

**20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Hurricane Hugo's Impact on**  
**MUSC**  
**Oral History Project**

Interview with William H. Golod, Ph.D.  
June 23, 2009

Interviewer: Brooke Fox, MUSC University Archives

Location: Colbert Education Center and Library, Room 407

Brooke Fox: The following is an oral history interview with Dr. William H. Golod. Today's date is Tuesday, June 23, 2009. The interviewer is Brooke Fox. Today's topic will be Hurricane Hugo, the 20th Anniversary.

Okay, Dr. Golod, we're getting ready to begin. What was your position at MUSC in September 1989?

Dr. Golod: I was the dean of the college of pharmacy.

Brooke Fox: Okay.

Dr. Golod: I was director of controlled substances.

Brooke Fox: And you've been at MUSC since the mid-60s? 1960s?

Dr. Golod: 1958.

Brooke Fox: Oh, 1958. I should remember that. Okay, now we'll start talking about Hurricane Hugo. Do you recall or can you describe the days, the week before Hurricane Hugo? When did you realize that it might hit or was going to hit Charleston and all of that?

Dr. Golod: One thing that most people don't realize that until 1993, between '65 and '93, the hospital pharmacy was a department of the college.

Brooke Fox: Okay.

Dr. Golod: It really did not belong to the hospital so therefore it reported to me as the dean of the college. Because of the situation where it was on the first floor, and it was suspected of being flooded, the question then was what would the pharmacy have to move? From the very inception, when the hospital was completed in '55, an operating suite was a duplicate of the

first floor hospital pharmacy. So that we could take all the cabinets that were in the hospital pharmacy, pull them out, and move them up to the fourth floor operating room and function in that area.

So the question now was, since the pharmacy had been moved from where it originally was, and we no longer had those cabinets, was there a space on the fourth floor that was available to move the pharmacy in the event that we were flooded out? With all the renovations, we no longer had thought about a possible flood coming into the pharmacy and having to relocate. And that was a good ten or fifteen-year period that that was something that just slipped everyone's mind.

So, the hospital administrator, the director of the hospital pharmacy and I had to meet to see where we would have to move the pharmacy. Or whether it would be better just to move everything out and work from the three satellite pharmacies around the hospital, and work out of those areas. And so for two or three days prior to the finalization that Hugo was coming for us, we were planning on which would be the best move for the pharmacy. That was one headache I had to deal with. The other headache to deal with was as it got closer, and the college was located off of Calhoun Street, and we already knew that in heavy rains, just heavy rains at high tides, water came into the first floor of the college.

That there was no question that we were going to, if the hurricane gave a direct hit, that the college would be directly hit. There was nothing we could do about that. So, the question then was, what did we have to do with everything that was on the first floor? And where would we move all the furniture that was on the first floor? The big thing was, we had a very big ongoing manufacturing lab back in building E. The whole first floor of building E was a pharmaceutical manufacturing operation, and because of that, it would be flooded. And the question was, there were hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of very expensive equipment back there.

So the question was, can we move it? And the answer was no. It was too big and too expensive. And we would, because of the sophisticated nature of much of the equipment, we'd probably lose it anyway in the rush to move it and then have to move it back. So, we just decided we would go ahead and we would barricade as many of the doors as possible to keep water out and moved all the equipment into what seemed to be the furthest room. And we had several rooms, so we did that.

The next question was what do we do with students? And are faculty safe? Do they have a place to go? So what we did, and I think all the deans did this, every faculty member had to give us an address where if it were coming, they were going to. The students had to do the same thing. And those that had no place to go, then the question came up, what we would do? And so for two to three days prior to that, before we gave the word to the students that they had to leave and find someplace safe to go to, if they didn't, they would report to their class advisor. So, the class advisors were working with the classes.

And so we knew where all the students were, where they were going; we knew, hopefully we knew, where all the faculty were going to be. And if they did not have a place to go to, because we had a goodly number of students without cars, and they had no place to go, where did we house them? And so we worked all those plans out prior to the hurricane coming.

