yamomoto to this day. I just called her about two months ago.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: You know she's now not Dean of Students, she's now like promoted now to something.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: You know. But it's--that's the kind of thing that I will never forget. And so as much as I'm able for my entire life, I'm giving every, you know, as much as I can to LMU and to the Law School.

MS. BRAGG: Right.

MR. CANTOS: Just for that. And I try to direct it to where I was helped.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: You know, 'cause that's a cool thing. Anybody who wants to give can designate where they want it to go, you know. I'm supporting, you know, Art Lib, College of Liberal Arts as well as, you know, like the Law School. I like to be supportive. And if anything I feel bad that I can't give more [laughing].

MS. BRAGG: Right.

MR. CANTOS: You know. And like, you know, it's... it's just--I can't even tell you how grateful I am to the--to LMU and the
Law School for everything they've done for me. I mention LMU and the Law School in everything, my bio says it, I bring it up in speeches.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: I try to be the unofficial ambassador of LMU everywhere I go--

MS. BRAGG: [Interposing] Uh-huh.

MR. CANTOS: --and the Law School. I bring it up in everything. It's in my materials. If people were to Google my name with Loyola it'll come up multiple times.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: On purpose. Because that was the kind of role the LMU and the Law School had for me.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: And I will spend the rest of my life, everything I do for the rest of my life from the time I graduated all the way through the time I have my last breath on this earth, everything I do will not be enough to repay what they've done for me.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: There's no way I can repay the way that the University has changed my life forever. I cannot do enough. I physically and humanly can never do enough to repay them for what they've done.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: That's how I feel.

MS. BRAGG: That's incredible.

MR. CANTOS: You know. No matter what I do, I feel like it's never enough. I'm not doing enough for LMU. I need to do more. I need to do more. I've just--that's just how I feel.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm. Is--

MR. CANTOS: [Interposing] So that's why when the Alumni Association asked me to help, I did it. You know whatever it is, whatever they ask me to do, if I can do it, I'll do it.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.
MR. CANTOS: If I can't do something initially, I find a way later and I do it anyway.

[Laughter]

MS. BRAGG: So in terms of the students during the early 1990's at LMU, how would you describe the general population? Were they mostly instate, out of state, was it a very diverse campus or not? How big was it? What was the--what were some of the characteristics of it? How would you describe it?

MR. CANTOS: Oh. There were 4,000 students at the time I was there--

MS. BRAGG: [Interposing] Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: --and to me that seemed pretty big.

MS. BRAGG: Yeah.

MR. CANTOS: I think it's bigger now. But the undergrad, I mean the student population was pretty diverse. There's this guy named Tony who was a student from Kenya who I got to know really well.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: And he was only 16. And actually my junior and senior year of college, my roommate was this protégé guy who actually was a 16-year old--I mean he finished at LMU before he turned 18.

MS. BRAGG: Wow.

MR. CANTOS: Just brilliant.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: And then there are people who were of Latino backgrounds. There were people, you know, there were African Americans. There were Asian Pacific Islanders. There was a big Nakolea [phonetic] was a really big--they were really, really one of the most active--

[END Ollie_Cantos_11.mp3]

[START Ollie_Cantos_12.mp3]

MR. CANTOS: --groups on campus. And then there was the Greek system which pretty much at the time, I'm not sure if it's this way now, but at the time they controlled everything.
MR. CANTOS: So like the LMU, the ASLMU people were primarily Greek. I was the only one who wasn't.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: Or one of the few that wasn't. You know but there were fraternity people, sorority folks. There were people who were from different parts of the world.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: There were people who had money. I mean a lot of money.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: There were other people who were there who were my friends who were student workers who had to work their way just to stay at LMU and whose families were blue collar.

MS. BRAGG: Right.

MR. CANTOS: And the blue collar people and the wealthy people or whoever, everybody all hung out together. Nobody like asked oh who's your father. You know?

MS. BRAGG: Right.

