**Sally Gunz Interview Transcript**

**Part 5**

Patty Mah

Thank you so much, Sally. To finish this off, just wanted to know, if there is anything else that you wanted to talk about because certainly your history with SAF has been long and the contributions and the value that you’ve provided to the university as well as SAF has been – like you had indicated – there are lots of things that you’ve done with SAF and with the UNI that probably too much too many to mention and at the time they may have seemed very relevant, and you were quite proud of that accomplishment. Was there anything that, either with SAF or with the university, that you were particularly proud of? So certainly, your involvement in developing and building the ethics side of our curriculum and our programming has been fantastic, largely because, we see where that trend is going. and as you indicated, our students need to be well versed not just the technical foundation of accounting and finance but also have the moral and ethical confidence to be able to make decisions but to make the right decisions. So, in thinking of that, is there anything hat you are particularly proud of in the contributions that you’ve made?

Sally Gunz

I think I’m proud of the fact that the School has a reasonably strong focus in its programing and maintained it in ethics. They’ve hired well and I was delighted to have people like Krista as my colleagues. I think now there really is recognition that this is not something that you can send off to philosophy or wherever, to have other people teach, that it has to be an intrinsic part of our School. I come back to our people though, because I was President of the university faculty association, I was chair of a committee that dealt with any kind of employment difficulty that faculty have, which is the whole gamut from tenure and promotion to health issues to everything and there are difficult issues. I’ve seen how the university operates, I know every problem, department, etc. The thing that I always tell people when we’re recruiting, that the School of Accountancy office and Finance office, it is a good place to work. People don’t necessarily all love each other but they work well with each other, and they respect each other and they’re good to each other. And that is huge, it is absolutely huge, for young people coming into an academic career, it is more valuable that rubies, or diamonds or whatever the expression is. Because you cannot succeed in an unhealthy place. And if I’ve had any role in helping that be maintained, that would be something that I would be most proud of. Because I always said if I wasn’t content, if I didn’t feel it was a good place, I wouldn’t stay. A lot of people don’t have that choice, but I would’ve made that choice. There are ups and downs in any career and times that you’re more or less happy. But basically, I would promise people if they came hear, it was a decent place to be. And people were decent and if they weren’t, they kept their mouth shut, which is huge in an academic environment, it really is huge. I tell you; I’ve seen it all.

Patty Mah

I will agree with you, Sally, yeah SAF has definitely been a fantastic place to work, which I think is also a telltale when you see how many not just academic member, but staff members have stayed within SAF. I think it’s a testament to how collegial SAF’s environment and culture is and just how respectful everyone is of each other. Whether you’re a faculty member or a staff member.

Sally Gunz

And you asked me about the future of the School. I think of all things that is the most critical to retain because you lose people, you lose anyone with options to leave, who are the good people, often. And you have a miserable environment. Students will pick up it’s a miserable environment. Departments that are struggling to exist because faculty all do good at each other, you cannot lose that. That’s to me probably one the most important things for the future of the School. And I have no reason to believe that that will ever change, but I’m just saying, please don’t let it change.

Patty Mah

Awesome, thank you, thank you. One last question. I know it wasn’t on the list of questions, but, one fun thing. In the year and a little bit that you’ve been retired, what is the one thing that you missed from SAF?

Sally Gunz

Oh, people! Absolutely, people. People. You know, that’s easy. The neatest thing about getting this award was Steve, the Director, announced it and I got the emails just came in from my colleagues. And people who I’ve had no reason to be in contact with, but it meant that I could do a chit chat with them. It just reminded me how really neat people they are, and I miss them! you know I’ve been able to keep in touch with a number of people but its – I think for retirement, that’s the thing is, is missing the people. and I’m lucky I can keep in touch with some, but I’ve forgotten people, literally forgotten them. and it was so nice to be in touch with them.

Patty Mah

Excellent. Well, this award comes at a really great time. Because you have been retired for little over a year, it gives you that opportunity to reconnect again with SAF and the uni. so, thank you again Sally.

Farah Mohd Fadzil

Thank you, Sally, for joining us. We are really glad that we got to talk to you about your career journey at SAF. I hope that when the time comes, when the pandemic is over, you get to travel and meet your grandchild.

Sally Gunz

Thank you so much!