Brooke Fox: So, the hurricane hit on September 21st, it was a Thursday night.

Dr. Golod: Right.

Brooke Fox: So, how many days prior did the State or the school -- the university say, "Okay, we need to evacuate". Was it Wednesday or...?

Dr. Golod: Wednesday morning.

Brooke Fox: Wednesday morning.

Dr. Golod: Wednesday morning early.

Brooke Fox: Okay.

Dr. Golod: The word came out that we would either get the top side of it, because it was going to Savannah, we get a direct hit, or we would get the backside of it which was not that bad, if it was going up to Wilmington [North Carolina]. But we knew that the direction and the course was pretty well set and so we just assumed that we were going to get the direct hit because that's where it was coming in. On Wednesday, the word went out to the students, "Go to where you told us you were going to go." If you did not have a place, pack a suitcase, a small suitcase up with your clothes and other toiletries and so on, and come to the college.

It just so happened we were doing drugs studies for pharmaceutical companies and we had twenty-four mattresses that were made by Weil Mattress Company that were to be put on the floor for the subjects during the studies. Those were available for those people who had to ride out the storm at the College.

And we basically took the two classrooms up on the third floor and put twelve mattresses in each room. And if they had sleeping bags or things like that, we'd open up the faculty members' offices and that's where we all slept.

Brooke Fox: How smooth were the preparations? How did it go before--everybody was just kind of in a frenzy and...?

Dr. Golod: No, it was very smooth.

Brooke Fox: Oh really?

Dr. Golod: I would really say that the--I'm just saying from our standpoint, from the standpoint of the hospital pharmacy. We made a decision that all medications would move up to the three satellite pharmacies. And that we had a roster of who the pharmacists were that could come in, that didn't have children, or had children but they're old enough, you know. And so the question was, you were coming in prepared to stay for three days. That was the situation. Come in the day before it was expected to hit.

We broke everything down instead of an eight-hour shift, we broke everything down to twelve-hour shifts. And so we had twelve-hour shifts there. And then we took the students who didn't have much to do, and we sent them to the pharmacies to help out while they were up on the floor, so they would do something instead of just sitting around. And so the pharmacies worked and then the pharmacists who were not on duty came over to the college.

We had a kitchenette on the first floor of the College. As long as it didn't go underwater and we had power, we brought a lot of canned stuff and other stuff in the kitchenette. And we moved only the conference room on the first floor did we take the furniture out and move it because that was fairly easy to do. And we had a lounge next door where the kitchenette was and so--and it was all plastic with cushions so that if it didn't get up too high we'd be okay. It got up high, four feet.

Brooke Fox: What other offices were on the first floor?

Dr. Golod: All the administrative offices. We had the administrative offices when you came in, the administrative offices for the assistant to the dean, the associate dean, the dean, my secretary. And then there was a big office where the receptionist was there, and there was the bookkeeper out there, and then there was the secretary for the assistant to the dean and associate dean, then there was the conference room, and then there was the lounge and kitchen area, and then there were rest rooms.

Across the hall, there was a student lounge. And they had similar type of furniture which was all plastic-based but there were, you know, cushions and stuff on that, on top of it. We pulled all of that out and we moved that upstairs to the classrooms. People, if they wanted to sleep, would take two chairs put them back to back and so slept sitting up and stuff like that.

Brooke Fox: What about all of your--the office files and materials like that? Were those moved up to the...?

Dr. Golod: None of those were moved -- they were all supposedly fireproof, waterproof and so on, and so they were all locked down.

Brooke Fox: So your administrative files were in fireproof and waterproof...

Dr. Golod: ...Waterproof files, yes.

Brooke Fox: Did they work?

Dr. Golod: They worked. Yes.

Brooke Fox: Okay

Dr. Golod: They did work. Yes. The biggest problem we had was that, there was four feet of water on the first floor and we had too much furniture to move.

And all of our furniture--I had raised over \$300,000 when we took over the first floor and remodeled it. We purchased \$300,000 of very nice furniture. In the past the College of Pharmacy really never had a nice administrative office.