MR. CANTOS: None of that stuff.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: You know. I mean during my time there, the history of the vary first student worker general who was a woman, that all happened during the time--that happened when I was there.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: You know, C.C. was the first student worker general, woman student worker general in the history of LMU and that happened while I was there. The, you know, the emphasis on cultural inclusion. There were different events with different cultures that happened during convocation hour.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: There were speakers that came in, you know, who had all sorts of different ways of thinking. And even ASLMU itself there were people who were of all sorts of different
backgrounds. And I mean just from everything. From Republican, Democrat, there was somebody who was on the Student Senate who was openly gay.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: I mean in, you know, at the time compared to how it is now, you know, I mean back then, even then, it's, you know, you know, Mark Roberts was, you know, he--everybody knew but he was elected.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: You know? It didn't, you know, people felt like well yeah, so. Ha.

MS. BRAGG: Exactly.

MR. CANTOS: You know?

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: So and then there are people who--I mean literally you can just imagine anything. And there were people who I knew who were that--who were there.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: And that was all the way through, freshman, sophomore, junior, senior year. I mean every year there are always--there's all this diversity that was--and the cool thing is they didn't say, we are div--I mean, they didn't say we're--we're... we're doing this for diversity. I mean the cool thing is it just happened to be that way.

MS. BRAGG: Right.

MR. CANTOS: It didn't feel like we're doing this because we want to show that we're diverse. It's none of that. It's just it just was [laughing].

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: And that was--that was--that's how it should be.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm. You mentioned that you were in ASLMU. Can you tell me what position you held? And what were some of the biggest challenges and issues that ASLMU faced during your time at LMU?

MR. CANTOS: Oh yeah. I got involve din ASLMU, the first year I
didn't do--I was appointed to fill a vacancy my freshman year as a Senator. So I was a Student Senator for a semester.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: Then I got elected Speaker of the Senate for sophomore year. Then I ran for Executive VP for my junior year and lost. But yet I was still appointed for Vice President for Student Services. So I still was on the Executive Board for ASLMU. So I got an appointed Vice President position even though I lost the election by 10 votes. Literally 10 votes. And at that time we--there was no thought of recount, you know, not like from the elections more recently. You know you don't say no I want a recount. It's just not done. So I didn't ask for a recount.

MS. BRAGG: Right.

MR. CANTOS: Then senior year I ran for Executive VP and Chair of the Student Senate again and this time I ran unopposed.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: So all four years I was involved. And so freshman year, the big thing was a skateboarding policy. It was the biggest controversy. Can students skateboard on campus?

MS. BRAGG: [Chuckling]

MR. CANTOS: I mean now I guess it's nothing now but at the time it was like the biggest thing.

MS. BRAGG: That's really interesting 'cause this year they introduced a new policy where they have dismount zones. And if you have a bicycle or a skateboard you have to get off and walk with it. And there was a huge protest yesterday--

MR. CANTOS: [Interposing] Oh yeah. So--

MS. BRAGG: --yeah--

MR. CANTOS: --it's the same thing.

MS. BRAGG: --yeah. That's really interesting actually.

MR. CANTOS: And then all of the skateboarding people are like well it's not like we hit anybody.

MS. BRAGG: Yeah.

MR. CANTOS: You know. And then the people who were against it,
it's like, well, every time somebody passes I feel like I'm going to be hit.

MS. BRAGG: Yeah.

MR. CANTOS: And so everybody was really mad.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: Like really angry, angry, you know--

MS. BRAGG: [Interposing] Yeah.

MR. CANTOS: --over the whole skateboarding. Oh, so it's still happening.

[Laughter]

MS. BRAGG: Yeah, kind of, yeah.

MR. CANTOS: And then there was also the Parking Commission and so I don't know if they still have that like if people want to appeal a parking ticket they have to go to the Student Senate--

MS. BRAGG: [Interposing] Hum.

