

Transcript – Class of 1966 50th Reunion

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Interviewer: Whitney Pape

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Whitney Pape: [00:00:00] Hello. It is May 28th, Saturday, commencement and reunion weekend, and here we are in Pembroke Hall, and it is 9:30 – sorry, 42, a.m. My name's Whitney Pape, and I'm the interim Pembroke archivist. And I'm here with members of the class of 1966. And please introduce yourselves.

Phyllis Kollmer Santry: Do you want me to start?

WP: Sure.

PKS: Okay. I'm Phyllis Kollmer Santry. I'm from New York City. I've lived in New York City since I graduated from Pembroke. And I'm a lawyer, or I was a lawyer, and now I'm retired. I lie on the couch, I drink coffee, and I read trashy novels. And everybody always laughs when I say that, and I say, "What do you think I was doing before I came here?" And I was really interested in doing this, because I wanted to share a lot of our experience at school, which is quite different from young women's experience [00:01:00] at school now. So, that's what I'm looking forward to doing.

WP: Great.

Ulle Viiroja Holt: Ulle Viroja Holt, and I now live in Massachusetts. I was born in Talin, Estonia. Two of my children have graduated from Brown, class of '92, and '02. After college, I worked in New York City in banking, then I taught school. I married someone from Brown, had

three children, and then when my youngest was 11, I went back and got a master's and graduate – a Ph.D. in history from Brown. And then I had the wonderful experience of meeting all the different generations, the students. I even taught women's history, and I would tell them about how we did it, and they would sit there amazed. And I have continued, I'm really doing research on women political prisoners. [00:02:00] That's my field right now. In the twentieth century. And I have stayed connected to Brown. I'm serving on the library advisory council, and come back as often as I can.

Kristie Miller: I'm Kristie Miller, and after I left Brown, I married Bill Twaddell, class of '63. And he was in the Foreign Service, and we lived overseas for 15 years. And then we were divorced. I came back to the United States, and began to write women's history. I was fortunate in being mentored by another Brown alumna, class of '61, Lewis Gould, whose expertise was in women's history, and First Ladies. And with his help, I've written a total of three biographies and two edited volumes, and [00:03:00] that has been very satisfying. I worked on the *Brown Daily Herald* while I was here. I wrote a newspaper column for 25 years for my hometown paper, and was on the board of the *Chicago Tribune*, so I kind of kept that interest in newspapers as well. And had also taught school as I think many of us did, for a number of years, which was very satisfying and fun. But now, I'm enjoying just writing.

Lisa Manfull: Well, Lisa Manfull, class of '66. Harper was my – I married David Harper right out of college, and also right out of college, I was recruited on campus for the CIA. Somebody said "Psst, (overlapping dialogue; inaudible)." And it was a professor who was scared to death, because you can imagine what the campus was like then. And so, I went into the agency, had a long career there, [00:04:00] was able to get permission to tell you all where I worked. So I'm really happy to sort of come out and tell you. And I worked for 30-some years, and then retired the first time, and thought, "I'm done with spying." And then 9/11 came up, I was called back, and I went back to doing the real work. And really found counterterrorism both thrilling, and frightening. So I did that for six years, and was burnt out. And so then I thought, "Well, it's time to pass on what I know." So I started training young spies. And I've been doing – I've been – I did that until –

PKS: Are you making this up? (overlapping dialogue; inaudible)

LM: No. Well, I can't prove it (laughter).

KM: Because then you would have to kill her.

LM: Anyway, then in 2014, by then I had married my second husband, [00:05:00] and we were ready to have some fun. And so we're both retired, and we've been building a house in Morocco for 10 years. This is a saga itself. And we're spending more time in Morocco, half the time here, half the time there. And in my dotage, I've taken up making bead necklaces, of which my freshman roommate, Kristie, is a beneficiary. So that's it.

Leah Sprague: I'm wondering how I can beat that. (overlapping dialogue; inaudible) My name is Leah Sprague, and I grew up in New Hampshire, and came to Pembroke and Brown, as all of you did. But it was quite an experience for a country girl. I must have met – I'm now trying to advise my oldest granddaughter, who's going off to college in August, and she's a very different [00:06:00] person than I was, and her experience will be very different. So it's interesting to have this conversation.

I married my senior year, and my husband was in medical school. After I graduated, we moved to Baltimore where he finished his medical training. We were ultimately divorced, but we had two children, and we lived in Boston when we were divorced. I went back to school. I went to law school. I didn't plan to do that. I was very fortunate that when I moved to Baltimore, I don't remember how I found this out, but there was a Pembroke alum from the class of '49 who was the headmistress at St. Timothy's School in Stevenson, Maryland, which was a very elite, small, private girls' boarding school. And she was trying to find someone who would start a curriculum in urban studies. [00:07:00] And she hired me to do that. And that was kind of unheard of at the time, but the daughters of the Kennedy brain team and the Episcopal elite from the northeast United States went to St. Tim's, and she wanted to get them into the inner city and teach them about what life was really like. And those were tumultuous times in the late-60s, as you know. But it was a fascinating period.

And I met a wonderful man. A black Superior Court judge in Baltimore city, and I was thinking about where I was going to go to grad school, and he said, “You should go to law school.” So I never thought about law school when I was in college, and I would have laughed if you’d said that that’s what was going to happen to me. But I did go to law school, and worked for several years in Boston in the private sector, and then in the public sector. I worked for Governor Dukakis. We all know who he is. [00:08:00] And it was very stressful working for someone who was trying to become the President of the United States. He rewarded me with an appointment to the bench, and I was on the Massachusetts Trial Court for 14 years, and then retired and moved up to Maine with my current husband, whom I met in law school. And I still work part-time. I do alternative dispute resolution. I’ve always worked in healthcare, health law, and I specialize in complex claims of medical negligence and give the parties what we call a mini trial, and it’s been very exciting. But now we’re all getting older, and it’s time for me to lay the gavel or whatever to the side and really retire. And it’s just great to be here with all of you today.

Carol Dannenberg Frenier: I’m Carol Frenier, Carol Dannenberg back in those days. And I came here from Massachusetts, and I was an American studies major. [00:09:00] I loved American history. And that was the thing, probably, I took away from here that was more important to me than just about anything, and the friendships, of course. And after I graduated, I went to Washington, DC. Like all my generation, we were keen on saving the world. So I interviewed with the CIA, but I ended up going in the other direction and working for the poverty program. And then I met my husband, and I came back to this area, to Boston. And I taught for 10 years. I taught American history in high school. Then I ended up getting into business with him, which was as about as improbable as it was when I look back that I was Student Government President when I was here. I have no idea how I managed to do that, because I’m so introverted, when I really know myself now. And the person who preceded me was Nancy Buc. She was brilliant. [laughter] But in any case, I got into business with Bob. It’s great to do something like that, that’s so counter to your personality, [00:10:00] you learn a lot in the process. And at the same time we were running businesses, I was reading (inaudible) psychology. Really fell in love with [Colin Yoon’s?] work. And I published a book called *Business and the Feminine Principle*, which I tried to put those two things together. Then in ’92 we moved to Vermont, and we’ve

done odds and ends of things. My retirement career now is I index books, which means I write the index at the back of a non-fiction book.

LS: You should work for Kristie. [laughter]

CDF: Yeah. And my most recent project, which I've been on for about five years now, is to index all the periodicals for Norwich University student and alumni. So I've gotten from 1860 to 1949, and just finished the World War II era, which was just full of the most incredible letters from around the world from cadets who were now in the service and were fighting abroad, or serving [00:11:00] in some way abroad. So that's been very interesting. I love the beauty of Vermont. It's one thing I credit my husband with. He always pressed for living in a beautiful place. And it's been great for the soul. And it's great to be back here. Just hearing everybody speak reminds me of other things in my life that I've sort of forgotten.

