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## Dr Gary Harris

John Anthony Dr.

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**DR. JOHN ANTHONY & DR. GARY HARRIS**

**Friday - June 8, 2001**

**Dr. Anthony:** How did you first get interested in running for the Board?

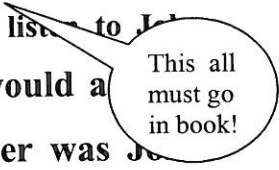
When I was involved in Rotary in Plano I was just very interested in being involved in politics and I supported some of the campaigns, and I thought **this** might be something I'd like to try myself. And I think the way it came about was through Tino. He encouraged me to get involved in the Community College, thought it might be something I'd be interested in. And then it came, shortly thereafter, Jim Bobs spot was coming. So Tino and I went and talked to Jim about whether he intended to run or not. And obviously he knew I had some interest. I wasn't that serious about it at that time – I was just putting out some feelers. He encouraged me to do this and he would support me through Tino. My Rotary activities began to snowball and started running down the hill and picking up more and more as time went on. It actually started through the Rotary Club, and Tino started pushing me along.

**Dr. Anthony:** The first time did you have any candidates running against you?

Yes. Can't remember names, but when I ran there were 4 candidates running for that same spot. There was a run-off between me and Wayne Tucker. There were a couple other guys, all of the nice fellows. Clearly from the start in that political race it was going to be between Wayne and myself, because Wayne had been involved in Collin County political parties. His wife still works for the Chamber. The second time there was no other candidate. I fulfilled that 6-year term. The second time, in fact, you and I had talked about whether I'd run again. And I kind of felt that I would, but there was no other opponent. That race between Wayne and myself was really interesting because it required a lot of effort. I mean, and my whole practice, everyone was pretty much involved going around putting up signs throughout the County, and I went around to every Rotary Club in Collin County and spoke to them. It was quite an effort but it was kind of fun. It was exhilarating, but it also consumed me for that month or so.

**Dr. Anthony:** As you reflect back on the twelve years what probably impressed or amazed you the most about the Board and its relationship to the College?

This is hard to say cause you're sitting right here. **The most impressive thing was the way everything went so smooth, and how everybody followed John Anthony's leadership. And you made sure things went smooth – not through any effort that I could see, but just through your leadership, and that was kind of a *lead-and-follow* thing most of the time. There were times that we had some disagreements and we wanted to go in different directions, and some of us wouldn't want to. Most of the time when John Anthony felt a certain way, we were inclined to listen to John Anthony. But that was the most impressive thing. And people would ask me about why is the College doing so good – and my answer was John Anthony's Leadership!!**



This all must go in book!

**Dr. Anthony:** What significant events or happenings at the College, that you can remember, impressed you during the twelve years? Anything stand out in your mind?

I remember the things like each time we opened a new Program, or a new facility, the way we tried to keep up with the growth, the Hygiene School and the Fire Science, Preston Ridge, additions we made in McKinney and Spring Creek.

**Dr. Anthony:** Did you meet any characters during your twelve-year tenure other than one or two of the Board?

**(laughing, ha,ha,ha)**

That's where I'd start, obviously. You want to talk about Glen Justice or E.T. What's the fellow's name that came to every board meeting?

**Dr. Anthony:** Bruce Albright.

That guy, whenever you had a chance to talk to him, he always had something insightful to say. He wasn't a character in the sense that Glen Justice was, but he was just somebody who was very interesting as well as his other interests.

**Dr. Anthony:** He lives in Collin County. He was always very constructive but he was so destructive in Dallas. I talked to the Chancellor there yesterday and I asked how it was going. And he said, "I had my contract renewed because the Board wanted to do it in conjunction with the budget." And he said, "Bruce got up and testified against me and said that 'ya outta hire John Anthony and Bud Joiner to come in and replace him cause they do a good job at finding good presidents'." I apologized to him, and he said "it's ok, that's alright, I'm use to it." I took my UNT class to the Dallas District because I felt uncomfortable taking it to the \_\_\_\_\_ district, but who was there but Bruce. He was and still is a character.

Anything that amused you or got a kick out of other than board meetings?

Glen Justice would speak his mind and sometimes you knew he was coming from left field and he'd say something and we'd look at each other and say something like "we've already resolved that or that has no basis", but he always had the best interest of the college. But then there were other times he'd come from left field and he'd try to change our direction too. He always wanted to talk about the bond rating, the company, the insurance rating – we knew that questions were going to come up. Sometimes I wanted to ask them just so I didn't have to hear Glen ask them.

**Dr. Anthony:** Margaret mentioned the same thing. We had taken Glen to Washington, D.C. and he said something to a young lady on the elevator and she turned to him and she said, "Mr., I don't know where you're from, but in Washington, D.C. you can be arrested for that." That didn't bother Glen – he just went about his business.

And of course, ET... he was, in his attempt to be so fragile, but also in his attempt, made sure that everything was in the best interest of the students. And he would tell you that.

**Dr. Anthony:** As I reflect back, and I say this publicly and privately to everyone, it was a great Board. You had the characters, you had the differences of opinions, but it was a great Board. They didn't get elected to the Board for any particular or personal reason... there was nothing going on and I think that's why we were able to accomplish a lot.

But other than that, I wasn't there obviously when Jim Bob was, but I understand he could be one of those characters.

**Dr. Anthony:** He was a character, but he always had enough levity to the situation that would keep you on focus, he never came off the wall. Dick S. was a good Board member. Are there any specific items you'd want to be in the book?

Right from the outset I had a special interest – a selfish interest in the Hygiene Program. But it was such a need that dentistry had. But I really tried to bide my time in pushing that because I didn't want it to be seen coming in as a single interest. For the first two or three years I don't think I said anything, maybe once or twice. Then there's other things that we did vocation-wise like the Fire Science Program that I knew was such a great need to be fulfilled. When I talk about John Anthony's leadership and what he meant to the college and the years that I was there. I would sure hate for you to exclude those things. And if you want to use my voice in saying, I know you won't want to put it in because you're a humble person, but if you want to use my voice and my quotes because you meant so much to the direction that we took and the successes that we've had.

**Dr. Anthony:** I couldn't have done it without the Board. The Board gave us the freedom and the flexibility to do these things. In fact, Ralph Hall said "it was the combination of your leadership and the Boards' leadership was what made things work."

You have to have a special section in there about Walter – he really had a great influence. His approach impressed me so much in the short time that I was there.

[Gary pulled something out of his wallet here...]

**Dr. Anthony:** I don't know about this one. She was a candidate for a job down in Galveston that I was doing a search on and I had my partner check her references. So he called Kentucky and she got fired in Kentucky for the same stuff she got fired for here. Exactly the same kind of thing. So he got up and read the reference checks on her to the screening committee. They said, "guess that sounds like she did that twice in a row. When's she ever going to learn?" She in a good spot now, she's teaching down in florida.

**Dr. Anthony:** It was a good Board and it's been a good experience.