Interviewer: ---[Nov]ember 21st and we’re talking with Tracy Codel, 1985 graduate---

Tracy: ‘86.

Interviewer: 1986 graduate---

Tracy: I’m on a five year program. [laughter]

Interviewer: And we’re going to find out, going to be talking with her about her memories of Drake Relays. So first we’d like to have you introduce yourself and tell us a little bit about your background, where you grew up, and how you happened to come to Drake.

Tracy: Ok. Um, my maiden name was Parks---so, Tracy Parks when I was here at Drake. And I am a Des Moines native and I went to Hoover High School and of course had known about Drake all my life because Drake Relays, you know we got out of school for it, it was great, I ran track uh, in high school, so we got to come and compete at Drake Relays. Um, and what was interesting is when I first was a freshman at Drake, um, they had us fill out a survey of who in your family had been to Drake. And I thought, no body, you know it’s not like a tradition in my family. And by the time I was done, I think I had twelve family members written down, so a lot of my aunts and uncles, and my parents um, Drake graduates. And so, there was—there was a tradition there for—for my family. And the way I came to Drake was um, through track. I really didn’t search out any colleges—uh, one of those kids kind of like really didn’t know what to do and my parents were busy with—with a younger sibling and uh, I would look at colleges—but it just kind of fell in my lap that—-the uh, track—-it was the one track coach that went further than sending just a letter saying we’re interested in you. And he furthered it up with a phone call, and I just thought all those other schools that lost out on an opportunity of just someone who needed some direction, and um, but Don Denoon was the women’s coach at that time. And he called up and said would you like a tour of the campus. And I said sure. And even though we’d driven by this campus all my life, I’d never been inside the campus. I’d been in the stadium, but never in the
campus and it was so impressive. And I just couldn’t believe this little world existed. Um, and I’d driven by it all my life, and uh, and my mother also worked at Drake. And so, the-the idea was she would work at Drake and they had this exchange program with other schools that I could go wherever I wanted to---it was about 90%, I think they paid tuition at about 90%. Well, my idea was that I would love to have a track scholarship or an academic scholarship and I was fortunate to get both. But the idea was if I didn’t like running track, I had that cushion, that Mom’s working here, I could still finish my schooling here if I didn’t like the track. But I loved the track and I loved the people, and cross country. And uh, so that’s how I got here, it was ‘cause of Don Denoon, uh made more of an effort than any other school did. Um, and I just love the size of the school and I liked that I could be in my hometown, but not have to live at home. I lived in the dorms, so I was away, but I was close if I needed to get back and do some laundry or---you know, have a Sunday night dinner, um, so it was, I thought the best of both worlds. And it was great. So---that’s how I got here.

Interviewer: So, why---when you were at Hoover and you were on the track team there, did Hoover ever bring in any of the---any of the team down to watch or participate in the Relays?

Tracy: Yeah, you had to qualify. So, you know the Drake Relays “gods”, whoever they are, um, you know, would look at the times of the events---they had the high school events mostly on Fridays back then, mostly now too. And they would look at the top times in those events across the state, whether you were 1A, 2A, or 3A school---there were-there were no di-div-divisions, you were just all thrown in there together. So, I was fortunate to-to get to be able to run in Dra-Drake Relays, um, for sure my junior year and my senior year. My event was the 1500, my strongest event, but they didn’t have that for high school girls. They only had the 800, which my second strongest event at that time. Uh, so I qualified for that my junior and senior years. And so, yeah, I got to come over with some of my teammates, who had also um, qualified and gotten in that way. And then we ran the state track meets at the stadium, so we got to, you know go through the tunnel of the greatest athletes [laughter]---warm up on that crazy little indoor track. And uh, and so yeah, we got---we came over that way. And uh, when I was really young, like elementary school, my cousin, who’s a little older than I was, got to run as a junior high kid or somethin’---so, we came over to watch him when they would run the younger ones. And I don’t know if they’ve done that consistently through the years, but they used to do that.
Interviewer: I think they do still do that. In fact, they’ll bring in elementary kids now and put ‘em down, a whole bunch of ‘em down in the middle of the track and run ‘em in between events and---

Tracy: Yeah.

Interviewer: You can barely see your kid down there, but you know, they’re thrilled to death to be able to do that.

Tracy: Yeah, that’s really cool, yeah. Well, and I also remember the elementary schools did not get the day off. But the junior high and the high schools did because they would have kids competing. And that was just kind of the tradition. And so, at our elementary school, on Drake Relays, all the kids who had gone to 7th grade, would come back and see their favorite teacher, Mrs. Sassman, who was teaching music at Bryon-Rice and it was Drake Relays, so you always knew once you got to junior high on that day off, you’d come back to elementary school and say “hi”---you know, a big shot. [laughter] Yeah, yeah.

Interviewer: How about any of the pageantry? Did you go to parades, or---

Tracy: You know, I’m sure when I was younger, we-we did the Drake Relays parade and um, we-we---Greek Street is always fun to drive down because they would have the floats in their yard that they were working on, and so we got to drive down and it was very cool and we would see that. Um, when I was on campus myself, I---street painting was something that we could participate in because it was happening before the Relays happened. So you weren’t as distracted in getting ready for your events, you could actually participate in the street painting, and there was some glorious warm days that you would get out there and just have fun and throw the Frisbee around and paint and um, so I remember doing that. And then when I was really young I also remember---which they brought back with the---kinda the crazy corporate Drake Relays downtown and they kinda moved away from that, um, I don’t know if they did that when I was in school or not. But, I remember seeing that on t.v. and hearing about that growing up. So I’m glad that they brought that back---I think that really helps to pull the community into the whole---

Interviewer: ---Those or fake relays.

Tracy: Yeah, yeah. The fake relays.
Interviewer: They had some events though down at the um, Plaza last year. Yeah. That was really neat because people came out on their lunch hours. And the bulldog—don’t they have the most beautiful bulldog contest.

Tracy: Oh we went—–I took my son down their last year. And that was the first year I’d ever seen the contest, um myself personally. And I said we’re gonna go down and see the most beautiful bulldog contest, and he was um, four when we went down there. And it was great. They had the, you know, Spike and I don’t know what they’re called now, but you know the mascots down there. And then all the little dogs and the pageantry with that. That was very fun to actually get to see. You know I saw the champion up on the stand but never got to see the contest.

Interviewer: I just talked to the woman a couple weeks ago. She graduated in ’88. And um, she remembers her year the beautiful bulldog bit someone. [gasps] So they had to put the beautiful bulldog in the pound.

I remember that.

