



Interview No.: OH 3.10

Title: Gail W. Stuart, PhD, RN, FAAN, Interview by Brooke Fox, 27 July 2009

Interviewers: Fox, Brooke

Interviewee: Stuart, Gail W.

Date: 2009-07-27

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Subject (Topical):

Hurricane Hugo, 1989.

Medical University of South Carolina.

Medical University of South Carolina. Medical University Hospital.

Medical University of South Carolina. Institute of Psychiatry.

Medical University of South Carolina. Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences.

Medical University of South Carolina. Medical University Hospital. Department of Nursing.

Hurricane Hugo, 1989--Personal narratives.

Disaster response and recovery.

Subject (Names): Stuart, Gail Wiscarz, 1949-

Subject (Genre): Oral histories.

Interviews.

Summary: Dr. Gail W. Stuart was the Director of Nursing for the Institute of Psychiatry in 1989. The interview begins with the days leading up to Hurricane Hugo's landfall. Dr. Stuart recalls the decisions made and preparations taken to secure the IOP, its patients and staff, including discharging patients, moving computers away from windows, sandbagging doors, and limiting staff to essential positions. She describes the sights and sounds of the storm, particularly when the eye passed through, and recalls the responses of patients during the storm. She mentions the flooding, downed trees, and downed power lines on campus. Dr. Stuart details the damage sustained by the IOP building including power and water outages, and no phone service. She describes the recovery efforts and her thoughts on disaster preparedness.

Collection: Waring Historical Library Oral History Collection

Contributing Institution: Waring Historical Library (MUSC)

Media Type: Oral Histories

Note: This interview is part of the "Hurricane Hugo Oral History Project" series. These interviews document the experiences of administrators, hospital personnel, and maintenance staff who worked on the MUSC campus during landfall of Hurricane Hugo, September 21-22, 1989. Eleven interviews were conducted between June and August 2009 in preparation for the development of a physical and online exhibit, "MUSC Remembers Hurricane Hugo." The online exhibit is available at <http://waring.library.musc.edu/exhibits/hurricanehugo/>.

Transcripts has been edited by the interviewee.

In cases where the audio and the transcript differ, the audio is provided for background use only.

See also: Collection # OH 3 and OH 3.1-3.11

Language: English

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