Like when you're walking off the street, there is the administrative area. In the past we were always up on the third or fourth floor, and its furnishings were really out of date. So, this was first class furnishings. It all went--it all got soaked underwater and so on. And I'm telling you, the water was up at least four feet, halfway up the wall and in the short period of time. I was up on the third floor. I slept there with my wife...

Brooke Fox: You stayed overnight during the storm? Okay.

Dr. Golod: Stayed overnight, yes. And we were looking out at the window at the bank across the street, and we were watching the wind blow. And a transformer would blow, and then we saw a tree go flying through the air right through the bank windows. But this Building F we were in is a very sturdy building. The only problem was, it was too close to water rising.

So we got up the next day and it was a mess. I mean the mud was--the mud on the first floor was a good halfway up between my ankle and my knee. It was just like someone had dumped in dirt and threw water on top of it. The hospital cafeteria was open so that there was food that was available for the students and so on, and people who stayed and worked.

We started on a telephone campaign to get the word out to all the faculty that were in the Charleston area, that they had to be in the office at eight o'clock on Monday morning with dirty clothes, be prepared to remove carpet because all of our floors were carpeted. And I'll say this much, there wasn't a single faculty member in town, in fact some of them came with their children and their wives, and we ripped out every bit of carpet



that was on the first floor and threw it into the backyard behind the building. It was just saturated with water and heavy as hell.

Brooke Fox: Had it started to mold after a few days?

Dr. Golod: Oh, you couldn't tell with all the mud on it.

Brooke Fox: Oh, okay.

Dr. Golod: So you couldn't really tell. But I'm sure, the odor let you know. But we also saw the mold on the walls. It was rather high up and pretty bad shape. So we ripped all the carpet out, got back down to the cement floor. And the reason we did--and then we got hoses and we hosed out all the mud. This was the faculty.

But the thing I said was you come in at eight in the morning and leave at twelve o'clock. I'll have lunch brought over here. We'll eat lunch together, and then you go home and do what you have to do at your house to straighten it out. Tomorrow morning you come back. And I'll say this, everyone came back for three solid days. We pulled every bit of carpet out, we hosed down all the floors, we hosed down the furnishings thinking we could save them. And we hosed down and wiped down all the cabinetry. And by the end of the week we were ready to go back into class.

The problem was that all of our furnishings started to swell. And like my desk drawer was fine on Monday, I could open it up and close it. I didn't really want to look in it because it had--muddy water had gotten in. But by Wednesday, it wasn't possible. It had swollen shut. The insurance company came through and just said, "Total loss."

Brooke Fox: How many students approximately stayed on campus during the storm?

Dr. Golod: Well I could just say for what we had.

Brooke Fox: Mm-hmm, yes.

Dr. Golod: We at that time, had three programs going. We had the BS program, which we had probably about two hundred twenty-five students in. We had the Pharm. D program which was post baccalaureate, which was a two-year program. And those programs had approximately forty in it so we were at two hundred sixty-five. And then the Ph.D. program which was small, so we had about probably two hundred seventy-five students. And I would say, we had, that were on the campus maybe sixty, yeah, fifty or sixty students. Yeah, most of the others had taken off.

The thing about it is, the few out of staters that we had, except for the other out of state who were in our Pharm. D or Ph.D programs, they knew people. Like they were in class with someone from South Carolina--we had a number of Canadians at that time. Well they weren't going running home. So what happened was, they knew other people whose parents may be in Greenville or Spartanburg. And they were nice enough to say, "Well bring them home with us." And so, they went off to those people. So we had about fifty or sixty, probably closer to sixty, that we had from the three programs which is about a quarter of the student body. Maybe a little less than a quarter that were still on campus. Then we had faculty. I presume that--and workers. So we probably had about a hundred twenty five.

Brooke Fox: You had mentioned that you had stayed on campus with your wife during the storm.

Dr. Golod: Right, right. The next day...

Brooke Fox: Was it because of your position as dean? Did they require all deans to stay on campus during the storm or...?

