

Oral History Interview---Anne Batory, 2021 February 5th

Participants:

Suzanna Calev

Christopher Breiseth

Tim Gilmour

Jim Rodechko

Anne Heineman Batory (Interviewee)

Transcribed by Maddie McDonald, Winter 2021.

Suzanna Calev: Hello!

Christopher Breiseth: Good morning!

SC: How is everyone doing?

CB: I'm doing well. Anne, can you hear us? Do you need to unmute? Suzanna, do you and Anne know each other?

SC: I don't believe so.

CB: Dr. Batory, are you there? She's showing up on the screen, her name.

SC: Yeah. Let me see if I can - Tim is coming on.

CB: Tim, can you hear us?

Tim Gilmour: Can you hear me?

CB: Now we can, but we're not hearing Anne Batory. And I can't see you, do you have your video on?

TG: Probably not. This thing does stuff to me -

CB: There you are! Good morning.

TG: Hey, thanks for your note, Chris, just a little while ago.

CB: Thank you for asking. I'm being very open about it by the way, so there's no - I informed my board yesterday that it's going to affect my availability for a while. I'm getting all kinds of feedback from people who have gone through this, which I'm finding very reassuring actually.

TG: It's a different game than it was even 10 years ago. I sort of try to be gentle with people in your position, but I think the prognosis you've got including the timing sounds reasonable. If that doesn't get you, something else will you know.

CB: That's right, that's their message. It's very true though, all of these proctologists have said "You're going to die if something else." That's the bitters of morbidity news.

TG: You know Suzanna does not deserve this. I mean old guys talking about urological problems. No, that's not - you know, leave that to McDonald's or something like that. Which we can't go to anymore. Actually, I never did that, but. It got my equivalent though with some of my buddies.

CB: One of my Norman Mailer stories, which I just repeated to Mike Lennon in an interaction I had with him, is - have I told you about Arthur Schlesinger, Jr.'s funeral, Arthur Schlesinger's funeral?

TG: Arthur Schlesinger's funeral was at Cooper's Union, in the place where Lincoln gave his great speech in 1860. The Roosevelt Institute planned it, and as president I helped invite the speakers and then manage the event. We had Lauren Bacall, Bill Clinton, Norman Mailer and many other prominent individuals as speakers.

TG: Man, all your old friends!

CB: There were 13 people in that category. And it was packed, and it was all by invitation only. We exceeded the number of people for the number of seats. At that point Norman was on 2 canes with extraordinarily painful rheumatoid arthritis. And the steps in this old, which I'm sure in its time when Lincoln talked there it was the biggest auditorium in New York City. It was underground, so as you came at street level you went down, and the steps were about so far apart, almost 2 feet. Which is hard for anybody. But Norman after this long - and everybody talked too long. So, it was almost 2 hours he was sitting there. He started coming up right afterwards and he said "Where's the restroom?" So I said "Come on Norman, I'll take you there." So we struggled getting up the steps and it was a very long way to the men's room once you got to the ground level. And he said, "The problem with old age is urination." And at the time I listened, and I was a young man, but believe me.

TG: [laughing] Yep, yep. So, what are we going to do about poor Anne?

CB: Anne, are you with us?

TG: Looks like it. Anne?

Anne Batory: I'm here!

CB: Good. Now can we see you?

AB: I can't get the camera to work.

SC: Let me see if I can –

CB: We'll take you sight unseen but we'd rather -

TG: Oh, there we go!

CB: Hoorah, hoorah!

AB: What's happening is I was using three different computers. This stuff is fun. Oh, it's not up there anymore?

SC: Suzanna, do you know if we're expecting Jim Rodechko?

SC: I'm not sure. I did send him an invite, but I know it went out a little bit late.

CB: Why don't you give him a call.

SC: Do you know his number?

TG: I'll give him a call.

CB: Good morning, Anne.

AB: Good morning. We are now on an iPad camera.

CB: Well if we could just get it centered on your beautiful face, then we're in shape.

AB: So how is everybody?

CB: Well, I'm good. We've got a little snow, but not as much as you guys have had I guess.

AB: We had two feet.

TG: Wow.

CB: That's a lot of snow.

AB: And Steve broke his foot.

TG: That's worse.

AB: It was fun, I had to take him to the ER.

CB: Oh, really, How is he doing?

AB: How is he doing? He's doing fine.

CB: You're way off to the left, if you could - there that's better. That's much better. Now if you could lower it just a little so we can get your chin as well. Good, perfect.

TG: [On the phone] Hey, Jim. Did you get the notice that we're interviewing Anne Batory at this very moment? Yeah, yeah. You can just get on. Suzanna sent a notice out this morning. Jim, take your time.

We're just doing social stuff, we'll talk about you a lot. We need some time to talk about you. Alright, so we'll see you in a minute.

CB: Okay, so let me set the scene and set the stage. Anne, this project started several years ago. Really Dr. Mike was the one that got us into gear. And we thought that we should interview some key people in the history of Wilkes. And I don't know, Suzanna, how many have we done now?

SC: Twenty something, I believe. Twenty two.

CB: We've interviewed faculty, staff, trustees, community people, alumni, and the list keeps growing. We figured people have perspectives on the institution that we really ought to capture. For example - Suzanna who is doing a superb job as archivist, and the two of you should know each other - found an oral history recorded on paper by a guy named Robert Bomboy that Dr. Farley had commissioned him to do. Bomboy had been a student at Wilkes, and then taught in the English department. Here was this interview with Arnaud Marts, Harold Stark, Farley himself, and it was just a remarkable touching back to the founders and how they saw the community, how they saw the college. It's just one dimension of what we've been all about. We just had Rich Sours as our last interview, from Virginia. He talked about how he came to Wilkes, much more in the early days than in his later time. So, part of what we want is to hear your story, your Wilkes story, which will include your analysis of the institution. That should come a little later, we really should position you in the institution from your earliest days, and then kind of chart some of the things that you've done and that in your mind have made an impact on Wilkes. I know that one thing I have in my notes is the weekender program, because you were absolutely crucial in developing that. Give us an autobiographical view of Anne Heineman Batory. I did want you to notice that I remembered your maiden name.

TG: Anne, it's Tim. I just wanted to do the official part of this which is, you are being recorded.

AB: Oh, Suzanna did that.

TG: So, you got that, and we will hopefully have a transcript at some point which you will be able to edit as you see fit.

CB: You can cut free what you have to say. By the way, one slight comment, this is not just about the presidents or about the presidential administrations. Alright, that's an interesting dimension of this that you may want to comment on because you've experienced four or five presidents, but it's more about the institution. The presidents may be important in what you have to say about a particular aspect, but it is not a presidential history. When we started it kind of seemed like it might be that, and we interviewed each other. So, our view of ourselves and being questioned by our colleagues is a part of the record. But this is more about the institution. So, let's get you, tell us who you are and your relationship with Wilkes.

AB: I have a very long history with Wilkes. Are you getting an echo?

CB: Yes.

TG: Yep. She's back.

AB: I'm back. I turned off one computer and turned on another.

TG: That did it.

AB: Technology is wonderful when it works. I started at Wilkes as a freshman. I found the name of the college in a book and I said, "Oh I can afford this tuition, and it's not too far from my home in New York." And so basically, I started in 1964, a very long time ago, and grew to love it very much. Never in a million years did I think I would be back, so that was an interesting journey getting my masters, and my doctorate, and my husband went to Kings College. So, we're very much a part of the community. When I was at Binghamton University I was very fortunate to be working with Tom Kelley. And Tom is the one who said "Hey, there's an opening at Wilkes." And I was at the time, commuting back and forth so I went

to Ted Engle and Welton Farrar and they hired me. So, a long time ago, that's for sure. I think it was 87 that I came to be a faculty member at Wilkes.

CB: Say something about your student days, and how you and Dr. Farley, and whatever you remember about that period.

AB: Very, very different from today's college environment, that's for sure. Almost every class was a lecture, there was a big assignment that was due at the end of the term, a big term paper. We had a lot of fun. Dr. Farley wasn't really happy with the way women dressed on campus, because this was the start of wearing jeans instead of dresses and things like that, but he was a wonderful man. He just liked to impose his views of what was appropriate. But he was really a wonderful man. But we had a great time, we were very connected as students with each other.

CB: What student activities did you have, any?

AB: I was a member of student government, they called it the InterDormitory Council. Student housing is now called residences, the housing was called dorms at the time. I was in, believe it or not, the art club, but that was because of my friends. I was also a soc/psych major, so I did a lot of community service which I loved.

CB: So how did that Segway into business administration?

AB: That's a long story. My doctorate is in developmental psychology. But when I was at Bloomsburg, they had hired a person to teach statistics in their master's program, and that gentleman decided not to go teach there about 3 days before classes started. Statistics is part of being a psychologist, so they hired me to do their MBA classes. Once I started that as a part time person, they asked me to teach consumer behavior, marketing, and other courses. So it worked.

Jim Rodechko: I'm on now!

CB: Hi, Jim.

AB: Hi, Jim!

JR: Am I coming in?

CB: We don't see you but we hear you.

JR: Oh, okay. I can see you people.

CB: We'd like to see you.

TG: There we are!

AB: Hi Jim! I haven't seen you in a long time.

JR: Hi, Anne. How are you?

AB: I'm good. Are you still getting your haircut in Wilkes Barre?

JR: No, no more.

AB: That's the last time I saw you.

JR: Yeah, it's been many years.

CB: You've kind of come on with your Nancy Pelosi colors this morning, Jim.

JR: Really? Okay.

CB: Okay, Anne is in the middle of telling us the evolution of her academic fields from the time she was a student at Wilkes. I knew you as a student at Wilkes, but I don't think we've ever talked about your undergraduate experience and what the college was like during those days. You came in 64.

AB: Yes.

JR: Okay, I heard a little bit of what you were saying. In particular, you were at Bloomsburg apparently?

AB: I was at Bloomsburg University teaching.

JR: Okay, I was too.

AB: Were you?