BHZ: I'm Bev Heafitz Zweiman. When I graduated from Brown, I went to Stanford University and got my master's in education. It all happened because we had the mailboxes downstairs, and one day, one of the deans left this note saying, "We know you're interested in teaching. The man's going to interview you over in Alumnae Hall this afternoon." So he came in with his sunglasses. [laughter]

F: California.

BHZ: Yeah, California. And that worked. [00:12:00] And out in Palo Alto, I met my husband, who was at the medical school. I taught in California for about four years, and then we came to New York, briefly, when he was an intern. And then moved to Boston where he was a resident. We started our family when he became a resident. I always thought about going to law school. And one of my brothers was at law school in '65. And I went to class with him, and there was a room full of men, and there was one woman wearing a yellow sweater with a blue yolk. I don't know if you remember. There used to be the Shetland sweaters with the yolks. And I said, "Now, that's not for me." But in the mid-'70s, the doors flung wide open to law school, and I went back. I had two young children. And I became a lawyer. And I practiced real estate [00:13:00]

law for 25, 30 years. And the beginning of that process, I was doing commercial real estate. And there were no women in the room. None. I was the only woman in the room. And I really became very interested in the Pembroke Center because it was the only – it was trying to find women’s place in this world that we were born into. And I became very active with the Associates Council. Time passed, and recently my husband has become semi-retired, and we’ve traveled a lot, which has been a lot of fun. But nothing as exciting as the CIA stories, so I can’t wait to hear about it.

LS: I think we all – when we wrote our bios, I had to go back [00:14:00] and really try to think about what I did here. All I could remember were the big events that happened in our society. I think our generation was really on the cusp. So the people before us – my first husband was in that category – class of ’63. Princeton. They were completely different than the people that came after us, and we were caught in the middle. And of course, those of us who – there were three of us who went to law school – that was really an experience. I was in the class of ’74, which was the first class that started to take women. But still, there were 15 women in my class of 200 law students my first year in law school. And then when I practiced in Boston, I was the only woman in the firm. And then things changed, but when I got on the bench, it was like going back in time. And I think that we all have different versions of that story [00:15:00] about being a woman in a world that we were outsiders.

UVH: Well, I want to add to that. But I agree. I’m writing a fictional novel about Brown. And the first chapter, I’m trying to set it up. And I talk about the fact – you used the word “straddling.” The shift that we both – it was like earthquake we were on. We were on one side. The people older stayed with the rules. The people behind us broke the rules. And we were like this. We were not of the LSD, the bra-burning generation. We were singing the Beatles here. But I remember it was Castro – first the Castro crisis. And I remember standing in line at the Gate, and some of the girls behind me, upperclassmen, whispering, saying if their boyfriends are drafted, maybe we should sleep with them. [00:16:00] That was my first think. I remember that. Your face.

F: That’s what they thought of?

UVH: And I remember thinking. I never told anybody. But to me, it was one of those moments where you think, ha. But I remember watching and thinking the world – and I’ve always been interested in history. But I have added to – I went to Chase Manhattan Bank for my first job in New York, and my first question was, “Why is a pretty girl like you not engaged? Are you planning to get married?” The person I worked above, she had to work eight years before she got onto the business program to prove that she was 30 and that they weren’t going to have children, because she was married. And next to me, I got there first, I was *cum laude* from Brown with good grades, and next to me came an unknown, [00:17:00] wonderful friend from Brown, a boy who took a year and a half extra to get through, barely made it academically, immediately started at a salary of, at the time, \$1,500 more, which we could say is now 15,000 at least, and was immediately being paid to go to NYU to get his MBA at night.

And then when I went to teach at an Orthodox private school, Greek Orthodox, the principal. Little hand-hold. Little putting his hands on my knees. Trying to kiss me. I didn’t have the words, those words of sexual harassment. I felt, “What is wrong with me?” I dare not say anything to anybody. I was engaged. I tried to say that. And then, just one more thing. I understand the whole – where we were stuck. But then, in my mid-forties, [00:18:00] I hit another where the world was tilting, because I decided to go back to grad school, get my Ph.D. in history. I was a single parent at that point, I was separated. I had a little 11-year-old at home. I commuted 100 miles every day, plus taking him to school. And my advisor was wonderful. I chose to study with him. I had first looked at Harvard, and the man interviewing me, he said, “We’re going to take you, but you know what? If you were my daughter –” I was like 45 or 46 – “I would tell you not to go here, because they’ll treat you like a middle-aged lady, and you’d never get anyone to be your mentor.” I applied to Brown, and my whole thing was that they were open to women, and it was a wonderful era. Just that new thing, the idea of inclusion. And it was fine. But my first year there, every professor – and they were wonderful to me – [00:19:00] they treated me as equals, but they all, “You know there is such a thing as ageism for certain women in the academy. You know that maybe afterwards you should teach at a private school.” Or, you know. And it was true. I couldn’t get tenure. So I ended up, actually, at Brown being lecturers, but there was no permanent position. And yet, what was interesting is, all these professors, three male and one female, said, “But don’t tell anybody. I’m warning you. But theoretically it doesn’t

exist. So here it is.” But I see the younger generation. They’re breaking those boundaries, too. And so are all of you.

WP: That’s really wonderful context for our conversation, to really place your class in time, and women’s history. [00:20:00]

KM: There’s a geographical element, too, because my mother was from New Mexico. And she was, I have to say, not too enthusiastic about my attending an elite eastern school. She thought I was becoming an effete eastern snob. So she persuaded me to go to the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque for one semester. It was the first semester of my sophomore year. And I just never had greater culture shock. But one of the things that really surprised me is that the west was far in advance of the east in terms of women’s liberation, really. The whole time I was at Brown, I never had a female professor.

F: There weren’t –

KM: There was one woman –

PKS: Dean Pierrel. I had her.

KM: There was also a woman in the French Department. I didn’t take French. But I took a lot of Spanish. And this woman was denied tenure. [00:21:00] And there was a very vigorous protest by the students that she didn’t get tenure. But at the University of New Mexico, I had plenty of – half of my professors were women. And the other thing was that I was on the track team. And I didn’t realize, because I never tried to do athletics at Brown, but I didn’t realize that there was prejudice against women’s athletics. And much, much later I had mentioned to somebody that I was on the track team. And she said, “Really?” And I thought, “What? She thinks I can’t run?” And she said, “No, no. It’s that somebody your age would not have had that opportunity, at least not in the east.” So it was very interesting to me. And then when I went into women’s history, I saw that the west had always been ahead of the east. The east was so much more conservative, socially, than the west was in terms of women. That’s where they got the vote first, and various

other things. So it made me look at – I must say, [00:22:00] when I came back, I kissed the earth. I was so happy to be back. [laughter] But I did see that there were limitations that I hadn't noticed while I was here.

PKS: Well, I'm very proud of our generation, because when we got out of school, you could either be a nurse, or a secretary, or a teacher.

LS: And you were supposed to be engaged, right?

PKS: Yes.

LS: Yes. You were supposed to be engaged by the time you graduated.

PKS: We used to get that all the time. How come you're not married? How come a nice girl like you isn't married? My college roommate, Meg (inaudible), if you remember, who's a lot smarter than I am. She came up with, "whatever you have in your hand at the time, spill it on him." Now I would say, "Dude, it's 2016." But back then, people asked that all the time. "Why aren't you married?" And when I got my first job, I realized my boss was a true feminist. I was the only woman professional in a company of 200 people. And women were not allowed to travel for the company. I wasn't [00:23:00] allowed to have a business card. We would go places together, and people would assume I was his secretary. They would always say, "I see you brought your girl with you." And he'd say, "No, no. Ms. Kollmer's a member of our professional staff." And I'm very proud of us, that we changed that. Our generation changed that. We made it happen. And I worked on Wall Street, and I always said to the young women in my office – we had a Monday morning meeting, 8:30, to go over what was happening in the market that week. And it was for the movers and shakers. And there was usually about 100 people there. And I always counted the women, and there were never more than 10. And I used to say to the gals, "You go to the Monday morning meeting, and you sit in the front row. Goddammit, I didn't do this for nothing! You people have to pick up the torch and keep going. They'll take it away from you if you don't watch every minute."

