

University of Illinois Student Life and Culture Archives

Voices Now Oral History Project

Interviewees: David and Ann Atkins

Interviewer: Alicia Hopkins

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Alicia Hopkins: My name is Alicia Hopkins and today is April 15, 2018. I'm here today at the Lawrenceville High School with David and Ann Atkins to talk with them about their experience as students at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. So, first of all thank you for taking the time to talk with me today. For the first question, we'll just start with what years were you students and what departments were you active in?

Ann Atkins: I started in the fall of 1990, and I graduated in the spring of 1995. My degree is in the teaching of social studies but I originally started out just as a pure history major. So there's a major switch in there that added a little bit of time. But still in the same department essentially. I got my teaching degree through LAS.

David Atkins: So, she started in 90. I started in 92, and fall of 92, and graduated in spring of 96. I got it all done in four years, but I did do one summer in there. I was in chemistry, teaching of chemistry specifically, so that's what I did.

AH: And how did you both decide to attend UIUC?

AA: For me, the University of Illinois is in my family tree. So, my great grandfather graduated from U of I. Both my grandmother and my grandfather, they met there and they both graduated from there. Kind of skipped a generation with my parent's generation but my brother was attending U of I when I was making those college choices. So, for me it was deciding did I want to go to a big state university or a small private college? I visited both. I decided I really liked the big, the bigness of the U of I.

AH: Yeah.

AA: And the family tree helps.

DA: Yeah, I had, my, I grew up, first of all, sports was something my family watched a lot of Illini sports. Television we'd watch the [Flying?] Illini basketball team in late 80s and football. And my brother went to the University of Illinois also, and he is six years older than me. So, my brother went and it was always something that I just kind of figured that I would do. And actually, planned on going into engineering so it made a lot of sense to go to the U of I. But my

summer before I went, I changed my mind all of a sudden, like in that spring and decided to be a teacher. But by then I had already pretty much decided to go to U of I. Didn't really reevaluate my plans at that point. Not really wasn't then a teaching college but I didn't really want to look into going anywhere else because it's kind of what I had always had in my mind-

AH: Yeah.

DA: Where I would go.

AH: And do you remember the first time you visited campus?

AA: For me, it was my senior year in the fall. And I went and spent the weekend. My brother's there. His girlfriend, I stayed with her for the weekend and just kind of showed me around, gave me a tour. So that was senior year, college visit.

DA: First time I visited the campus, I was in junior high and my brother, the aforementioned brother, was going up to engineering open house. He was a junior, senior in high school and he was gonna take a visit to do that. My dad, who was the high school chemistry teacher, drove, took me out of school, took him out of school and drove up there. And there was one other kid, I don't, my brother could tell you who he was, but he was, I think he ended up attending up there also. But we drove up there from Olney. And so this would have been probably something like 1984, 1985. And it was really cool going around seeing all the big buildings and all the science that was happening. We went to Loomis Lab, and they had a little table, kind of like the table right now, like this size, and I guess we're being audio recorded so something about like a ten foot long table by five foot wide [laughter]. But it had, they had wells constructed in it. Not holes, but dips to simulate the gravitational wells of the planets. And it's because at the time they were showing off the Voyager that was gonna go out and slingshot around one planet and then go out to this other and the other. And so they had kind of a simulation of where those wells would be. A little marble and you were supposed to try to push it and have it roll out this one and into this one and out into that one, just to kind of show you how precise these measurements are and how they do these things. So that was pretty cool.

AH: And what did a normal day on campus look like for both of you?

AA: For me, I am a morning person generally, so I liked to have, I found it easier to get into 8 o'clock and 9 o'clock classes, and so that suited me. So, my day usually started pretty early. I tried to have class done by noon or one, something like that. Go home, relax a bit. I was always a pretty diligent student, so I didn't cut much class, did what I was supposed to do. If I had free hours I would usually try to find someplace with a couch where I could take a nap or do some reading or something like that. One of my favorite places, and actually when we were dating, he was flabbergasted that I told this, but one of my favorite places to find a place to quietly hang out for a free hour was in some of the powder room sections of the ladies bathroom.

AH: Oh yeah.

AA: Cause they had couches and they were comfortable.

DA: Did you know they have couches in ladies' bathrooms? [Crosstalk]

AA: And they were crowded, and so I told him that one time when we were dating and he was like, "There're couches in your bathrooms?" Like yeah.

AH: There's a powder blue leather couch in the women's restroom upstairs in the Union by the ballroom that's very comfortable.

AA: Yeah, there was one in the English building, some upper floor of the English building and a bathroom that no one hardly ever used, so it was like a pretty good quiet, comfortable place to spend an hour.

DA: In all my investigations of all the men's rooms on campus [AH and AA laugh] I never once found a couch. Not one. I did find a lot of graffiti.

AH: Yes, yeah.

DA: Do they have that too in the ladies' rooms?

AH: Yeah, and actually in the English building is where it's the most interesting graffiti for whatever reason.