And there was like free bulldog, free the bulldog signs all over because he was in the pound. [laughter] Oh shoot. So, that was funny.

So did you go to the Relays then as a spectator then also?

Tracy: I did. Um, there were a year or two that I did not get to compete. You mean, while I was in college?

Interviewer: Mhmhm.

Tracy: Um, yeah. There was a couple years that I did not get to compete. My fifth year—–I was a five year, on a five year plan, um, which was great because I had gotten injured during an indoor season—–um, which was perfect because I had like three majors. So I needed five years to get through school. [Laughter] And so by red-shirting a season, because I was injured, I still maintained my scholarship to come back a fifth year. But I had already completed my outdoor season, so I couldn’t run my fifth year so I completely got to go that year as a spectator. And ah, and of course after your event was done you got to sit in the student section and be crazy with everybody else, but up until then you––I at least personally was nervous thinking about my event and trying to get ready for that. But yeah, it was—–it’s different being a spectator, you know, and
it’s just fun to cheer the Drake athletes on who don’t necessarily get to run that much. Because it’s really who’s the best that who gets in.

**Interviewer:** What did you run—you ran the 1500 and the 800 in high school. What did you run in college?

**Tracy:** Well I ran—oh, they kinda played me all over the place but 1500 still and the 3000 were my strongest events. They did not, they don’t run, or they did not run a 3000 when I in, ah Drake. So the highest I could run was the either the 5000, which I did run freshman year, which is not my event. But they got me in. Or um, the 1500 which I got to run my senior year, and that was my best event between the two of those. I got to run that, and I got to run a 4x800 relay. And I did not run the 800 itself, but the 4x800—I might have run a distance medley, but I’m not sure. But for sure the 1500. I got to run with Cindy Brunser, um who was the Olympian. She had taken fourth in the Olympics like just previous year. And she was in the race, and it was great—I got to run with her. And she was boxed in behind me for like you know two and a half laps I was ahead of her and then she just blew us all away [laughter]. And I mean she pulled out, and I would love to have a tape of that because somebody somewhere had to have taped that even back then when video wasn’t as big. And she held that record up until recently, um just within the last five years or so I think. Probably Susie Hamilton probably finally broke that record, but that stood for a really long time. I think it was like 4.08 or something.

**Interviewer:** Now when you’re running against other participants do you get a chance to visit with them or is there that kind of camaraderie or is there more of a competitive---

**Tracy:** I think it depends on the athlete and the person and how outgoing you are and the other person. I mean a lot of these people were brought in specifically um, you know, kinda groomed and cultured, you know—come to the Drake Relays. And they’re brought in very special for that race. So you know they have their handlers and they’re off warming up, so I personally didn’t get to. I’m sure there was probably somebody—I remember um, oh, Steve Scott, I think that’s right—miler. And I remember after his race just the crowd of people that followed him afterwards and got his autograph. And he actually came to one of our track parties afterwards—we invited him. I don’t know if he came. I don’t remember because I wasn’t there. But I remember one of the guys on the team, Michael Connor, um want up to Steve Scott and said,
“Hi, we’re having a track party afterwards. Would you like to come?” [laughter] So I can’t remember if he came or not. I wasn’t there. But I remember here that he’d asked him. Um, so and then my freshman year when I ran the 5000 another Olympic athlete that ran was Francie Laroo and she of course lapped me. [laughter] I just, I was thrown into that race I think the day of. Somehow Don pulled a string or something and I, you know, I---he---Jana Paul who was a senior at George High School had run a fantastic race um, the day before, and she was coming to Drake. She had signed on, and he pulled a string to get her in the 5000. High school girls weren’t running that then so, but she got into that too, and she ended up coming to Drake the next year. So she was a teammate of mine. But yeah, I can say that I got to run in a race with Olympians but, you know, really they were far out distance almost everyone else in the field. They were amazing.

Interviewer: It must have made you feel pretty good to qualify for a race like that and then be running down the---

Tracy: ---Oh yeah, especially the 1500. I mean I really---that was one of my favorite all time races. I mean you go the students section and it is so loud, and you know every time you go by there, they’re yelling for you. I mean you know they see your uniform, and they’re loud, and you go by and they’re loud again. And it was just, it was just wonderful. And just to have her boxed in behind me. I just was like, when is she coming out? [laughter] She can’t be---I can’t be running this fast, you know. Just to watch her go. I mean somehow she worked her way out and then [unclear words]. It was amazing. But yeah, that was fun. And it’s fun to be able to say that. Umm.

Interviewer: Any special memories about men’s events? Or athletes in men’s events?

Tracy: You know the year before I came. So my senior year in high school would have been the spring of ’81. Drake had a phenomenal track year that year. There were four athletes that took first place. So it was Ann Urbanbeck in the high jump, and she was from California. But she was on the Drake track team. She took first. Um, Marie Semenson from Sweden um, took first in the 800 for women. And then in the men in was Vern Wanson ah, took first in the 5000. And Chris---oh there were two of them---Chris Meyers and there was somebody else. But the two of them were really good and he was either the 800 or the 1500. And it was just an amazing year, and I was there as a senior running the 800 so getting to see---and knowing that I was going to Drake.
And getting to see, wow, four Drake athletes. I don’t think we’ve had that many take first since then---I mean we’ve had others do well but not that many. And that was, that was tremendous.

**Interviewer:** See I’m amazed that you can remember their names and their events and um---you must really love the sport.

**Tracy:** It was just an amazing year. I mean just, it was, you know I knew I was going---three of the four of those athletes were still on the team when I came on as a freshman. So Marie---I got to run with her and Annie um got to high jump. Although after that year she didn’t do so well. She had back pain. So that was really was kind of her top year. Um, and then Vern I think was a senior. And Chris graduated. So yeah, I remember things like that sometimes---strangely, names and faces.

**Interviewer:** I’d be curious to find out how you, you know if you got butterflies right before an event or if this was---or how you trained and prepared yourself mentally for it.