Dr. Golod: No they didn't. But you see I had both sides. I had the hospital that I was worried about keeping medications going, and I had the college with all these students sitting around. My children were all, let's see, yeah, my son had started Purdue, so he was, he was up there. My oldest was in Indianapolis, and my middle one was in Atlanta. So, I mean it was a question that, just my wife and I, and it was much simpler to sit around and just come in and just make sure everything went smoothly.

Brooke Fox: What was it like during the night of the storm? You said you had looked out the window and kind of...

Dr. Golod: Oh yeah we were looking.

Brooke Fox: But I've heard stories about windows in the hospital kind of bulging. Did you have any of that?

Dr. Golod: We didn't. No. We didn't have any of that. We had one pharmacy that was on the ninth floor. And they were on the inside but they heard the nurses screaming and yelling about the windows bulging. But you see, that was high up on the ninth floor. From what I understood, that most of that problem was at a part of the hospital that was well above all the other floors.

We were on the third floor here and it didn't. We were just sitting down talking, you'd thought there was a party going on. And for the students it really was a party. And we had--one of the students had been in the service. And he rigged up the television sets which we had in one classroom somehow to work. And we were picking up a Savannah station and we had Savannah all night long.

Brooke Fox: So you didn't lose power?

Dr. Golod: We didn't lose power. Yes, but one classroom had emergency power.

Brooke Fox: Okay.

Dr. Golod: So the lights were partially on in the two classrooms, for the simple reason that if you lost power you had to have--that was the area where you had to have supplemental power because these people had to get out of the classroom. You know, when you're sitting there with eighty, ninety students in a classroom, you can't have it pitch dark. And it is amphitheatre style. Those rooms demanded, when we remodeled it, that it had to have auxiliary power.

Now most of the other places didn't. None of the other areas around the hallway did. I think just the hallway had one light every so often for the fluorescent lights in the hall. They were on auxiliary power but that's all there was. But the classroom, the two TVs were working, and the classrooms were inside classrooms. And the big lights and a couple of the fluorescent lights worked, and so we were on auxiliary power. It was funny listening to Savannah trying to describe what was happening in Charleston and...

Brooke Fox: Did you hear the storm or were you kind of insulated enough within the building to...?

Dr. Golod: We really were. I spoke to my wife about that and she said, "You know, if you didn't go by the office windows" -- see the two classrooms had no windows. You wouldn't hear the storm. When we remodeled the classrooms, all the windows were covered. So what happened was, there were windows, but the windows had two by fours put in them. And then there was sheetrock put over those and then there were sheetrock put over

for the walls. So we really didn't hear. But naturally, we opened the offices, and the offices that faced Calhoun Street. Everyone was sitting there watching what was going on.

Brooke Fox: Were people afraid?

Dr. Golod: No, no, no. People weren't really because until--I don't think anyone--it was almost just like fireworks going off when the transformers on Gadsden Street was--you see them swaying. And all of a sudden, one of the wires would break, and you see all these sparks. Then finally, you see the transformer topple when it hit the ground. It was like fireworks. And the street would go dark.

And so, you sat down there and you watch. The next morning, we got up and I went over to have breakfast over in the cafeteria. And see, my house, except for the heating, it was all electric. So I knew if we lost power, you know. But it didn't make any difference because I had camping equipment that I had used once before when we had an ice storm that cut the power out in my house. For two or three days we didn't have power. And I just opened up the camping equipment and, not that we ever went camping, but I had the equipment for cooking.

Brooke Fox: So describe, when you got up in the morning, you said you went down to the first floor and you saw all the mud, then you went to have breakfast.

Dr. Golod: Breakfast, right.

Brooke Fox: Just what did you see or did you go outside?

Dr. Golod: No. We could go from here, directly across the bridge over the second floor, and into the hospital. I'm trying to think whether the cafeteria was on the first floor at that time. I have to think about that because you see,

the cafeteria only went to the first floor when the North Tower was built. So if you looked back when the North Tower was built, that was during Dr. Edwards' time, that the cafeteria may have been on the second floor.