BHZ: I have a real fear that people don't appreciate. It wasn't that long ago. I know when I moved to Boston, I remember going to the department stores downtown. And they still had the restrooms on the side [00:24:00] that it said "colored." They hadn't taken the signs down. That was 1967. So, it wasn't that long ago that these things happen. And when I got out of law school, I had – I did very well in law school. I had two little kids. But I had to do well. My husband had left us. And I was eighteenth in a class of 380 at Boston University. And I had five job offers, but I didn't get a job offer from the firm in Boston I really wanted to work for. And the hiring partner was someone I knew pretty well. And he called me up and said, "I'm sorry, we can't offer you a job. We just feel that we can't take a chance on a single mother with two kids at home." And I wish I'd had the nerve to say to him, "But Jeffrey, I have to be able to support my family. I'm going to work really hard. I worked very hard to get where I am today." [00:25:00] But a year later, the law changed. Nobody would have dared to say that.

BHZ: Nobody would have dared to say that, and actually, there was a period of time that they would hire married women with children. And about 10 or 15 years later, you would know as well as I that the partners would hire women, but they had to be without children. Either single. They could be married, but this whole children issue was enormous to the big law firms.

WP: Well, let me change our timeframe a little bit, and think back to when you were applying to Brown, and when you first came here. Why and how did you come to Brown?

CDF: I had a very good guidance counselor. I'm not sure that I had any real clear sense. And I lived in Boston, so what I was very clear about was I had to go someplace that was too far to commute. [laughter] I wasn't going to live at home. [00:26:00] Both Radcliff and Jackson were right there in Boston. I could have gotten there in half an hour from where I lived. So this looked very promising. And when I came down here, I fell in love with the campus. And I thought I was going to major in creative writing. And I often thought my reasons for coming to Brown had nothing whatsoever to do with the experience that I ultimately had here.

UVH: I had a sister who was two years older. And she was perfect, and serious, although I was class valedictorian. I was always very outgoing and bubbly. And cheerleading, and dancing. So

the teachers didn't – But she was perfect and she didn't even wear bobby socks in those days. And she applied to all the Seven Sister schools and got into every one with a scholarship. So, I decided I'm looking at coed schools. [00:27:00] And although I had to apply where she went – Vassar – I got in. And I didn't go. So I applied to coed schools. And Brown was chosen for one, for the history department. Because I always knew I wanted to study history. [Bridenbow?] was a name that I had heard of. And the other thing was my sister's boyfriend, who was a couple years ahead of her, who had ended up at Princeton, had wanted, and was the class valedictorian. It was small town in New Jersey. He had applied to Brown and had not gotten in. So he went to Princeton. And I remember thinking, and I was in seventh grade. And I had such a crush on him. And I always used to say to him, "One day –" can you believe this? – "I'd like to be your secretary." I was blushing in front of him. Well, he didn't get into Brown, so that always stuck to me. That really must be a good school.

And the other thing was, I knew after looking at these gorgeous [00:28:00] campuses, it was the last thing I wanted. I didn't want an ivory tower. I wanted sidewalks. And I came for the interview. It was pouring rain, as usual. And I didn't mind the sidewalks. The other schools I looked at were bucolic settings. And I thought, "I won't be trapped here." And my father said no to Columbia, Barnard, and no to UP, because they were in the slums. And years later, to make a really funny story, when I was working at Chase Manhattan Bank, I get a phone call from a young officer. He's maybe, now, I don't know, 28, 29, a vice president. It was my sister's old boyfriend. He was a vice president there, and he asked me if I – he saw my name, heard I was there, and would I like to go out for a Coke? And when I met him, he took one look, and then I couldn't get rid of him. And he ended up financing Ralph Lauren and became very [00:29:00] wealthy. But I wasn't interested. But I still laugh at how even as a child, we have these dreams. I wanted to study history, but the only word I could think of was secretary?

LM: I'm going to pick up on the Barnard thing because I had won a scholarship to Barnard. And my father was quite hoping that I would take that one. But I went up there, and I just – I knew I couldn't stand it. [laughter] And then I came here, and I stayed in the dorms with two Foreign Service res– my dad was in the foreign service – and I felt so at home. Then I went and I had an intelligent, really good conversation, and I thought, "okay, this is it." Plus, there was no math requirement. [laughter]

LS: Well, I think people forget, if you didn't want to go to an all-women's college, and you were – you had done well in school, [00:30:00] then there were limitations. And I think Barnard gave a Barnard degree, and not a Columbia degree, and Radcliffe gave a Radcliffe degree, and not a Harvard degree. So your options for coeducation were what? Cornell?

UVH: Cornell. Penn. Swarthmore, maybe? I think it was coed.

PKS: Yes, it was.

LS: So, it wasn't that long when I was teaching and girls were graduating, and they were applying to Princeton, and Yale, and all these places that were not options for us.

LM: And boys were applying to Vassar.

WP: Anyone else?

KM: Well, my parents were divorced, which was not that usual in those days. And my dad wanted me to go to Radcliffe, and my mom wanted me to go to Carleton College. And neither one of them had heard of Pembroke, so I thought, "You know, this might be my best chance." [laughter] And I had exactly the same experience that Lisa had. [00:31:00] I came up here. Right here in Pembroke Hall. I had an interview with somebody. It was pouring with rain. We had this delightful conversation. And I just felt, "This is my spiritual home." And so I came here. I always felt completely happy. And one thing that made me very happy about not having gone to Radcliffe was that Brown had a policy in those days of having the senior professors teach the freshmen. And the dean of the college, Robert Schultz, taught sociology to the freshmen, taught Sociology 101. And we had the very best professors. And I don't know if Lisa will remember this. Your comment about what we would now call sexual harassment. Well, I was able to get out of freshman comp. Even though my advisor said, "You absolutely should take it," I wasn't going to. And I was taking the creative writing course [00:32:00] with a professor who shall not be named. And he made some very surprising revelations to me in his office. And I said, "You

know, I think it would be really awkward for me to continue in your class since I turned you down. And so please transfer me to the other creative writing class.” And that was taught by the poet John Berryman. He was a visiting professor there. And he didn’t take freshmen. But I had gone to visit the class, which you were allowed to do once. And he was giving a class on first sentences, the importance of first sentences. And he said, “Class, what is the first sentence of *Anna Karenina*?” And nobody knew. And I’d read that book about three times. It was my father’s favorite book. So I supplied the first sentence. “Happy families are all alike.” And so then I quickly followed up by saying, “And can I be in your class?” [laughter] And he didn’t care. He always had class at eight o’clock at night. He was always totally [00:33:00] drunk. He really didn’t care who was in his class, didn’t make him a less brilliant professor. He was still a brilliant professor. That was probably the peak experience. Between that and Charlie Bakst at the *Brown Daily Herald*, that’s really how I learned to write. But that was very fortunate that we were able, even as freshmen, to get the really top professors. And I don’t think that the students at Harvard had that option.

WP: Any other classes or professors that made particular impressions?

