

Jenny Mauricio Henriquez
WGS 3559
Bonnie Hagerman
April 4, 2021

Interview #5

Mindy Smith Murphy, UVA, 1990

Jenny: _____

Mindy: _____

00:00:19.000 --> 00:00:29.000

And you are free to answer whatever you feel most comfortable with. And whatever you feel is like, "I don't really want to answer that" then you're welcome to pass on a question.

00:00:29.000 --> 00:00:31.000

Okay.

00:00:31.000 --> 00:00:50.000

Please, if you could state your name, your major, and the year you graduated. That would be an excellent start to our interview. All right, Mindy Smith Murphy and I graduated in 1990 from the College of Arts and Sciences, with degrees in English and religious studies.

00:00:53.000 --> 00:01:02.000

Okay, next question. Tell us a few things about yourself, family, job, and things that bring you joy.

00:01:02.000 --> 00:01:27.000

So I have a 22-year-old son named Jed, he is a fantastically decent human being. And he brings me joy. I have a sister in Chicago who has a husband and two wonderful kids who are both in college at Indiana University.

00:01:27.000 --> 00:01:43.000

My son is in college here locally. I have both my parents who actually just moved down to Tampa, where I live. After 45 years in Cincinnati, so they're about four minutes away from me so that's been really awesome particularly with the pandemic because

00:01:43.000 --> 00:01:57.000

they would have been trapped and isolated in Cincinnati far away from both their daughters, have they not moved. I'm the CEO of the Spring of Tampa Bay, which is the certified domestic violence center for Hillsborough County, Florida which encompasses Tampa. It's kind of the biggest city but the cities of Tampa Plant City and triple terrorists were one of them, probably one of the bigger domestic violence centers really in the country.

00:02:08.000 --> 00:02:25.000

A 120-bed shelter, an eight-person law firm, robust outreach services, and an onsite k-5 public elementary for our kiddos. That brings me joy because we're making a difference in the lives of women and kids.

00:02:36.000 --> 00:02:41.000

Okay. What is your UVA story? How did you decide to come to UVA?

00:02:41.000 --> 00:02:59.000

I wasn't planning, I had a lot of opportunities to attend school. I was a good student in high school and I took a road trip with my dad. We flew up to the northeast and looked at a lot of

00:02:59.000 --> 00:03:16.000

the colleges up in Boston Providence, it was kind of a bad area. We then drove down to Washington DC, looked at a couple of schools there, then landed at UVA. At the end of our drive, I took a tour with the University Guides and said, "This is it".

00:03:16.000 --> 00:03:30.000

This is where I want to go to school, so I didn't apply anywhere else. I applied early and was accepted, that's how I ended up there.

00:03:42.000 --> 00:03:59.000

Um, what did you do when you were a student at UVA? So a couple of the sub-questions is like, where women were encouraged or discouraged to join extracurricular activities? Were some more welcoming and others? Did you have a Greek life experience?.

00:03:59.000 --> 00:04:13.000

I had all of those, I really didn't feel like I was far away enough from the integration of UVA. It's weird looking back now because I started there in 1986 and graduated in 1990.

00:04:13.000 --> 00:04:30.000

It was only you know 16 years away from when UVA became fully integrated in the early 70s. By the time I was there, we were pretty much 50/50, you know from a gender standpoint.

00:04:30.000 --> 00:04:48.000

And women were pretty heavily involved in all of the activities that I was interested in. So I never felt like as a woman, I wasn't welcome in any of the clubs that I was interested in joining. So I applied to and got in my first semester my first year

00:04:48.000 --> 00:05:00.000

into the University Guide service. So that was kind of a defining moment for me because that set me on the path with a lot of my friendships.

00:05:26.000 --> 00:05:37.000

I then joined University Union. I also was the vice-chair of the Student Activities Committee. I was the vice-chair of PK German.

00:05:37.000 --> 00:05:45.000

That was the concert booking service for the university so we booked like major bands, using University money.

00:05:45.000 --> 00:05:58.000

I did a little bit with the student council but never like an elected office position but you know I was on a few subcommittees. And then my second year I pledged sorority AD pie, so it was an AD pie for three years.