MR. CANTOS: --to get, you know, and then the public safety people abide by the wishes of what the Student Senate Parking Commission decides to do. I don't--

[END Ollie_Cantos_12.mp3]

[START Ollie_Cantos_13.mp3]

MR. CANTOS: --know if they do that anymore.

MS. BRAGG: I'm not sure. I've never had to do that myself. But I don't know what the setup is today.

MR. CANTOS: And then there's another thing where there was President Reagan was supposed to come to campus.

MS. BRAGG: Oh wow.

MR. CANTOS: And then at the time, I should be better at this, I think it was in El Salvador, 6 Jesuits were killed.

MS. BRAGG: Oh. Yes.

MR. CANTOS: And the controversy surrounding that enabled--I mean it had to do with President Reagan's policies.
MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: And because of the controversy regarding the killing of the 6 Jesuits.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: President Reagan's office pulled out.

MS. BRAGG: Oh wow.

MR. CANTOS: And didn't come.

MS. BRAGG: Yeah.

MR. CANTOS: There was another time when President Bush did come, President George H. W. Bush, came to campus because the debates were held at UCLA.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.


MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: And after he went to UCLA he came to Garston Pavilion and that's where he had his victory rally.

MS. BRAGG: Wow. That's amazing. I didn't know that.

MR. CANTOS: Oh yeah, yeah--

MS. BRAGG: [Interposing] Oh my god.

MR. CANTOS: --then it says in the background, you know, Bush wins, I think. I mean if you go back to the yearbooks and, you know, around '92 you'll--you should be able to see the pictures, you know, of people who were, you know, who this happened with.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: You know. So all this happened at the time I was there. And then there was also with other issues, it had to do with... the sound at Loyola Hall.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: You know if it was too loud like, you know, people were complaining. And then there was this power thing between RHA and ASLMU. You know--

MS. BRAGG: [Interposing] Mm-hmm.
MR. CANTOS: --because the Resident Hall Association was saying, hey, we have the, you know, we're the governing body for the resident halls. And ASLMU was saying, well no, you're one constituency group over many. You know, there's some of that.

MS. BRAGG: Right.

MR. CANTOS: I mean all these things that seem like the biggest issues now looking back it's like, pfft, that's it?

[Laughter]

MS. BRAGG: Yeah.

MR. CANTOS: At the time it was like everybody's emotions were right out involved with all of this stuff.

MS. BRAGG: Yeah. You were also a member of the Crimson Circle. What are some of your memories from being in that group?

MR. CANTOS: I loved Crimson Circle. You know, I wanted to be a Crimson, like junior, but I thought, aw, I don't know, wow. Wow. I don't know if I can--

MS. BRAGG: [Interposing] Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: And then I went for it for my senior year. And one of the best, some of the best memories with Crimson Circle, well there are two actually. One of them was where I, very--periodically on Sundays for 8:00 o'clock mass; we would help distribute the programs.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: But also we were the ones who were, you know, during the presentation of the gifts at mass, you know, the Crimson--you know, the folks at Crimson Circle that we'd take the collection.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: I don't know if you still do it that way, but, you know, like when people want to give during church like right before--

MS. BRAGG: [Interposing] Yes.

MR. CANTOS: --before the Eucharist, people can give money and, you know, you have that basket that you pass around.
MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: There was this, you know, getting us to do that, you know, on--regularly on Sundays was awesome and--

MS. BRAGG: [Interposing] Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: --there was even this one time when I was giving. I mean I was doing it and the stick from the, you know, the, you know, it has the stick--

MS. BRAGG: [Interposing] For the basket--

MR. CANTOS: --so you can reach into the aisles.

MS. BRAGG: Yeah.

MR. CANTOS: Father George Wanser [phonetic] was presiding over the mass at the time and he saw from where he was standing that the trajectory of where the gift--where the chalice was for the wine was right in line with the way I was collecting the money and he saw from a distance, he's like, oh my gosh--

MS. BRAGG: [Interposing] [laughing].

MR. CANTOS: --it's going to hit.

[Laughter]

MS. BRAGG: Oh no.