JR: Yeah, in 70 to 71.

AB: Wow.

CB: And he didn't like it.

JR: I hated it!

AB: I hated it too. One of the reasons I disliked it is because they called for a union strike, and I said, "Well I'll meet my students anyhow." And I was told "No, no, you're not allowed to do that." So, one of the reasons that you will hear me talk about why I love Wilkes is that Wilkes University is so student centered.

CB: And you have been a great representative of that. Everything that I've known about you. So, you got this work from Tom Kelley, that there was an opening. Ted Engle and Welton Farrar, just to catch Jim up on this. So, tell me what the department was like when you came into it, because those guys are both gone now.

AB: Right. The two people who remain, I hope I'm not going to miss anybody, Cynthia Chisarick and Wagih Taylor of course. I think she predates all of us.

CB: We've interviewed her by the way.

AB: Oh, that's terrific. Wonderful. Those are the only two people who are left from when I started there. A lot of our professors had master's degree level, so they basically were very good teachers but not researchers. So, I found that in terms of getting some peer support and working with others I had to go out of the department for that. And that was okay because Wilkes is a great school where everyone works together.

CB: So where did you get support for that kind of thing?

AB: The English Department in particular, but also psych and education. As colleagues ~~that~~, we could talk about research. And then my husband, Steve, made friends with somebody in the math department. So that was cool for any kind of collaboration and statistical advice. Steve and I are co researchers, so that's why I bring him up.

CB: That's great. Describe the department as kind of a human organization, starting with those senior guys that most of us on this call remember, except for Suzanna.

AB: It was a good mix of people. One of our problems was that ~~we~~ the Department moved so much. When I started we were in Bedford Hall, then we went to Fortinski, and after Fortinski we went to Breiseth Hall, and Weckesser Hall. And then back to Breiseth Hall and finally UCOM. Excuse me. How could I forget that?

TG: Breiseth, yeah.

AB: So we moved around a lot. And we weren't all together at the same time. So that made it a little bit difficult I think for communication. We really had to work hard at making sure we went to meetings together, but we lost a little bit of what happened in the hallway. What happens at the old dashboard water cooler. But Tim, you're the one who got us together in UCOM.

[phone ringing]

JR: Excuse me.

CB: Give me a portrait - this is going to be worth having on record - of Welton Farrar, and Bob ~~Dion~~ DeYoung and Ted Engle. All really key people to Wilkes and your Department.

AB: They were, all fantastic colleagues. I knew Welton since my college years because my roommate, Penny, was his daughter. So I really knew him very well.

He was a chief cheerleader for me, and then the three were such gentlemen. They were always looking for ways for me to succeed and would always find different opportunities where they thought I would fit, and I totally appreciated that level of support. When you are first starting out it's really helpful to know you have a support team, it really is, and it was for me. So, I was very happy. ~~And we just~~ We recently lost Welton, so that was tough. I know his entire family. They would come up here twice to three times a year, so I saw everybody. It was hard to lose him.

CB: Say something about the Farrar DeYoung friendship.

AB: Oh, they were funny together. Very funny. Bob DeYoung was a trickster, and I remember one time he was on a trip to Moscow, and he took along a book he knew could upset the Russians. He would hold it in his arm as he left the airplane, he wanted to tick people off. And he had such a mischievous grin when he was doing it that you couldn't help but laugh. I was just happy to see him back.

CB: You indirectly have just raised the topic, which I knew would be an important one today, and that is the role of a woman faculty member, and how the institution responded. You said a little bit about how your department responded, but talk about it in general, the role of women at Wilkes over the time that you've been at the college and the university. Pluses as well as minuses.

AB: The pluses are easy. A lot of support. Not economic support, we were paid less. And I think everybody knows that. It wasn't until the time of Josephine as our HR person that she wanted to make sure that everyone at the same rank was getting pretty much the same salary. Other than the salary, everything was wonderful. Wagih was the only female at Wilkes University with the rank of professor. She said she had to fight for that one. But my feeling, because I came much later than her, was that this is not going to be a place with a lot of barriers because everybody treated us with respect. Everybody came to us for support, so I did not feel like there were barriers in that aspect at all. And then, you know, you need a faculty associate who you can reach out to.

CB: You're free to talk about that experience, which was also one of my initiatives. Tim, did you continue that tradition at all **[audio breaking]**.

TG: I'm sorry, I'm having a little trouble hearing that last phrase.

CB: Did you ever have a faculty associate?

TG: No, no.

CB: I had about five I think. Bob Heaman, Anne Batory -

AB: Jim Rodechko.

CB: Yes. But the last one was a woman in your department, and I'm blocking out her name.

AB: Barbara Samuel Loftus?

CB: No. She played a key role in the accreditation issue after we got hit between the eyes my next to last year. Barbara Loftus.

AB: That's who I said.

CB: Oh I'm sorry, I misheard. Then Rich Sours. It was a key support system for me, and I'm interested in your thoughts about what you learned professionally in taking on that particular perspective from the president's office.

AB: Bob Heaman was the person who asked me to do it, and I was very reluctant at first. I am very student centered, but I am an introvert. And the way Bob talked about it, it sounded as if it would pull me out and challenge me in ways that I don't usually seek. And it did, it did do that. But it also helped me to feel comfortable in a leadership role. Which I think has a lot to do with you. You used me as a person to solve problems. So, if I would hear about something going on, you would send me out to gather the facts. And I knew that when I came back to you that you placed the student at the center of our solution. And

for me that was totally incomparable to know that that was going to be your response. You might also remember that I had an idea that was fully supported by your team, and that was the R and R Task Force. Recruitment and retention. Those were two of our focuses that we really needed to work on. And so the R and R Task Force was made up of students, staff, and faculty together on teams. And they would discuss various issues and brainstorm solutions - what are some problems, what are some things getting in your way to accomplish activities or accomplish goals. They came up with some really, really great suggestions. Scott Bodfish was my co-person, and, wow, I haven't thought about him in a long time. We really worked well together, and of course with you and your team. The other thing I thought was interesting, and that is the role of technology. I met with the general officers, but when one of the officers could not be available I was noted as the officer of the day. Carrying around – what do they call those things? A beeper or something like that? And had to make decisions about things like when to involve other people, or snow days, different things like that. I thought “This is kind of cool, I like this.” There were a lot of things that went on during my time with you that were professionally and personally very significant to my growth and development, and I appreciate it.

CB: By the way, on that R and R Task Force we had trustees. Jerry Goldstein was one of the people that met with us on Monday mornings, and he was incredibly productive in terms of ideas. He was very demanding, he wanted us to be asking questions and collecting data that was not exactly on the tops of our minds. I think it was pushing us into a realm that someone in business or relating to the business community would've found natural, but for us it was a stretch and very helpful. I hope that Tim will get into the whole role of Jay Sidhu, because you really landed him. Tim, I've got to start it because of Ricky Roand se, who was son in law at the time. Did you know, this guy that I met when we were at Wilkes together, Jay Sidhu, and he said no one's ever called on him. So I started calling on him down in Reading and he eventually became a part of the period that you and Tim shared together. But start with the weekender. Talk about how that evolved as a program and then let me turn it over to Tim to kind of pursue developments in the period that the two of you shared.

AB: The weekender really started as outreach with one of the local junior colleges. They wanted to have a four-year program so they asked us to do that. And that was undergraduate. That evolved and we worked with a school in Allentown as well. Then Wagiha was the shining star over the MBA as a weekender program and making sure that we had schedules that would fit so that we would have students locally and also students who would come from various distances to do our MBA. It was very successful; we still have it.

CB: What was your precise role at the beginning?

AB: Just part of the team.

CB: Because I associate you with that dominantly in my mind.

AB: Oh, no no. That was Wagiha.

CB: I know Wagiha was a part of it, but we all have our own memories.

AB: That's for sure. My main contribution to the team was to listen to students about what they wanted in that program. What they could realistically achieve working every third weekend on a Saturday, and or a Sunday. So putting the schedule together was basically taking what they told us would work for them. We had to work things out like food. How do they eat in the hour they have between classes, where should they park? So there were logistical problems too. Everything worked out, just like everything does at Wilkes. It's a wonderful place.

CB: Tim, why don't you get in on Jay Sidhu, which is a person we have not talked about who really plays, from my perspective at a distance, plays a very strategic role in the maturation of our business program.

TG: Anne I don't know how much interaction you had with Jay during the time that he was working with the business school, so maybe you could tell us a little bit about any interactions you had with him and then I can talk a little bit about -

AB: Jay's first interaction with me was as a member of a team. He was very interested in bringing our program to India. To a part of northern India that wasn't very well served in terms of higher education. So that was his passion, and so our team was charged with figuring out how to do that. Bring their students here or bring our faculty there. I'm not one of the people that ever went there, but lots of our faculty did. I think that Jay talked a lot about how when he was a student, the level of support at Wilkes was tremendous. He learned, I think, that Wilkes is still Wilkes ~~and even many~~ many years later. Then they started - well I assume it happened at a different level - started talking about getting him involved in a different way. At the trustee level, at the naming of the school level.

TG: He came to Wilkes, I don't know how to describe it. He wanted an MBA from an American institution and Wilkes was the only place that would support him. He tells the story of coming, and I think of being dropped off on a bus in the square with one suitcase. Wilkes just took him in in a very warm way. He never forgot that. I think at several points in his life he has done whatever he could for Wilkes. He had plenty of other groups interested in his resources and what he could do for them, including Penn, Drexel, and other bigger names. But his first allegiance was always to Wilkes. I also think he had an interesting vision for the business school, and wanted it to become more prominent, and that was when he gave his gift and lent his name to it. I think if he had not gotten caught basically in the crash of the banks in 2008, that he would've been more generous during my time. But he actually almost lost his entire wealth at one point. But he's come back, and he has this new bank that is, I think, the future of banks. It's doing just fine now. I haven't talked to him for a couple years.

