INTERVIEW BEGINS

Katz: As director of the Cuba Family Archives for Southern Jewish History at the Breman Museum in Atlanta, Georgia. I am here with Jon Galambos on September 23, 2014 at his home on 29 Wing Mill Road in Sandy Springs, Georgia.¹

Thank you for agreeing to participate in the Taylor Oral History Project at the Breman Museum. Let's start with your family history. What was your grandparents' names?

Galambos: My parents' name were Galambos, but they changed their name from Ganz, which was my grandfather's name. The two sons of the family changed the name Galambos to sound more Hungarian and less Jewish.

Katz: You are originally from Hungary?

Galambos: Originally from Budapest, Hungary.²

Katz: What did your father do in Hungary?

Galambos: He was a salesman working in a clothing store.

Katz: What was his name?

Galambos: His name was Aladar Galambos.

Katz: When did the Nazis come to Hungary?³

Galambos: The family, both on my mothers and my father's side had been in Budapest for generations. I have seen the tombstones of my ancestors on both sides, so there were seven

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¹ Sandy Springs is a suburb of Atlanta, located just north of the city at the northern arc of Interstate 285.
² Budapest is the capital and the largest city of Hungary. Originally it was ‘Buda’ and ‘Pest,’ which were two separate cities that were separated by the Danube River. They were united in 1873 and became ‘Budapest.’
³ Pressured by domestic radical nationalists and fascists, The Hungarian government began to build an alliance with Nazi Germany soon after Hitler came to power in 1933. In November 1940, Hungary officially aligned itself with Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy. Hungarian troops participated alongside German troops in the 1941 invasions of Yugoslavia and the Soviet Union, but Germany did not directly control the internal activities of Hungary until the country was occupied in 1944.
generations buried in Hungary.

Katz: What made you come to America? What changed? What happened in Hungary that forced your family?

Galambos: After the end of the war, Hungary was occupied by Russia. It became communist. The atmosphere and the future in a communist country to me was unacceptable, so decided I’d rather take a chance of living somewhere else, have my future elsewhere. My choices were two-fold. I go to the west and apply for a visa to come to the United States, or if I can't I would migrate to Israel.

I joined displaced person whom in Munich [Germany] . . . I met an American soldier. He wasn't a soldier. He was working for the OSS [Office of Strategic Services]. [They] were interested in the activities of the Russians who tried to infiltrate the Jewish migration from Europe to Israel through what was their activities, what they were doing. My headquarters was in Salzburg, [Austria]. Once a month I reported in Salzburg in detail of what I have learned . . . what's going on in the DP camps on a part of the communist propaganda and the Jewish

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4 In January and February 1945, Soviet forces liberated Budapest. By April, Soviet troops had driven the last German units and their Arrow Cross collaborators out of the rest of Hungary. A communist government was then installed. In 1949, the country was renamed the People’s Republic of Hungary and it became a socialist state, under the influence of the Soviet Union. It remained under Soviet control until 1991.

5 The Office of Strategic Services was a wartime intelligence agency of the United States during World War II, and a predecessor of the modern Central Intelligence Agency.

6 After liberation, the western Allies were initially prepared to repatriate Jewish displaced persons to their homes, but many DPs refused to return because of persistent antisemitism, the destruction of their communities during the Holocaust, and the trauma they had suffered. In 1946, a large wave of Jewish survivors and refugees from the Soviet Union flooded into the western Allies’ zones, hoping to escape further persecution from Stalin’s regime. As the flood of Jewish refugees poured out of Eastern Europe, Zionist organizations—most notably the Britah [Hebrew: flight, escape]—operated in DP camps to organize the “illegal” immigration of Jewish refugees from Europe to Palestine. Refugees intended for Palestine were often placed temporarily in Austrian DP camps. American intelligence soon learned the Soviets had dispatched agents who posed as Jewish victims of Nazi concentration camps and joined the wave of immigrants. Once they had been processed into DP camps, the Soviet agents used propaganda to discredit the western Allies. Soviet operatives in the DP camps also used both legal and covert methods of deception, kidnapping, bribery, and threats to force repatriation of Soviet nationals in order to curb a concentration of anti-communist political expatriates in the West. American intelligence also discovered that the Soviets were trying to infiltrate these migration channels to smuggle Russian agents into the Middle East, where they hoped to incite revolt against the British in Palestine. American intelligence wanted to discover detailed information regarding the escape routes, the identities of agents and their contacts, the location of their hideouts, the extent of their finances, and the sources of their falsified documents. To achieve their counter-intelligence objectives, the Americans often recruited eastern European Jewish refugees.