AA: Oh yeah. Those arty people. So anyway, yeah after my first couple of years I started working, you know. So I would work in the afternoons, spend the evenings doing homework and studying, that kind of thing.

DA: I did not like morning classes, but I had to take them anyway because I was, I had what we like to call an actual major. [All laugh] So there were like these requirements you had to do. Whenever you have to fit a four-hour lab once a week into your schedule, there's not the kind of flexibility that a lot of people have. So, I remember on Tuesdays and Thursdays, or was it Monday, Wednesday, Friday? I don't- there was one day that my freshman year that began at 9 o'clock with a discussion section at Noyes, no-yes, Noyes. And I didn't want to skip it or anything but I also really didn't like getting out of bed. And so often my girlfriend Ann, she also had a 9 o'clock on the Quad, so we would walk together. And since I knew that she was coming to get me, I didn't make a lot of effort to get out of bed. [All laugh]. And so there would always be a guy run up to my bedroom, "Hey, hey, Ann's here, get up." So I'd hop out of bed, throw on a shirt and sandals or something, and skip along to Noyes Lab for my chemistry quiz. But that is probably a good that I was dating at the time. And you know what I lived, we'll talk a little bit later about where we lived, but my residence was about five or six blocks from the Quad so it was sort of thing that I was able, even if I only had an hour, sometimes would make sense to run home. Certainly, if I had two or three hours between classes, I would go back home and do whatever it is I needed to do there.

AH: And where did you live on campus?

DA: That's how we met. We were what they call, those in the know, call a Koin-Stat couple. So, there's a Koinonia Christian cooperative run by the Baptist housing ministry and it's a cooperative arrangement where it's a house of about 30. And it was on the corner of Fourth and Daniel.

AH: Okay yeah, I think it's still there.

DA: And it's currently a parking lot.

AH: Oh, is it really?

DA: Yeah, across from there, well, the house I lived in is now a parking lot.

AH: Okay.

DA: During my tenure they actually tore it down and built across the street.

AH: So it's down closer to Third now.

DA: So, there's a boy's house, Koinonia and a girl's house, Stratford House. And so they are both kind of owned and operated by, essentially pretty much run, by University Baptist Church. Although technically it was an organization separate from that church. But basically, it was run by Uni Bap. And so you would, the reason I lived there was it was cheap. It was cheap because you did your own cleaning and as a cooperative you did your own cooking. It was 30 guys. There would be a person whose job it was to buy the stuff and plan the meals but then you would have, like on Tuesday nights you would be the one who had to cook and then Thursday lunch you'd be the one who had to clean up or whatever like that. So you'd each have a prep and a cleanup during the week and then you would also have some sort of task that you had to do once a week or once a month or twice a week, like clean the bathrooms or clean out the fridge or something like that. And then there was someone whose job it was, the HM, the housing manager, house manager, to go around and check to make sure these things were all getting done. And so, but they had a boys and a girls house and they would try to encourage like social events between the two houses and that's kind of how we met. So, she'd already been there at Stratford House for a couple of years. She was the president of Stratford House when I met her, and I was a lowly initiate at Koinonia. [All laugh]

AA: True. It's true. Yeah, my brother, my older brother, he lived at Koinonia so when I went and stayed with his girlfriend it was at Stratford House. So I really got exposed to that housing cooperative stuff through them. And it was an interview process, so I interviewed but I don't even remember when, sometime my senior year.

AH: Yeah.

AA: So, you know there were limited slots, about 30, 25, 30 people in the house. So it was set up the same way Koinonia was. It's one of the reasons why ultimately I decided to go to the

University of Illinois because I loved the big campus. You know how smaller colleges and universities, one of their selling points is, “Well you don’t want to just be a number.”

AH: Right.

AA: I was great with just being a number. I’m a fairly introverted person, I’m a self-starter, you know. I was fine with being in a lecture hall with 500 people and listening to a professor and taking care of what I needed to. But it was great to have a small environment that was more homey to live in, so it definitely was not like a dorm.

AH: Right.

AA: It was a community and there was the girls themselves, we were the leaders and we decided what projects needed to be taken on and we took care of them and all of that. So it was like this nice blend for me of having a close-knit group for living quarters and being part of this larger university.

DA: One of the questions you’re gonna get to is, “What was this, the most common?” No this was very uncommon. You know most of the people the freshman year, you’d have to live in the dorms. The reason that we could live in these is that these were technically certified housing operations and so freshman could live in them. But there’s only a handful of certified housing operations outside of the dorm system on the whole campus and most of them were like this, like religious cooperative arrangements. I was actually supposed to live at Christian Campus House over on Oregon Street, is where I was supposed to live. That was where my DNA was, that was where my brother lived and everything, but they had all sorts of unrest there. Right as I was applying to go, there was a big fracture between the managers and the residents, and I was told that they were converting it into an all-female house at the time. They didn’t, but that was the information I had. So I applied to Koinonia instead and therefore we ended up together.