AB: His major contribution to the Sidhu School was his belief in authentic leadership. He was insistent, and I'm right behind him, that we develop our curriculum and our future direction based on not individual skills, like "I can do numbers" or something like that. But based on that we may be a small school, but our graduates can ~~lead~~, learn and lead. I think we really did achieve that.

CB: One of the issues when I would visit with him, and I probably had 4 visits over the time that we interacted, was emotional intelligence.

TG: Same thing, really.

CB: Right. At that point he was really flying high. I left in 2001 so this would have been in probably 97 or 98. He was like an inspired prophet on what leadership really succeeded, and how it succeeded. I think that he thought that Wilkes was an ideal place for that perspective to be encased in the curriculum. It kind of goes along with what both Tim and Anne are saying. Again, I had left by this time, but my sense is that that really creates a dimension of the program at Wilkes that sets it apart from other business programs.

TG: It did.

AB: One of our key features came out of his focus on leadership, and that was to change our business curriculum so that we developed something called the PPD Program, personal and professional development. We still have it today. At first it was a core across all four years, now there are 4 one credit courses. But they deal with leadership, with service, with contributions, and with of course your own personal development. Along with that we changed how we approached the intro to business, and it became the integrated management experience, and it is across two semesters. The students actually start

a business and are responsible for looking not only at the business, but what they could do for the community with their profits. And what they could do for the community with their labor efforts. Because you can't just have money, it has to be energy and contribution. So that has remained a signature of our business curriculum, that is not in any other undergraduate program that I know of.

CB: From my perspective of having been there when certain elements started, you all, meaning you Anne, and Tim, and others in the program, brought together the Allan P Kirby Center for Free Enterprise and Entrepreneurship with the mainline business program. So those early apprenticeship issues of starting a business, which were going on at the Allan P Kirby Center, became part of your overall curriculum. Which I think has been a terrific addition. I don't know what the impact has been on Wilkes Barre, because it was the garden in which a lot of these programs of businesses were being started. Can you discern the community impact from our students playing around in the Wilkes Barre garden?

AB: There are several businesses today that came out of that experience. We do have an incubator, we have the Kirby Scholars who are very instrumental in helping people who have an entrepreneurial idea bring it to a place where the client and the Scholars can build a prototype, a business plan, and perform some research on feasibility. So it's really, by the way I'm a Kirby mentor so I might sound like a little cheerleader here, but because of that a lot of our own faculty are coaches. Some of our engineering students, as well as graduates, are doing tremendous work in terms of contributions.

TG: I was interested in how you were going to handle the Kirby relationship, which was a tough one I think to bring about. I would give Jeff Alves a lot of credit there, wouldn't you Anne?

AB: Oh, absolutely. But it wasn't as tough as a lot of people said it was. Mr. Kirby actually came up to me one day and said "Don't let them tell you how to market. Everyone thinks they know how to market. You know how to market. You have the right idea." From what people would say, it would be like "Oh that would be hard, he would be difficult to work with." But Mr. Kirby has strong ideas, he really does. And he does want that focus, but his initial focus was on making sure we had education classes. As it turned out, the evolution continued. we do integrate the concepts into most of our courses, and definitely in the Scholar program.

CB: Tim, I would be interested in your - Anne, you used the present tense. Allan has died, I don't know if you knew that.

AB: Yes, I am aware and his son continues to be a part of our program.

CB: I don't think I've said this before, so let me capture it while we're thinking about it. Allan, we got Allan on the board early on in my time because Bill Cunningham and others said you've got to get a Kirby on the board. And so I went to Fred Kirby, and asked him if he would be on the board and he said, "No but you should approach my younger brother, Allan." So, I did. Anything with Allan took work. It wasn't a long courtship but it was an active courtship. When he got on we made him head of the finance committee, and I think if he wasn't head of the endowment committee he was still a very important part of it. As time went on, he and I really enjoyed each other, but he knew I was a bleeding-heart liberal. And he just couldn't put together the fact that he liked me and respected me and how I could possibly hold the political views that I did. It was of course affected by Paul O'Hop who was much closer in his politics to Allan than Paul was to me. So that's how we negotiated this. I struggled to get these two brothers before they fell apart, to get money to rehab Kirby Hall. Ultimately we did a million dollar rehab of the building, which was one of the most satisfying parts of my 17 years. That building was so important to the history of the college, and its rehabilitation produced such a gorgeous result. Anyway, they had their falling out which came over the naming of the F. M. Kirby center for the performing arts. I had the misfortune at a finance meeting in commenting to Allan that, "I hope you saw that the local performing arts center is

going to be named the F. M. Kirby center.” He had not heard that before. The look on his face could have killed, and from there he moved. I don’t think it’s appropriate to record all of these details but their animosity began there and it involved Wilkes directly. Gene Roth and I were caught in between these two brothers. In any event, I began working on Allan to remember his father. F. M. Kirby was constantly being remembered in town, and that performing arts center name was just the last example of it. I said to Allan, “Allan P Kirby Senior played a tremendous role in the economic life of this country, we should remember him.” Well there were reasons why his father left Wilkes Barre and went to Morristown, which were on the private side. As a result, he was not remembered in the kind of category that F. M. was. So Paul and I worked on Allan. And I said, “We really should have a program that reflects your values in terms of business.” And he thought about it, and there would be long periods between these discussions. He finally said “I’ve come up with an idea but I’m sure you’re going to be against it.” And I said “Well, try me out.” And he said “I want to create an Allan P Kirby Center for free enterprise and entrepreneurship, and I know you’re against free enterprise.” And I said “No, I’m not against free enterprise.” So we embraced that idea and found the house. Paul found the house right before Kirby Hall and the library was available, which was, in terms of serendipity, it could not have been better. That became the focal point for Allan’s personal investment in Wilkes, although he had made generous contributions both to the Martz center and to the classroom office building, what’s it called now?

AB: Breiseth.

CB: [laughing] I’m being coy. So he was thrilled that that emblem of free enterprise in particular could be associated with Wilkes. That began the opportunity, that I think finally Jeff brought to full flower. Then it got integrated with the business program and the Small Business Development Center. We had elements that were all kind of standing on their own and not tied together, and finally you all tried them together. Which I was enormously pleased with. The only thing I found that really ticked him off is when his brother then made this huge investment] in the Allan P Kirby Center for athletics. I mean that was kind of one upping him. So that competition was very creative for both Lafayette College and Wilkes, but it was tough. It was really tough. Somewhere, Tim, I should tell that story. It’s so charged with private issues. You and I should just explore that alone to figure out what we could say on that. Because as a story of a family, a major family in the commercial life of this country and their investments in higher education, it’s a very important story.

TG: It’s interesting, I’m not sure I sorted out everything, and I would love to have Anne get back in here since this is actually an interview of her. But my impression of Allan was a little different than Anne’s in that he had a concept for the center, which was somewhat I think intended with the concept that Jeff and I would say “I.” We were more interested in the entrepreneurship part of things and he would always pull it into free enterprise. Which I think in his form was a pretty ultra conservative view. We didn’t really feel that that had a place in a curriculum that we were offering generally to business students. We felt entrepreneurship really could be a defining characteristic along with Jay’s idea of authentic leadership. That would really be a powerful combination. And Anne, I don’t know, you were there so you could see some of this happening. Jeff Alves was doing a pretty good job of working with the business faculty to create some real interest there. Then he also began to look over to engineering and established a relationship with some of the engineering faculty. Rodney Ridley being the big one, and I’m not sure I understand Rodney’s role fully at Wilkes as I hear it later. But I thought Rodney was a very bright engineer who really understood design and how that could relate to business. I will say, and I’m just laying this out for Anne to react to, I think there was a relationship with SBDC but it never came to the logical fruition that I thought it should, in which there would be an intimate relationship. In terms of the

incubator and the accelerator, I assume that's what you're talking about downtown. By the time I left there were a number of tenants there and the operation was basically supporting itself, and there were relationships with students that I think members of the faculty and Jeff as well really fostered. You probably know more about that than I do but there was a real hope that this would become kind of an economic engine for Wilkes Barre. I think to some degree it has, but as with any of these things there are other actors involved over the time. I was always a little disappointed in how the Kirbys interacted with this kind of true entrepreneurial idea of developing Wilkes Barre. I really wrote it up to his inherent conservatism that I think characterized a lot of the Kirby family. As wonderful as they were, they were kind of stuck maybe around 1910 or 20. Nice, nice people.

AB: Still are. The difference is the relationship too, I think. Mr. Kirby, when he talked to me about his vision, or what would be going on in that conference room around that fireplace, he talked about that it would be a drop in point for students and faculty to talk with the Kirby Professor who would be there. He even mentioned what they would be drinking and what they'd be eating. Of course later on Mr. Kirby said no drinking and no eating in the dining room, so you had to take it with a grain of salt. But he really did talk about things differently depending on who he was talking about things with. So his gentlemanly tendencies, his conservatism, I saw a different side than you would have.

TG: Yeah, and it's too bad that we couldn't kind of marry the two up, because I really think his desires and instincts were very, very genuine. In some ways I think he had a little difficulty just interacting with people. He was bashful.

JR: I had a brief occasion to meet with Mr. Kirby. Paul O'Hop invited me and Bonnie Bedford, she was dean of arts and sciences at that time, to attend one of the board meetings at the center. We were there, and it was very nice. Mr. Kirby was very nice to both of us, but after it was over Paul was read out by Mr. Kirby for inviting a woman to the meeting. He wanted to know why Bonnie was included and why she was there. I don't think he was crazy about me being there either, but he made it very clear to Paul that he didn't want Bonnie there again. So, that's another side of it.

AB: I was invited to the meetings. My role was to discuss the activities of our business students and faculty.

JR: I'm surprised, I really am.

TG: As you said, Anne, there were probably many faces. I remember those board meetings as being something akin to a root canal.

JR: [laughing]

CB: So did Paul O'Hop. He invested more in that center and his relationship with Allan than I think a lot of you may have appreciated.

TG: But anyway, we did it. There was excruciatingly detailed management of the center, which I don't know how Jeff did it. Then there was the faculty part, and as you remember when Allan came up he would do an inspection of the building.