So I'm just not sure. But we met Dr. Edwards and his wife. And so Dr. Edwards, and Anne and Marsha and I, decided to take a walk around the campus. That's when we went out and we looked outside, and saw all the debris all over the place. And there were a few windows that were broken that you could see in the hospital, you know. And then we started to walk up Ashley Avenue, and then we saw how badly devastated St. Luke's Chapel was.

And Dr. Edwards said to me, "I don't see the roof." And he was right, we didn't see the roof. And then Anne Edwards saw up Ashley Avenue, about a block and a half, there was the roof. And then literally, you see it the way it was like this, and it was just hinged in only certain spots. And the wind obviously got underneath and just took it up and flew it.

Brooke Fox: Okay so as a whole it came off. It didn't break off into...

Dr. Golod: No, it appeared to go off intact and then pieces broke off. And then other things broke off, pieces like a lot of the supporting columns and so on. But we looked down there and it was really just heart rendering to go and see. That was all the way down there, and all the chairs, and everything that was in there that had been there since it was Porter Gaud or Porter actually, was all just blown all around the place. I don't remember a lot of the windows being broken. The stained glass, the one which was dedicated to Dr. Porter's son up in the front, had a number of panes, small panes broken out.

But it was funny, those held pretty well. But the chairs, oh my God, how the other things were just ruined, pictures were--came off the wall,

thrown all over the place. But, let's face it--that had been an armory. The walls, when you took a look at them, are what? Two - three feet thick. So, it wasn't going anywhere. And the stained glass was well entrenched in the bricks so that it wasn't going anywhere. I think it was just pieces right around the door -- not the door that you come into St. Luke's but there's another door up by the--where the chaplain could get in.

And there was another entrance in--it was a lot of flooding that came there because the earth was piled the wrong way, to be honest with you. I mean it was--the water--the ground was sloped towards the building rather than away from the building. Until recently we still had that problem. And it's been corrected now. But some of the stained glass around that door was knocked out. But I don't remember that much. But the roof, whatever was in the building, was pretty badly knocked over.

Brooke Fox: So how did you get involved in the restoration group?

Dr. Golod: Well, Dr. Edwards put together a group. We had--I had been on the restoration group with others that became the Wickliffe House. And so, Dr. McManus was the original chairman and I was the co-chair. And so, Dr. Edwards sort of brought people together who were involved and worked on these things. And then the other thing he tried to do was, he tried to get a cross section since we had the situation of we call it St. Luke's, but you have to realize, this has to be non-denominational--being on the MUSC campus, it has to be non-denominational.

And so, as Dr. Edwards said, "You being very active in the Jewish community, I will be sure that you will make sure, that nothing gets put on that building that can't be removed if someone wants to have a Jewish program there." Well, as I told him I doubt if anyone, since there's a synagogue sitting two blocks away that you could use, and there's another

one, at the time, on Gordon Street. And then you had one down on Hazel Street. So, you had a number of synagogues in the vicinity.

But if anyone wanted it for a faculty member, for a memorial service, or something like that, you know, the—[any of the crosses are permanent now]. There's nothing you could do with the stained glass windows but the rest of it--and so we kept that motif. We had a cross-section including some of the old Porter students. Mr. Ilderton is still on the committee since it was remodeled because he remembered. And I think he is in construction or an engineer or something. But he had a lot of old pictures of what the building looked like.

Brooke Fox: What committee were you specifically on?

Dr. Golod: Well there was a master committee and...

Brooke Fox: That Dr. Worthington was the Head of, correct?

Dr. Golod: Yes.

Brooke Fox: Okay.

Dr. Golod: And I was on that committee but then there were some subcommittees. And basically, I was on the subcommittee with Ilderton to try to find out pictures and other things of what the, as many other pictures as possible that we could get so that we could reconstruct it as authentically as possible. And then since we were going to use it for weddings, the question came up, there was no place for the bride or the groom to dress. There was no place for the wedding party to, you know, have a place to stay so before they came down the aisle. And so the question was, how do we add something onto the back and make it fit in? And those sorts of things. So, you had to have pictures of everything.