7 When hostilities ended on May 8, 1945 in Europe, as many as 100,000 Jewish survivors found themselves among the 7,000,000 uprooted and homeless people classified as displaced persons (DPs). Allied forces established temporary facilities (DP Camps) across Germany, Austria, and Italy to house DPs. From 1945 to 1952, more than 250,000 Jewish displaced persons lived in camps and urban centers in Germany, Austria, and Italy. Salzburg & DP camps
migrants. I didn't get a salary but I did get PX [Post Exchange] privileges.  

*Katz:*  Unreal.

*Galambos:*  At that time in Germany, American cigarettes were sold so comfortably through [inaudible, sounds like “lible” 03:32]. Since I was able to get PX cartons of cigarettes, I was able to sell it in Munich, and was able to move out of a DP camp and rented a room. [I] applied for the medical school at the University of Munich, and started medical school in Munich.

*Katz:*  Going back to your war experience, what happened to your family during the war? You were able to survive. Was the rest of your family . . .

*Galambos:*  Very few of us who survived. Most of the family disappeared or died. Some of them I know where they died, because I know that my cousin was in the same concentration camp in Bergen-Belsen I was.  

9 Also through word of mouth I heard my mother was in the same camp. I know that both of them died since the most of us died there anyway.  

10 Few were survived. My father survived in Budapest. My grandparents and their families, my father's family all disappeared in concentration camps of various kinds.

*Katz:*  How old were you when the Nazis came and you were deported?

*Galambos:*  I was 21.

*Katz:*  Can you explain what it was like? What camps you were in?

*Galambos:*  Initially, I was put in a labor camp, and all with who were working.  

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8 A post exchange (PX) is a type of retail store found on U. S. Army military installations. It is a place for military personnel and their dependents to buy food, supplies and other needed items.

9 Bergen-Belsen was a concentration camp in Germany. It was established in 1935 as a prison camp for political prisoners, criminals, Communists, “asocials” etc. from the area. In 1943 it began to serve as a transit camp for Jewish prisoners who were initially excluded from deportation. They were to be held in exchange for Germans interned in western countries. Toward the end of the war, Bergen-Belsen became a dumping place for Jews marched out of camps in the east. There was no housing for them, no medical care, no food, and no water. Ultimately there were about 41,000 prisoners in the camps and the mortality rate was extreme.

10 In July 1944, the SS established a “Hungarian camp” in Bergen-Belsen for more than 1,600 Hungarian Jews, whom Heinrich Himmler (SS chief and Chief of the German Police) planned to exchange for money and goods. These prisoners did not wear camp uniforms, but were marked by a Star of David on their clothing. These prisoners were not assigned to labor detachments. Between August and December of 1944, these 1,600 Hungarian Jews were sent to Switzerland in return for cash payment. Shortly thereafter, in December 1944, 4,200 more Hungarian Jews arrived in the "Hungarian camp" in Bergen-Belsen, and would remain there until their "evacuation" in early April 1945.

11 In 1939, the Hungarian government, having forbidden Jews to serve in the armed forces, established a forced-labor service for young men of arms-bearing age. By 1940, the obligation to perform forced labor was extended to all able-bodied male Jews.
volunteered for extra kitchen duty. Apparently I was able to cut onions fast enough, so I was selected to stay in the kitchen and became a cook. When we split up the large group into smaller groups, and my group was sent out to a farm and they did farm work. I did the cooking, and I did the stealing of whatever I could steal to cook to improve the menu.