UVH: I remember John Hawkes. He was the first professor – he was a writing professor. I don’t think you’re referring to him. But I do remember my sophomore year, for the first time realizing what it means to analyze and think. It was just like a moment. It was like falling in love. Like lightening. I always thought, “Well, you analyze. Writing a –” [00:34:00] All of the sudden, it clicked. And it was just like, “Now I know about making connections” and whatever. And I was honored. I was so – I loved books and literature. I never read children’s literature. And it wasn’t my first language, but it was the first – I learned English first to read, as opposed to my birth language. And that was my solace, the library. And so I found myself reading the books so many times, and then one day – best day of my life, almost, at Brown – he asked me to lead a class on *The Great Gatsby*, my all-time – at that time – favorite book. And that again, it was one of those moments where I thought – I have always looked back, and when I tried to teach, “How did he get me to analyze? And how can I give this back?” And I wasn’t an English major, either. [00:35:00] But it was the tools. And I don’t know how he did it. Because he was very unstructured in what he was doing.

PKS: (inaudible) point about the head of the department teaching the entry-level course. I always thought they did that because it kept them grounded in their subject matter. They knew what was really important. But somebody else said to me, “No, it’s a way of recruiting students to come be a major in their department, because they get more status.” And that is absolutely what happened with me. Freshman year, I took ancient history with John Rowe Workman, and I was hooked. I became a classics major. I never intended to be. I wanted to be a music major. And once I took that course with him, I was in. And Brown had the largest, of the Ivy League, classics departments. I think there were 60 classics majors in our class. It was a very large class for people studying Latin and Greek. What much use is that? [00:36:00] That’s why I went into classics, was because of him. He was terrific.

BHZ: The first year biology was really interesting because we had paleontology, and it went straight through to the Krebs cycle, and my eldest brother said to me, “We learned that in medical school. Now they –” And so you have this huge, broad range of biology, but it started palento– so that was really interesting. And one of my personal experiences that kind of opened my eyes was Religious Studies 101 because I grew up with the Hebrew Bible, and I always accepted it as the word of God the way I was raised. And there we were learning about all off the different authors who had [00:37:00] written the different books, and how it had been edited by one person. It was like, wow. It certainly changed – that was –

LS: (inaudible) Professor (inaudible)?

BHZ: Pardon?

LS: Professor [Frelich?]?

BHZ: It was the chaplain. It was our chaplain, and I remember, Neil Markson, who was from our class, brought in Heschel into that conversation. It was a seminar. It was amazing. It was really quite amazing.

UVH: There were people like that in the history department, too. And I was on the American history side of it. John Thomas.

PKS: [Bridenbach?].

CDF: And McLaughlin.

BHZ: McLaughlin was – that was an amazing course.

UVH: You know, he was there when I went back for graduate work.

BHZ: He was still there?

UVH: Yes. McLaughlin and Thomas. And I got to read – one of them asked me to be a reader for one of their students who was writing his senior thesis. [00:38:00] I just thought, “What a circle.” But I had [Rezin?] I don’t know if you had – I had him freshman year and sophomore year. He was a visiting professor. He had gone to Brown.

F: Who was that?

UVH: Professor Rezin. He did Civil War, and I forgot what the other course. And freshman year, I had gone to the d– I was bored after first semester with the 101 classes, and I had the nerve to go to Dean Tonks and say, “I’m bored.” She had this smile on her face and said, “You’re bored? Let’s see what we can do. What do you like?” And I said, “History.” So she gave me permission – had to get permission to take his course. And of course it was all upperclassmen. But I managed to get a B+ on my final paper. But the best comment was, he wrote in a little corner, “You have the makings of a fine historian.” And then listed what I should do. And I thought that was – because I had lost a piece of paper, and so when I handed it in after the all-nighter, [00:39:00] I found two pieces underneath the thing, and I ran to the exam, and put it there. So I’m sure he thought, “What a scatterbrain.” But I think that was one of the most inspirational words that I really had.

CDF: McLaughlin did a – probably the thing I remember most about all my academic career here. At the end of the first semester American history, he gave a lecture which took the words to the “Battle Hymn of the Republic” and recounted the entire first half of American history. And he got a standing ovation at the end. It was just the most extraordinary experience. I wish I – because I took notes. But who can read their notes at this point? It was truly amazing.

LM: I’d like to bring out a point from all this, just listening to you. It just strikes me how much professors – extraordinary professors at Brown – have marked our lives. And when I was thinking back over what is it that I – the main thing [00:40:00] that I took from it was just the extraordinary instruction. And the fact that I could take any course I wanted. The only time I was ever denied the opportunity to take a course was hieroglyphics. For some reason, I don’t know why, I wanted to learn how to write Egyptian hieroglyphics, and the professor said, “You’ll never be an Egyptologist.” (inaudible) And he said, “Sorry.” But otherwise, I just felt this whole world of learning was there for me.

KM: And one thing that I thought was very interesting, and I think it was – I’ve been trying to remember his name, and I think it might have been Professor McLaughlin. It was the only history course I took, because I just was looking at these books. There were no women in it. And they didn’t have women’s history then, and I just thought it was really boring. But I had to write a paper on early twentieth-century history. And I chose the opposition to the League of Nations, because my grandfather had been in the Senate [00:41:00] at that time, and he was part of the group that – he was on the Foreign Relations Committee in the Senate, and they were the ones who blocked American entry into the League of Nations. And of course, I was still very young. I was a freshman, and still very connected with my family. So I wrote a stirring defense of this position. And turned it in on the very day that he gave the lecture on this. And not surprisingly, he took the opposite point of view. And I thought, “Oh man, I’m sunk. I’m flunking this course. This will be very sad. It will be hard to explain to the parents,” and so forth and so on. But he gave me an A. And he said, “You argued your point well.” And that was the first time I ever realized that there could be different interpretations. That the thinking was what counted, and not the right answer.

UVH: The proving. Proving.

KM: Yes. They were interested in how you thought, not necessarily whether your conclusion [00:42:00] agreed with their conclusion. And that was such a revelation, compared to high school. I thought that that was very exciting, intellectually. And I was very grateful for that.

PKS: I used to interview kids for Brown, high school students, for Brown. And one of the things I always told them was, “If you go to Harvard, or you go to Yale, you’re going to get taught by grad students. If you go to Brown, you get taught by professors. And there really is a difference (inaudible).” I was interviewing a kid from Stuyvesant. They’re in the sciences. What do they know? And I was talking about when I took Honig I took Victorian Novel. And the opening lecture, he was giving us the whole thing about the child labor laws in Britain then, and how many people were starving, and how many people were homeless, and how many people – And then he said, “It was the best of times. It was the worst of times.” [laughter] I was just riveted. And these kids look at me like, “Huh? [00:43:00] What is she talking about?” They never met Dickens. They went to a science high. What do they know?

BHZ: I just wanted to put in a word, again, about Professor McLaughlin because I took his Intellectual History course. When you signed up, you knew you had to read 3,000 pages in a semester. And it was just the best 3,000 pages. And my dorm room faced out on his study. And he would stay up – he would burn the midnight oil. I’d go to sleep much before he ever did. The light was always on. He really worked long, long hours. He gave us the basis in that particular course to understand what was happening in the contemporary world that we were living in. It was really an amazing, amazing course.

KM: I wound up majoring [00:44:00] in Spanish, because although I really wanted to be a writer, I hated survey courses. I just thought that’s like having a meal of hors d’oeuvres. (inaudible) the main course. So I took a lot of the writing courses, and I took a few seminars. Like an entire seminar on Stephen Crane. But I majored in Spanish because speaking about the recruitment – they were so welcoming. And Lisa and I used to go to what they called the *tertulia*, which was a tea party given by the Kossoffs. The David-Kossoffs in their home, which was right behind

Andrews Hall. And they invited us to their house. Pepe [Amor?] used to invite us to come to his sherry hour (inaudible) fellow at the college. And one thing I really missed – because I'd grown up in Washington. My mother had lots [00:45:00] of dinner parties. And I was used to having a lot of people who were older around me. I didn't like the monoculture of everybody my age. I thought, as a whole, we were kind of boring. And I missed grown-ups. And so I loved the Spanish department for including us, and having the opportunity to socialize with some of the professors and the adults. I think that was the one thing I didn't like about being in college.