Brooke Fox: Was it difficult?

Dr. Golod: No. Ilderton, he was an amazing man. He had been a student there and he had contacts with most of the older Porter graduates. And so he put out the call for anyone that had pictures. And there were pictures that came in that were unbelievable, that you could see, I'll never forget one where someone took a picture of one of the students who obviously was there during a church service and he was carving his initials into the back of the chair in front of him.

But he had a lot of pictures that he was able to get. And they were able to get annuals, books from some of the classmates, the graduation ones when they had pictures of various areas. So, it was a pretty good way of getting as much as you could and turning them over to Schmidt and his group to be able to see. As much of the fine details as you could possibly see. And then from a lot of the stuff, like the roof and so on, you knew that it was slate. You knew that it was slate that had been put on the old-fashioned way which was something that we didn't know about.

But I think we brought the workers from Wales. I think we brought the fellows who put the slate on the roof from Wales, something like that. You can ask Dr. Worthington. But I'm pretty sure they came in from that place because otherwise it would've been forever to try to hang those slate pieces on the roof and get them to stay. Yeah, so we brought them in. So, that was the sort of the group that got put together. And it was just people who were interested, you know, and--oh yeah we quibbled over a lot of things. The biggest problem we had was...

Brooke Fox: The organ? That's what I--it seemed like the organ was the big thing.

Dr. Golod: Well the organ was the big thing until Dr. Metcalf decided to come up with the money to honor his wife who had just passed away.

Brooke Fox: Okay. Was he a faculty member here, Dr. Metcalf?

Dr. Golod: Dr. Metcalf had been on the faculty at The Citadel for many years. And then he came over here to go in the Anatomy department. And his son, John Metcalf was a MUSC graduate, who was in the pathology department. And so after his wife died, he honored her with paying for the organ that went in. And I think Gaucher, we had gotten William Gaucher who was an organist for, don't ask me which church, I can't tell you.

But anyway, he may be on the faculty of the College of Charleston, you know, School of the Arts or whatever it is. And so we used his consulting. And he was the one that I think got together--by the size of the facility, and by the space that we had available, and where it was available, he and somebody from the organ company came in and decided this was the right organ. Until that time, everyone had six opinions.

Brooke Fox: Yeah, from what I read, Dr. Worthington wrote a little book about the restoration...

Dr. Golod: Right.

Brooke Fox: And it sounded like they were kind of like, arguing about what sound, because each organ has a different sound and it was just...

Dr. Golod: Well that was it and, see Dr. Del Bene is an accomplished pianist, and he does play the organ, but I don't think he plays it as his first instrument. And so, like, he would say, you know, as the chairman, when he became the chairman, he would sit down there and say, you know, "We've got to

come up, you can't sit around here. What are you looking for?" and [Gaucher] was saying, "In this thing, you want the true tone to be able to reach into the back without any amplification."

That's all I could remember from that. And as far as I was concerned, I couldn't tell you whether the sound was slightly different. They could tell, you know. But the fact was that this was a type of facility which was unusual. And what you had heard in cathedrals and other places would not be the same duplication in this building, that's what I came away with. And so what I kept on coming up with was--let's put it this way, we got someone comes in and says that this type of equipment, we will get the best tone for this facility, I got to go along. I don't have any idea what it should, you know, you could have blasted it loud at me and I couldn't have told you what the difference was.

I mean, it wasn't, and I presume Gaucher spoke to other people, other organists around, and that's what they came up with. And I understand they've been rather happy with it ever since. So be that as it may, and the choice that was made, was hopefully a sort of compilation of many organs of sorts because a lot of organists have played on that.

Brooke Fox: Being involved in the committee for the restoration, did you have meetings all the time? Did you--how involved was it--because it was about four years, five years, before it was finished...

Dr. Golod: Well there are a number of things you got to understand. And let me tell you, that the worst thing that could happen is having to deal with the State. I will tell you this, the reason for that is, the minute we got hit over at the manufacturing lab, we would do two and a half million dollars worth of business a year which was maximum that we could do.