**Katz:** Can you explain what the selection was like at the camps?

**Galambos:** In a labor camp the selection was fairly fair, on merit and ability of somebody. If you were able to do something better then they selected you to do that job. But the labor camp ended when the Hungarian government was taken over by the Nazis completely.\(^{12}\) Jewish labor was no longer acceptable, and we moved.

We were put in a wagon . . . train to go to Germany. Some of the isolated things that I remember is that I carried a little metal pot with me which I always had. That's where we got our coffee in the morning and the soup at noon, and whatever food we had in the evening meals. We had maybe two or three of us who had that little pot. The wagons were freight trains, were jam packed. We had no nourishment and no break for taking care of our excretions. We had to pass that pot around to collect the urine. I was standing under one of the little windows, way up on top, the little ventilation, so I was in charge to dump it. I had to be very careful not to take a shower.

**Katz:** What camps were you in? What concentration camps, which labor camps?

**Galambos:** The labor camps were scattered in Hungary, but the concentration camp was in Germany, in Bergen-Belsen.

**Katz:** What was your experience at Bergen-Belsen? You said other family members were there as well.

**Galambos:** There, it was absolute misery. We were given two meals a day, black water which was called coffee in the morning, and another liquid which called *Getrocknete Gemüsesuppe* [German] that means dried vegetables soup, in the evening, most days. It was a starvation menu.

The camp was very crowded. The bunks were . . . there were three layers—down in the bottom, a
middle, and a top layer—which was designed for one person [in each layer] but we were doubled up on it because there just weren't enough, at first. But gradually we got more and more room as people died—most from starvation and because of typhus.\textsuperscript{13} We had lice. We were there month after month after month without changing our clothing. No washing, so we were pretty filthy. We spent most of our time talking about food or hunting for rice, but that was tough because we had no heat. It was wintertime, snow on the ground, and taking off your shirt and try to find a louse and kill it with your fingernails. That was our entertainment.

\textbf{Katz}: What do you remember about the days leading up to liberation?

\textbf{Galambos}: The liberation was pretty striking. Just before liberation we were lined up and put on trains.\textsuperscript{14} They wanted to save us from the Americans on a train ride. It was a stunning sight when they opened the freight train gates and I saw the [German] guards going on the ground and their arms up in the air [to surrender] and good-looking soldiers taking over.\textsuperscript{15}  

The soldiers had real problems. They weren't prepared for feeding dozens, literally hundreds, maybe a couple of hundred starving Jews—skeletons. I don't know exactly what I weighed then but a few days later I weighed a little under 70 pounds.

\textbf{Katz}: Do you know what day that was? What day and year?

\textbf{Galambos}: No, I don't remember the exact date. It was in the summer.

\textbf{Katz}: The summer of 1945?

\textsuperscript{12} Although the Hungarian Jews were subjected to wide-ranging discrimination and persecution and tens of thousands were killed, the majority lived in relative safety for much of the war. Initially, the Hungarian government refused to deport the Jews of Hungary. After Germany’s defeat at Stalingrad and other battles in which Hungary lost tens of thousands of its soldiers, the alliance with Germany began to weaken. In March 1944, Germany occupied Hungary. During April the Jews of Hungary were forced into ghettos and, in May, deportations began. When the fiercely antisemitic Arrow Cross party came to power in October 1944, thousands of Jews from Budapest were murdered and tens of thousands more were sent on death marches.\textsuperscript{13} From late 1944, food rations throughout Bergen-Belsen continued to shrink. By early 1945, prisoners would sometimes go without food for days; fresh water was also in short supply. Sanitation was incredibly inadequate, with few latrines and water faucets for the tens of thousands of prisoners interned in Bergen-Belsen at this time. Overcrowding, poor sanitary conditions, and the lack of adequate food, water, and shelter led to an outbreak of diseases such as typhus, tuberculosis, typhoid fever, and dysentery, causing an ever-increasing number of deaths. In the first few months of 1945, tens of thousands of prisoners died.\textsuperscript{14} As Allied troops approached Bergen-Belsen in early April 1945, the SS evacuated three trains with about 8,000 Jews total bound for the Theresienstadt concentration camp in German-occupied Czechoslovakia. One train reached Theresienstadt, while the other two roamed for days, trying to avoid the advancing front lines. One train was finally liberated by Soviet troops near Trobitz, Germany and the other was liberated by American troops near Magdeburg, Germany. Each train consisted of both cattle and passenger cars and contained approximately 2,500 concentration camp inmates, primarily Jewish. Many of the prisoners died during the transit, and most of the survivors were suffering from severe malnutrition and lack of medical attention.
Galambos: Yes, summer of 1945.