CDF: I remember events like that with professors. They were so rich. And they were sort of scattered throughout. And I was thinking, what you said, Lisa, about the importance of the professors and the contact with the professors. And then the other piece that just sort of came into my head was the conversations among ourselves. Because we were isolated from that campus, and you could just be who you were, here. And I [00:46:00] can remember – you probably all remember Mimi Grace. I can remember being in the stairwell with her, having about a five-minute conversation, getting into some passionate thing. Not a disagreement, but just, “Oh, have you thought about – and this, that, and the other thing.” And 45 minutes later we're still standing in the stairwell having this raging, passionate, intellectual conversation, and thinking how impossible that must have been to do most places women where in school that were total mixed. It seems to me we had the best of both worlds. Because we had our community and we could be our whole, complete selves, and not be pleasing to men, and then we had all the stimulus of the mixed environment academically.

LS: And so when you came back to campus – I don't remember what year it was – but I came back to these beautiful dormitories after they had been made coeducational. [laughter] [00:47:00] I spent my freshman year in Metcalfe Hall, my sophomore year in Miller Hall, junior and senior in Wooley. So Wooley was brand new. It was fabulous. It had beautiful Scandinavian furniture, wonderful contemporary art on the walls. Everything was perfect. And those two older dorms, they were just elegant. I don't know how else to say it. Elegant, beautiful furniture. We had house mothers. We could bring professors for sherry hours.

UVH: Maid service.

LS: Pardon me?

UVH: Maid service.

LS: Oh, maid service. That was wonderful. And to come back here and see what has happened to these beautiful buildings has just been devastating. But then I'll also tell you that my husband took us, once, to his freshman dorm at Yale. And I was amazed. I said, "You lived in this place?" I'm not exaggerating. It looked like a dungeon. It was this [00:48:00] stone building, and it was just cold. It had like one piece of furniture in the room. And I thought how lucky we were, really.

CDF: My husband and I took a walk early this morning. And I took him around the Pembroke campus because he had never been there. And I went up to Andrews, and I opened the door, and I looked in and I said, "I'm not going in."

LM: It was like going into a private home, Andrews Hall.

LS: And now it's very sterile looking. I had that same feeling. Going back to Miller, in particular, was a beautiful, elegant (inaudible).

UVH: Well, I think it's the co- I had two children come here. And to me, when I would visit, and I would have to maybe stay for an event, the thought of having to go to a coed bathroom and have my daughter stand there while I'm trying to take my clothes off and put new ones on and everything, I thought - [00:49:00] that I didn't care for. And I felt we were blessed. On the other hand, I do know that both of them, from the day they got there, they were in coed dorms. In different dorms, in different - they were nine years apart. So they got different sort of generational views. But they made a coterie of coed friends. So they didn't really need that dating or whatever. And that was the advantage. My son had gone to an all-boys school for six years, very small, outside of Boston. So, this was - but he had older sisters. So he always had as many friends that were women, and is still in touch with them. And he'd bring them home as if he'd been socialized all the time, and the same with my daughters. So I saw the benefits of both.

Of course, then they moved into apartments. And I have to admit that had I had an apartment, I don't think I'd go to class. I didn't go much at all, [00:50:00] but I think – I look at that, and I think it is harder for the students. There are no quiet hours, which we had. When I was teaching for a while, one year I rented a place while my house in Wellesley was being fixed up. And I lived in a beautiful apartment of a professor who was abroad. There were all private houses. But they were mostly filled with students. They partied all night long, every night. And I thought I wouldn't have gotten papers done. I just thought they had – it's not too much freedom – but I realized I needed some structure. I needed the security of the girls' campus vis-à-vis the boys. I was glad I wasn't at an all-girls school, because I wouldn't have wanted to go away for weekends. But I saw that with my kids. I mean, there were people there all the time. You could drink. You could do anything. And the other thing was, I never locked a door in my life. It never occurred to me [00:51:00] at Brown to lock a door.

KM: I don't think you could. I had no key.

UVH: Okay, so I didn't know. But I just know that even to get into a building, or classroom, everything is now locked up. Even when I was teaching here, on the way home I could stop in a department and use the facilities before my long drive home. Everything is locked. So security is a really strange issue. But, there are pros and cons. And it's changed.

WP: What was dating like during your years here?

UVH: Talking about it was more fun, and getting ready with your friends, than the actual event in many cases. We always said – I had a group of friends, and it was before you went out, everybody checked in. And the minute you got out, we all went into the room. And everybody – we knew how everybody on campus kissed. Or didn't. Or whatever. Oh, not everybody. [00:52:00] Just my friends.

WP: I think Phyllis had a different experience. [laughter] Different group of friends, perhaps.

UVH: We knew each other. We shared some friends.

PKS: Yes, we did.

LS: I'm sure that it was – like my granddaughter could go back in time and see our social life. It was really so different. And we were kind of isolated. And it was kind of artificial. Because we were here, and then we would go to these parties where the word was “shitfaced.” That’s what people got on Saturday nights. They got shitfaced. But we had really strict rules. We had to be back by a certain time. And you’d come here. You’d find all the couples sort of lining up, or hanging out outside the dorm waiting to go in. Because when the magic hour came, you had to be there.

KM: Because I was doing the [00:53:00] creative writing courses, I hung out with all of the would-be writers. And I think it was more – they weren’t as self-conscious about the dating scene as the people in the fraternities were. And I didn’t feel that – those of them who were indulging in anything were smoking weed. I must say, I was very indignant when we got busted one time. I never did do it. I did it once, I hated it.

F: That’s what Bill Clinton said. [laughter]

UVH: No, he didn’t. She inhaled.

KM: I inhaled, but I really didn’t like it. I felt so paranoid. But the campus cops came in. And they looked at me. And I was trying so hard, black eyeliner, and black tights, and everything. It was before the hippies, but I was trying to be a beatnik. But this cop looked at me, and he said, “What’s a nice girl like you doing here?” [laughter] I was just crushed. And he sent me back to the dorm. And everybody else [00:54:00] got suspended for a semester, so I was just as glad that he was that perceptive that he knew that I was not smoking. But other than that, we had a pretty relaxed, just hanging out and talking kinds of dating. I think it was more like what happened now.

LS: I didn't know anybody at Brown and Pembroke were smoking dope when we were here. Freshman year, I had a room on the third floor of Metcalf Hall. And it was disaster. It was a single room, and they put two freshmen. And you couldn't have put two people who were more different together. But across the hall was a woman. Can I use her name? Her name was Reeva (inaudible).

F: Oh, yeah. Yes.

WP: We'll all be dead someday so –

LS: She came from Toronto. And she was wild. She was this [00:55:00] big, big woman. And she had like hair out to here. And she – I don't think she hung around with anybody at Brown. She was always down at RISD. And she wore Birkenstocks. And she was a beatnik. And there were things that they were doing at RISD way ahead of us. She would come back, and I could hear her talking about this in my little country girl draw mouth was like, "What?" There were stories about people having sex, and parties. Reeva [Frightfeld?] was sitting on some guy's lap having sex, and it was like, whoa. I was – just to think about it was horrifying.