00:05:58.000 --> 00:06:10.000

And my third year I became an RA in Fitzhugh, which I think still exists, I don't think they've torn you down. Yeah.

00:06:10.000 --> 00:06:26.000

So it was always a new dorm person, not an old dorm person, and I did a bunch of other stuff but you know there was a leadership development organization that was out of the Dean of Students Office at the time that helped kind of other

00:06:26.000 --> 00:06:32.000

folks, develop their kind of leadership skills. So I was involved with that.

00:06:50.000 --> 00:06:58.000

And union guide service, obviously sorority although I wasn't really involved with my sorority but I had lots of friendships through it.

00:07:04.000 --> 00:07:18.000

Wow, that sounds like a really fulfilled experience all the way. Yeah, it was good for years.

00:07:21.000 --> 00:07:28.000

there are a lot of good memories. So, um, guide service parties, I mean we're definitely a lot of fun.

00:07:28.000 --> 00:07:31.000

Those are legendary so I've heard.

00:07:31.000 --> 00:07:46.000

, I don't know if it still exists but free the 23 so the provisional probably class after mine so I was in the fall semester my first year, the spring semester of my first year, My best friend

00:07:46.000 --> 00:07:52.000

To this day, she's my son's godparent.

00:07:52.000 --> 00:08:07.000

She was in that probing class and they got arrested because the guide service at the end of your probationary experience, you would sign the clock behind the rotunda, so they would break into the rotunda, and

00:08:07.000 --> 00:08:20.000

sign the clock and so all the guides signed the clock. The university knew that you were doing it and I don't know what happened to the miscommunication that year, but somehow it didn't get conveyed that semester so they all got arrested.

00:08:20.000 --> 00:08:30.000

So, that was Yeah, probably the most legendary thing I remember from my four years as a guide is like this whole group of my fellow guides who got arrested.

00:08:43.000 --> 00:08:52.000

And then some of my classes were really cool. So I had Biomedical Ethics concentration within the Religious Studies program.

00:08:52.000 --> 00:08:59.000

And you could apply to a small 12 person seminar

00:08:59.000 --> 00:09:09.000

That was actually in medical school, and we had so much fun, our semester that there's 12 of us that we kind of petitioned to create a second semester.

00:09:09.000 --> 00:09:25.000

So we actually had a full year of just a 12 person seminar with the medical school, you know, staff and religious studies ethics staff debating kind of all the big issues around ethics and situations which I think more than anything else probably has

00:09:25.000 --> 00:09:41.000

been the class that had the most practical application for my life and career because it was kind of debating both sides of ethical issues so that you've kind of gained a broader understanding of how complicated ethics can be.

00:09:43.000 --> 00:10:00.000

So those were cool from a class standpoint and then I would also say graduation. I mean our graduation was just fantastically fun, a really great weekend. We were able to get Arthur Ashe to be our convocation speaker, which was really amazing and it was shortly

00:10:00.000 --> 00:10:09.000

before he died, probably, you know, maybe a year or two before he died of AIDS and so, just the experience of being able to talk to him.

00:10:09.000 --> 00:10:23.000

And then, within the guide service, I got to volunteer to do some of the special like things when we would have dignitaries come so like Rosa Parks came and needed somebody to show around, so I don't know how but I got lucky and I was like, I'll

00:10:23.000 --> 00:10:27.000

do it. So I got to spend the day with Rosa Parks and had a number of experiences like that.

You know where you get to meet somebody who's like an absolute living legend, and so that was pretty cool.

00:10:39.000 --> 00:10:54.000

That's beyond amazing, I would lose my mind if I had met Rosa Parks. Yeah. Wow. Yeah, and I think back then I was probably too little bit too, too young and maybe stupid to realize what a cool thing it was but like I hold on to that was like an awesome moment. So, and then you know we're booking bands because we booked all the bands, I mean like, I got to like go out sometimes we went out with the band's afterward right it says hey you know where's a cool place to go grab a bite to eat and so we show them go on their tour bus like REM, you know, which maybe isn't a band you've ever heard of but they were huge at the time. Literally we were like, let's go down to downtown Charlottesville.