Katz: You were liberated by the Soviet forces or the American?

Galambos: No, American forces.

Katz: Were you put into a hospital after liberation?

Galambos: No. As soon as I was liberated, two of us decided to take off and go begging, because we didn't get any food. We wanted to survive. The biggest drive we had was to eat. We weren't welcomed.

<camera goes out black and then comes back>

Katz: What did the inhabitants of the village do? Did they say anything to you?

Galambos: Some people gave us food. A few people gave us food. Then we were gathered together and shipped to a [DP] camp. After a week or two we ate enough, got strong enough that most of us decided to go home and look for our family. We wanted to know who survived and where they were. I did eventually find my father. I stayed with him until . . . shortly afterwards, the Russians moved in and I moved out.

Katz: Did your father stay in Hungary or did he . . .

Galambos: He stayed. He got a job after the liberation. My father and my mother were divorced long before the war. He remarried after the war.

Katz: How did you put your life back together after the war?

Galambos: I really couldn't. I met some of the old friends, but it didn't take the same as our feelings, our relationship to each other sort of changed. We all had different experiences. We all were a little unmetered. We all hated the circumstances we had to live in. I met my ex-girlfriend, who survived. The relationships weren't what they were before. I know I changed. I couldn't fit in. I decided, "Let's start all over again."

Katz: You mentioned about Soviet occupation and how you didn't like that way of life. What was it particularly that you didn't like about living in a Soviet occupied country?

Galambos: I didn't feel free.

Katz: When did you decide that you wanted to immigrate to another country?

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15 On April 13, 1945, the 743rd Tank Battalion of the 30th Infantry Division of the U.S. Army encountered the train of approximately 2,500 Jews who had been evacuated from Bergen-Belsen near the village of Farsleben, which is close to the city of Magdeburg, Germany.

16 Initially, the people on the train were sent to the nearby town of Hillersleben for medical attention before being sent on to DP camps or repatriated to their home countries.
Galambos: Actually, I clearly remember the minute I made the decision. A high school colleague of mine met me who just came back from the West. He said, "I want to migrate to America. Why don't you come with me?" I said, "Migrate to America? Maybe I'll have a chance to have a life. I don't have a chance here. The kind of life I have here, I don't want. That's not the kind of future I want. I want to be a doctor. The only way I could is I have to go to America," so I went with him.

Katz: You went with this gentleman and you were able to get visas?

Galambos: Bought a train ticket and we went to Munich. Then we made this contact with the OSS and I had a chance to survive, and have enough money to pay for tuition, and go to University of Munich.

Katz: How long were you working for the OSS for?

Galambos: Late 1945 to end of 1946.

Katz: You were gathering information for them on the Soviet's movements?

Galambos: On what the [Soviet] soldiers were trying to do. Who were the people who were influencing the migration to Israel? Who were the ones who tried to take position or leadership in small groups? In any group, there were people who tried to dominate the group, influence the group, and influence like politics. That was very interesting . . . who were the ones who tried to dictate the political persuasion of the group.

Katz: You were trying to gather information on the leaders of different factions?

Galambos: Right.

Katz: Interesting. How did you make your way to America? Where did you land in America?