UVH: She terrified me. But she fascinated me. It was like looking at someone – it was like a different planet that she was on. And I let her inhabit it. [00:56:00] And I sort of heard rumors. And every once in a while, she would swoop and say something and scare us all. And I don't think she meant to scare us all. I mean, I think she was trying to do us a favor. We were – at least freshman year, we didn't have the phone calls. We got things like messages left. "Boy called. Will call back later. – "Gentlemen called" – And football games. Skirts. Heels. Hats.

CDF: You couldn't go by yourself.

UVH: Yes, you couldn't go. It was on a Friday or Saturday. It was sort of an escort. So there was a whole thing. I loved the structure, because to me, almost all the time I liked having the curfew. Because it just gave me – especially if you went out with a Brown guy because they'd get in trouble if you got in trouble. But if it was someone else, they could do anything. So I liked that.

But I do know that there was that formality [00:57:00] of a dress code. And even when you went to a fraternity party, there were the townies. There were the poor girls that came from some other college who –

F: We know where they came from.

UVH: Right. Often they didn't have – we ended up having them in our room, because the guy got drunk. So there was that kind of thing on the one hand. It was all neat, and you got dressed, and it was very formal, and you had a date, and signed in and signed out. But then often chaos came. And there were the little things that always were sort of, "Oh, that's college." So you had to sort of negotiate. On the one hand, behave a certain way. But then there it was in front of you, and you didn't do anything about it. I mean, I kept going on dates. I married a guy from Brown. I didn't date him at Brown. The adventures [00:58:00] of the guys were very different. But when they tried to interact with the Pembroke girls, I think that they also had several rules that they had to – And we had guards. We had guards that closed the door at night in Wooley and Emery. Good friends. We'd say good night to all the boys, time to go now. And lock the door.

LS: So probably, you know all of this, but just for the record, I mean, we could not go on the Brown campus for class in pants, unless we wore a trench coat over it. So I had a Burberry trench coat, and I could wear pants with the Burberry trench coat. But other than that, you had to wear a skirt to go to class. I mean, that's kind of interesting.

KM: And even the skirts were very regulation. It was before miniskirts or anything like that. I was from Maryland, and I froze to death up here. And so I decided – what was the name? There was an Armenian dressmaker. Joan Pashian or (inaudible). [00:59:00] And she had her proto-hippie clothes. And so I got some kind of a sarape from her. And I made a floor-length skirt. And I thought, "This is great." I'm going to be so warm. And I went downstairs. The gentlemen had to come and call at the receptionist, and then they would buzz us upstairs. So I came down in my floor-length skirt saying to myself, "This is one evening I'm going to be warm." And he took one look at me and said, "I'm not going out with you. You just have to go upstairs and change." And I'm ashamed to say I did go upstairs and change. I should have tossed that drink or whatever.

UVH: Can't drink in the dorms.

KM: That's true. That's true. But it was very circumscribed. And you weren't supposed to wear anything but the regulation.

BHZ: I was just thinking about freshman week. It's totally a different – totally different topic. But we were the last class that had posture pictures? [01:00:00]

F: I don't think so.

UVH: No, I think the class behind us had them, too. Yeah, I told my students about that.

LS: I have the original somewhere, but I couldn't find it. So I printed out this *New York Times* Sunday magazine story from 1995 about posture pictures. And finally figuring out what they were actually all about. I think we've had this conversation about how – somebody last night said, "If we were in Europe in the '40s, we would have marched right into the gas chambers like lambs to the slaughter." It never occurred to me to say, "I'm not going to do this."

UVH: Or that we were allowed to say it. We were mortified, but we thought we weren't allowed. I don't what we thought. Our parents would kill us? Would they kick us out of school?

LS: Yeah, I was very embarrassed. But we all had to do it. And we were all there. I mean, we had to have our picture taken stark naked. It was really wrong. It was wrong.

UVH: And then you had to go back and they [01:01:00] had to show you, theoretically, for your posture. It had nothing to do it, because five years ago, I was diagnosed. And said, "You've had scoliosis since you were born." So I'm thinking, "Where is the posture picture here?" It was supposed to be exactly those things to prevent. And then you had to go and sit with a faculty member from the Phys. Ed. department, and they sort of charted your progress. But I don't

remember anyone having to do anything. In other words, it wasn't like they caught anything with anybody.

LS: It was all a ruse. It had nothing to do with –

UVH: It was a government-funded study, right?

LS: It had been going on for years, and it was what I would call eugenics. It was a study. It was a professor at Harvard, and one at Colombia, and they were trying – they wanted to photograph the best and the brightest so they photographed people for [01:02:00] many years, Ivy League freshmen and Seven Sisters freshmen, to determine if ectomorphs were smarter than endomorphs. It's kind of unheard of now. But the theory was that the ectomorphs – if that is a legitimate scientific classification – but that they were smarter people, and more intelligent, more innately intelligent than endomorph people.

KM: And then what were they going to do with this information?

PKS: It is amazing that we just did it. That's what is amazing to me. It never crossed my mind to say, "No, I'm not doing that." Of course, now I would.

LM: And I trusted that the picture would be protected which is something I wouldn't do now.

UVH: Yes. It never occurred that they would show it. To me, it was just the fact that I didn't even want to look at mine. [01:03:00] It was just too mortifying. I think there were words and things that, as I said before, sexual harassment – I had a professor who made a play for me. I didn't know what to say. So I ran out and never went back to class. But I think there were words. And this was another instance of we were humiliated. We were embarrassed. But we didn't have the language or the – a process. There wasn't an academic process. Today you go to a dean if your roommate says – We didn't have any of those in play, so we were powerless. But we didn't even have the language to talk to each other except, "Ew."

WP: I think there was a lot less sense of sort of individual rights, and respect, and you all do it. Kind of strange.

PKS: Well, think that all those rules about have to be in a certain time were from the Middle Ages. They were all designed to make the women [01:04:00] more desirable. Men want what they can't have. You know, the ladies up in the ivory tower. And you're just staring and wish you could be with them. But then we also all know that those rules were to keep us down. And I see the young ladies out on the campus now in their cut-off blue jeans. And I say, "You go, girls." That was all part of keeping us down, was having to wear a skirt all the time.

UVH: Yes. And not having sports. You mentioned about that. That I see all these – they all work out at the gym. I had so many students I mentored, top swimmers and whatever. And that gave a kind of confidence, and leadership, discipline, a confidence, and a sense of – see? And these are all the students that never felt like, "Oh, it's a man's world." There was no such thing. It was a coed world. And these were the students in the '90s [01:05:00] and 2000s. And it was a delight to see that there was not one bit of any of that. And even with men are dating. That was just taken care of in a different way.

CDF: It's very interesting listening to this and thinking back how it was and how it's changed. And obviously they're great changes, and I'm really happy that they've happened. But I worry about the young women today, too. Because some of the things that I read, some of the things that they admit. They'll say they don't really want hook-up sex, but they do it from time to time so they're not considered a nerd. And I just imagine when we were students, that being a nerd, okay, you'd have a drink so somebody wouldn't think you were a nerd. But to have sex with someone so they don't think you're a nerd? In every age there is peer pressure. And I worry about, for these girls today. [01: 06:00] It's so incredibly open. In some ways some of those barriers, all those rules, kept us from doing things we really didn't want to do anyway.

UVH: Yes. Yes. Yes. That's what I was trying to say before. That it was a protection that you had your dignity, but it was really you didn't have to go into it. Because I know when I moved

into New York, it was a shock at the end of it. You had to go back to your apartment, and what do you do with this guy?

KM: And there's – Some of my friends' children have married people from very strict religious backgrounds and converted to Islam or Judaism – Orthodox Judaism or something – because they were so attracted to men who were not hitting on them all the time, and did not expect sex before marriage, or at least before some kind of commitment. And I could see it. We were all – most of my friends and I are [01:07:00] not affiliated with any religion, so we kind of look at each other with all of these – with all of our children in very extreme, strict religious upbringings. And we're saying, "Where did we go wrong?" But I think that part of the answer is that some girls are very hungry for that. And maybe the boys are, too. I mean, my son married a very conservative Jewish woman and converted. And I think he admired that about her, about her integrity. And it's been very interesting to me to see that response to this peer pressure.