**Tracy:** For me per---you know it kind of changed through the years. I think in high school I had less butterflies. Um, more confident. You know by the time you get to college, everybody else has been at the top of their high school or at the top of their state. And you know it’s just another level up. Um, so probably more butterflies as a college---definitely butterflies when I would go to track workouts actually. You know, oh my God, am I gonna survive this workout? What are they gonna have us do today? How hard is it going to be? How much is it gonna hurt? And most of the time it didn’t hurt. We did just fine, and it was silly to get nervous for practice. But ah, I felt well trained. I felt, you know, the team was, you know if we went as a cross country team. It was fun. You know so you. Riding in the vans was not fun. You know you’re cramped in there with your flashlight trying to study. You know I dated somebody who got me this itty bitty book light you know that attached to my books, and I could study then in the van. So that was fun. Um, preparing mentally, you know, you just have you’re warm up routine. So not, for me not nerves so much that it kept me from not wanting to do it. But so glad once the gun went off, you know, because then you just relaxed, and just do your event. Um, but you know you would start to know some of the athletes. You would know who was gonna be good in the event. Who you could focus on. Who you had to be aware of. Who might come up behind you. Or, you know, who you could stay ahead of or who was a good hill runner. Or um, you know what teams were good. One thing that was really sad, which it has
nothing to do with the question you asked. But I was just thinking of teams. During my time at Drake was the time that Iowa State cross country team took little planes from I think it was national cross country I think it might have been. And it crashed right there on Grand. And we all heard about it, and we knew who it was, and we---was it someone we’d run against? You know, we knew that there were deaths. That was very, a very tough time for any of us.

**Interviewer:** November 1985. I remember because I was in the hospital giving birth to one of my daughters and that was---it was on the news all the time.

**Tracy:** Yeah, and the fates were so many of us were recruited by Iowa State that it was a little disconcerting to know---what if I had chosen Iowa State instead of Drake? What if I had been on that plane. And then you think about these athletes and how young they were and how gifted. And the coach, um, the energy he had. And you realize how precious your life was and how fortunate. And how hard that must have been for their team. And I had a high school friend who was on the plane and changed planes before they took off at the last minute. He switched planes, and his didn’t crash. So yeah, that was just one of those things, yeah. And they regrouped as a team and ah, you know they still did great years later. Um, but yeah that was really tough. I think for, you know---Iowa’s a small state, so we would see these teams at every event. It was hard and some of them we ran against in high school. Um, so the ones that did die, I didn’t know personally. They were not some of the top ones that I ran against. The coach, but yeah. That was really, that was really kinda tough. Um, but overall it was, it was fun to be able to travel and go to places, you know. Go to Madison, Wisconsin, never been there. [laughter] You know going down to---when I was running the men and women’s track programs were separate when I first came. And my coach was fired. And um, Don was fired, and the assist coach Jim Kinato uh, took over and then eventually he left. And at that point they combined the men’s and the women’s team together, and we were coached by Gary Osborn and Bob Ehrhart and that group. Which was great because then we got to travel with the guys. And we got the budget of the guys. So we went from sleeping two to a bed to getting your own bed which was great because some people do not sleep well before their events. And you’re talking about nerves. And I had to sleep with a sprinter one time, and she just tossed and she turned and she kicked her legs. And I was worn out [laughter] before my event even started because I was awake all night long. Um, you know so that was neat. And traveling down to Florida
was fun. We got to train down there. Run a couple of relays down in Florida over spring break one time. So that was real fun.

**Interviewer:** Do you keep in touch with any of your teammates that you had?

**Tracy:** I keep in touch with three of them. Um, one ah, was fairly regularly, um you know birthdays, and I visit her in Chicago, and you know Christmas time. And pretty much it’s just down to Christmas letters know. But it’s still nice to see them, and their---see the pictures of their kids and growing up. And occasional I’ll run into somebody, and it’s just wonderful to have a conversation with one of them. And I’ve been telling Beth that one of the things that I would be willing to work on, on a committee would be getting the track reunion at Drake Relays time. Because I know that people get together and see each other but getting a concerted effort to get of a whole group of people to come would---you know that spans many years---so that some that were seniors when we where here all the way down to people who were freshmen when I was in my fifth year would be really neat. Um, you know when I run into a couple around town that are you know that are still around, so yeah. But I keep in touch with a few.

**Interviewer:** What do you think of the new um, stadium?

**Tracy:** Oh it’s wonderful. I’m just so thrilled. I am thrilled that they have the ability now to bring in---um, to bid on you know nationals and trials and ah, it’s, its a coup. It’s, it’s great. The one thing that I feel sad about that, you know, is a hope for Drake in the future, is get a nice indoor track. I mean you’re bringing them here to the outdoor track and they need somewhere to warm up. You know really invest in a good indoor track. We are here in the winter time, you want to bring in some athletes and some sprinters and you know. Get that good indoor track. So, I’m thrilled about the outdoor track. I couldn’t say enough good things and the stadium. It didn’t change the field of the stadium in a negative way. It just I thought enhanced the whole thing. Uh, yeah, it’s beautiful. And the blue track.

**Interviewer:** And will you go to the 2008 NCAA?

**Tracy:** Absolutely---absolutely, I’m thrilled. I can hardly wait. Yeah.

**Interviewer:** Do you remember coming to relays and seeing---because I know that there’s a lot of these cult stories that you hear about this particular thing happened or there’s this one individuals character
that people see year after year after year. Have you ever experience any of that?

Tracy: You mean people who actually ran the relays?

Interviewer: Or people who just in the---just as spectators.

Tracy: I remember the men’s master’s 800. And there would be some of the same men running year after year, and they would have had to have been in their forties or whatever. Just sticking it out. I don’t remember names on anything like that. Um, spectators---I’ve changed my seats a little bit through the years. I kind of had the same seats for a while and um, moved away couldn’t get back and had kids and didn’t want to bring the baby. So I’m not sitting by some of the same people, but you know the graciousness of the people in the stadium and what good sports they are and how you’ll sit up in the stands and you start betting. You’re betting on who’s gonna win. You know people are---I don’t know if I’ve ever seen anybody put money down on it. I’m sure it happens. [laughter] But you know you say, who are you gonna pick? It’s almost like horse racing. You know---who you gonna pick? Well I pick this one. And people who don’t know each other. And you’re having conversations with people. It’s wonderful. And um, when it rains---people are not standing up with their umbrellas. You know the rules. Everybody sits. Everybody sees. The Jim Duncan---Jim Duncan, oh my gosh. Oh I could cry. He was amazing. His voice was so young. And he didn’t fit as he aged. You know his voice didn’t age. And he would come up. They would bring him up in his little golf cart before he would start. And he would look at all the athletes, and he had a notepad that he would write down, you know, if you had green barrettes in your hair or what color socks you had or whatever. So that when he would call that race, he didn’t just---because sometimes you had more than one person with the same uniform. He would be able to pick you out. And he called that race, and he called it. He got the crowd excited. You know come on East Side come on West Side. And the crowd would go crazy, and he did his research. He knew the background, or someone did the research for him because he could tell you this person came from this high school and blah blah blah. Um, so it was really neat to see the track, and you know have his name there. Um, but that had to be such a hard time for I want to say it was Tom who came in the year after him for having to call those races. And I got stranded in the Omaha airport that year. I don’t know where I was coming from---in for Relays. And Tom Kroeschell---I think that was it---who called the Relays for Jim passed away. And his parents were stranded there in Omaha with
And they were just so excited that there son was gonna get to call the Relays, but how nervous---and how he really wanted to honor what Jim had done. And how hard that must have been to come after somebody, the voice of the Drake Relays. But Tom did a great job. It had to be hard, but yeah.