MR. CANTOS: And then he's like--and then so--I didn't--I was completely oblivious and then when I got to the row, I reached in with the collection and sure enough the stick from the collection basket hit the chalice and it went ding, like that--

MS. BRAGG: [Interposing] [laughing].

MR. CANTOS: --but thankfully--I mean it had to have been the Lord himself to have prevented it from falling. But it hit it and it didn't fall. And I in the meantime freaked out like [sharp intake of breath], you know, this is like with an entire full mass of everybody, you know, like the full 8:00 o'clock mass.

MS. BRAGG: Right.

MR. CANTOS: And so that was sort of like a really funny memory of, you know, getting to do that at the time.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.
MR. CANTOS: And I also got to do, you know, be a Eucharistic minister and some other stuff. But I loved Crimson Circle. The second memory from Crimson Circle was working at Loyola Village Elementary.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: Which is just down the street there. I don't know if people still do that there.

MS. BRAGG: They do.

MR. CANTOS: But some of the kids from Loyola Elementary, you know, I was in touch with for a number of years before I left for D.C. And then literally--

[END Ollie_Cantos_13.mp3]

[START Ollie_Cantos_14.mp3]

MR. CANTOS: --a year ago one of the kids had--he's now 23, he wrote me back and he said how much I changed his life. But the only reason why I got to go to Loyola Village in the first place is because it was a Crimson Circle project.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: I loved Crimson Circle. It's just super fun and plus the guys are all great.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm. Can you tell me about the Frank Sullivan Social Justice Center and your role in that while you were at LMU?

MR. CANTOS: Well there wasn't a Frank Sullivan Social Justice Center then. But there was a Frank Sullivan Social Justice Committee.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: And the issues that were primarily with faculty and I was a student representative to the committee. And they talked about this whole situation of the Jesuits. They talked about what was happening in South America. They wanted to look at their--at the University's investments.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: Oh, the other thing that was big too at the time was apartheid in South Africa was still happening.
MS. BRAGG: Right.

MR. CANTOS: And Nelson Mandela was just freed in 1990 or '89, '90, right around then.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: And I was—we were there at the time. And the Frank Sullivan Social Justice Committee took up divesting LMU's assets out of anything that had anything to do with any ties with South Africa.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: And that was really fun. That was, I mean, because I felt like, wow, I'm actually getting to sit with the members of the Board of Trustees.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: And faculty Senate members and people and getting to speak up as to what would be best. And I'm thinking gosh, you know, I'm studying this in school and I'm actually helping to make a decision regarding what we're actually going to do.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.


MS. BRAGG: That's incredible.

MR. CANTOS: It was fun. And then in the last year, this was in May of '92, the LA riots happened--

MS. BRAGG: [Interposing] Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: --and I was on campus when all of it broke.

MS. BRAGG: Wow.

MR. CANTOS: So students ended up blocking the entrance to, you know, right now it's considered the back entrance; you know where the guard check is by Tendridge [phonetic]?

MS. BRAGG: Yes.

MR. CANTOS: That's considered like the back now but at the time it was the front.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.
MR. CANTOS: And so students spontaneously gathered and blocked the entrance demanding that the University speak up about the riots.

MS. BRAGG: Wow.

MR. CANTOS: And there were actually teach-ins that were involved with the Jesuit situation. There was a teach-in that was for a day, y, to address the social justice issues.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: So there's like a lot of stuff that happened that made social justice really real. It wasn't just something we studied about. It was something we were involved with.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm. You obviously have a very interesting life. Have you been able to maintain contact with LMU and alumni over the years?

MR. CANTOS: Oh yeah, yeah. LMU, matter of fact, the Associate Dean for Liberal Arts came to D.C. and had lunch with me here to tell me about what was happening with the college and everything. I don't know the current leadership there but he actually made it a point to reach out to me and to spend time with me so I could try to be of help to the college of Liberal Arts.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: There's actually some efforts with environmental justice issues where I could be of help because of people I know and people I can link up with, link LMU leadership up with.

