

Claira Castillo

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SOC 201

Dr. Nam

Economic Recession Interview Transcript

Interviewer: Thank you for taking part in this very important research. My name is Claira Castillo, I am a Channel Islands student. As a class project, I and my classmates are collecting the oral histories of those in Ventura country who are affected by the current economic recession. By signing the consent form that I have provided you earlier, you have agreed to participate in this research and/or you have agreed to this audio recording of this interview to be archived at the Channel Islands Broome Library. I would like to assure you that whenever you feel uncomfortable with the interview, you can take a break or you can decide to withdraw your participation and end this interview. Okay, are you ready?

Interviewee: I'm ready.

Interviewer: Alright, where were you born?

Interviewee: I was born in Hollywood, California.

Interviewer: Okay, did you go to college?

Interviewee: Yes, I did, I went to the University of LaVerne.

Interviewer: And what did you study there?

Interviewee: I studied Business Administration. So, I have two degrees, one in Business Administration, a bachelors degree, and an associates degree in computer information systems.

Interviewer: Okay, umm, describe your hardship. When did it first start?

Interviewee: Umm, my hardship first started back in September 2011, when Obama Care started becoming reality and my company, Amgen, laid me off, due to budget cuts because of the way healthcare will now be implemented, so that was when I was laid off, that is when my hardship started.

Interviewer: Okay, and after you were laid off from Amgen, did you, did you try and find another job?

Interviewee: I did, I found another job. I was there for about eight months. And again, due to budget cuts, because of Obama Care, the economy, and things that were going on, I was laid off. That was in November 2012.

Interviewer: Okay, wow.

Interviewee: It's current, you know, it's been six months now.

Interviewer: So after losing both of those jobs, did you, are you looking for another job?

Interviewee: I am looking for another job, yes.

Interviewer: What was the most surprising thing about your experience?

Interviewee: Umm, that healthcare was costing so much...my...we currently have no health insurance because the cost was \$1500 per month and we can't afford that and the rest of our bills....we could do one or other, so having no health insurance.

Interviewer: So, have you gotten sick in the past and has it, has it cost more money because of it?

Interviewee: Umm, no luckily, we have been healthy and I have found that my doctors, I have had to go to the doctor twice, my husband once and myself once, and it was, surprisingly that was easy....we told them that we did not have health insurance and they charged us a lot less money because we pay cash, they did not have to bill insurance and go through a process, so we did have health care that was more affordable.

Interviewer: Okay, what was the most painful part of your hardship?

Interviewee: Ummm, being laid off twice....[yah..*that's hard*] that was painful, it's like what's wrong, you know [mmhmm] you know, it's once you hit 40 and you get laid off, it is kind of a hard blow because things are lot different out there now [yah]

Interviewer: So how did you cope with losing both jobs? Did you get help from anyone?

Interviewee: Ummm...well ummm, not anybody in particular, just my husband, very understanding and helpful, umm, we got, I am receiving unemployment currently for a little while longer

Interviewer: Okay, was your family or friends supportive during this time?

Interviewee: Oh yah, my family and my friends are very supportive, very helpful as far as encouraging and being there when you need to vent about things, so they've been there.

Interviewer: Okay. So you are receiving unemployment?

Interviewee: Yes, I am receiving unemployment benefits.

Interviewer: Okay. And has that helped a little bit?

Interviewee: Yes, it helps, like I said we can't, it's helped because we live within our means. I don't have any credit card debts or any big payments of any kind, so we are able to maintain our way of life, ummm, without health insurance, that is the only thing. It was groceries and phone bill or health insurance, so that has been the only hardship.

Interviewer: Have you, after losing both jobs, have you had to try and budget your money more or have you already been doing that?

Interviewee: I've already been doing that, yah I paid, I learned earlier in life to live within my means so I don't have any credit card debt, so I had to tighten the budget a little bit in that I had to stop getting facials and pedicures and all of those extras, I don't do that, umm, but we don't have any problems paying our bills or just living, you know, so now instead of getting a facial every month, now maybe every five months, every four or five months, I have had one in the last month.

Interviewer: Okay. Do you blame a specific person or thing for your hardship? Like the economy or the government?

Interviewee: I do blame the government, the way that the democrats like to lead the country is not good for business and it causes companies, I noticed and it's been or I've been told by both companies that due to the economy, due to the government, the way things are going, umm, being, you know or downsizing. So I do blame the government, I do blame this current specific administration for the problems, yep.

Interviewer: Have your views on America changed because of this?

Interviewee: Yes, I am very disappointed in America. I feel that the people who are leading us now are crazy, really seriously crazy. I feel like the schools that are teaching our children, the colleges, have gone all liberal and it's socialism, basically, and when I was growing up, everyone was into patriotism and being an American. Now everything is all about multiculturalism and socialism. It's like you don't want anybody to be better than anyone else, so let's dumb down everyone and get everyone poor instead of, you know, the American dream where people can work hard and keep their money, so yes.

Interviewer: Do you think that the American dream has, do you think that it has gone completely? Or do you think there is still a remnants of it?

Interviewee: There is still remnants of it, but it's mostly gone.

Interviewer: Yah, okay, have you learned any real important life lessons from this?

Interviewee: Ummmm, yes, I have learned, that ummmm, living, that I can live on a lot less and that I don't need to keep up with the Jones' and I don't need to have every kind of luxury, like if you watch TV, every other commercial is you can't live without this or that. I've learned that I can be happy and live on less. I don't need to keep up with the Jones' and have lots of material things to keep me happy.

Interviewer: So, even though you have gone through all of this are you still happy?

Interviewee: Yes, I am, [*that's good*], for the most part.

Interviewer: So where do you think you draw your strength and happiness from even though you kind of fell into bad times?

Interviewee: I draw my strength and happiness from God, from the Lord Jesus Christ. I am a Christian and that's what drives me, that's what makes me happy and keeps me going.

Interviewer: Are you hopeful for the future?

Interviewee: Ummm, do you mean for myself personally [*yah*] or for our country? Or in general? [*for both*] No. I am scared for our country's future, the way we are going, I am not very hopeful for it.

Interviewer: And what about for yourself and your family?

Interviewee: Yah, I am hopeful for my family and myself. I think we will be fine.

Interviewer: Alright well, thank you for doing this interview. That will conclude the interview part. Is there anything else that you would like to add to the interview?

Interviewee: Well, I really hope that they repeal Obama Care because I really think it is taking our country in a bad way. I know that when I worked at Amgen, as they laid people off, it is because they are cutting discovery and research, they are cutting their projects, so it's not about discovering a drug that can cure cancer, or save people's lives, it is about discovering a drug that the government will pay for because of the new health insurance laws. If the drug is going to be too expensive, they are not going to make it, so I think that it's going to be, maybe in 20 years, if we don't change the course of the new healthcare that we have and the Obama

Care and things are going to be pretty sad because there's not going to be a lot of new and innovative drugs and discoveries that can possibly help the people of the future.

Interviewer: That's makes sense. Alright, is there anything else or is that it?

Interviewee: Nope, that should be it.

Interviewer: Alright, thank you very much.