Those are like experiences that I wish I would have remembered during my four years. Yeah.

00:11:38.000 --> 00:11:47.000

Okay then, moving to a little bit different. What was the most challenging thing, then about your UVA experience?

00:11:47.000 --> 00:12:02.000

So the Student Activities Committee part of the University Union asked to join programming with the Black Student Alliance.

00:12:02.000 --> 00:12:18.000

And in my four years, there were definitely points where there were some things that were inherently unfair to black students and there were you know kind of some protests and sit-ins and I participated in a couple of those with some people that I was friendly with.

00:12:19.000 --> 00:12:31.000

So I think just you know even back then certainly, we were not even remotely as attuned to the ways in which disparity exists as we are today.

00:12:31.000 --> 00:12:48.000

And I would also say, you know, during my four years, we were grappling with growth at the university so they were wanting to add enrollment

00:12:48.000 --> 00:12:56.000

and we were wanting to stop them from adding enrollment because you know we inherently as students felt like something was going to be lost if the university got too big.

00:12:56.000 --> 00:13:14.000

So there was a lot of battling and I actually led the Students Against Expansion. They wanted to expand the undergraduate population and my friend who was the student on the Board of Visitors at the time quietly tapped me and said you're going to

00:13:14.000 --> 00:13:19.000

to lead and be our public face because none of the folks in elected positions could do that. I was also a Madison house volunteer

00:14:49.000 --> 00:14:57.000

In a number of ways, but I was mostly an open house hotline crisis counselor.

00:14:57.000 --> 00:15:03.000

We used to be a student-staffed crisis hotline.

00:15:28.000 --> 00:15:35.000

So, you know, doing that I had a whole another circle of friends.

00:15:35.000 --> 00:15:48.000

We talked probably a little bit more intensely about some of the seedy underbelly of UVA because it's you know even as great as my experience was, it still existed. So I knew women who were raped in their four years. I completely understand, why not to come forward with that so you know you also had to grapple with that kind of things, not something that necessarily shocked or rock the whole community because it wasn't

00:16:01.000 --> 00:16:14.000

known but just to know that was also concurrent with, you know, with my positive experience I also knew that not everyone's experience was positive.

00:16:14.000 --> 00:16:21.000

Um, tell us about a woman or women at UVA who inspires you now or during your time there.

00:16:21.000 --> 00:16:29.000

Um, so, I would say, my, my classmate.

00:16:29.000 --> 00:16:39.000

Nancy Snyder who actually passed away when we were 35, was probably one of the people who I was proudest of knowing, just because she had such a presence about her.

00:16:48.000 --> 00:17:04.000

She did a lot of the same activities but also different activities than I did. And was such a kind and decent person to everyone around her and supportive and encouraging and empowering.

00:17:10.000 --> 00:17:33.000

So from a student perspective, I would say, you know, fellow students she was, you know, one of my heroes at UVA, and then from the staff, faculty person perspective, Pat Gill, my major advisor who came to my big wedding shower.

00:17:33.000 --> 00:17:46.000

She was just fantastic. She was everything you would want a Professor to be. I probably took eight classes with her over my four years, and she challenged us.

00:17:46.000 --> 00:18:07.000

What I liked best about her is that she definitely had a strong viewpoint, but absolutely welcomed students within our class. Everybody is always awkward around her house. But you know, she could have somebody with a completely different perspective in her class challenge you know constantly, and she just always kind of maintained a calm and kept a dialogue going, I think to myself, you need more people like Pat Gill, and she was an English professor but had been a scientist at one point, and had worked on some of the technology for the call that helped

00:18:44.000 --> 00:18:56.000

create ATM cards. So, I just loved all of her life experiences and how open she was sharing them, so she was a great professor.

00:19:21.000 --> 00:19:27.000

What relationships did you form with other women into? Did you find it easy to make those connections?

00:19:27.000 --> 00:19:35.000

I mean obviously I was in a sorority so I had a whole circle of women friends through the sorority.

00:19:35.000 --> 00:19:53.000

But my closest friends really were not from my sorority although I'm, you know, still close to some of them. It was really through my friendships, through the guide service, and through some of the other activities, and a lot of us have stayed in touch because we've continued to be class trustees.