Galambos: I received the visa. Then we were waiting on the Liberty ships to be available. I said, "Well, while we are waiting for that, one more hurrah." I went skiing. When I came back, I missed the boat. That was in late November. Then we got on a boat in December. The Liberty ship went across a storm. Very few of us ended up with breakfast. That's when I learned I had good sea legs because most of them were vomiting all over the place. They were

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17 The Liberty ship was a class of cargo ship built in the United States during World War II, some of which were used after the war to carry survivors to new lives in the United States.

18 John arrived in the U.S. on January 24, 1947, aboard the SS Marine Marlin, a cargo ship built in 1945 to transport troops. From 1946-1949, the ship carried passengers from Breman, Germany to New York City, New York.
seasick. When we arrived to Ellis Island, a lot of my shipmates were pretty storm worn.\footnote{Ellis Island in New York Harbor was the gateway for millions of immigrants to the United States. It was the nation’s busiest immigrant inspection station from 1892 until 1954. Today it is a museum.}

Then I was told that somebody from HIAS [Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society] was going to meet me.\footnote{The Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS) was founded in 1881 to help the constant flow of Jewish immigrants from Russian in relocating. During and after World War II, they had offices throughout Europe, South and Central America and the Far East. They worked to get Jews out of Europe and to any country that would have them by providing tickets and information about visas. After World War II, they assisted 167,000 Jews to leave DP camps and emigrate elsewhere.} There was another fellow with me who also was met by HIAS. We both got the scholarship—he in Kansas; I at the University of Georgia.\footnote{The University of Georgia, founded in 1785, also referred to as UGA or simply Georgia, is an American public research university in the city of Athens in the U.S. state of Georgia.} I remember first stepping on American soil. It was this terrific feeling. Then I said, “Now, I don't speak English very well.” I had high school English, but my language was not fluent. I had seven dollars and I didn't know anybody.

\textbf{Katz:} Unreal. You were in New York City with seven dollars and didn't know anybody?

\textbf{Galambos:} Didn't know anybody. It took me a good long 20 to 30 minutes before somebody called my name and . . . I forgot his name. We all had a little bag with all our rags from Europe. I never saw it again because they put his bag on the train to Athens, Georgia and my bag on the train to Kansas. In Athens when I found what I got, I sent it back and didn't have anything. I was received there by a fraternity through the University of Georgia, Tau Epsilon Phi.\footnote{The president of the fraternity was Martin Shew, who is a senior judge in Atlanta now.} The president of the fraternity was \textit{Martin Shew}, who is a senior judge in Atlanta now. When I looked at them and I looked at myself . . . I'm looking at those guys—clean shirts, clean pants, the shirt [sleeves] rolled up twice. I thought, “How do I fit in here?” They were very kind. From January to I think March, I stayed with the fraternity and learned English. Then joined the quarter whenever the quarter started, the spring quarter in 1947. Then three quarters in 1948. I had enough extra credit from the University of Hungary and the University of Munich to graduate in 1948.

\textbf{Katz:} You said that you brought a bag with you and that it was misplaced. Did you have anything that you brought with you from the old country that survived, that you still have with you today?

\textbf{Galambos:} No.
Katz: Nothing?

Galambos: Whatever I had was in that bag that went to Kansas and never found its way back to Athens.

Katz: You graduated from the University of Georgia. Then you decided you wanted to continue your education to medical school, correct?

Galambos: Yes. Then I applied at Emory [University in Atlanta, Georgia].\(^{23}\) They did accept me—despite of Albert Einstein.\(^{24}\)

Katz: You mentioned earlier the scholarship that you were awarded. Can you talk more about the scholarship and the people that influenced that?

Galambos: I was able to live with the Tau Epsilon Phi fraternity for the first year, the freshman year in Atlanta at Emory. We had to borrow money to pay for the scholarship, which I paid back. Then I married Eva [Cohn Galambos] in 1949.\(^{25}\) She paid my scholarship afterwards. She worked as a general labor. I think they made $25 a month and we saved $12.

Katz: Unreal. How did you meet Eva?