CB: Yes.

TG: We were then given a list of things that needed to be –

CB: It had to be perfect.

TG: Yes. One time the pea gravel had receded from the edge of the parking lot, and we were to immediately restore that. It was a beautiful facility though. I'm sure it was a real artifact showing what probably that part of Wilkes Barre looked like in his day. He had really fond memories. He grew up in one half of Waller, and he could remember riding his tricycle around the semi circle where the president's house is and where Waller is. And then he would get a smile on his face. So, an interesting person, and

it's interesting to contrast his idea of how you should deal with a major gift and Jay's idea. I would say this, and Chris you would probably remember this, there were times when he would threaten to take his money and go. And the way the gift was given, and it shouldn't have been accepted by today's standard that way. You're always a little bit on egg shells about that, because you didn't want the thing to disappear. Jay on the other hand I think had a really dynamic effect on the college, and I think if he would have continued to have the wealth he had at that time there would have been a five to ten million dollar gift down the road sometime. I don't know how much I want to tell about this but Jay and I got fairly close and he basically was thrown out of Sovereign Bank because of his values. He and some critical investors in the bank came to loggerheads on how the bank should be run, and basically they wanted to take their money and run, and Jay wanted to continue to build what would only become a major National player. It was a major regional player, but a major National player in banking, and it would have a different set of values. It probably would do all of the new stuff that the really good banks are doing. He was always ahead of his time. But they got loggerheads, he brought – what is it? The Spanish bank that begins with an S? He brought Santander in, and he thought they were going to give it leverage but they ended up going with the other people so he left. Sadly he had invested most of his money in banks, and you all know what happened to Wachovia. So he really had to build everything from the ground up, and he did. I think he's back. So he's a really fantastic example of a businessperson that you just can't get down. I hope he will come back; I get the sense that he has sort of dropped away from Wilkes. I don't know if he's gone off the board but he is not participating as much.

AB: I know that Abel has been trying to establish a relationship. He does communicate with him, and he does write him letters, but Abel would like it to be a much stronger relationship.

TG: Yeah. It'll be interesting to see how - that's embarrassing. The new president?

CB: Cant.

TG: He should do okay with him I think.

CB: Greg Cant.

TG: Yeah, Greg Cant. You never really know, but I really think that Jay's connection had to start with a president and seeing that the board was doing what he felt boards should do. That's when he came in, he thought that there would be some real room for him to offer service. I can assure you in the time that I was with him, or he was with me and the board, he was valuable. And it was funny because he was not a person who got involved in great details, but when there were issues at the moment he could make extraordinary forceful statements that would set some members of the board back on their heels. From my point of view that was a good thing. Hopefully he'll get back, and I think he will because he's a good guy and going to continue to make lots and lots of money. But he literally lost over 100 million at one point, and that's a lot of money.

CB: To go back to the roots of all of this, our first meeting he told me that George Ralston basically gave him a tuition free scholarship. As Tim said, it was the one place he could afford to come. But George also lent him money, as George did to a lot of people. He told me just how, and just kind of carrying out your theme Anne, of the close relationship to students that Wilkes has had. George was a critical part of that environment that had amazingly sustained itself not only in money terms but in the kind of supportive person we are talking about. But Jay was a real beneficiary of Wilkes in its Farley/Ralston beginnings. It's certainly paid off for Wilkes, even if he doesn't come back, which I hope he will. It just occurred to me that this is another one of my tangents. Between Jay and Joe you take two of our business graduates who were titans of the evolution of the American banking system. Joe Panola did the first interstate after failing to control Bank of America. It was powerful and what banks became. If you put what time has

been saying about Jay's role in anticipating the evolution of the banking system, here are these two kids from Wilkes who went on to - it would be a neat dissertation topic for somebody who was looking at Wilkes history. I think Jay would be very open to -

TG: It might be a nice way to get him back: Anne, do you have any reactions to us talking too much?

AB: Oh gosh no. I like this.

TG: It was funny, I'm sad to say, and it probably has to do with age, but I had really forgotten those design elements in the business school curriculum. I was just over the moon about it, I thought it was the greatest idea ever. I think it actually was executed well, and I think you may have been prominent in making that happen.

AB: I had a wonderful team.

TG: Yeah. It was a really good bunch of people I thought.

CB: We should interview Jeff Alves.

AB: Absolutely. Wait a little bit though, he's dealing with a medical issue right now.

TG: He and I have kept in touch, but I haven't talked to him for quite a while and then I realized he was sick. There was this note, I guess maybe Paul Adams shared it with me, and it said you can call him at this number and here's his email. I guess I had had his email address, anyway, he has not gotten back to me. Do you know anymore?

AB: He is home now, he is recuperating, and they believe this is the end of it.

TG: Oh, good.

AB: I don't want to use the word.

CB: Is he still local in Wilkes Barre?

AB: No, Jeff never was local. He lives in Breesport, New York. During the week, he lived at the Kirby Center. That was his apartment away from home. But just to tell you about the kinds of students we have graduated, when the news came out that Jeff had this health issue, there are these two groups of students they call "family." So a combination of family, but they're not really family. So I let a couple of them know what was going on, and they made together this great big team effort to engage and send cards and greetings and all kinds of things to Tina and Jeff, because they knew both of them. Our students, even after they leave, still feel very much in their hearts that they are a part of our family. And I think that says a lot about how we interact with them. It really warms my heart, and it warmed Jeff's heart. I'll tell you that.

TG: I can imagine his reaction. That would mean a lot to him, because he put his heart into that place.

CB: Having been at the headwaters of getting involved in the Kirby Center, which was not an all positive experience for Jeff, he has really paid his dues. I am very warmed to hear this conversation about how things responded to his leadership when he became head of the whole venture. That was not at all something in the cards at the point when we brought him into the Kirby center. So it's a great Wilkes story, and I hope we have the chance to interview him.

TG: I have a feeling, Anne, but I may be putting two and two together that don't, but I think you were very much instrumental in this. What I saw that was amazing was how when I would talk with Jeff and we wanted to get some things done curricularly and make the Kirby Center more a part of the business school, Frankly so we could get it a little out of the clutches of Allan Kirby. That all happened, and that's not an easy lift I don't think, generally and academically. It must have been you had a pretty remarkable group there that interacted and had a sense that those visions were in line with yours, and made it happen. Am I misreading that?

AB: There were tensions. I don't know if anyone recalls but we were originally the School of Business Society and Public Policy. Economics, anthropology, political science, were all a part of this school. So there wasn't this wonderful hug of the curriculum initiative. The business faculty were much more in favor of it than the social sciences. But because of Jeff's nature and a lot of other things that came together, he was able to make the argument, and we were able to get the entrepreneurship major as a part of our curriculum. The tensions died out once it was a given. But even at the Kirby Center there was some tension in Fortinski that money was being spent that way, because we really did have a lot of needs at that time. I don't think they got the idea that this is Allan Kirby's money. It's his money and this is what he wanted to do with it. I think anytime we grow it starts with a little tension here and a little tension there, but we learn from it and that's why it works.

TG: I think there also are good citizens who bring people together, and I think you're doing a lot of that. My experience in fundraising, with maybe the possible exception of fundraising for faculties that everyone has kind of agreed has to happen, is that money is probably spent about three times, but you've only got it once. If you have someone like Allan, his view was that the only place it really should be spent was basically in that conference room in that building. You have to admire him, and increasingly there are people like Allan who have a specific notion of what they want their money to do, and it often is not what the institution needs.

CB: The other side of that is when we needed to fill out the basement in Marts center, and now it's Breiseth Hall, we got Allan to put up more money for the basements. He became famous for the basement, and he also got him in on a somewhat related thing on the sports faculty over at Ralston field. He got very intrigued by that building and we got some more money from him on that. So there were places to reach Allan, and they were related to athletics. But the basement, the sense of not losing the efficiency of limited space appealed to him. The key guy in selling that to Allan was Paul O'Hop.

TG: Yeah. I think the other thing about Allan was he really did understand that you have to maintain your facilities and tended to be supportive of things that made your facilities better. Interesting character to work with.

CB: One thing, Anne, we often ask people is to just reflect on some of the major folks in the institution. I don't know if you had anything more to say about Dr. Farley but say something about Bob Capin who was a part of this project when we began. You would've served with him as a fellow faculty member, and known him across a big part of his career at Wilkes.

AB: Well I did not know Bob Capin when I was in undergraduate because I was sociology and psychology. But when I joined the faculty he was not on the faculty, he became an accounting professor after I had started. In fact, his first office was in the Kirby Center. It was just perfect because it was very professional and fitting of a former president. Bob and I were pretty close colleagues for a long time, especially when his wife was ill. Just in terms of social kinds of things, but I never really worked with him collegiately in terms of curriculum or any of that kind of stuff.

CB: Do you have a sense of him as an advisor of students?

AB: He was a very caring, very professional man. But he knew that accountants are held in a whole different professional realm than my marketers and my advertisers. So the students would go from my class and have to do things like take their hats off, or if they had on Jammie's, which they did at one point in time, don't ask me why that became a fad, but they had to change before they went to his class. Whereas I didn't even see it because it's not important to a lot of the things that I do with my students. So we had differences of opinion about that, but it never interfered with our relationship. I respected him and he respected me.

CB: I sense from Bob's teaching activities in the period before he was president. Some of his students went on to be major people on the board would praise his teaching and advice. They regarded him as the faculty member that would help prepare them the most for careers in accounting.

AB: A tremendous amount of his teaching gift was his depth of knowledge, but also his willingness to share it with his students.

CB: Just in human terms he was very supportive of them as they developed a more professional identity. I'm forgetting the name of your chair on the board,

TG: Oh, Jack Miller.

CB: Jack Miller. When we first met he spoke so warmly of Bob Capin.

TG: There were a number of graduates in accounting who held him in very high regard. I am forgetting the name right now, but -

CB: The guy up in Buffalo.