**Interviewer:** Now does he still do it today?

**Tracy:** No, I don’t think he does. I don’t know who calls it. Um, but I don’t think it’s Tom Kroeschell. I don’t know who calls it now. I think they trade off. Different people take turns. I don’t think the same voice calls it. Jim did. I think he called every race. [unclear words] And he would come down---we would be down with our working out on the track, and he would come down. And he would do his little laps after we were done working out. Or do it just before our track practice. And he’d be out there doing his you know jogging around the track, down there. [laughter] I remember that. I also remember um, you know Drake Relays is such a time of the year when the weather is so variable. You know it can be snowing. I mean that Carlos came it snowed. [laughs] And then it can be beautiful. It can be in the ‘80’s, and just be wonderful. And before track practice there were people who had to go out there and get their suntan. And they would, they would get up there um, there’s a little ledge on the bleachers on the um, I guess it’s the east side, right below some of the office windows. And they would get up there and bring their towels and put their sun---and they’d be up there sunbathing before practice. And I was like I’m not doing that. That’s gonna wear you out. How are you gonna get through your quarters if you’re up there? So it was really fun. And they---there’d be people knocking on the windows and yelling out at them. Um, so I don’t even know that if with the revamping of the stadium if that area is even up there anymore. I wonder. But yeah. There was an athlete on the team who started dating one of the trainers, one of the student trainers. And it had snowed. It was in the spring, but it’d snowed. But he had gone out and stamped out a huge heart in the middle of the infield. You know---I love you LeAnn. You know in the infield there. We could see if from the windows. Um, yeah, that was really neat. Um, just oh that indoor track. That banked indoor track. That how we all survived and not have more injuries. I don’t know.

**Interviewer:** In the old field house?

**Tracy:** Yeah, in the field house. The twelve lap track. But I had one of my best workouts there under Gary Osborn. And that was a
phenomenal workout. So, I wrote his wife and told her about that. You know just those little memories that you have about that.

**Interviewer:** Do you remember the worst weather either as a spectator or as a participant that you ever participated in?

**Tracy:** That I participate in.

**Interviewer:** Or as a spectator.

**Tracy:** I always---the weather always---my memory of the Relays that I got to run in that the weather was fine. But I know that it wasn’t. I know that it had to have been rainy one time and on the cold side. The worst ones have been as a spectator through the years since I came back. I mean just coming in with winter coats and still not being warm enough and going how are those athletes doing that? Um, I remember---this wasn’t Drake Relays but it was the Lady Bulldogs Invitational or something the week or two before. And it had snowed. And there was Don out there with the shovel, shoveling the track. He was gonna have this track meet. And I remember Betty, Betty oh what [unclear words], she was assistant athletic director or women’s athletic director. And she said there is not going to be a track meet. [laughs] We are clearing the track. We’re shoveling the track. [laughter] Now if it had been Drake Relays they’d been you know shoveled. But not for the Lady Bulldogs Invitational. That was cancelled. You know, it was not gonna be happening. Thank God for Betty. We didn’t have to wear those little uniforms out there in the snow. [laughter] No, but I remember growing up just the rain. I would be like plant your garden the week before Relays because it will rain. It was just every time. It just seemed like it rained, rained, rained. Um, I remember driving up um, Beaver and it runs into Forest and being in the car with my brother and my mom at Drake Relays time. I don’t know if we were heading to the stadium ourselves just gonna go down Greek Street and see the floats. I can’t remember. But there was an old lady there and all of a sudden she opens the door to our car, and she gets in and she says I’m going to such and such a location. Will you drive me there? [laughter] You know, it’s Relay time, what the heck, you know. Okay, we’ll take you there.

**Interviewer:** Do you remember all the garage sales that there would be happening in Beaverdale during Drake Relays weekend?

**Tracy:** You know, I don’t remember that. But I lived in Beaverdale, and you think I would.
Interviewer: Yeah, I figured you probably did. I just remember always there were garage sales all over because that was a good time to have it because---

Tracy: ---people were there.

Interviewer: People would stop and---

Tracy: Just the pageantry. Just the people running up and down Forrest---all the different uniforms. And people around campus and yeah.

Interviewer: You know what amazed me last---when we were at the alumni tent doing these interviews last April. It just rained and it rained and it rained, and the people still were out there. Had there little gear on and their umbrella---didn’t matter.

Tracy: That was my sons first Relay.

Interviewer: Oh really.

Tracy: Yeah, I took them, I took both of them, and it was raining and raining. Because we were gonna stop by the Relays tent, and we had our raincoats on and we went through one fairly good downpour, and then it kind of backed off and we stayed. Finally, they’d been there long enough. They must have lasted maybe two hours, maybe. And my oldest was six and the youngest was---no my youngest was---yeah my youngest was, my oldest was six and my youngest was four. Um, and they made it through and then it just down poured. And that’s when I said ah, maybe we’re not going to the alumni tent. Maybe we’ll go to the car. [laughter]

Interviewer: Well, it wasn’t warm either. It was cold.

Tracy: No, no it wasn’t. But there were sometimes when the Friday will be really nasty and then Saturday the sun comes out and it’s beautiful. I’m always hopeful you know, that it’ll be good. But it doesn’t detract that Saturday crowd is just packed. They pack that stadium. It’s the diehards. It’s very cool, very cool.

Interviewer: Now do you remember practicing---did you always practice on the indoor track or did you run outside around the Drake neighborhood or out on the track?

Tracy: In the winter time? Or like out---

Interviewer: ---just like---
---during outdoor season, during cross country season, and during outdoor track we mostly trained outdoors. Um, cross country we would go out to a Waveland Gold Course and do our hills out there. [laughs] Ehh, some of the golfers weren’t thrilled about that. We had one come after us, “Do your fathers know what you’re doing here?” [laughter] Yeah, yeah my dad knows I’m a runner out here. Oh jeez. You know they were frustrated because we were running and didn’t want to hit us with a ball, but we had to get our training in. And that was our home course. It isn’t now, but it was then.