These pharmaceutical firms were just happy to have us. And they pay whatever we thought. We had top-notch people down there. And we had, one of the men had been the director of production at Marion Laboratories out in Kansas City. And he retired from there, and he came down for a teaching position, and then we opened up this lab. And had another fellow who had been in charge of IV production for several companies. He was known worldwide. And so, we had this operation going that was knocked out.

Dave McAlister picked up the phone and called two high-level architects of pharmaceutical plants. That's all they did, was pharmaceutical plants. They came down and volunteered their services. From the time we built it, till the time that Hugo hit, there was a total change in microbiological standards in the manufacturing area. You could no longer have wood. You have to have stainless steel. We had wood all over the place. So when it got hit, we had to make some changes, it all had to go to stainless steel. And nothing could be hung on the walls where it was with wooden cabinetry.

Well, they knew this like they knew the back of their hand. And they went through every room in that lab, and they redesigned it, cost zero. Three months, three months. I mean they came down, took pictures of all the rooms, knew what we had--equipment that we had in each room. And then when it was ready bring it back, now in three months, they had everything set to go that we could go out for bid. We took it to the State. Sixteen months later it got out for bid. You know what it does to a business when you sit down there and you can't do a thing for sixteen months? And the State engineers had no idea what we were talking about.

Everything they fought us on. And we lost contract, after contract, after contract, after contract. So when you deal with the State, and I'm sitting over here dealing with the State, you know, I'm just sitting down there, I

couldn't just imagine what the people who finally had to deal with the State on St. Luke's had to go through. I wasn't in on that. I was in on this one. And I'm just saying to myself, they are in for trouble.

I don't know how much insurance they had on the building like that. But they were, in certain areas of the institution, they were trying to get all the insurance that they could, and then fix it up as cheaply as, the feeling I got, fix it up as cheaply as possible to cover other costs. So it took--oh, it was gut wrenching.

Brooke Fox: You said that you had taken the equipment out, took it to a warehouse and cleaned it. Did you lose any equipment?

Dr. Golod: Oh yeah. We lost equipment. And some froze up to the point where it was almost too costly to strip it down to the smallest parts. And so what we were getting, I went out to, they have, once a year up in the Jacob Javits Center up in New York, they have a very big industrial pharmacy manufacturing program. And what you have there are pharmaceutical firms, usually not the big ones, but sometimes big ones. Because we bought a brand new tablet machine from a big firm.

We went up there and I was looking around, and with David McAlister, and he said, "That's the machine we want." And it was--Abbot Laboratories had it, and they had it up there on display. And he said, "Let's see what we can get it for." And I'm sitting down and, I said "oh, God." But see what happens to those firms, they have had, they took quick depreciation on a lot of their equipment.

Because what happened in the manufacturing process is, new equipment comes out so fast that what they do is, they try to depreciate the equipment that they just bought down as quickly as possible. When it got as close to zero as possible, they put it out on the market. So some of that

equipment can only be three or four years old, almost totally depreciated. And they were looking to get rid of it. Well as a school, they would sit down and say, "Alright, tell you what we'll do, you pay us this amount and we'll donate the other half to you." That's how we got the piece of equipment. That's why it made it more economical to buy the piece.

Then I had to go ahead and said, "What about--we need a little other deal." And he said, "What's that?" I said, "Donate the shipping." Because I mean to say, that piece of equipment was twice as wide as this, and about that tall, and weighed several tons. So, that was the sort of stuff that we went out and we replaced, stuff that we'd--stuff that we had had for a number of years that was really old and two generations behind what they were using in the big plants. Now we we're getting one that was only one generation behind the new plant, but it was leaps ahead.

So, yeah. We had to go out and there were a number of pieces that we replaced. But we only replaced it in the situation where, to really get down to where the water had gotten, to where a lot of them, the motors--were up high. And some of them had--the motors in the base, and they had--so we would have to strip all of that out. And when the motor is in the base, it has to have air. So you have openings for air to get in. The muddy water got in also. So those types of things we had.