TG: Yeah. Bill...anyway. He really admired Bob. When I first got to Wilkes I had breakfast with Bill, and what I did was I talked about the strategic plan that we had developed and the basic elements of it. And his answer to me was "This is all well and good, but what you're going to have to do is fix Main Street."

CB: Yes.

AB: I'm sorry, there was a noise outside. You have to fix?

CB: Main Street.

AB: Oh, okay. Thank you.

CB: He was a Wilkes Barrian and every time he came back from Buffalo it depressed him to see South Main Street.

TG: And you remember, Anne, what it was like at that point. I used to say you could roll a bowling ball down -

JR: Bill Hanbury

CB: No, he's Washington.

TG: Oh, no. Later.

CB: But Bill also regarded Bob Capin very well.

TG: Yeah. But anyway, the point was that he then invested in that center for, I don't know what it is now. But it was an economic center which still is, I think, doing very well. Anyway -

CB: Anne I'd be interested in your view on the issues on faculty governance and the evolution over time and how the faculty dealt with each other, as well as with the administration. And issues that involved the whole institution.

AB: One of the things in terms of looking back that I'm very very proud of for Wilkes is how we have dealt with inclusivity and reaching out to other people. When I came to Wilkes, I think it was within a year or two the Gulf War started. Our students immediately put together ways of sending cards and sending care packages. Not everybody agreed with that. We had people on our campus who didn't want the students doing that, but they did, and I think you were very supportive of their efforts so that worked out really well. Then I know that there have been a lot of incidences in our country of people being murdered for their orientation, but one in particular struck our campus I think because of his age. Matthew Shepard was a young man who was tortured and beaten and left to die, tied to a fence. And our community came together to have reflections and thoughts about that. Some of our faculty actually said that because of this inclusivity, they came out. They wanted to show their support even though they

hadn't before. So we had a reaching out of alliances with groups that our students weren't all that familiar with. And they were learning about each other in a very respectful way. I was very, very proud of that. And then Essie Davidowitz, you all know Essie. Essie went to a conference somewhere in the world and found out that at the time, there was a need for some educational group to help some Afghan women who had been doing beauty parlors in their basement, which they would have been shot for doing. Women were not allowed to do that in Afghanistan until after the Taliban were no longer in power. She came back to the United States and she said "I know the people." And Essie came over to the Sidhu school and recruited Ruth Hughes, Marianne Rexer, and me to develop this initiative for educating Afghan women who wanted to become beauticians or estheticians. We developed educational videos filmed at Wilkes, with Afghan translators, on starting a business, marketing, advertising, accounting, and other business skills. The Project was called Beauty Without Borders. It won awards from Vanity Fair, it was made into a movie, and then we were asked to do the curriculum for the university in Kabul. So when we reach, we reach far. That was Essie entirely. It is very painful to think about the conditions in Afghanistan, especially for women today.

CB: We have interviewed Essie.

AB: She's amazing!

CB: She's been in touch with me recently and someone else has just gotten, was it one of you?

TG: Yeah.

CB: Letters from Essie, in her handwriting. Which is labor these days with her Parkinson's, but she's still reaching out.

AB: Fantastic.

CB: She was very close to the nun at Misericordia. They were dealing internationally with issues of women, and respect for women. That became a part of the campus activity. She found ways to get this wonderful woman who – Tim and I are both having trouble with names. Fortunately it doesn't happen to Jim Rodechko, but Tim and I have that problem.

AB: I do too. Essie really shows the tremendous value of community involvement. Essie was not a Wilkes undergraduate. She came in because of her relationship with Dr. Farley. But she changes the world through her many different affiliations.

CB: She has kept this commitment to Wilkes, and sees Wilkes in its music program, drama program, as well as some of these other areas. I think it's a characteristic of Wilkes that I think we captured in our interview with her. It's helpful to have this additional perspective from you Anne, which I have never heard about. It's wonderful to think of you dealing with beauticians in Afghanistan. That really warms my heart.

TG: By the way, I just want you all to know, Bill Montag.

CB: Yes. Montag.

AB: I know that name!

CB: Did you ever see him in Buffalo?

TG: Yes.

CB: That lovely house of his.

TG: Yes.

CB: He's done good.

TG: Well he did very, very well. The company owns EZ pass, so. That's pretty good. He actually was pushed out. They were bought and he was pushed out of the company.

CB: I didn't know that.

TG: Yeah. And in fact, we kind of lost track of him. In part because, this is how fundraising works. You can know how much somebody has, but you don't know how they're really going to want to invest that in terms of their philanthropy. The major thing you need to know though is how is the spouse feeling about this. I was president at the time so I have to take responsibility, but we had a meeting that involved him and his wife, and it was not a good meeting. After that we realized that we were not number one on the family's list.

CB: I've got those same stories, Tim.

TG: It's too bad. Bill I know really wanted to do stuff with Wilkes, but it's just the way it is. He's a fine, fine guy. I think he actually was in kind of a, I think it was a Swedish company that bought EZ pass, it may have been another country. In any event it was a foreign country and he was kind of at war with them. That's not the right word. But in real conflict and hoping to prevail, so he had to go off the board just to focus on that issue and never came back. It's too bad.

CB: Anne, one of the people that almost everyone talks about, and you maybe did not have a close relationship with him, but Umid Najib.

AB: I wouldn't call it a close relationship, but I was close with Barbara, his wife.

CB: Who we interviewed by the way.

AB: Excuse me?

CB: We interviewed her, so she's a part of the project.

AB: Oh, super. Umid was the Dean of Engineering, and such an incredibly smart and articulate professional man. I learned a lot from him about a lot of things. When I first went into Breiseth Hall he was over in what used to be some kind of a dorm, I forget the name of it. That's where we had computers, but also his office. So it was rather interesting. And then he went over to our science building, Stark. He respected the business program; alright engineering came first. But he knew that some of his engineers would definitely need to have ideas about how to build a business plan, who is this for, what do people need as opposed to what do I want to make. So in that respect he was really a good partner. I believe from him came initiative such as having one of our business students work with the senior projects so that they would have that perspective. He also had a great deal of respect for people who could speak several languages. We don't do this now, but back then you had to deliver one of your presentations in another language if you were an engineering graduate. I'm not sure I would have ever done that but it was interesting.

CB: You talk about reaching out to business, he did the same with the liberal arts. While we had a little fight, which Jim will recall, over distribution requirements for people with an engineering degree. He wanted them to have the liberal arts. He wanted them to write well, to know literature, to know history. This was something where he had a more comprehensive view of the educational process than a lot of other engineers.

AB: Absolutely. And I think that, again, that shows the Wilkes mentoring. We're not just releasing people who have a skill, we're releasing people who can be leaders, who care, who can make contributions for their life. I think that's what sets us apart.

CB: I don't know if, Jim, whether you remember John, I think it's John Karakash who was the key engineering guy at Lehigh.

AB: No.

CB: Umid got him involved, and I think I gave him an honorary doctorate. He was either a Greek raised in Turkey or Cyprus or a Turk. He was an Olympic gold medalist. Absolutely remarkable guy, and was on our board for a while. Umid got him, and he was very much a part of our

engineering program. And because he was Mr. Engineering at Lehigh, he gave us some real credibility. He was probably closer to being a renaissance man than anyone I have ever known. And he was deeply into the classics, and wrote about them and talked about them. He had to give a couple of speeches. I think I probably still have a copy, if I ever get through all of the boxes that I haven't opened. I may not have a precise emphasis on this man, but it was a Greek name. He lived until he was 90. And Umid kind of worshiped him in a way that someone of his culture would respect as an older person who had been a pathfinder. It was a dimension of Umid that I got to see, because I went down and saw Dr. Karakesh at Lehigh. I got a sense of the environment there. This revealed a side of Umid, appreciating and folding Karakesh into the Wilkes family. It gave credibility to both men as engineers seeing the big picture.

TG: Well Jim will remember, I don't know if this is really on topic. You'll remember that one concern I had when I came to Wilkes was the low enrollments in engineering, and of course the high cost associated with that. So I asked one of my mentors at Georgia Tech to come up and look at the engineering program. I'm not sure what I expected but he actually gave the program an excellent report and said this is actually how we should be teaching engineering everywhere. You're producing an engineer who can function in applied settings, where most of today's engineering is happening. Which I thought was pretty remarkable.

CB: And the same if you look at the Mountain Top relationship of engineering, Farley made the arrangement with RCA but it was Umid who evolved the relationship that really staffed their engineering program. By the way I did the same thing with Robert Sproul that you did with your colleague at Georgia Tech. I had him come in and evaluate the program, the environmental part of it. Bob Sproul set up DARPA at the Defense Department He was very impressed with Umid and said we could handle this. Anne, say something about some of your major colleagues that you haven't talked about that you'd like to have remembered in this project.

AB: I'm trying to think of who I didn't talk about. The business school is a small school.

CB: But you were a player across the faculty. Talk about some of the women faculty members.

AB: Well, Bonnie Bedford was actually my mentee when she came to Wilkes. So she and I became very close and whenever we had a snowstorm she stayed with us. So she has some funny stories about celebrations and things like that. Mike and Bonnie started the creative writing program, which later on became fine arts and creative writing. Just looking at the tremendous amount of work they put into building that hybrid program was absolutely wonderful. Mike never thought I would retire. He kept telling me "You're never going to leave!" But I did. Mike was very important to me as well in his role as, first of all as Vice President and part of the general offices, but also after he left and became the creative writing mentor, we saw each other during the on campus sessions. He will always be a part of my life. Another very important person to me was Jane Elmes Crahall. We shared students, courses, and projects and we are still close. Who else? Trying to think. I'm running a lot of blanks these days with brain fog, it's a part of the condition of COVID.

CB: Another person we've interviewed is Louise Berard. Have you done much together with her in Mathematics?

AB: What was that?

CB: Louise Berard.

AB: Oh! In math?

CB: Yes.