Interviewer: So you trained differently I guess for cross country then you did for---

Tracy: ---oh absolutely

Interviewer: I didn’t even think about that.

Tracy: Yeah we had to be out there on the grass. We had to train your muscles to balance and footwork and stuff like that. And the hills, you have to get your hills in. Um but, but outdoor track, yeah we would be on the---and on some very cold days too because it’s better for your body to be not on that banked indoor track. It just---and then there were times it was just so bad you were just do long distance running and you couldn’t. So we would do creative stuff in the field house. You know you’d run up and down the bleachers and then you’d do some sort of jump rope thing and then, you know, whatever---a circuit. And ah, the men’s and the women’s team would kind of do that together. And it just kept you toned and in shape. Uh, just indoor season was, was just tough. And we had to work the men’s and women’s team in that little field house. Um, so there was a lot of track, track, you know, and you’d have to move over so that, you know whoever could go through. And if the sprinters were coming, they were coming hard. Um, and then your distance runners---you have to, they have to watch out for us because we’re doing, you know, nine laps on the track to get our you know three quarters or whatever. But yeah.

Interviewer: It must have been very self disciplined.

Tracy: We must have. I just---I, you know now that I’m in my forties----I just did my high school twenty-five year reunion and we put together a book of things that you know---what’s it like being in your forties? And on and on people were just kind of grieving the loss of their body. You know it’s like you hit your forties and
something happens. [laughs] You know, it kinda hurts and it takes you longer to get up in the morning. And I’m, I miss, you never appreciate it when you have it. You know, I miss just the amazing things we could do with our bodies um, back then. You know the workouts we could do.

**Interviewer:** The stamina.

**Tracy:** The stamina, yeah. And the energy---and just the thrill of letting run that fast. How amazing, you know. So I miss it. I’m a little envious. I see the runners out, and I want to say, “I used to do that.” [laughter] I mean---

**Interviewer:** Did you have and real major injuries when you were a runner?

**Tracy:** I did. I had to red shirt my indoor season. And that was um, it didn’t get diagnosed, but later we figured out that the Iliotibial Band had got really sore on the outside of my leg, um very painful. So that just kind of shut me out um, of that season. Um, you know, you just your whip---your body was younger. You work through a lot of pain. We’d go right to the training room afterwards, get our bags of ice. Go to Hubble hall, you know, eat our dinner, have our bag of ice. Um, went to the trainer---a lot of us before hand get whirlpool or taping or whatever we needed to get through. Um, so that was my worst injury. The other ones were, you know, pretty minor, and I could get through those. Um, the uniforms, I rem---[laughs] uniforms changed through---I remember what do you mean we have to wear these butt hugger things. [laughter] That’s what they called them. It just looked like they had on blue underwear, and we had to run in those.

**Interviewer:** Short too.

**Tracy:** Yeah, and was very European. Kind of started there, and pretty soon the teams were wearing them. And uh, I remember one year one of the sprinters---Julie Cawls hated the uniforms. Said, “Dad, I hate these uniforms.” And dad said, “Okay, I’ll buy the team uniforms.” And I think he sponsored the uniforms for the women’s team that year. We had a nice powder blue color. It wasn’t quite Drake blue but, you know, we were back in shorts and had on singlet that, you know, seemed to fit. Um, so yeah, that was interesting. It was ah---how do you wear these things? Especially when it was cold, you know, on top of that. And I remember tights. That is when tights first started showing up on athletes then. And how kind of weird it was for the guys to actually have to wear tights. But you know you were cold and if
you wanted to keep your muscles warm, you wore them. And know it’s just common place. It’s no big deal. But it was then, and we were on the cutting edge of athletic wear. [laughter] Um, shoes—that was amazing. I could go there, and I would get three pairs of shoes a year. I mean I got one pair of shoes with each season. And how taken care of that felt to us. We also got a mesh bag, and mesh bag um, that we would go over to Bell Center, and they could do your laundry. Whatever you could fit in that mesh bag. Because we worked out a lot. We had to do more laundry. So one of the perks was you’re training, you’re working so we know that’s gonna cost quarters in the little machines in the dorms. So you could do that. You could take your bag over and put your workout gear in there. It wasn’t very big, um—and then there was one person who—forget what her name was, who stood at the window, who did this. But she rather liked one of the women on the team and you know [unclear words] thought maybe she reminded her of her daughter or something. I don’t know. She gave her a big mesh bag. [laughter] Janna always got to have the big one. And we were like where’d she get that big mesh bag? You get a lot more laundry done with that. You take this little one with our underwear and our bra and our socks, you know.

Interviewer: What’d you come back later and pick it up, or?

Tracy: Yeah, you’d come back later and yeah, picked up your bag, and it’d be all washed up. I can’t remember if it was folded for you in the bag. Jana’s probably was. [laughter] Janna probably worked that out somehow.

Interviewer: Did you ever have it so that you had all—way too much clothes shoved in, and you couldn’t fit it into the bag?

Tracy: No. I rarely took mine in. I just couldn’t think, they’re taking my underwear and my bras over there to get washed. [unclear words] things you went through as you worked out. And they did not have sports bras back then. I mean that was something athletes now really have a plus. You know, you had to work out in the bra—just your regular bras, which are not sports bras. Um, so women athletes have really come far. I mean when I started at Drake, it wasn’t that many years that we had a cross country program. I was—in it’s infancy. Um, it was like shortly thereafter Title 9 was, you know not that many years before that. So, yeah, so I just always thought that it was always like that, but it wasn’t.

Interviewer: Mhmhm. You mentioned that you went to Hubbell sometimes with ice on your, on your injured—
Tracy: ---Oh yeah, bags of ice.

Interviewer: Did you hang around with the track team then socially?

Tracy: Yeah. I wou---that was my circle of friends. Um, that, and a boyfriend. [laughs] About the one regret if you want to talk about females and the one regret is that I spent too much time with the boyfriend, not enough time with having friends. But yeah, the track team. That was our group because you were gone---we were gone on the weekends when everybody else was not studying and going out and having fun. We were out in a van driving twelve hours to somewhere and eight hours to somewhere else. And we went to as far south as like Wichita in the van. Um, there back for a weekend. So yeah, we missed a lot of the campus activities. So we’d get in town---our vans would pull in at midnight on Saturday. And you know all that’s left is you know---yeah whatever was doing---so, um, at least me, personally. And there was a few people who joined some sororities or fraternities, but mostly our sorority and fraternity was the track team. We were there every afternoon working together. We finished practice, and we all ate together. Um, came over did some studying together. Ah, yeah, it was a great group of athletes, and a mixed personalities too. I mean people came from all over the country. Yeah, it was something. It was really cool.

