

**Williams College Oral History Project Interview with George Marcus**  
October 28, 2002

Interview Length: 65 pages

George Marcus (b. 1943) joined the Political Science department at Williams College in 1967.

In his interview with Charles Alberti, Marcus talks about his parents' flight from Nazi Germany in 1939; his childhood in the Boston area; his undergraduate experience at Columbia University and his graduate work at Northwestern. He explains his reasons for coming to Williams, describes his friendship with Robert Gaudino, and discusses Gaudino's role at the College. He talks about the 1969 African-American student takeover of Hopkins Hall and the 1970 anti-war strike in response to Nixon's invasion of Cambodia, explaining his role in moving the protest along at the College.

Marcus discusses President Sawyer and how the College handled the transition that came with co-education. He explains his role in establishing crew as a sport at the College, and coaching the women's crew team from its infancy in the 1970s through 1983. Marcus goes on to talk about Williams athletics in general, asserting that some sports bring smart and engaging students to campus.

Marcus ends his interview with a discussion of the Political Science department and college presidents Chandler, Oakley, Payne, Vogt, and Shapiro.

**The transcript of this interview and the accompanying audio file (if available) may be accessed only in the Archives/Chapin Reading Room.**