Galambos: The fraternity and her sorority. She was the president of her sorority. They had an affair and the fraternity brothers took me there. That's where I met Eva. The first thing she asked me was, "Do you have a dime?" She had a problem with the sorority house and she had to make a phone call. In order to make a phone call in those days, you had to have a dime to put it in the public phone. She never paid me back.

<laughter>

Katz: I hope one day she will. Can you talk more about this scholarship and your

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\(^{22}\) Tau Epsilon Phi (TEΦ, commonly pronounced ‘TEP’) is a fraternity founded by ten Jewish men at Columbia University in New York in 1910 as a response to the existence of similar organizations, which would not admit Jewish members.

\(^{23}\) Emory University is a private university in Atlanta. It was founded in 1836 by a small group of Methodists and named in honor of Methodist bishop John Emory. Today it has nearly 3,000 faculty members and is ranked 20\(^{th}\) among national universities in U.S. News & World Report’s 2014 rankings.

\(^{24}\) Albert Einstein (1879-1955) was a German-born theoretical physicist. He developed the general theory of relativity, one of the two pillars of modern physics. He was visiting the United States when Adolf Hitler came to power in 1933 and, being Jewish, did not go back to Germany, where he had been a professor at the Berlin Academy of Sciences. He settled in the U.S., becoming an American citizen in 1940.

\(^{25}\) Eva Cohn was born to a Jewish in Berlin, Germany on July 1, 1928. When the Nazi party came to power, her family fled to Italy and then the US. The family settled in Athens, Georgia, where her father was on the faculty of the University of Georgia Law School. She earned a master's degree in Labor and Industrial Relations from the University of Georgia and later earned a Ph.D. in Economics from Georgia State University. She was an economist, community activist, and politician, who served for eight years (2005-2013) as the first mayor of the newly incorporated city of Sandy Springs, Georgia. Eva died on April 21, 2015.
relationship with Albert Einstein? What was the story about Albert Einstein?

Galambos: I was familiar with . . . didn’t really date . . . I was together with a group, with a young lady who was Albert Einstein's niece. She showed me some letters that Dr. Einstein wrote her and what she wrote him. When I was informed that the scholarship to Emory was not going to be renewed because of a technical problems with my visa, I saw that on the scholarship committee at HIAS, Albert Einstein was a member. I wrote him in German and asked for his help to see whether this technical problem can be overseen or explained, or somehow managed so I can still continue to get the scholarship after all. I had a four-year scholarship through Georgia. I used a year and a half of it. The rest of it could be used at Emory. That's when he wrote back, “Dear Johan. Don't worry about your scholarship, with all the returning veterans and all the new applicants for medical school at all the universities it is very unlikely that you would be accepted.” I figured Albert Einstein is a scientist and he figured that that I was statistically insignificant having a chance to be accepted. Ever since, when I look at statistics, I remember Albert Einstein and me.

Katz: Very logical thinking.

Galambos: Yes. You have to be careful about statistical probabilities.

Katz: When you got accepted, did you ever correspond with him again? Did you say, “Look, I got accepted”?

Galambos: No. I was tempted to say, "Oh, look. You were wrong." Very few person was in a position to write to Albert Einstein, "Dear Sir, We disagreed and I was right and you were wrong." But I didn't have the guts.

Katz: Very few people could probably say that.

Galambos: I don't know whether his sense of humor is good enough for me to insult him like that.

Katz: What were your first impressions of the United States and of the American South coming from Hungary and other places throughout Europe?

Galambos: America was to me . . . the American South. What impressed me, what I needed, what I wanted, and what I got was opportunity. That, sink or swim, here you can get an education. Work for it. I worked for it. When I see the current generation who are more interested in having a beer party in a fraternity than an education at the university, it is so foreign, so strange to me. There, “fun” wasn't in my dictionary. I had to learn. Actually, I went to
a University for the third time in a third language. At Emory, I did very well in anatomy and biochemistry, because I already had anatomy and biochemistry in Germany and in Hungary. English was hard. Biochemistry was easy.