Interviewer: What kind of advice would you give to the women’s track team members today?

Tracy: Well the advice that I would give myself is you know don’t spend all your time with your boyfriend. [laughs] But I was involved in a lot of activities outside of track too. So I would say, you know make sure that you touch on other parts of campus life, not just the, you know, the track stuff. And ah, gosh, appreciate what you have. You know and adults will be telling children and young people this forever, and parents will be telling their kids [unclear word] Oh, it goes fast appreciate it when they’re young. And you don’t get it. It doesn’t matter what you give---people are gonna do what they are gonna do. But appreciate it, apprec---enjoy that when you live in a dorm room you have one room to vacuum, you know. You have no bathroom to clean. Someone’s cleaning the bathroom. Someone’s feeding you. You’re not having to make the meals. And really the meals at Hubbell are not that bad folks. [laughs] Someone’s making them for you. They’re buying the groceries. You’re not having to do that. All you have to do is study and run. And have fun. And have fun. I mean study, um,
which I did a lot of. But have fun too, but don’t have too much fun
that you know you hurt yourself [laughter]. But just take it all in.
Enjoy it and yeah.

**Interviewer(s):** Can we switch to a couple of questions about the women’s project.
Sure let me check the sequence. We’ve got plenty of tape---don’t
we?
Oh yeah.
Well, what dorm did you live in?

**Tracy:** I lived in Stalnaker. All five years---all same room. Different
roommates though. Yeah.

**Interviewer:** Any special memories from living in the dorms?

**Tracy:** Well, the one that I told you earlier was um, during finals you
would have these quiet periods, and it was you had to be quiet.
There was no radios, you know. Rules are---I’m sure they’re still
the same---no, no radios could be playing. And then they would
have what they called release hours where you could be loud and
let loose and yell out the windows. But you were supposed to
respect it. And if you didn’t respect those quiet hours you asked to
leave campus during finals time. And there were always kids that
had to go find somewhere to stay off campus. And I’d---[laughs]
my roommate and I had been studying and studying and I was a
big studier. I was very studious. I behaved. I followed the rules.
But I don’t know what got into me. I just thought wouldn’t it be
funny if---what if we threw this trash can against this really big
wooden door. What would happen? And, it made a really big
noise. [laughs] And we did it---we probably threw it three times,
and sure enough there was a knock on the door, and my RA Lana--
-I think it was Lana at the time. “Tracy? Leva? What’s going on
in here?” “Oh isn’t it release hours?” [laughter] And we’re just
kind of fibbing a little bit, you know, because I didn’t want to get
in trouble. “No, no that’s in a half an hour Tracy, and if you get
noisy again you’ll have to leave campus.” Well I didn’t want to
leave campus. I---my parents lived two miles away. I knew that I
would have a place to go to, but I didn’t want to leave so I was
quiet. Um, I lived on the fourth floor Stalnaker. My freshman
year I had a roommate who was a Biology major. And Biology
majors have to dissect cats. And she would bring this cat back to
our room in a plastic bag instead of leaving it in the lab. I don’t
know why she would bring it---it was because she was gonna work
on it. And it was winter time, and I’m like you are not putting that
cat in our little teeny tiny refrigerator. It’s formaldehyde, and it’s
like---but it was the dead of winter. So we took the blinds, the
cord on the blinds, and we tied it around the bag and we let the cat dangle out our window. And there were two track athletes below us. There were two below us, so we pulled our blinds all the way down so the cat made it down to the third floor. And it had been hanging out there---it was kind of frozen. And we banged the cat [laughs] on their window. So here’s this dead cat, you know bang bang on the window. So that was kind of fun. You know one of our little tricks. Whenever there was a big water, you know rain storm. The water would run down the hill there by Stalnaker. And the guys all came up because it was a co-ed dorm. They were in the bottom two floors. We were in the top two floors. Eh, there might have been three floors of guys. I can’t remember. I was thinking there was four. But they came up and they grabbed as many girls as they could get, took them outside, dumped them in the mud. Oh, it was so much fun. Everyone was screaming, you know and just soaked and muddy, and it was just fun. So that was a fun memory. Um, during my time at Drake they had ah, a made for TV movie about nuclear war. I don’t remember the name of it. Like The Last Day or something like that but what would happen if a nuclear bomb went off. And it took place in Kansas City, and a lot of the filming had taken place there. And everyone was supposed to watch this together. And I remember going down into the TV room, and it was just packed, um of people just watching that. And just how aware we were that you know the Cold War was going on. I mean, there was still two Germanys then, and um watching that, um together on campus. Um, Stalnaker had a big party in the spring called casino. I think it was called casino. And we had you know the gaming tables and uh, and it’s---I’ve heard they still have it but now it’s with little brother and sister weekend or something. So it’s somewhere they can take their kids too. Bulldog Tales we did----our dorm did that a couple---and I know we’re not supposed to call them dorms or residence halls---but we all call them dorms, folks. [laughter] Um, we did that a couple of years. Um, I wrote it one year. I wrote and directed it one year, and we did a take off on the Adams Family. And I forget what the theme was that year, but um, [unclear words] in our group, and I cannot remember her last name. Anyway she got best actress that year. It was very hard for I think the dorms, the resident halls, to compete with the sororities and the fraternities because you know they really did it up right and did it well. The year before I wrote and directed it, they did a takeoff on Tootsie, and Tim Rayburn was Tootsie. And I think Stalnaker placed fairly well ah, that year that they did that. And that was fun. Bulldog Tales was um done in the spring---winter to spring. Um, it was a competition of putting on a play. Um, it had to be student written, either music---you could use music that was already written and change the words
around. There was always a theme. And I---it did not go along with Drake Relays time because we were out of town on a track trip when they performed it, and that’s why I couldn’t be there. So I’m thinking that it was during the winter time, indoor track season. And ah, you would compete, you know best show, best actor, best actress. And uh, yeah, it was great. They were usually very funny. Usually very comedic. And I didn’t really get to see any of them because we were gone all the time for the track---when I was on track.

Interviewer: So Stalnaker would do one, and Herriot would do one, and then each one of the fraternities and sororities would do one?

Tracy: A lot of times like a fraternity and a sorority would get together and that would be one of their projects that they would do together. Um, and not every residence hall would do one. It would just kind of depend who was in the residence hall, and who was up for organizing and putting that together, rehearsing it. Um, you know, knowing someone who played piano who could play the songs for you. Um, yeah, and I don’t know what tradition that is tied too. I don’t remember what that was tied to.