LS: I want to just – I was trying to figure out how to broach this subject. But something you said triggered a thought. I wasn't prepared to leave college, either, [01:08:00] I don't think. I had no idea what life after college was going to be. I had spent all my high school years trying to get good grades, and get into the best school that I could. And I felt like I had accomplished that. But what came next was like, who knew? And I think that – I don't know if we're representative of our class, but I was talking to some people last night. And there were many people in our class who really didn't have professional careers after college. They had other things, and they almost seemed apologetic about it. But it was another way in which we were – I say, on the cusp. People say we were straddling the old culture and the new culture. But I know I didn't have a clue. I didn't go to college thinking, "Oh, I'm going to study this, and then when I get out, I'm going to do this," because I couldn't think beyond [01:09:00] college. Did anybody else have –?

KM: Oh, completely. I don't think we had any kind of – I wanted to be a translator. I thought that would be a good way to use the Spanish and the writing. But none of my professors did any mentorship, even though Edwin Honig was a very good translator and writer. It never occurred to him to give me any guidance even though I translated a novel in his novel writing class. And he said, "This is great," but no follow-up, and no idea about how to get into it. And I was just

lucky that when I went home, my private high school needed a Spanish teacher. And they just said, “You’ll report for work in the morning.” And I got into it. And I thought I’d – I liked teaching, but I did not like teaching at a private girls’ school. So I went back to school and got some teaching credentials [01:10:00] so that I could teach. As I think you said, most of us were nurses, secretaries, or teachers, at least for part of our lives, because that was part of the transition, I think, between the two generations. And then we got into other things later. But I think the supposition was that you were going to get married, and that was it. Full stop. You weren’t going to work.

LS: Yes. Because there was like a pre-law society. Were you part of the pre-law society?

F: Never heard of it. Didn’t know it existed.

LS: The men had these other sort of –

F: Get them ready for the work world.

LS: Yeah, get them ready for the work world, right.

PKS: But also, you know, Leah, taking an opposite point of view. College isn’t trade school.

LS: No, I understand that. And I wasn’t trying to make that point. I’m just saying that I had no idea what was going to come next. I mean, the girls – the girls. The women that were ahead of us, they were – [01:11:00] remember the seniors in Metcalf? They had the rings.

UVH: And that’s what they talked about. First you get pinned. And then you get a ring.

LS: And that – there was expected that by the time you were a senior, you would be engaged, and you were going to get married. But did anybody think beyond that?

CDF: My recollection was by the time spring of your senior year, you're supposed to either have a ring or be accepted to graduate school.

BHZ: That was for our class. I think prior classes – I think our class, it was amazing. I think we started placing in graduate school at numbers that Pembroke hadn't seen before. But I remember Freshman Week, you can think back. One of the deans said something – I thought one of the deans said something about, "You're here to be an educated woman so that you can raise your children and support your husband." (inaudible) [01:12:00] In his career. (inaudible)

BHZ: Yes, exactly. You had to be – that was Freshman Week. That was the expectation. That's why when we got to be seniors, and we're on this cusp –

LS: I don't remember that.

UVH: I remember two times. I'm trying to think, which of the deans? It was freshman year. But then there was another time, during convocation, because those words were sort of the kind of thing that I thought, "This is what they say to everyone. This is it." Sort of code for trying to get us. And it was sort of you laughed at it internally. I don't know. I always thought – Well, I went with somebody who was a little bit older – a Brown graduate – for two years. And I always said to him, "When I'm 25, I'll get married. I'll marry you." And it didn't – that didn't sit with him. And I wasn't ready, in my senior [01:13:00] year, to – And then I sort of fell apart, because all of the sudden I realized that I had planned. I'm going to have three wonderful years. I'd go to Europe. I'd write books. I'd study history. I'd do all this thing. And I sort of looked around and thought, "I don't know where I'm going to live." My parents had moved out of their home and sold it to a different town. My sister had joined Peace Corps. And that's the only family I had, because we were – we came from a displaced persons camp. All my relatives were gone. So I felt like all of the sudden it was like being – I never – freshman year, I clicked my heels and said, "I'm free." I was so happy. But senior year, I felt like, "I don't know. Do you go interview in New York for Lord and Taylor?" All of the sudden, those things.

And I wanted to go to law school. And I remember my parents had money. They weren't wealthy. I was on a full scholarship. I didn't know you could get funding for law school.

[01:14:00] My parents didn't know this. And they just said, "Well, if you're going to go to law school – you went to a coed school. We thought you'd find a husband. You didn't." But if you go to law school, if you meet somebody there, it was like, "You'll marry a lawyer." And I thought, "Well, if I'm going to law school just to meet a lawyer and get married, I'm not going to do that."

LS: It's too much work. There are easier ways. [laughter]

UVH: But I ended up just going by myself. It was very, very strange. I knew I didn't want to – I had been asked to write a senior thesis in history. They wanted to recruit me for – I had fine grades in my sophomore year, and I had departments that wanted me. But I wasn't ready for grad school. The thing was, I wanted to be the next – do the next step, which was in my way – it was not – [01:15:00] it was just sort of up in the air, but it wasn't fitting in with anything. And then I sort of found that my personal life – everything just sort of disappeared. So I just grabbed on – I went to Chase Manhattan Bank for one reason. It was the only place in New York that didn't ask me to type. I was a terrible typist. And so I knew that. So random. You know? I mean, I was not prepared, and partly it was my fault, and the circumstances. And I think now, I'd do it a hundred different ways. I was a mentor for sophomores. And they kept up with me, years later, they were still writing letters. I was assigned freshman year for an advisor. And it was somebody in – a very old professor in the astronomy department.

F: Professor (inaudible)? [laughter]

UVH: Yes. I went the first week there, [01:16:00] and he said, "Oh, you're going to take math. You can take science." I'm like you, Lisa. I didn't want any math. I never went back, because I didn't follow his instructions and I felt like – I was ashamed. And then I never had another advisor. And yet, I had chances. I had notes from professors saying, "You're doing well. We'd like you to join the department," or whatever. I had one who was going to jump out the window because I didn't like him. But, you know, that was a whole – It was my failure. I look back and say, "I don't regret the fact that senior year I had a wonderful time." I didn't even buy books second semester. I went skiing. Because I think I was scared, so I pretended that I'm not going to

class, and my senior year, I'm going to pretend I'm in Rome. And I loved it because I talked to every person I met to get everyone's life story. I lived in the Blue Room. I lived [01:17:00] on coffee. And then it was just all of the sudden summer, and I had to go to New York and get a job.

LS: So Lisa was lucky, because somebody recruited you.

LM: Yeah, but the thing was, I went from a culture where I never felt any kind of prejudice about being a smart woman or anything. But when I joined the CIA, I realized soon that I had to flunk the typing test. And I did. I flunked it on purpose because I didn't want to be a secretary. I was promised a career appointment. But then I went – I took most of the training. But I wasn't allowed to take the training that would have made me a case officer. You know, people in the movies say "Agent." No, it's "Case Officer." And I had to fight 10 years to take that course. By the time I took that course, I was number one. I'd done it. I'd lived it for 10 years. There was a system that [01:18:00] lived on the – they were furious if you had any sort of life outside the agency. Women who wanted to succeed had to take the veil. And I mean, not marry. And you would – I was married. But it didn't mean that I was going to stop and have babies. When I got engaged, I received a phone call from the man who was a head of the career training program. And he said, "You have betrayed us. And you have wasted \$30,000 of our money." And I said, "You know, I'm getting married, but I'm still going to work." So it was just an upward struggle that I wasn't prepared for. It was tough.