AB: Okay, I'm placing her now. Not in any particular way other than maybe on a committee together. But you could always count on calling Louise if there was a problem with one of the students in a math course. She would definitely try her best to figure out how to best proceed with the student. Some of our students aren't all that good with math. It's amazing. You think. "You're going into business and you have a problem with math?" But yes, some of our students did. One of the hardest courses they took was Math 101, believe it or not.

CB: Jim, you've been very - oh Jim's on the phone.

TG: Yeah, he's on the phone with me, and he is, I think - Jim you may have muted yourself. Well that would be Suzanna, I'm not the host today.

CB: I don't think she's on right now.

TG: We can't hear you, I guess. Oh my god, that's terrible Jim. Okay, let me just, do you guys mind if I just - I'm going to have to get him off of my hearing aids and onto the speaker. Alright Jim, I think they may be able to hear you know.

JR: Can you?

CB: We can hear you.

TG: There's kind of a little feedback. Jim we can't hear - they can hear you on my speaker phone.

JR: I wondered if Anne had any impressions of Howie Williams? Or was he gone before you came?

AB: Howie was our statistics teacher when I came. He had initiated this six credit, two semester sequence in statistics and everybody wanted to get rid of it except Howie. He insisted that it was important for our students to know and to learn. He was a different kind of person, he didn't care if he made somebody a friend or an enemy. So that was really interesting to watch because it's different from me. He also would do things like, he fell and broke his leg, and so he took the semester off. Our nursing faculty were like "Get a wheelchair!" So he had his own mind, that's for sure. But I don't really know him very well. But his wife was a friend.

JR: He was chair of the department for a considerable period of time.

AB: No, I came with Ted.

JR: Oh, okay. How about impressions of Ted?

AB: Oh, Ted is the proverbial gentleman. He was so refined and upstanding and so supportive of everything I did. When the accrediting body would come in, I would later hear from one of the members "Oh, he sings your praises like crazy!" And he didn't need to do that. There were lots of things for him to talk about. So I knew that whatever I wanted to maybe try, that I could go to Ted and find out how he felt about it and I'd get support if I had good reasons. I really enjoyed working with him.

JR: Roseanne Cordora Williams?

AB: Yes, Roseanne was Howie's wife when I met him. Roseanne died unexpectedly in 2014.

JR: Right around Thanksgiving.

AB: I was shocked, totally shocked. Her family owned some retail shops that my husband likes to go to, so we would see her once in a while.

JR: Beer distributors I believe.

AB: Mhm. Absolutely!

CB: Anything about any particular students of yours that you think we might want to interview, that have had unusual -

TG: Hey Chris, I think Jim had one other person.

CB: Sorry.

JR: Ken Broadt

AB: Oh. Yeah, Ken was the Chair of our accounting department, and he was the person who brought in Marianne Rexer. He brought in a number of people to work with us, Marianne is still with us. I liked Ken, I like his family, and I love his wife Marsha. I was very, very saddened to hear that he died in Florida. At Ken's memorial I was with Jeff, Mike Garr, Rob Seeley, and Bob Tuttle representing Wilkes. So that was a really interesting group from the time we were the School of Business, Society, and Public Policy that they had formed this really good friendship.

JR: I didn't know that he had passed away.

AB: Oh, I'm sorry. I don't like to be the bearer of bad news. But his wife still lives here. Marsha still lives at Lake Nuangola and winters in Destin, Florida.

TG: Is that it Jim?

AB: I don't know if all of you knew a student by the name of Adriana Espinheira, anybody?

JR: I know the name.

TG: Me too.

AB: Adriana came to us as an undergraduate from Brazil, and she lived with one of our trustees for a while who supported her initiative to come to Wilkes University. She went on to work in various fields, and then she came back to get her MBA. She was a grad assistant with the SBDC. And then she worked at Starbucks as a barista. One of the really cool things about Adriana is that she took that barista job to heart. Because she's from Brazil and Brazil is very famous for its wonderful coffee, she started a food truck business in her town in Florida which has evolved into a cafe and a food truck. Very, very, very successful. When she was at Starbucks, she was asked to go to Brazil to work on some initiative. So Adriana has remained in contact, in fact she calls me "My Dear Dean," because I was dean when she was a student with us. She never lets me forget it. Who else should I talk about? I mean there's so many of our students that I'm very, very proud of. My own daughter and son in law are doing very well in New Jersey. My son is a teacher in Hazelton. Jared Lehman, Marissa, who is now Marissa Lehman, Andrea, and Adrienne Evans are friends who met at Wilkes and continue their friendship. Jared is with Nestle, Marissa is a veterinary instructor at one of the colleges, Andrea works for the US Navy, Adrian is a partner with her mother in an accounting firm. Bill Jones is with the United Way, Evana Manandhar is Miss Nepal, and Tony DeRe is founder and CEO of BSI Corporate Benefits. These Wilkes graduates are among the many who share in the Wilkes success story continue to inspire me. I think because of social media it is much easier to stay in touch with the students who came in the 2000s as opposed to when I came in 1988. Just listening to their stories and how they stay together is inspiring. Some of our student government presidents are still in contact. It's just this great feeling of people who remember each other and are grateful for having worked with each other and continue to express that gratitude. It's really wonderful.

TG: Well, it's probably, in your case Anne, well deserved. I should mention, I just wanted to thank you for all that you did for Sam when he was with us. Patty's son.

AB: Oh. He didn't tell me he was Patty's son for a while! He kept that a secret for a little bit.

CB: My daughter kept secret her last name. She came back for a degree in art after graduating from the University of Chicago and teaching in Hungary. She came back and did a Wilkes Art degree and started organizing the students to put pressure on the art department to shape up in some ways. And only then did they discover her last name was Breiseth. They're stories like preachers' kids. There's one person I really wanted you to say a little bit about, and that's Terry Wignot who we are also going to interview, probably next. You two stand out in my mind as colleagues in the same period. She of course has continued on in a very active way, but give us your portrait of Terry.

AB: Terry used to live out in our area, so at one point we were members of the same church. So I saw her both at the university and in our community. Terry is a wonderful person as you well know. I remember one time we were having photographs taken for some publication piece that was going out and I was able to be with a student looking very professorial. Poor Terry, the photographers edited the picture to show Terry with like three arms on one side, and more arms on the other side. Terry said "I'm a chemistry teacher, we cannot do this." She definitely had them change that one. She's again, another person who's very student oriented. You sometimes asked about challenges, well one of our challenges was having a person in the chemistry department who was not behaving properly with his students, particularly his women students. Terry helped us to navigate that situation and kind of figure out the different things that we could do. I think that was during your term, right Chris?

CB: I remember that. I had forgotten that, yes.

AB: That was a big challenge, and trying to figure out what to do, how to do it. We even had lawyers involved, so that was a big challenge and Terry was very helpful as a member of that department. We see each other at meetings, and Terry recently asked me to help with an internal disagreement about a department. So I feel as if she has faith in me and I have faith in her.

CB: Well I see you as two of the rocks of the faculty in my era. But I've been gone now for 20 years.

AB: Wow.

CB: I just sense the two of you continued to play that role.

AB: Absolutely. Terry is the kind of person who will jump right in when she's needed, and she's the interim this, and then she goes back to doing that, and then she goes back when needed - she's just incredibly giving of self and whatever is needed. She's very intelligent and cooperative and easy to work with.

CB: You talked about being an introvert and then we talked about all of the things that you have done. What was it like to be a dean?

AB: One of my first memories when I was announced as dean was having a group of the guys saying "f We don't want a skirt in that office." You can imagine they were "joking." So one of the first things I did was take the powder room and put a whole bunch of frilly pink things in it just to get on their nerves. Being dean at the time, it was the school of Business, Society and Public Policy, it was challenging. We had a lot of differences of opinion. We had one faculty member who is no longer with us, who according to some reports was not very professorial in terms of how to speak with students, but in terms of others he was just joking. Luckily it wasn't me who had to figure this out, this went to that committee that has board members on it and stuff like that. Grievance committees? We had a number of them and they changed names over time.

JR: It was the faculty trustee committee.

AB: Oh, okay. They're the ones that handle that. I was fortunate in that respect, and I'd rather not use his name.

TG: I don't think that's a requirement here. It's nice, if it were in there you can scratch it out later.

JR: How about your impressions of another chair, Tony Liuzzo? I don't know if he's at Wilkes anymore or not.

AB: No. he retired. He went out to our initiative in Mesa, Arizona full time, and stayed there. He never came back to the Wilkes campus. Well, he came back. But as a person not as faculty. He was not as agile as a lot of people need to be in the role of chair. He had kind of a "This is what it's supposed to be" attitude and he was a little bit right in that respect. But I think over time, because he was able to go out to

Mesa and to build his own life out there, especially with some colleagues he had known at Fordham University. I think Tony has become very happy with life, and that's always a good thing.

JR: He had a very short career as chair. I think about a year or two.

AB: He quit. Somebody asked him to do something he didn't want to do so he ~~quit~~ resigned as chair.

CB: I must say that you have demonstrated your arts of diplomacy magnificently this morning.

AB: Thank you!

CB: Which I would expect. But I think of you and Terry both as problem solvers, and you certainly played that role when you worked with me. It's just invaluable in a faculty, for people who can take on the human issue, and appreciate it in its political context as well as in whatever the dynamics are between that person and another person, or a whole group of people.

AB: As I mentioned before I think it's because of the support, it's because of the team. You go beyond what you're comfortable with because you know somebody's behind you, somebody will help if you're going down the wrong avenue, somebody will tell me. That's what I love about Wilkes. We did not have that at Bloomsburg, we did not have that at Binghamton. But we do have it at Wilkes.

CB: Two other people we've interviewed that just come to mind as you talk, that's really a generation before you but you've overlapped with him, Owen Fout and Les Turoczi.

AB: I did know Les very well at all. I knew that he was chair and that he was in the biology department, but I had very little contact with him. Owen, lots of contact! I served on a couple of recruitment committees with him, and Owen was always for the "Let's get this wine to go with that food." I remember when we were interviewing one group of people he made the statement that this person would never get to the campus to be interviewed. I said "That's not fair until we look at that person." At the time he didn't agree with me, but he came back later and he said "I am so very sorry, you were right." It takes a big person to do that, I think. To not just ignore that we had this disagreement but to actually confront this disagreement. I was right, but that's okay.