Interviewer: Do you remember any favorite professors or classes that you really loved?

Tracy: Sure. Um, I came in to Drake as an undecided major, and soon thereafter switched to math. My advisor was a Dr. Kleiner who is still on campus, and he’s wonderful. He uh, is gentle and kind and ah he was my advisor. And he really worked as an advisor. I mean he said here are the classes. This is what I would recommend, you know here’s a group of classes, why don’t you choose something from this. He made sure you know that I was on target to graduate. He spent time with me. You know, then I added a major, so I added Computer Science. So and then well you better pick up a teaching certification and a coaching endorsement. So we really had to balance, um fine tune my classes. Fine tune in a way that I didn’t miss a lot by being out of town with track. Because a lot of times we would leave Friday, so I tried not to have Friday afternoon classes. Um, but he was, he was a great teacher. And um, you know Professor Sternberg was fun for education, and the stories that he would tell. And I think I had him for I don’t know, Educational Psychology or something like that. Ah, and there were kids that were not taking classes for education but would take his class just because he was so entertaining. But you did learn while you were hearing his stories. And um, oh I’m trying to think, you know we had some wonderful
Accounting professors. Uh, Dr. Hilliard, Hilliard I think was his name, and Dr. Pumes was here. I had him for a class---ah, Educational Measurements, I believe is what I had him for. And dynamic, just a dynamic individual. Um, and oh---you know I had a lot of Computer Science classes, you know a lot of teachers are still here. Dr. Naylor is still here and Dr. Kolpecky just retired, and probably the wild professor---now I will tell a story on myself. I have not ever told this to Dr. Kolpecky, but maybe I will [laughs]. We had to ah---we did these projects, and we had to come present them. And I had to come---he did this on Drake Relays. People had to come and the class---they would cancel classes from noon on. And this happened to be a morning class. So it was not canceled. I did not really have to be anywhere for Drake Relays, but I really wanted to go get my haircut because I thought it would make me run faster if I could see where I was going. And I was nervous, and I just didn’t want to go to class. And so I told a little fib and said, you know, I had to do something with, you know with track. And I didn’t, so I missed that one class. [laughs] And I did my presentation on another day, you know because I was scheduled for another day. But I graded for Dr. Kolpecky and it was really great. We would sit down, and we would talk about what the rubric was that we were gonna use, and I thought that both he and Dr. Kleiner did a really great job of helping me see that I would be a good teacher. And although at the time I didn’t see it myself, um that’s what I ended up choosing as my life profession.

Interviewer: Where’d you do your practicum?

Tracy: I did mine at North High School. And it was a wonderful experience. Um, and being a Hoover graduate of course, no other school was gonna be good enough except Hoover, and how was I could I possibly go and do my student practicum at North? Oh my God. And it was, it was great. The kids were wonderful. The staff was amazing. It wasn’t anything how I’d pictured, and I was really glad that I had, I had been placed there---really fortunate. Um, there was just, there were just so many great professors on campus that um---oh Sociology, she and her husband---Sue---

Interviewer: ---Wright? Davis?

Tracy: Yep, yep, Sue Wright. She had just been wonderful. Yeah, um---

Interviewer: Do you remember anything about your graduation, your commencement?
Tracy: No. [laughter] I, I remember going down to Vets Auditorium. And I remember wearing the gown, and I remember I was dating somebody from the track team, and he was getting his graduate degree. And I remember going to McDonalds with his parents. Um, prior to that it’s just kind of a blur. I don’t, it was just so---wow, it’s finally here.

Interviewer: It’s finally over.

Tracy: Yeah. It’s just---how neat that they do it on campus now. That’s very cool that they have that facility that we did not have. So that’s wonderful to see those changes to campus.

Interviewer: What are some of the biggest changes in the last twenty years?

Tracy: To the campus itself?

Interviewer: Yeah, to the campus itself, excluding the stadium.

Tracy: Excluding the sta---well you know, you’ve got the Knapp Center which is a phenomenal addition, not only to Drake but to the community to be able to have a place for schools be able to come have their graduations and their basketball games or whatever event that they are doing has been great---the landscaping around campus, the beautification of the campus since I was here. You know, right out there between Meredith and Hubbell was pretty much a big mud puddle, you know, between there. [laughter] Um, Aliber Hall was new when I was on campus. That was late---a mid ’80s that that was---so that was fun to take classes there and new tables and new smell and new building. Um, I’m trying to think other changes---the big change, computers. I mean when I came here we did our term papers on typewriters. My fifth year, my final year at Drake, there were people who had heard of this thing called a word processor. [laughter] What is a word processor? I was a Computer Science major. I could program a computer, but I’d never---I mean you could t---one of my classes we could choose to do the programming on the PC. And that’s when there were no hard drives. You booted the thing with a floppy. A 5 ¼ inch floppy. Not the 3 ½ inch floppy. And um, so I had not PC experience leaving the school. It was all done on the mainframe, the VAX. In fact the year that I came we had terminals, we got terminals. They were amber and they were green. The year before or two years before they were doing punch cards because the guy I was dating, when he first took his first computer class, they had done it on punch cards. And you drop or lose one of those cards, you’ve lost your whole program. You know, how are you going to
put them back in order? So, that is probably one the biggest advances, just the technology and how you see the computer labs all over campus. Um, the idea, you know the computer in your room. Uh, phone systems, that’s really updated.

Interviewer: And wireless, capabilities now of taking your laptop around campus.

Tracy: Oh yeah, and you can take notes right there on class on your—I mean you can type so much quicker than you can write. However the challenge for the professors and for me when I go back to teaching is uh, how are the kids using the technology while your teaching? You know, who are they text messaging and what are they doing with those laptops when they’re supposed to be paying attention? And how do you keep their attention in the age of technology? So it’s a challenge for people who have been teaching for twenty years who’ve been that to keep up with that. And that’s why we need, you know, to invest in our, in our human capital. You know, keep them up to date, and so that the kids graduating from here have the best, um that they can have. But that, that would be great to if I were to come back to campus be able to have the computer.

Interviewer: Yeah, yeah, that would be huge. Do you remember studying at the library?

Tracy: I do. Cowles Library. I remember all the nooks and the crannies and, you know trying to find a spot where nobody else had been. You know kind of my secret area, and the smell. You still get the same smell coming up those steps before you even open the door. You can smell—I can tell you I’m at Cowles Library. Um, so yeah, I---definitely.