**Katz:** When you came to America, and particularly when you came to Emory in Atlanta, did you see segregation? Did you see the way that blacks were treated in the South?

**Galambos:** I did. At Emory, the medical school was really based on Grady Hospital.\(^26\) When I went to medical school we had the greatest . . . Butler Street divided Grady Hospital into a white and a black [hospital].\(^27\) It didn't seem right to me.

**Katz:** Did you experience any antisemitism in America when you came?

**Galambos:** Personally, no. I know there is, but I personally never came across it.

**Katz:** Did you have African American friends when you were in school?

**Galambos:** No. There weren't any African Americans in the class. There weren't African Americans at Emory in either the student body or in the faculty.\(^28\) How can you have in a faculty? You don't even have it in a student body. Changes came gradually. That was . . . as you can imagine, having been on the receiving end on discrimination, I had a great deal of sympathy for being discriminated against just because of group identity. I knew that was wrong.

**Katz:** Did you get involved at all in the Civil Rights Movement or student politics, or anything like that?

**Galambos:** No. I was involved in studying. I wasn't involved in politics. I wasn't involved in anything outside. Work was the primary and—outside my relationship with my wife—my only interest. I knew I had that opportunity now, let's take advantage of that opportunity. That's why I stayed in Academia. That's why I kept on working on.

As an aside, last night my son-in-law was here. He's a professor of oceanography. He was telling about himself, that when he became a full professor that he didn't have to work hard, that he didn't have to publish. That wasn't my way of looking at things. As I progressed on the academic ladder, maybe I didn't have to work as hard in order to maintain my status as a full

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\(^{26}\) Grady Memorial Hospital, frequently referred to as ‘Grady Hospital’ or simply ‘Grady,’ was founded in 1890. It is the public hospital for the city of Atlanta, serving a large proportion of low-income patients. Grady is the largest hospital in Georgia and has come to be considered one of premier public hospitals in the Southeast.

\(^{27}\) During the years of segregation, Grady Hospital’s facility had two separate sections and was referred to in the plural (“The Gradys”). Wings A and B served Whites. Wings C and D served African-Americans. A hallway, known as Wing E, connected the two sides.

\(^{28}\) Emory University was officially desegregated in September of 1962 and admitted its first African American undergraduate in the fall of 1963.
professor, a tenured professor, but that did not slow me down because I had the opportunity to do the work.

**Katz:** You took full advantage of the opportunities you were given.

**Galambos:** I felt that I didn't want to depend on my chairman for support so I got my financial support on research grants. In order to do that, I had to work hard as part of committees, which took time away from what I wanted to do in my work. That was part of the academic pattern. I wanted to be known, so I became known nationally and internationally.

**Katz:** When did you graduate from Emory?

**Galambos:** 1952.

**Katz:** You became a professor after you graduated? How did that progress?

**Galambos:** I graduated. Then I got my internship at [Washington University - Barnes-Jewish Hospital in] St. Louis [Missouri]. I got my residence and fellowship at the University of Chicago. That's where my daughter was born. In order to make some money, I was part of the ROTC [Reserve Officers Training Corps] program during medical school and therefore had an obligation of two years' service.

I was fortunate to be assigned to the Public Health Service with the laboratories at Grady Hospital. After finishing at the University of Chicago, I came back, joined what's today is the CDC [Centers for Disease Control]. Being at Grady Hospital, I got an academic associate position. After two years of service, they liked me enough to ask me to join the faculty as an assistant professor.

**Katz:** What area of medicine did you focus on?

**Galambos:** I was gastroenterology [diseases of the gastrointestinal tract and liver] and hepatology [the study of liver, gallbladder, biliary tree, and pancreas]. The division is called

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29 Barnes-Jewish Hospital is the largest hospital in the U.S. state of Missouri. It is the adult teaching hospital for Washington University School of Medicine, and is located in St. Louis, Missouri.