00:19:58.000 --> 00:20:06.000

So we've you know we're, we get together every five years for our unions and sometimes in between.

00:20:06.000 --> 00:20:23.000

A group of us for the first five to 10 years after we graduated, maintained our Fox field steeplechase tailgate spot.

00:20:23.000 --> 00:20:38.000

Because it would run twice a year, but eventually we kept the spot and maybe we went back once a year but you know we tried to stay in touch. I can't really think of anyone I became close to through academics, it was all through the clubs that I was involved with other than one.

00:21:24.000 --> 00:21:38.000

I stayed in touch with some of my suitemates in my dorm. I wasn't close to my roommate, we just didn't have a lot in common, we were good roommates.

00:21:46.000 --> 00:21:51.000

Was there a presence of women's groups and movements on campus?

00:21:57.000 --> 00:22:18.000

I will completely confess I came late to the party as far as being kind of more activist in gender-based issues. So as a young person, I was a lot more a product of my parents who are fairly conservative.

00:22:18.000 --> 00:22:34.000

And so I, when I was your age, I would have thought that the word feminist was like a bad word.

00:22:34.000 --> 00:22:59.000

And you know it took me a little bit of time to become an adult. I think my definition of an adult is when you break free of your parent's expectations of you and you fully realize what your own expectations of yourself are.

00:22:59.000 --> 00:23:05.000

So, when I had my son right you instantly are like, I'm actually not going to follow that path.

00:23:05.000 --> 00:23:25.000

Um, so, so I wasn't at all active in the women's kind of the gender-based stuff that was going on at UVA although I was aware of it. I just didn't really participate to my shame now.

00:23:25.000 --> 00:23:35.000

Well, it's never too late and you have a wonderful platform now. It's like I made up for lost time right, the last 20 years.

00:23:43.000 --> 00:23:59.000

How many courses did you take at UVA that were taught by female professors? Could you talk a little bit about the courses they taught and the kind of diversity those courses provided?

00:23:59.000 --> 00:24:06.000

A lot of my English classes were with Pat Gill. In my religious studies department

00:24:06.000 --> 00:24:20.000

Most of my classes in that major were taught by men. It was diverse because I had concentrations in Islam, Christianity and Biomedical Ethics,

00:24:20.000 --> 00:24:42.000

particularly in my Islam major, most of the professors teaching or practicing were Muslim themselves. And, not from the US originally so there was diversity, but not gender diversity that much, and if I recall.

00:24:53.000 --> 00:25:08.000

But then, the couple of other classes that I can still remember, great because it's been so long. We're taught by Mark Edmondson who still teaches at least he did like 5 or 6 years ago, customer segments, and I took a bunch with him as well.

00:25:08.000 --> 00:25:13.000

So, and then just general classes I would say more were taught by men at the time than were taught by women. But I'm sure that's probably changed a little bit I hope.

00:25:44.000 --> 00:25:54.000

To use the computers because back then you didn't have your own computer you went to the computer lab to use the university's computers in a big room.

00:25:54.000 --> 00:26:10.000

I spent so much time in the engineering school computer lab because the one set of students back in the mid-80s that actually had computers were of course the engineering students right so they were never as busy, so you can get on a computer faster.

00:26:13.000 --> 00:26:20.000

To be able to like knock out my 20-page paper that I should have spent a lot more time writing, and I was trying to pull an all-nighter and write it.

00:26:20.000 --> 00:26:35.000

But yeah, and I think back, and it was like, you know, all men, and think there was one engineering professor maybe she was a woman but I'm just trying to think you're right there weren't a ton of women professors,

00:26:35.000 --> 00:26:44.000

they were most significantly more male teachers than female.

00:26:53.000 --> 00:27:05.000

Right. Okay, and then on to a different topic. What were your experiences with sexism, or misogyny on grounds?

00:27:05.000 --> 00:27:15.000

Yeah, you know, um, I know third parties from some of my friends in some of their experiences, particularly if you don't want to denigrate the entire Greek system because I don't think that's unfair.

