



Interview No.: OH 3.11

Title: George F. "Tony" von Kolnitz, IV, Interview by Brooke Fox, 14 August 2009

Interviewers: Fox, Brooke

Interviewee: Kolnitz, George F. "Tony" von

Date: 2009-08-14

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Subject (Topical):

Hurricane Hugo, 1989.

Medical University of South Carolina.

Medical University of South Carolina. Medical University Hospital.

Hurricane Hugo, 1989--Personal narratives.

Disaster response and recovery.

Subject (Names): Kolnitz, George F. "Tony" von

Currey, Hal S.

Subject (Genre): Oral histories.

Interviews.

Summary: Tony von Kolnitz was Director of Engineering and Facilities in 1989. The interview begins with discussions between von Kolnitz and Hal S. Currey, who assisted Brooke Fox with the interview, and about how physical plant staff prepared the campus for the hurricane. Preparations included sandbagging entrances to buildings, boarding up windows, and removing debris and any items

that could become projectiles from the grounds. He discusses the damage sustained by various campus buildings and how physical plant staff responded to emergency situations such as shattered windows, flooding, and power and water outages. He describes how the Children's Hospital, University Hospital, the Clinical Science and Basic Sciences buildings fared during the storm, what design features worked and what didn't in each building. Von Kolnitz describes the involvement of the National Guard in storm preparations and recovery efforts. He describes the recovery efforts and his thoughts on the effectiveness of the university's disaster preparedness plan.

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/>.

Hal S. Currey participates in interview.

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

Digitization Specifications: Audio recorded using a Marantz digital recorder. Archival masters are .wav files.

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Series Title: Hurricane Hugo Oral History Project, 2009

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Transcript: 39 p.