CDF: One of my first bosses in Washington – and I went down to save the world. I was going to work for the government. I was very, very, very clear about what I was going to do. But then, of course, it went off in all kinds of zig-zags. But [01:19:00] I worked for the Peace Corps for a little bit, and I worked for the Poverty Program. And I can remember, the thing was, the standard wisdom was, "Do not admit that you can type." But one of the first bosses I had was a woman, and she said, "You're going to type." And she was terrific. And there were four or five of us in this office. It was a fairly entry-level thing, but we were writing letters for Sargent Shriver, mostly explaining why he couldn't show up at some event that they wanted him to speak at. But it was a great group of women, and this woman boss, it was such a role model. Because you could see, she was moving up. And she basically said, "You're going to have to type, but it's not

going to be the end of the world, and it's not going to be your whole life." And you didn't feel like you were going to be sort of slotted into something. And it was great fun. I remember that time with a lot of pleasure. There were a lot of romantic things that were going horribly, but mostly [01:20:00] it was a nice time of life.

LS: Did you go from college right to Washington? So you took it down there?

CDF: Yeah. Yeah. And I had done internships there. Well, I did an internship between my junior and senior year, and then I did another one after my senior year until I found this job with the Poverty Program in September. And those summers as interns were just absolutely fantastic. You did literally no work. You thought you were working, but mostly you were going to briefings. Someone was an intern at CIA or at State Department, and then they'd meet somebody else who was the same college you went to. So you could literally spend the whole summer just traipsing around Washington, DC, feeling very important, like you were a person that was being informed about all the really inside stuff. And then after you came back, after graduating, life was very different.

UVH: Yes. You realized [01:21:00] you were out and you knew nothing.

PKS: I just wanted to disagree with you about this wife and mother thing because I remember distinctly Dean Pierrel making fun of that point of view, that when you educate a woman, you educate a family and all that stuff. And she used to refer to it as the "wife and mother," or WAM speech. "This is not why you are going to college, women. You are going to get educated, and it's not to be somebody's wife or somebody's mother." So I never heard that, that you were saying, that there was some dean who told us we should be a wife and mother. I never got that message. I don't know who it was. But it sure wasn't Dean Pierrel. I remember her saying the WAM speech.

UVH: No. But she didn't get married for a while, either, because of her career.

CDF: My interpretation of what Bev said – because I heard that in some form. I know I did. And my sense was that the message was just a little bit different. Which was, “Don’t assume that you don’t need to be [01:22:00] educated if what you basically end up doing in life is being a wife and a mother.” Because educated women support men doing the kinds of things that they do well, and they also support good children. We’ll be in some ways coming full circle around to recognizing the importance of intelligent parenting, which we need a great deal of, I think. I don’t know where you live, but in Vermont, it’s very sad.

BHZ: I would like to think that you’re absolutely right. I just don’t remember that. [laughter]

PKS: And Dean Pierrel is dead, so we can’t ask her.

KM: And there were different deans.

UVH: I was going to say, we had different deans in different things. And Dean Pierrel was very liberal compared to the others.

KM: I remember Freshman Week, we had sort of a professor who was our [01:23:00] mascot, or whatever. And it was Henry Kucera. And I think he was Slavic language. And I remember the talk that he gave us, that at the end of that Freshman Week, we had a dinner. And he said, “All right. I’m telling you, you have a mission. And your mission is to civilize the boys.” And he had some Slavic word, and it was something like [nikultourna?]. And it was sort of an anti-cultural bias among the men. And he said –

UVH: [Nikotourney?]

KM: There you go.

UVH: Yes, that’s what they called Khrushchev. That’s one of the reasons they kick him out. They would say –

KM: And it means kind of like a slob, right?

UVH: Uncultured. Pig.

KM: And he said, “The default setting,” he didn’t use that language, “on boys is that. And you need to say to them –” and I thought this was actually very interesting. He said, “you need to resist [01:24:00] if they want to go to a football game and get drunk. You need to say, ‘No. I deserve something better.’ And do whatever it is that you want to do, because believe me, it’ll be better than what they wanted to do.” [laughter]

PKS: What’s better than going to a football game and getting drunk? [laughter] Which part of that do you not like?

KM: Pretty much any of it.

WP: Well, it is after 11:00. So, we’ve been chatting for a while. And I just want to invite everyone to share any last thoughts or things that you want to share with each other, or future generations.

LM: I’d like to share something about the change on the campus. I’ve noticed such an expansion of the multiculturalism, for want of another word, here. There were so few foreign students at Pembroke, that I was considered one of them. My dad was in the Foreign Service, stationed in Saigon, South Vietnam. But Dean Pierrel, at the opening – one of our opening banquets – [01:25:00] “Will our girl from Saigon stand up?” And then, when they had to have the foreign student picture, they asked me to show up in my Vietnamese national dress. [laughter] And now, you wouldn’t need this. I interview people. I’ve been interviewing people for Brown for 10 years, and half of the people I interviewed were on Skype, I did it on Skype, from China. And there were 500 applying from China to Brown and Pembroke.

LS: Well, wait until later today when you see them lining up for Baccalaureate. It’s a very diverse –

LM: Very diverse, yup.

UVH: And they have a program now. The foreign students come a week earlier. People of color can come a week earlier. But sometimes they err because my son's girlfriend was a third or fourth generation Chinese American. Every member of the family going back, including her grandmother, [01:26:00] had a Ph.D. or a doctorate. And, as she said, she grew up in California. And she loved to shop and ski and whatever. And she was so angry. And she had one sister at Harvard, one at Princeton. Even her cousins were Ph.D.s or getting whatever. And her grandmother had gotten a Ph.D. in physics. Now you can imagine how rare that was for – she still lived in New York, and she was this little Chinese lady with a brilliant mind. And she said she was invited to come a week earlier to do the “Third World Program.” And see, there's the PC. She ended up coming late getting there. Because her parents said, “The third daughter, go off by yourself.” And the plane was delayed, and she couldn't get into the dorms and whatever. She said, “I was fine,” because she's traveled all over the world with her grandparents, every country. And [01:27:00] I said, “Really?” And so I always had a lot of foreign students. And I loved the fact that they're not only from different countries now, but so many of the students have parents from different nationalities, different races, and they're very cosmopolitan.

And so there's – I think the only thing that bothers me now, or even then, was that sometimes identity was first by race or nationality rather than by class, or a person. That everybody – just like women, when we started, women were put in the category of, “They have to wear this. They have to have curfew. They can't be trusted. They can't do applied math,” that kind of thing. I find now that immediately – and my son, when he was dating her – because he was dating a person they considered of color. [01:28:00] So he decided to go. They have these meetings saying, “interracial dating.” I mean, he didn't think of – so he just went to see. And they all said, “You don't belong here. And you shouldn't be dating her.” And he said, “Well, this is – because they looked upon him, the cliché of “he's the exotic,” the whole cliché of the Asians being exotic. So he's dating her for a fetish. I mean, it was very, very strange.

So there's a kind of things where some things never change. We do categories. We let the world in. And then we still have to organize. So I love to see that it's constantly changing. Just different every 10 years. The campus changes. It has to change. But what's still here, I find, is

the spirit that most of the students are happy. When I was teaching here, [01:29:00] professors that were visiting said, "I've never met a group of happier students. I taught at Harvard. They're all miserable."

PKS: That's because they're all drunk at the football games. That's why. [laughter]

UVH: That's changed too. That's changed.

CDF: Thank you.

WP: Thank you all. This was a really great experience for me.

F: And thanks to you, too.

- END -