00:27:15.000 --> 00:27:31.000

I don't want to denigrate the entire Greek system because there were some guys in the Greek system who were incredible, and, you know, one guy in particular who was from a house that traditionally you wouldn't have thought of as being that evolved but he was absolutely a feminist himself.

00:27:31.000 --> 00:27:45.000

But, you know, definitely in the Greek system there was a lot of misogyny, that you could experience if you spent a lot of time, you know, on the weekends going to those parties.

00:27:45.000 --> 00:27:58.000

I didn't after my first year, my social life wasn't really revolving around mixers with fraternity guys, because I figured out pretty quickly that wasn't necessarily the safest space, depending on the fraternity.

00:27:58.000 --> 00:28:04.000

Um, So, you know, I definitely think that it was alive and well within the male culture.

00:28:10.000 --> 00:28:17.000

But I also can't say that I experienced a lot of sexism and misogyny.

00:28:39.000 --> 00:28:59.000

I don't feel like my contributions in my classes were, you know, minimized because I was a woman. So I think that's all positive, I think that if you looked kind of in the social culture, more so than in the academic culture at least where I was, there were a lot probably a lot more women English majors, it was probably a lot easier to be a female student.

00:29:18.000 --> 00:29:32.000

My guess is if I'd been maybe in the business school back in the 80s, if I had gone to the Comm school, right, probably, I would have had a different experience but in my majors, I felt pretty safe as a woman to speak up and feel like my contributions would be valued.

00:29:35.000 --> 00:29:50.000

Wonderful yeah I've heard different experiences from women who like come from different majors and it's really different. If you're going into business or marketing and they're like, yeah, it was just me in the room like a full of men.

Was there an open LGBTQ+ presence when you were at UVA?

There actually was, um, and wish I could remember his name, he wrote for the newspaper and he actually I think chaired the group at the time so I mean it wasn't like

00:30:54.000 --> 00:31:08.000

It was today like we have an LGBTQ+ roundtable at the Spring, right, and the types of work that we're tackling in that space are vastly different than what it was back in the 80s.

00:31:08.000 --> 00:31:22.000

But I think because the AIDS crisis was concurrent with my college experience and I actually wrote like my favorite paper kind of talked about the AIDS crisis and. And so I came from a lens that was maybe more supportive, then certainly more supportive than my parents but, um, but you know had friends who identified as LGBTQ.

00:31:36.000 --> 00:31:57.000

At the time, and, you know, there was a small group, it wasn't a major group or major player yet, but there, there was a presence, and I'm sure you know they perhaps did not feel safe all the time but kind of made it available to people, which was nice.

00:32:01.000 --> 00:32:05.000

I'm sure there are probably like 20 clubs now.

00:33:33.000 --> 00:33:40.000

Did you ever feel pressure to go into a certain field or avoid a certain field during your time in college?

00:33:40.000 --> 00:33:54.000

Um, not really. I mean, being an English major, and religious studies major is not a practical major for a straight path to jobs.

00:33:54.000 --> 00:34:06.000

So, you know, the only comments I ever got were like, well what are you going to do, are you going to teach and I'm like, No, I just chose those because they were fun majors and you learn a lot. It prepares you to be able to write and think

00:34:06.000 --> 00:34:20.000

So, I wouldn't say pressure in the sense you know like some of my friends who were if they were in engineering, or architecture or, you know, some of the fields that are more heavily male-dominated.

00:44:47.000 --> 00:44:56.000

Next question, What was the relationship and hookup culture like during your time at UVA?

00:44:56.000 --> 00:45:05.000

So we definitely didn't have the word hookup culture. Back in my day. You know you still dated right and, or we're in a relationship, or if you got drunk then you would be known as this is an old fashioned term but like as a floozy. There wasn't the kind of free love, like, at least not overtly, like you can hook up, and with him or her or him and you know that was acceptable.

00:45:55.000 --> 00:46:10.000

It wasn't acceptable back in my time so it really was, you know, people were in dating relationships, or people were being taken advantage of. And, you know, a lot of people never really thought about the fact that consent is impossible when you've

00:46:10.000 --> 00:46:28.000

had too much to drink so you know there was definitely a victim blaming mentality. That if somebody had too much to drink and they got assaulted, it was their own fault for drinking too much and I don't know if you still have the escort service.