But we had a lot of equipment that was up and that could very easily be cleaned up and put back into shape. So I would say probably, one third we had to replace, and two thirds was able to be fixed up and then reused.

Brooke Fox:

I want to go back a little bit to the day or so after the hurricane hit and what it looked like on Calhoun. Was it flooded for a few days afterwards? Or did it--because of the tide that came in when the hurricane hit, it flooded then it receded and...?

Dr. Golod:

I would say that by noon the day after, you could drive. In fact that's how I got the police to go from Calhoun Street down to South Battery to look at this gentleman's house. The fact was that, the biggest problem you had was the debris on the streets. Is the street passable? Well you could have gone down Gadsden for a block and a half, maybe two blocks, and then you had to get off of it. So even, I was watching as they were going down, and then they turned off towards Ashley and Rutledge. And how they got down to South Battery I don't rightly know. But he said they got down there and there was nothing that stopped them except the debris.

So I don't remember it being like across the street on Gadsden over here, you could hardly get through except if you drove one wheel up on the sidewalk. Because the telephone pole holding the transformer and the lights was lying over on the street. See those were the other things that you really had difficulty. When I went home, my neighbors had already come out and there were four or five trees that I understand were across the streets, and they had already chopped them up and rolled them to the side.

And when we drove home, we drove right down, and turned right into my driveway for about twenty feet. And then there was a tree coming across my driveway that had gone through my neighbor's house through his living room. And it was a problem. But then I got out and got the old--chopped that all up and rolled that. And then we had a contest, who could make the biggest pile within three feet of the curb. I piled the thing up high and a guy across the street won.

Yeah, so it was, but it was--I'd say the danger was, there were live wires around the next day. Lot of glass, I mean the windows were all out, the windows were all out on that back across the street, the Bank of America. And the ceiling tiles were out. So, you know, everything, there was glass,

there was wires, there was trees, who knew what else was on the streets. So I think that was more of a problem. When high tide hit next, the next high tide, you could not go down Gadsden. Gadsden's flooded almost up to where the bank was, you know.

That's [Gadsden] always flooded when you get a very heavy rain down there. It's not as bad as it was, but it still floods. We used to get that much water, now you get this much water. So you can drive through it slowly. But before, you couldn't drive through it at all. And you couldn't drive through it then either. So there were problems. But once it was clear-- yeah, we walked up the next morning, we walked up to Ashley Avenue to where the roof was. So, you had to pick your way around.

Brooke Fox: So how long was it before the first floor of the pharmacy building where your offices were and everything--was that renovated? Because you said you said you had ripped out--everybody had come in and ripped out the carpet and stuff, and did they try to let it dry out for a while?

Dr. Golod: No that was just out in the garbage. It was gone. There was no sense in saving it. The problem we had is there was so much work that they went out and they brought in crews. And these [unintelligible] before I tell you...

Brooke Fox: Do you want me to turn it off?

Dr. Golod: Well, no. We had fellows who were working in our building that had worked on construction but they were alcoholics. They showed up and sometimes they didn't show up. We must have taken, to get the first floor back in decent shape, it must've been six months.

Brooke Fox: Did they have to rip out -- take all the walls down too?



Dr. Golod:

Well what they did was they cut, they went up and they drilled holes. And they put things, the companies that knew what they were doing, came in and they sprayed up above where the mold was. They put holes in the walls where the mold was. They sprayed up above it which put the stuff, whatever it was, on the wall where there was no mold showing but killed any mold that would've grown. And then after they did that, they waited a couple of days. And these fellows came in the morning zipped all the way along and pulled out all the sheetrock down at the bottom.

So that's how they did the bottom. Problem was, there were some walls that were plaster. So you had that to contend with which these guys knew nothing about. You should've seen the mess that they made. It was really--and then the question was, you would see them there on a Friday, they would get paid on a Friday, and maybe Tuesday or Wednesday on the following week they would show up.

**End of recording.**