MS. BRAGG: Right.

MR. CANTOS: So that's afoot. And then in the meantime there's some other people who are LMU alums who I am still in touch with on Facebook.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: You know. And two of the friends that I had ended up marrying each other.

MS. BRAGG: Oh wow.

MR. CANTOS: So.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.
MR. CANTOS: Huh, you know, so it's really, really cool. And then one of the people who was ASLMU President, the year I was a freshman, I think she's still there, it was Melanie Nunez at the time but I don't know her name now--

MS. BRAGG: [Interposing] Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: --but she's in the Development Office I think.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: And so there are still ties that I have to LMU. I still do whatever I can to be of support, you know, in a direct way.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: Not just, oh, good luck, you know, but I mean really--whenever there are people who are from this region here in D. C. who are thinking of coming to LMU?

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: I always offer to talk to the family or the parents to convince them to go.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: If there is a gathering of LMU alums here, except when I'm on travel, I end up going to meet up with other people who are alums from the area.

MS. BRAGG: Right.

MR. CANTOS: So LMU is still present in my life.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: And I continue to be really grateful for it. For the chance to help out.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: And just to even do it behind the scenes, just to help with even current students, you know, if there's anything I can do like periodically--

[END Ollie_Cantos_14.mp3]

[START Ollie_Cantos_15.mp3]

MR. CANTOS: --there's like a student with a disability or a
student who wants to do law or whatever, you know, that I--
that they link me up with and I try to do whatever I can for
the person.

MS. BRAGG: What do you treasure most about attending LMU? What
are some of your best memories?

MR. CANTOS: Well the... the immediate first memory that I remember
at LMU was during O Week where when I was in high--by
contrast with high school where my blindness was sort of like
the big elephant in the room, a big deal.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: LMU was completely different. I mean literally
during O Week people were reaching out to me and they were
accepting of me and they just said, hey, you know, it's
really nice to meet you and we're going to have a great 4
years here, kind of thing.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: And that's what set the stage because I was scared.

MS. BRAGG: Right.

MR. CANTOS: You know, that there was a lot of... stuff. And then
here's another thing too. You know, periodically people
would party around campus and I'm just not that way, you
know--

MS. BRAGG: [Interposing] Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: --I just didn't do the whole drinking thing.

MS. BRAGG: Right.

MR. CANTOS: You know, other people did. This is later by the
way. This isn't during O Week. But like, you know, I'd go
and hang out with people but when I didn't drink nobody said,
oh well, why aren't you being with us. What's--what you
think you're better--none of that. It was like, oh we, you
know, get your soda. Let's hang out.

MS. BRAGG: Yeah.

MR. CANTOS: You know. Nothing, not a word about my not drinking--

MS. BRAGG: [Interposing] Right.
MR. CANTOS: --but they still included me.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: You know, people partied. They'd--they were loud. They--we had lot of fun.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: You know, I mean, you know, and I'm--I really loved it. You know, just the friends that I had were--they were varies from people, just they were different circles. Crimson people versus, not versus, but there were Crimson folks, there were people in Campus Ministry, people in the, you know, doing justice stuff, religious stuff, people who weren't doing any of that stuff who were just--who just loved to have fun. [laughing].

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: You know? There are all sorts of circles of friends that I interacted with in different--who had different emphasis in their lives.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: And the memories I have, I have with all of them have just been amazing, you know, with how--it just fit perfectly to just intermix and move from person to person and circle to circle with--

MS. BRAGG: [Interposing] Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: --different friends that I had. You know, I mean just even other things, college roommates; I wanted to see what it was like to work out. So I had no idea how it worked. So my college roommates took me.

MS. BRAGG: Huh.

MR. CANTOS: Another time it came up that my birthday was during the summer so I couldn't get thrown into the Foley--

MS. BRAGG: [Interposing] Yeah.

MR. CANTOS: --pond. I mean what do they call it now?