00:46:28.000 --> 00:46:35.000

I hope we have evolved or do we still have an escort service on the grounds after hours.

00:46:35.000 --> 00:46:50.000

Yeah, we still have an escort, we have like the little blue lights now everywhere.

00:47:10.000 --> 00:47:28.000

I'm a big believer in Tony, a guy named Tony Porter, who is kind of a gender based ally, you know male allies for gender based violence, but He always talks about if you're a woman, why should you have to be escorted home so that you can get home safely. Why don't we, after you know midnight, why don't we start escorting men around, you know around grounds, so that we keep them from raping women instead.

00:47:56.000 --> 00:48:07.000

So, um, so there was definitely you know, a need for those services, and I, we had in my sorority. A Code tap that we implemented because we had one particular one instance, one of my sorority sisters struggled with sobriety and hadn't really come to terms with it.

00:48:19.000 --> 00:48:24.000

We all knew it, she hadn't really gotten to the point where she accepted that.

00:48:24.000 --> 00:48:47.000

But we created a kind of a tap that you kept, I can't remember what shoulder it was, but we would use it if we saw a sister that was in a potentially dangerous situation.

00:48:47.000 --> 00:48:59.000

Sometimes you know people aren't necessarily receptive to their sisters looking out for them.

Um, but you know I don't think there was this kind of hookup culture that you guys have today where it's, it's okay and acceptable and you're not going to be judged.

00:49:01.000 --> 00:49:10.000

You were either kind of in a relationship, or if you were hooking up and it was definitely on the down low.

00:49:10.000 --> 00:49:25.000

Yeah, I believe the service now for the escorting is now expanded to include transportation as well. So, you cannot be escorted from any point I believe any point within a five mile radius of the university, and they will pick you up and drop you off

00:50:12.000 --> 00:50:17.000

So, did you think it was a thorough and helpful conversation on consent ?

00:50:17.000 --> 00:50:32.000

Well, I don't think we had many of them. I mean, honestly, we had an alcohol discussion.

00:50:57.000 --> 00:51:06.000

The kind of consent movement came with the ridicule of the Saturday Night Live skits, you know, which you've probably seen, the " Can I touch it now?"

00:51:06.000 --> 00:51:24.000

Where people started making fun of consent, and you know, implying that it was this crazy process where you have to ask for permission, you know, to move your hand in inch and so it was pre consent, and

00:51:24.000 --> 00:51:39.000

then I got to experience the watching people attacking the idea that you should have conversations about consent and then we kind of settled into, you know, kind of a new norm in our country to some extent where it's like okay

00:51:39.000 --> 00:51:50.000

now we're going to have conversations about consent, there's still going to be people who are going to attack it but, um, but yeah, I mean it just, I can't remember ever having, even as an RA.

00:51:50.000 --> 00:52:04.000

You know, I don't think we even covered that I could be wrong. Maybe I was asleep when that particular training but, um, you know, I don't think we were having, you know dorm conversations with our first years, you know about consent. So, and it's a shame because you're not going to change everyone's mind but I think having those conversations opens the eyes for a segment of people who maybe hadn't thought about how their actions could have consequences on someone else's life.

00:53:36.000 --> 00:53:51.000

We actually for three years I did training with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, so we have a National Football League team. So, but yeah, I mean, we literally just sit and talk to football players about consent.

00:53:51.000 --> 00:54:08.000

So, it was like any awkwardness I had I kind of got over sitting there talking to a bunch of football players about consent and showing them, videos, but, you know, and again, you see a number of them, like, clearly mocking the whole process

00:54:08.000 --> 00:54:23.000

but you can also see the lights go off in one or two guys' eyes really go off, I never really thought about that. So, yeah, I wish, hopefully you'll be able to increase its discussion of consent in a more meaningful way.

00:54:26.000 --> 00:54:36.000

Yeah, I mean like when we like for my first year they made us go through this program like the green dot program. Yeah, we pretty much like to learn about it.

00:54:36.000 --> 00:54:43.000

But it was a lot like again it was a lot like victim blaming and like bystander prevention.