CB: That's a great story about Owen.

AB: That person not only came but got the job.

CB: That's great. That's a wonderful story.

AB: He's still here, right?

CB: He is. We had a wonderful interview with him. I see Tim is not in his chair, but Tim said "I wish I had spent more time getting to know him." After our interview. He just showed a clarity and point of view about Wilkes and about himself in a relationship with Wilkes that I think was surprising. Jim, I think we're kind of coming to the end. As a fellow dean and academic Vice President are there things you think Anne should share with us that we haven't covered? We're not hearing you.

TG: That's my fault. There you go.

JR: Did you know Welton Farrar?

AB: If you're asking me, I knew him very, very, very well. We had a relationship right up until the day he died. In fact we were in the lobby of where he was staying when they said he's not here anymore. That's how we found out. Because he was my roommate's father, we had a very, very strong relationship. Welton was the kind of person, oh my gosh, he loved to find the most obscure fact and then quiz you on it. Right in front of lots of people! "Anne, what is your opinion of..." Sometimes it would be sports related, which I know nothing about. Sometimes it would be things that I did know something about. I think it pleased him when I had the answer. He was a great guy.

JR: He was a good friend of George Gera

AB: My husband and George were good friends. I don't know if you know that Steve was at Wilkes for a year or two as a faculty member when I was at Maryland. Steve and George shared an office and they were very, very good friends. I did not know him as well. Steve did go to visit him, I forget the name of the place. He lived in a very unusual town.

JR: Eckley Miners' Village

AB: That's it, that's it. His house was involved in a fire, so his house burnt down and then he moved. As far as we know he was doing well up until the time that he died.

JR: I didn't know he had died either.

CB: I was in constant touch with him. Christmas letters. And we had the most unusual time with Ed Eckley. He wanted me to come down and to see the village and to be at his house. It's a long story that I will keep very short but we ended up coming down with a family, and Jim you may remember, this is one of the top banking guys in Hazleton. He had led the effort to rehabilitate Eckley as a historic site, and we had gotten to know him afterwards. They wanted us to come and see them, this other couple. So we said "We're going to have lunch with George Gera and Eckley." His sister was cooking lunch so I said to George, "Would you mind if we include them?" Well this is like bringing the Lord of the Manor down to the peasant's cottage. Literally. And this couple, who's name I won't remember but they were wonderful people, had never been in one of the houses where people were living. So for them, they were in seventh heaven to come. We were just going to visit, and we expected there was going to be coffee or something, but George's sister had prepared a 5 course meal.

AB: Wow.

CB: And it became clear quickly that we all had to stay for this. George, who was the most precise, unchanging, fixed personality I think I had ever met, and he had taught writing that way. Business writing, he had a very precise way of doing it. But George was in seventh heaven, to have the President of the university and the head banker in Hazleton in his home. It was culturally one of the most interesting experiences I have ever had anywhere in the world. His brother came over, because his brother lived in one of the others, I think there were only 3 families still living in these houses. They took us on a tour by the way, of the whole village, for this couple from Hazleton they had never had a tour like that.

AB: Oh my goodness. I'm just surprised they wouldn't have done that.

CB: CB: They had visited the village, but they had come previously as people who were funding its restoration and looking at how it was going to be developed. But to see it from the point of view of the people who lived there was different and moving for them. George Gera had tremendous pride in the village and of course in the movie The Molly Maguires, so we spent a lot of time talking about that. But the amount of food and the quality of it prepared by his sister was memorable. We had fish and meat in separate courses in this little tiny kitchen.

AB: That's what I'm picturing.

CB: There were seven of us. George talked about our visit every year thereafter in his Christmas letters. It meant something very special to him, and I would not have imagined that beforehand. Doing that was one of my most serendipitous and gratifying Wilkes experiences.

I into his house. It was quite an experience.

CB: Yeah, he loves sharing it. And it taught you a lot about the coal era.

JR: Some of the village, including the coaling tower, was created specifically for the movie Molly Maquire.

CB: Which they had as much pride in as if it had been the original breaker.

TG: I didn't know it wasn't the original -

CB: No. It was just a shell. They were given a whole new life because of that movie, so one had a hard time getting behind the experience of the movie and the actors and all that to get back to the coal mining, which his family had been a part of for generations. I have idea how Wilkes hired him or how he came to it but that will be an interesting story for that era of how someone from his background -

JR: He was originally in Business Education.

CB: That's where he taught business writing.

JR: Yeah, that's what he was hired in. Then they eliminated that program.

CB: That's right. I was a part of that process, so I had to do some hand holding, which is why I got involved with him. I got involved with him really after his program had ceased to exist. So I spent a lot of time with him, to my great reward I must say. The next day I was going to Taiwan with Bernie [?

02:13:38 and ?] So we sandwiched this in at the last minute, even though I was getting ready for this trip. And that leads us to, at least the last person I know I wanted to ask you about, and that is Mahmoud Fahmy. We interviewed him before he died and he certainly was one of the large personalities of the Wilkes that I came to. Since I had to preside over his leaving Wilkes —

AB: He was not easy.

CB: He was a non inconsequential person in my life. Since you've appreciated Wagih, give us another one of the Egyptian twins.

AB: Well, Wagih would not like to be called a twin to Dr. Fahmy. Not at all. They were not exactly close. Dr. Fahmy was a larger than life type of person. He really had this aura about him. He called his visitors "dignitaries". I don't know if you remember that, but he really felt strongly that the kinds of things he could do for Wilkes University were vitally important. And they were, he did a lot with our education department, that's for sure. And a lot of our teachers out there actually remember having had him either as undergrads or grads. When we did leave Wilkes, he lived in the next neighborhood over from here so I often would see him. This is his larger than life characteristic, even in the middle of a CVS, "Anne! I would die for you." And everybody would turn around and be like "Why does he have to die for her?" But that's part of his character. Very friendly, very outgoing. I loved what he did with the youth on our campus. Remember that youth group he had? He gave them lots of opportunities to learn and to contribute. His daughters continue to be involved with us, and as far as I know his wife is a fan of Wilkes University. So, he was a vitally important part. It must have been tremendously difficult to figure out when the time was right for him to leave. So I appreciate how you did that.

CB: It was difficult. George Ralston and Mahmoud Fahmy were the tough ones for me.

AB: I bet.

CB: But his wife has written a memoir that you would find very interesting.

AB: I did not know that.

CB: From every point of view. And Mike Lennon helped with the book. I think it provides an insight into her Iranian background, which was very upper class. Mahmoud's brother was the foreign minister of Egypt. They were both from very upper class in Egypt and Iran respectively. They came together as foreign students in America. The one thing about Mahmoud that one has to say, he really represented the diversity principle. The course that he, Jule Ayres and I taught on social problems was taught every year and included four or five faculty. We had a Rabbi and other religions represented. We talked about our society and its problems and opportunities. Mahmoud was the convener of it. It was the sort of thing that he helped promote on an earlier trip to Israel with Rabbi Baras and Revered Ayres. I think Dr. Farley, maybe I have the wrong president, maybe it was Bob Capin, but they went to Israel and they went to Egypt. It was a symbol of Wilkes Barre being able to bring people together. Mahmoud was that in spades.

But he turned on you as one of our dear colleagues could say, you didn't exist. He could pass you and there was no recognition that you even existed. When he left Wilkes, there were those that he felt had put the shiv in the back that he had treated that way. And they had. But he and I remained, we didn't see each other in a CVS but we would see each other in other places and there was always a big embrace and a loud exclamation. We usually called him Mr. President. I mean, he was very formal. But he was one of the – Tim, before your time – he was one of the larger than life people that came from the Farley era. If you want to talk about international relations, you can take Wagiha. Umid, and Mahmoud and look at their real relationship with each other. That was one of the more challenging bits of interaction that I had given my role. But Mahmoud was very important. And you would find Irand's very insightful book important to understand the Wilkes part, because she's very positive about their time at Wilkes.

AB: Thank you, I'll have to look that up. One of the things that I remember from his funeral is how his daughters talked about how we're recognizing diversity. They said that he taught them, "You're Americans, and we're proud to be Americans. We're Americans first."

CB: He was a proud American republican. And his daughter of course has gone on to play a significant role in republicans nationally. His son, I don't know if you knew his son, Raef, was a podiatrist. One of the most sympathetic and attractive human beings I have ever known. I didn't know him well, but if I have trouble with my feet — and he was a Wilkes podiatry student. So his kids got their education at Wilkes. They are a remarkable family, and I was sad that things ended up with Mahmoud not an active part of it. It had to be, but I don't think we've ever even mentioned his name on this before. I'd like to have it a part of the record.

TG: Yeah, it really should be.

CB: Do you have anything that you want to ask us, Anne? Since we've gone through this process, which we've enjoyed immensely.

AB: This really doesn't have to do with the process, but rather it's a question that has come up since March. How to navigate retirement and any other kind of mentoring or any other kind of work that I have to do that has to be this way? How to feel good about that, and not feel deprived? So, just keep looking for opportunities?

TG: Yes.

CB: Yes. I would say, living alone since Jane died, to have this year to settle in on me up in the Adirondacks. The zoom and Skype have been absolutely vital. I mean, I'm on zoom almost every day with different groups of people. Seldom do I do it with just one other person. If it's one person, I tend to Skype. But zoom, I can't imagine my adaptation to a COVID year without zoom. Tim and I actually will have drinks together.

AB: Aw, I love that. Fantastic.

CB: Our whole relationship has developed really, this year. I mean we've been doing this for a couple of years together, but I think we've gotten closer on zoom than ever before. It's been a tough year.