MS. BRAGG: Foley Pond, yeah.

MR. CANTOS: Foley Pond. And so I couldn't get thrown in 'cause my birthday fell at a time when nobody was there.
MS. BRAGG: Uh-huh.

MR. CANTOS: So out of nowhere one day, college--my roommates on a random day, took me and they carried me there like you--the way--

MS. BRAGG: [Interposing] Yeah [laughing].

MR. CANTOS: --everyone else does and they threw me in.

MS. BRAGG: [Laughing]

MR. CANTOS: And then they were like well, they said, because it's not your birthday during the year, you have the risk of never knowing when we're going to do it.

MS. BRAGG: [laughing].

MR. CANTOS: You know [laughing] so--

MS. BRAGG: [Interposing] That's great.

MR. CANTOS: So I mean it's little things like that. Just getting--you know, or going for pizza, you know, before going to mass at 10:00 o'clock at night.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: It's, you know, little, little things like that, not a big deal

MS. BRAGG: Right.

MR. CANTOS: But little things like--or going to mass at 8:00 o'clock and afterwards singing Christmas carols at the Christmas tree.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm. Yeah. Is there anything else you would like to say or share or discuss?

MR. CANTOS: I guess it depends ultimately on what this is going to be used for in terms of, you know, how I can be of help with whatever else there is to say. Because I could go on forever about this without--but if I do I'll be rambling [laughing].

MS. BRAGG: You--I mean you gave us a lot of great stories and information. Honestly I don't really have anything else to ask you but just in case there was something you felt was very important that you wanted to make sure got across I wanted to ask that question--
MR. CANTOS: [Interposing] Oh. I guess to anybody who may end up going through this, whether they listen to it or whether it's converted into an article form.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: It's that LMU is, you know, the current slogan is Right Place, Right Time.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: LMU is always the right place, right time.

MS. BRAGG: Right.

MR. CANTOS: Whether it's now or in the past, it always is.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: Because, you know, people who continue to want to do well or who just want--

[END Ollie_Cantos_15.mp3]

[START Ollie-Cantos_16.mp3]

MR. CANTOS: --to experience life, LMU is the place. It's the place to grow. It's the place to be in a part of a real community, not just a community in name.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: But a real community with people who care about each other and who have fun with each other and at times even battle with each other.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: You know. It's just like any family. There are fights sometimes but it's still a family.

MS. BRAGG: Yeah.

MR. CANTOS: You know. And it's not some speech that it's a family, it really was. It was a real community and still is.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: And LMU will be that way forever. It's entrenched in its traditions. It's there because it's the way things are with tradition; it's passed from one set of students to the next, to the next, to the next.
MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: And it's how it'll stay. We... the difference between now and in the past is now there are even more programs to be involved with.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: The only kinds of changes that will happen at LMU will always be changes for the better because it'll be more programs, more opportunities to serve, more scholarships, more everything.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: That'll be the difference. But what will say constant is people's commitment to the world and to the community and to themselves to really making sure that they have the best opportunities possible.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: That's going to remain. Our sophistication will continue to grow. Our programs will grow. Our scholarships will increase, etcetera. But what will always be the same is the LMU community feeling. No matter whether people are in their 90's and find out or whatever, everybody can always come back to LMU and remember.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: People propose to one another on that bluff.

MS. BRAGG: Yeah.

MR. CANTOS: They--people--there are things that will never change.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: people will always propose on that bluff.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

MR. CANTOS: People will always make noise for--and get drunk and--

[Laughter]

MR. CANTOS: --don't put that in the -- but, you know that, but in the Loyola or it'll--Tendridge will be quiet or whatever, you know--
MS. BRAGG: [Interposing] Right.

MR. CANTOS: --there's always--there's this rhythm about LMU that things--certain things even though they change, there are other things that never change. And the things that never change are the things that are the precious elements and facets of LMU life that make people want to go there in the first place.

MS. BRAGG: Mm-hmm.

[END Ollie_Cantos_16.mp3]