00:54:43.000 --> 00:54:47.000

But it wasn't like really addressing the problem and I believe.

00:54:47.000 --> 00:55:02.000

Last year, they started creating a new program that actually formats the whole like green dot red dot program into a different manner and they like completely scratch that idea and took it out of the table.

00:55:02.000 --> 00:55:22.000

Research shows that unfortunately that programs that try to reach people who are likely to offend in college so like the college based programs that are trying to reach out to help a batter, you know, like sexual assault perpetrators be less likely to do it, have zero success.

00:55:36.000 --> 00:55:55.000

Zero is probably too strong but they have almost no effect. The ones that the educational programs and colleges that are geared towards helping you towards women, essentially women, most likely to become victims have the greatest effect at decreasing the rate of victimization so it really is always on the backs of the victim or potential victim. You know, we were still in a society that we have to do the hard and heavy lifting.

00:56:07.000 --> 00:56:15.000

To prevent ourselves from being victimized rather than changing the behavior of the perpetrator, or potential perpetrator.

00:56:15.000 --> 00:56:31.000

So, that's like disconcerting from my standpoint because it says a lot about the work that we do, you know, so much of ours is crisis intervention and prevention work is so hard to affect that change.

00:56:31.000 --> 00:56:45.000

Yeah, well, we'll see how your program goes, the new one at UVA, I yeah I believe they like hired new positions for it as well, like, like, while playing well paid positions for the creation of a program and the implementation.

00:56:54.000 --> 00:57:08.000

Um moving on, what does a UVA alumni community mean to you how? How have your fellow alumni affected your life career in this journey?

00:57:08.000 --> 00:57:16.000

Um, so, you know, when I first. When I first graduated from UVA back in 1990 I moved to Tampa.

00:57:16.000 --> 00:57:26.000

Within months and for my graduation I'm from Cincinnati so you know move to a whole new town, because that's where my future husband is from here.

00:57:26.000 --> 00:57:42.000

My future ex husband is from here. So, I moved here, and I will say that, you know, when you first graduate especially if you're moving to a city that isn't your, your hometown, and you're having to establish yourself the University Alumni

00:57:42.000 --> 00:57:55.000

chapters can be really transformational because you form an instant bond with people, I mean across generations. So, the common, you know, so our club president, when I moved here in 1990

00:57:55.000 --> 00:58:09.000

Gosh, he must have been back then, he had to be like 65 or 70 and I was 22 and this guy was you know significantly older, but you're instantly bonded because of your common shared experience and your love of the university.

00:58:09.000 --> 00:58:20.000

And so it was a really great way to get connected and meet people. I also was a past president of the Junior League of Tampa, a large women's volunteer organization.

00:58:20.000 --> 00:58:31.000

So I would say both UVA and junior league were the two things that really helped me begin to feel like Tampa was my home and really feel embedded and get connected to my community.

00:58:56.000 --> 00:59:12.000

But it definitely gave me a sense of belonging in my, you know my community of Tampa and you know the connections and the and the networking and the relationships I formed with fellow UVA alumni here.

00:59:12.000 --> 00:59:28.000

So I think that's invaluable there, there's a UVA way that I think is very different than other, I mean, there's plenty of students who love their university but I think the experience that we have in that students self governance and just the like amount

00:59:28.000 --> 00:59:39.000

The responsibility that you take really prepares you and prime you to, you know, do well in life but also to really feel that bond and connection to others alone.

00:59:39.000 --> 00:59:51.000

So I really appreciated being an alum, and both in my own community and then also the ways in which the Alumni Association has maintained.

00:59:51.000 --> 01:00:05.000

You know, activities for us to come back to the university and I actually am really lucky because I got to be a part of founding some of those. So I'm a founding member of the Young Alumni Council, which is an initiative of the Alumni Association. I'm one of the original council members and then you know you get old you don't get to be on that anymore. But we helped start mid autumn, which was our kind of nod to, you know, the coming back before, you know, in the fall, instead of the reunion. And then I've stayed involved with our reunion planning every five years, so that's been a really great way to stay connected to the university, I think, you know, I'm at the age now where so many of my friends went to school with me and have kids who are now either second or third generation students.