30 The University of Chicago is a highly ranked private research university in Chicago, in the U.S. state of Illinois.

31 The Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) is a college-based program for training commissioned officers of the United States Armed Forces. ROTC officers serve in all branches of the United States armed forces. Army ROTC students who receive scholarships are obligated to fulfill a service commitment after graduation.

32 The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is the leading national public health institute of the United States. The CDC is a United States federal agency under the Department of Health and Human Services, headquartered near Atlanta, Georgia.
Division of Digestive Diseases within Internal Medicine. My particular specialty was liver disease. Most of my publications were related to liver disease. When I was invited to lecture, I lectured on liver diseases in the United States, in Japan, in Germany, and Italy, England.

**Katz:** Amazing. What was the most rewarding part of your career?

**Galambos:** To show people new things, to find out how disease progresses and to teach young people, to educate them. One of the signs of aging, for example, is that I joined a retired physicians book club. Some of the retired physicians in the book club came to me shook my hand and said, “Remember me? I was your student.”

**Katz:** What was the most challenging part of your career?

**Galambos:** Is to be more efficient to work, to accomplish more. I was very goal oriented and trying to find out more and more, to have the disease that we can treat but can't cure was very frustrating.

**Katz:** You talked about how you were so focused on work. What did you do in your personal life? Were you part of organizations?

**Galambos:** Personal life for me . . . we had a little house at first and we had a bigger house in this general area with a big yard . . . to have a family, to play with my children. We lived on Trimble Road [in northeast Atlanta], which was back in the wilderness in those days. There were three houses and big yards where there are now about 20 or 22 houses. We even had the deer stand. So my two sons and I were waiting for a deer with a bow and arrow. The deer was very safe. My two sons and I one day, one Sunday, went out and decided to go target shoot. I had a 22 rifle. My older son had a pellet gun and my younger son had a BB gun. The three of us went through the woods and way down on the end of the woods, I saw a shadow. It was a man with a big bag on his shoulder. So we decide to investigate. He saw us. In silhouette, we had three people with guns. He dropped a bag and disappeared. We liberated the bag with moonshine.

**Katz:** Bootlegger?

**Galambos:** I took the moonshine down to my lab and checked, made sure there isn't a lab in it. That's what we did with my children. [We were] interested in sailing. We had a boat on Lake Lanier.\(^{33}\) On weekends we went out sailing. Then we upgraded the boat to a little better boat in the late 1960’s. That boat now is still surviving with my son, who is a physicist at

\(^{33}\) Lake Lanier is a large man-made lake (38,000 acres or 59 square miles) in northern Georgia.
Oakridge, [Tennessee] and a neighboring lake in the marina. He still has that boat. I still wonder how long the mast is going to stay upright.

**Galambos:** We chartered a bareboat in the Caribbean, sailed in Tahiti on charter. I love to sail.

**Katz:** Were you ever involved in any Jewish organizations in Atlanta?

**Galambos:** No.

**Katz:** What synagogue did you attend in Atlanta?

**Galambos:** Kehillat Chaim. It's in Roswell [Georgia].

**Katz:** If there is something you could leave for the future, what words of wisdom would you impart for future generations? Drawing on all of your past experiences, your experiences in Hungary, surviving the Holocaust, making it to America and getting your education, being outstanding in your field. What words of wisdom would you impart to the next generations?

**Galambos:** Get an education for the sake of knowledge, not for having fun. Take advantage of the opportunities that this country still offers, that in many countries, they don't have. New generations are getting good at sport. They're taking too many things for granted because their parents can afford it. They don't really appreciate the advantages they have and with the advantages, the obligations they have. I don't feel that.

**Katz:** Thank you so much for your words of wisdom. Thanks for taking time to sit down with us and tell us your story. We greatly appreciate it.

**Galambos:** You're welcome.

Interview Ends

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34 Temple Kehillat Chaim, which means Community of Life, is a Jewish Reform congregation located in Roswell, in the U.S. state of Georgia.

35 Roswell is a city in the U.S. state of Georgia. It is approximately 20 miles north of downtown Atlanta and part of the metropolitan area.