Interviewer(s): Because we were working here when you were going to school here. Yeah, we were here Tracy. [laughter]

Yeah, that was the big change for us was going automated, getting rid of the card catalog and putting it all online.

Tracy: Because one of the computer areas was here at the library. I mean there was [unclear words] and a small lab at Meredith.

Interviewer: And one over by---there’s another lab over by---well I guess in the computer center there was a little lab there I think too.
Tracy: At Dial. Yes, and that might have been it. I mean a couple places you could work but couldn’t print. So you would have to send it, and you would have to rush over there and try to get your print out before somebody tried to throw it away. [laughter] Yeah, yeah, oh that was, it was huge.

Interviewer: So were your dorms, any of them co-ed?

Tracy: Mine was co-ed.

Interviewer: Okay.

Tracy: At the time I was on campus, Jewett was male---all male, and Morehouse was all female. Jewett had one floor of law school, law students on one floor. Um, and all the other ones were co-ed. I never had the experience of being in G-K as a freshman. Uh, I felt fortunate in that being on the track team our track coach lined us up with other track athletes, and we were---I was placed in Stalnaker. And ah, I love Stalnaker. It was a great dorm and um, I loved that we had Mrs. Hardee who would do the mail at our front desk, and we could go there and you know---a mom away from home. And she would talk to everybody, and I know they had Mrs. Cathcart over at one of the other you know dorms---residents halls. And um, they really tried to get us to change that but um you know it just didn’t happen. [laughter] Um, yeah, so um, I-I was glad that I wasn’t in one of the little ones like you know, not Carpenter but what was the other C---Crawford. Crawford was really little. Um, you know and you had the tradition each floor I remember you’d name your floor and do the big mural painting on that floor. And uh, now that’s real big too. G-K has changed to suites. They’ve redone the inside there, kind of updated the---many across the nation have that concept in place but Drake didn’t, so. It’s nice to see that.

Interviewer: Is that what they’re building on 30th, or going to build? Uh, it’s going to be um, apartments. Um and there’s going to be like some shops and coffee shops and stuff inside of them. Oh wow.

Tracy: Now that is what was new on campus too, when I first came on campus---MTV was in it’s infancy. And we’d go down to the Rathskeller which was there by Olmstead. You’d eat your breakfast done there, but at night it became a bar and it was the Rathskeller. But you could go done there and people could watch MTV all day long. People were addicted to it. You know Michael Jackson and Thriller, I mean we had never seen anything like this.
And that was huge. I remember that, and the Rathskeller was not ever used that much. Um, here we had this bar on campus and uh, the drinking age then was, I want to say 19.

**Interviewer:** I think you’re right. I remember that. It wasn’t used very often. Did you go to movies at the Varsity?

**Tracy:** I probably did. I have a lot of memories of the Varsity theatre, but it’s hard to determine if that’s from my childhood or from me as an adult. Um, I do remember going across campus---there was a video rental store next to the Varsity. And that also was new too then was the VCR. And nobody had a VCR so you would rent to the VCR and you would rent the movie. And we would walk across campus with lugging this thing that could plug into our TV set. And you’d rent both. I mean and just---and now we’re doing--we’ve got DVD’s and ah, you know you can carry this little thing across campus so much easily, much more easily. Um, so I remember that.

**Interviewer:** Do you remember a favorite film that you went to see with friends, favorite movie during that time?

**Tracy:** Um, I remember seeing *Risky Business* with Tom Cruise at the Sierra Theater um, and how nervous that made me feel because I kept thinking here he is going to get into trouble. [laughter] He’s going to get in trouble. But it was supposed to be funny, but I came out feeling nervous. So that, I remember going to that movie with one of my boyfriends. And oh gosh, there was something I can’t remember now. Um *The World According to Garp*, I remember going to that movie. Um, and I can’t remember any other ones. Yeah we were gone. I was gone on weekends a lot with track and cross country so we didn’t do--I was studying. I was at the library.

**Interviewer:** You don’t need to apologize. No. I wish I had been. [laughter]

**Tracy:** Uh, my roommate wasn’t, you know, but um and so she only lasted two years. But she did end up doing what she really wanted to do, which was become a nurse. So sometimes our paths take us in ways um, and she wouldn’t have been able to get that here at Drake at that time. There wasn’t a nursing program. She was majoring in biology, which helped her later done the road.

**Interviewer:** If you could say you got one thing---the best thing that you got from your experience at Drake.
Tracy: Um, that’s hard, because one. Um, a belief in myself---maintaining confidence through the things that I was exposed in. So being exposed to classes that I could be successful in. My professors helped me be successful in, and nothing I felt was dumbed down. So I had to strive, you know. Really had to study and being able to use the gifts that God gave me. Um, and then being able to see where I fit in the world. You know leaving here and knowing people were pushing me into teaching and not knowing everything kind of pushed me in that way. So yeah, I would say being able to have the opportunity to use my God-gifts and um, have people shine that light here. And it was a safe, you know it was a safe place for me. It was, it was, yeah.

Interviewer: And I’ve got to ask this one questions because I went to another college, but my mother worked there too. Where did your mother work on campus, and did you see each other? Because my mom used to---we used to have lunch together once in a while.

Tracy: Yeah, I would see my mom. My mom worked in the Theater Arts office---so over in the Fine Arts building. And yeah, I would journey over there. I did take one fine arts class, you know. Kind of for me, kind of for her. I took, it was a voice class. I figured if I was going to be a teacher someday. I don’t know why because I kept thinking I wasn’t going to be a teacher, but I kept thinking I better take these classes. Um, wanted to learn how to project their voice and use their voice well. And uh, and my mother’s family is very theatrical. And um, you know, been in plays and grew up. If you went to a family reunion---went to a family reunion you had to perform something, a poem, a song, or whatever. And uh, so I remember doing th---taking a class there. So I’d walk up and see her. And my boyfriend would come over and talk to her, and I could come home for Sunday dinners. And I could take some of my---[unclear word] did most of my laundry in the dorms. Um, but occasionally I could take it, take it home. And I remember one time being, you know, being really upset over something and home was only, not even two miles away---1.8 miles. I could run that in, you know, fifteen minutes and I was home. [laughter] I didn’t have a car, but I could borrow my mom’s car, so that was a real plus. When I was doing my student teaching and when I was doing my student observations my mom would be here on campus. I would go over, get the car keys, take the car, go to my student observation at Urbandale, drive back, she had the car, and she could go home. So, it was a real plus. So they didn’t---we couldn’t afford an extra car for me. Um, but that was nice. Yeah, so yeah I got to see her. It was nice, definitely.

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