01:00:39.000 --> 01:00:55.000

And so that kind of reinvigorates them and their connection to the university, my son took a very different path. So, you know, that wasn't going to be a connection point for me so I really do love the program because it does keep

01:00:55.000 --> 01:01:12.000

me in touch with my UVA roots, because you get older, and I will say doesn't feel like it's possible but eventually your University Alumni status is not your primary like way of defining yourself like it, like it is for a lot of us when we

01:01:12.000 --> 01:01:22.000

first graduate, you know, you get connected to other things. You have a kid you start getting connected to whatever activities they're in or whatever social groups are in the town you land in.

01:01:22.000 --> 01:01:28.000

But the experiences, you know, is a lifelong one. So, embrace it.

01:01:53.000 --> 01:02:06.000

My sister gave me a you know a little plaque that says husband I mean it was so funny after I was in the process getting divorced husband's come and go but sisters are forever right and it's like there's so many things that come and go in your

01:02:06.000 --> 01:02:14.000

life but like UVA is forever.

01:02:19.000 --> 01:02:25.000

In your opinion, what is the legacy of women at UVA?

01:02:25.000 --> 01:02:38.000

Well, I mean, just when you think about the fact that women weren't, you know, fully admitted to the university until 1971, I think it was 71.

01:02:38.000 --> 01:02:43.000

And Larry Sabato could tell you because he was a student council president at the time.

01:02:43.000 --> 01:02:50.000

But you know, when you think about the fact that we came so late to the UVA party.

01:02:50.000 --> 01:03:05.000

But now we're more than 50% of the student population. And when you look at the leaders that are, you know, emerging out of the VA and you look at some of the most prominent ones.

01:03:05.000 --> 01:03:29.000

A lot of them are women. So I mean I think the legacy is that UVA creates a platform for you know, for students, regardless of gender who are passionate about being citizens and you know citizen scholars and and changing the world and leading the world, and it allows us to learn the game, the tools we need, and learn the skills that we need to have to be able to do that successfully and you look at the number of successful women, graduates of the University.

01:03:46.000 --> 01:03:57.000

You know, I think that that amazing UVA really gives you a solid foundation to go out and do whatever it is you want to do to make the world a better place.

01:03:57.000 --> 01:04:03.000

Wow, that was a really beautiful, very powerful statement.

01:04:03.000 --> 01:04:15.000

And then, I guess, one last question is like what would you do if you could give good advice like a female student on grounds like what you would tell her.

01:04:15.000 --> 01:04:30.000

Um, well I know I say to God, you're not on grounds right it would tell you, if the grounds right don't get around. Um, I mean I think I would say, figure out the things that bring you joy and fuel your soul.

01:04:30.000 --> 01:04:47.000

You know, don't make sure you have, you find an academic past that. That's going to be helpful to you but reach broader than that and find the things that are going to help you in life.

01:04:47.000 --> 01:05:10.000

And, and get involved and jump in and, you know, you will find lifelong friendships, you will gain skills that you didn't think you would gain, and your UVA experience will kind of echo through the rest of your life.

01:05:10.000 --> 01:05:17.000

If you, if you do a little bit of, you know, work up front to really embrace all that you UVA has to offer.

01:05:17.000 --> 01:05:31.000

And if you get to UVA and you're not feeling that way, then reach out to someone because there's an awful lot. I mean, one thing I will say that I find phenomenal about UVA is the Dean of Students Office and there I know there's, it's broader than just

01:05:31.000 --> 01:05:49.000

the dean of students office now but back in my day everything was kind of house there, but the the dean and the Assistant Dean says students are 100% invested in making sure that every student has this has a strong and positive experience so if you aren't

01:05:49.000 --> 01:06:01.000

getting that strong positive experience, reach out and ask for help and guidance and you know let somebody help you navigate so that you can have a really, really great life for years.

01:06:01.000 --> 01:06:05.000

Life's too short, not to have a good experience.

01:06:05.000 --> 01:06:21.000

Thank you so much! To hear your experience really just maybe reflect on how like how different experiences can come and be, and just thank you so much for taking the time to just say all these wonderful things and share your story.