TG: It has. Anne, I don't know if this is part of what you were talking about. I do have a lot of friends who are put off by zoom, and I wish I were more sympathetic because that probably would help you understand. But a good friend of mine who was the president of the University of Richmond for a number of years, does lots and lots of zoom calls, but he does not like it at all. So he and I talk on the phone or see each other. But the other thing I was going to say in terms of retirement, what I've found is that you have to initiate. You would think there would be more initiation your way, and I can't give you exactly what the dynamic is, but I've found that when I initiate it it's just fine. If that is part of the issue, I would really urge you to. Because I think there's a lot of people that would love to interact with you. I'm sure of that.

AB: Thank you.

JR: On retirement, Anne, I've found that developing hobbies — I've been retired 19 years, and I've never been bored, and I've had a lot of interest. Writing, playing chess, model building, as well as our zoom sessions and our interviews. But I think finding a diversity of things to do is critical.

TG: And by the way, whenever he gets a clean shot, he takes it at me. I just want to point that out.

AB: I think you're right. I have to develop the hobbies, because basically what I did up until this year were in person things that we can't do now.

TG: You know, so much of what you are is this interpersonal connection. Really caring, and exploring the whole empathy area. It's difficult, it's really true. But on the other hand I think that out of anybody I know of, you could do it.

AB: I'm trying. Thank you, I appreciate it.

TG: I've also mentioned that an awful lot of counselors now are counseling on zoom. The one person I know who does it says that it works pretty well. So I don't know what's going on there, because I do think there's a dimension missing.

CB: One of my closest friends from my Illinois days, Charles Strozier, is a psychoanalyst and historian. He's moved from Manhattan down to St. Augustine, and he's continuing his patient relationships in New York via zoom. It's working very well. Let me indulge two things privately since you and I haven't seen each other for a long time. One of the projects that is really keeping me going is that every Wednesday afternoon I have a one hour zoom session with grandchildren of major new dealers. Jim Roosevelt, Scott Wallace (Henry Wallace's grandson), June Hopkins, {Harry Hopkins' granddaughter}, Tomlin Perkins Coggeshall (Frances Perkins' grandson), Harold Ickes (son of Harold Ickes) and three of us non descendants as supporters. When Biden said that whoever became President after the election would have a tougher time than FDR in terms of the issues, and we took that as an occasion to mobilize the concepts of the new deal to feed into the Biden campaign. And since he's been elected to feed into the administration itself, so now each week we're bringing on different people who are key people on the policy side of congress. Now we have a Congresswoman coming on this coming Wednesday, and I'm one of the three non descendants on this project because of my Francis Perkins, which is a really big part of my life. So that has kept me involved with the national pictures, and zoom is the means. On a personal note, because everyone else on this call knows this, I've been diagnosed with prostate cancer and will be starting an 8 week regimen of radiation within a couple weeks I think. The prognosis looks very good, but I'm being very open about it. My wife was totally private about her breast cancer, which she had during our first semester at Wilkes she discovered it. She kept it absolutely quiet until the end except for our immediate family. I've decided, having gone through that, I'm going to be very open. I was telling Tim before you got on is that what's been great is I've been getting a lot of feedback from people who've gone through this. So I'm getting a sense of how to analyze the various therapies that have been used, which has been very nice. And it's been very comfortable talking about it, but I wanted you to know that.

AB: I appreciate that. And also, I have experiences with relatives, and they all have had positive experiences. I have a great deal of faith that you will be fine.

CB: Thank you. My oncologist, and I have my girls on the zoom because this is all telemedicine, not all but much of it. But his comment to me was, "Given your health, you have another 10 years." And I thought I never wanted to be 94. As kids we used to say "I have a subscription to life," "Oh, you lucky person." So I kind of feel as if that's how I'm being treated.

TG: Before we go, have you guys seen, I'm sure you have Chris, and maybe you have an but have forgotten.

CB: No.

TG: Well, it is a very interesting read. I just heard about it a couple weeks ago, but it's about how Luzerne County went for Trump.

CB: Who's the author?

TG: It's Ben Bradley Jr.

CB: Oh, okay.

TG: Published by Little Brown. I'll just send everybody the reference, but it's a fun read. Well, not fun because it's a little depressing, but.

CB: Chris Matthews, while he was still on the air, he kept going back to the Luzerne County vote for Trump as the most revealing thing in the country for why Trump succeeded. He ended up with 70% of the vote that had previously gone for Obama. The swing was so dramatic.

JR: I think he only took 57% in this one. Given the amount of money he invested here, I'm not sure he got his money's worth.

CB: He really didn't carry Pennsylvania, and that county would have been crucial to his carrying it in 2016. That's I'm sure what the book is about.

TG: It was published this year. I haven't gotten that far in it but it's a great read. I am surprised that there are a number of people who are fairly key in here that I knew nothing about. As you know, I knew that world better than I probably should have.

AB: One of the interesting things about driving here in the back mountain is that those signs for Trump are still up everywhere.

JR: Most of them in our area came down the day of January 6th.

TG: Well we will keep our fingers crossed folks.

CB: Yesterday was an important day, the vote in the wee hours of this morning was crucial. The vote in the House of Representatives was also crucial. One can come up with an optimistic scenario, which is my temperament, and I'm focusing on that. Because God, the bad side is horrible.

TG: The thing that delights me is that all of the unseemingly fighting is going on in congress, which is where it should be. Meanwhile, Joe is just doing it. Did you see his latest poles are 61% approval?

CB: Yes. Another diversion, I have just finished a book that was published in 1990 called Generations: The History of America's Future, 1584-2069. Did any of you ever read that book? It was the number one bestseller at the time. But it takes all of the generations and it looks at —

JR: I read parts of it.

CB: Well it takes each generation, and on a single page for that generation it shows about 20 of the key people, it takes the key events, which generations raised them, because the interaction of the generations is pivotal to the whole thing. As of 1990, it sees that 2020 will be a period of major crisis, that the boomer generation is going to be drawn towards authoritarianism and even Russia, I mean it's amazing. But my point is that our generation, and I don't think any of you fit it, I think you're all boomers, right?

TG: No, I'm not a boomer.

CB: What year were you born?

JR: We're pre boomers.

TG: Yeah, Jim and I are pre boomers.

CB: What year were you born?

TG: I was born in 44.

JR: I was born in 39.

CB: The silent generation is 1925 to 1942. The boomers start in 43 on.

TG: Nope, they start in 45.

CB: Well, I'm just referencing this book, *Generations: The History of America's Future, 1584 to 2069*, by Strauss & Howe. The characteristics of the Silent Generation are that we're very institutionally oriented, we want to make institutions work, we define our lives in terms of institutions, but as of 1990 we had never had a president. We've had a lot of candidates for president. Gary Hart, Walter Mondale, Michael Dukakis, Jack Kemp and Jesse Jackson but they have not succeeded. At the end of the paragraph on the Silent Generation, the authors hope for the country that it one day will have a Silent Generation President.

TG: We do!

CB: Joe Biden was born in November of 1942. I think what you see him doing right now is characteristic of our generation, and if you were born in 1944 then you're also in effect part of our generation. Trump was born in 1946 and is listed as of 1990 among the twenty characteristic Boomers of the time. Joe Biden is not listed in the Silent Generation list of people, but we finally have our President. The values and qualities that we were nurtured with by being born during the Depression and raised during World War II are the ones that are motivating him. He doesn't need the personal power, and his narcissism is very limited. Intellectually, for the last several weeks, this book has been a real boost for my morale while watching this whole scene in Washington.

TG: I think we still have a ways to go but I feel pretty good about where we are now, Chris. It's certainly a lot different than you and I thought. A couple of the times we have talked we thought it was really touch and go.

CB: Yeah. I think the trial is going to be a very major moment, because Raskin, who has just come off of the suicide of his beloved son, is going to be all in on this. The scenario of Trump's relationship to what happened on January 6th, you know there's nothing like it in our history. It is horrible that the President of the United States played it this way, out of his own peculiar need. That is going to be represented in spades next week.

TG: Did you see the New York Times 77 Days piece?

CB: Yes, yes.

TG: I didn't know it was that close. I mean, that was a very compelling chronology.

CB: I sent it to my brother in law who was formerly a Trump lawyer and had continued to be for him. I have not gotten an adequate response from him.

TG: Probably won't.

CB: Anne, thank you for sharing as much of yourself with us today.

AB: Thank you to all of you.

TG: We really enjoyed having you, Anne. We saved you, we're trying to save some of the best for last.

AB: Oh sure.

CB: If you see Terry, I think Terry knows we're trying to set something up. Suzanna is back now with us. Does Terry know that we're trying to —

SC: I sent her an email. She never responded. I wonder if she's just a little bit swamped with the beginning of the semester.

CB: I'm sure. She may not be able to do it quite as soon as we'll be ready for her.

AB: I can be in touch and let her know that it's not as bad as it sounds when you first say it.

TG: It's not as bad, it's worse!

AB: Thank you for preparing me. I really appreciate that, because I thought I was on the panel interviewing you.

CB: That's why I started off saying that, because I picked that up, that you this was about the presidents. It's quite the reverse. It's the presidents playing historians about the institution.

AB: It's a wonderful institution and a wonderful opportunity to think of how far we've come, and how much we've contributed. So thank you so much. I really appreciate it.

TG: It is a wonderful place, Anne. You've nailed it.

CB: You sure have. Thank you again everybody.

TG: Suzanna, thanks for setting this up.

SC: Yes.

CB: We'll see whether we can get Terry on in the near future. I don't know during my treatment whether I'm going to have the kind of technical abilities because I'll be in my hotel. But I think it should.

AB: Chris, right now I'm on my iPad because my laptop didn't work. So this is just an iPad, and it works.

CB: That's good. I will try doing one of the zooms on my iPad.

TG: Hey Chris, why don't you and I just play around with it some evening. You give me a time and we'll play around with your different technologies.

CB: Good. Can I have a Manhattan while we do it?

TG: Yeah, if I can have my bourbon.

AB: Tim, tell Patty I said hi.

TG: I will do that.

JR: Goodbye!

AB: Goodbye everybody. Thank you very much.

TG: Bye.