

Interview with Michael Castle  
2/14/08, 3:30 p.m.  
Kanawha Room, Mountainlair

*Interview start time: 3:33 p.m.*

Roy Nutter: Explained Jan Boyles' role as recorder.

*RN: Describe background.*

Michael Castle: Michael Leonard Castle, Jr. Works as real estate broker and developer. From Massachusetts. Graduated from Bridgewater College with degree in physical education. Worked as a high school teacher for three years. Had bar business in Boston for four years. Moved to D.C. to start real estate business. Met wife there. She's Morgantown native. Owned mountain home in Hidden Valley, Pa. Had partnership with brother-in-law to open a restaurant there. Moved to Morgantown. Serves on board of Mylan. Father-in-law is Sunny Thomas, who was a former partner with Mike Puskar. Worked with Petroplus and Associates and Platinum Properties. Five or six years ago, Castle started The Phoenix Group. Corporate brokerage firm with real estate develop operation. Responsible for majority of development along Waterfront. Currently working with residential development – A View at the Park. Another development in Parkersburg – Avery Court.

*RN: What do you remember from the late 1990s when you were a student with Heather Kirby or Heather Bresch?*

MC: Started program more than 10 years ago. Heather was classmate and teammate. "From my recollection, Heather was there up until the last semester." Think started program in Fall. Last semester, Heather was not in class. Understood she was involved in an acquisition or lawsuit with Mylan in California. Started program in late August, graduated the following December. "Until that point in time [last semester 1998], I can say that she was there. I do recall she was missing a lot. I don't recall whether or not she attended graduation." Doesn't know if she graduated or the grades that she received.

RN: We were told that in the program itself, students were divided into groups of four or five. These students worked together for entire time in program...

MC: For the most part. Program was distance learning. Morgantown group received the "better end of the stick." Students in Charleston gathered at CAMC [Charleston Area Medical Center]. Morgantown students took classes in distance education classroom. There were 15-20 students in each class. Don't know how many students finished the program. Get together on Saturdays. Had Tuesday/Thursday classes.

*RN: Did you ever have to go to Charleston for class?*

MC: Occasionally – absolutely. Had three members on team – [REDACTED], Heather Kirby and can't remember the fourth member. With projects, had some interaction with Charleston students. Program itself – took three classes/semester.

ML: Now, we're going to try to stimulate your memory...

MC: That's pretty much everything I remember...

*RN: During the period, some classes required teamwork or simulations. Is it your impression that teamwork continued to the end of the program?*

MC: Not really. During the first semester of classes, there was a team project with the people in Charleston. Worked over computer. Had to buy 386 computer for the project. After first semester, students were divided into real teams. Remained with these students until the end of the program. Occasionally, someone would not continue with the program. There was one student who left – [REDACTED]. Although the team compositions changed, doesn't think anyone switched teams.

*RN: Were classes in Morgantown and Charleston videotaped?*

MC: "I believe they were."

*RN: How would you obtain a tape of the class?*

MC: Tapes kept in B&E. Student could go and get a tape. Recording only showed instructor. Did miss few classes throughout program. Never accessed the tapes.

*ML: You mentioned that your group had two other members. (Looks at cohort roster). Do you know who the other member was?*

MC: Guy who had worked with [REDACTED]. Left before the end of classes. Think he was in my group. (Can't remember member's name).

*ML: Would you remember the group member's name if I gave you initials? Do the initials [REDACTED] mean anything to you?*

MC: [REDACTED] Thought he was in a group with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED]...Castle thinks was on team with member from [REDACTED].

*RN: So to your recollection, Heather Bresch was not part of that group during Fall 1998?*

MC: She was not part of the group. She was out in California.

ML: There is an indication that [REDACTED] was the other member in your group.

MC: He was a [REDACTED] in Fairmont.

*ML: Do you remember him?*

MC: He was in [REDACTED] school while my wife was in [REDACTED] school. "I don't know why I don't remember him."

*ML: Were you ever divided into groups in any other way?*

MC: Sometimes in class, students would break out of standard groups.

*ML: Do you remember any specific group projects?*

MC: Simulation on auto manufacturers. Discussed diversity in the workplace. Gave presentation on Class H trucks. Looked at market share information.

MC: Made video analysis for statistics class. Had to choose evaluation of an industry. Chose Mylan. Wanted to determine differences in the quality of branded versus generic drugs. Videotaped the presentation at Mylan.

*ML: Who got you in the door?*

MC: Heather worked there. Leah Summers was the one who did the video.

*RN: Do you have your diploma?*

MC: Yes, it's on the wall.

*RN: Do you have a transcript?*

MC: No.

*RN: Do you have your final grade reports?*

MC: No. Grades were delivered two or three weeks after. Kept a few textbooks. Sure could find in cellar with my notes.

*ML: In these group projects, you worked with the same members. How did you work with your partners?*

MC: "I didn't have any issues with any of my partners."

*ML: Do you remember Heather Kirby being there to assist with the projects in the last semester?*

MC: May have had third player at the point. "She wasn't there and everybody knew she wasn't there."

*ML: Do you remember projects in those specific classes?*

MC: Doesn't remember specific projects in that semester. Some classes, like [REDACTED] did not have group work. [REDACTED] class did not have group projects.

*RN: Was she there during Fall 1997?*

MC: "She was there."

*ML: Was she there during both summers (1997 and 1998)?*

MC: Only recalls her being away during the fall (1998).

(ML provides MC his transcript to examine)

MC: Notices that he did not attend the high school indicated on the transcript. Has 48 hours toward degree.

*ML: Were there group projects in Fall 1998 courses?*

MC: Not aware if any group projects in those courses.

*ML: Does Castle remember any specific instructors?*

MC: [REDACTED] taught [REDACTED] and first [REDACTED] course. [REDACTED] taught [REDACTED]. Remembers [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED].

MC: Remembers [REDACTED] class. [REDACTED] who is now an attorney with [REDACTED] and Steptoe and Johnson, made a presentation.

MC: Most participants in the business program had been in the business world for 12-16 years. Ex: [REDACTED] - practiced [REDACTED].

MC: Remembers one instructor...left for [REDACTED]...

ML: [REDACTED]

*RN: Is there anyone else that we should talk to?*

(provides Castle with cohort roster)

MC: Provides information about names on the list.

*ML: Did you have much contact with the Charleston-area students?*

MC: Saw them once/twice a semester. Saw them on video – if no instructor. The camera in Morgantown was aimed at the instructor.

Interview ending time: 4:25 p.m.