



Interviewee: Kate Niven (Professor Catherine A Niven)
UoS Dates: 1977? - 2010
Role(s): Undergraduate (BSc); postgraduate in Dept of Psychology (1981 – 1986, PhD). Founding Professor of Nursing and Midwifery, latterly Director, Nursing, Midwifery and Allied Health Professions Research Unit. Emeritus Professor



Interview summary:

Start 00:00 – Came to the university as a mature student in 1975. KN was interviewed by William Barnes-Gutteridge to study Psychology after previously studying English. Study was undertaken at an undergraduate level. It was felt that Stirling’s flexibility with courses was a great positive.

00:51 – KN felt that Stirling University inspired great intellectual stimulation for the students. It was also felt that there was a very friendly atmosphere between staff and students and strong feelings of equality regardless of position within the university.

02:11 – The University was a much more politically active place during the 1970s in comparison to today. It was a very exciting place to be at the time. KN still finds the place friendly and as beautiful today as when she first arrived in the 70s.

03:06 – KN took the position of Head of the Nursing and Midwifery Department as she had previously been a nurse. Her office was in Cottrell which she prides herself on navigating easily. Very pleased that her office overlooked the loch and Airthrey Castle.

04:00 – There were estimated 1,000 students and 100 staff in the department to look after across the University three campuses. KN was a big believer in equality and respect between staff and students and so pushed for this in her role as head of department.

05:13 – The Nursing and Midwifery Department at Stirling was at the time one of the first of its kind outside of an older university

[Ends 06:17]

Interview No:	SURSA OH / 018	<p>SURSA University of Stirling Stirling FK9 4LA</p> <p>info@sursa.org.uk www.sursa.org.uk</p>	<p>SURSA</p> <p>Oral History</p>
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