AH: Were either of you involved with any registered student organizations or just any campus groups or anything like that?

AA: Not-

DA: I really wasn’t.

AA: Really. Yeah, I mean we were both, in the years that we lived at the houses, we were both active in those, but just wider campus organizations I don’t know. For a while I attended meetings of Campus Crusade for Christ, but I don’t even say that I was active in that.

DA: No, we pretty much just hung out with our friends and did our work. We weren’t involved on that level.

AH: Were there any particular professors who were influential while you were on campus?

DA: Well, for me the answer is easy. I was a chemistry major in the era of Zumdahl so I got to have, you know, 100 Noyes lectures for Zumdahl all year my freshman year, and that was cool. Steven Zumdahl was a really fun guy to watch. He was engaging and interactive. I never really got to know him personally very much, but you know he writes the textbooks and most chemistry people know who he is. But, so that was cool. But on a personal level, I didn't really know him. But my junior year I met Don Decoste who ended up, who has eventually has now like kind of replaced Steven Zumdahl. But I didn't meet him as a chemistry prof or anything. I met him in my teaching classes. He was kind of a, he was in grad school at the time I think, and he was kind of wanting to gear, to focus on how chemistry should be taught, how science should be taught. He was a big agent of change in my philosophy, probably of how I thought science should be viewed and taught. And so he ended up, apparently other people thought so too, cause he ended up I think, last I heard he was doing what Zumdahl does now. Teaching the advanced, like the chem majors, chem 100 stuff.

AH: Yeah.

AA: You're gonna have to tell me if my memory is wrong.

AH: [Laughs] Okay.

AA: But this gentlemen's name, I remember being Robert Johansen?

AH: Okay.

AA: Okay so if not, this is the person who I mean. So I'm terrible with names, but I remember his face and I remember his class very vividly. Probably my favorite history class that I had at the university was my 300 level Civil War class and I think that, as somebody who was a history major who became a teacher of history, I think the thing that was so influential even if I can't remember his name, but his style which was influential for me as I became a teacher. He was this master storyteller. I could listen to him teach me history all day. I mean he was a very engaging storyteller and he could, in an era where the technology isn't what we have today.

AH: Right.

AA: You know, he could make the story of the Civil War very vivid and very emotional, and he was very very good at what he did. So 50 minutes three times a week was not, not enough for that.

AH: Yeah. I tried to Google him, but it didn't, I don't know. It wasn't on the immediate results.

AA: Hm. Okay. I can look it up next time Dave is talking to you. I can probably come up with it.

AH: Are there any campus landmarks or buildings that stand out in your memories of UIUC?

DA: For me, nothing that's like, nothing that stands out. Just all of them. They're all iconic to me.

AA: For me, university, the university is the Main Quad. You know. Just about every class that I had was in the buildings on the quad there. I mean I think I probably had a class in every building that was on the quad at some point, and not much off of that. So Lincoln Hall before, obviously it would be before the renovations happened. Had a ton of classes in Lincoln Hall. Lots of big lecture classes in the auditorium there. And it was always kinda trippy walking in there because it was old and it felt old and dated, but it was still really interesting to look around at the architecture and the paints and the peeling paints [AH laughs]. And you know, all of that. Rumbling [inaudible] every time we walk up there.

DA: Grainger was being built whenever we were there, I think, so that's one of the big- Beckman I think had just finished around the time. I don't know exactly when Beckman went up but it was pretty new when we were there. And that whole quad and stuff. I think personally we don't, I don't know if there's like a special landmark or anything like that but we both lived in these houses of like 30 people in them, you know. And so it was always loud and there was always a bunch of crap going on. And so we would, we went on a lot of long walks [laughter]. And if you're wanting to walk from that area, want to go walk in a peaceful place you go to Urbana. So we would just start walking towards Urbana, start walking east. That's where we discovered Leal Elementary School.

AH: Oh. [All laugh]

DA: The elementary school was a great place to hang out at 10:30 pm. You just kind of go and they have this big old map of the United States of America painted on the sidewalk. There's a little slide, you can just sit there and sit and relax and talk in the quiet. It was amazing.

AH: I know where it's at. I can't say I ever wandered the grounds at 10:30 at night [laughs].

AA: Probably weren't supposed to.

AH: And where would you go to study?

DA: We would often go to the Undergrad.

AA: Yep.

DA: We would go to the Undergrad, and we would get two of those little, I think they still have the cubicles there.

AH: Yeah, on the bottom.

DA: Bottom.

AH: Yeah.

DA: And so we would just sit in two adjacent cubicles so we wouldn't be distracted seeing each other.

AA: So then we would do some pretty low-tech flirting with each other by writing notes and popping them over the study walls.

DA: It was the original text messaging. [All laugh]. So yeah, a lot of time at the Undergrad studying. Yeah, like our houses were great, but they were not always the greatest place to study. You could always, you could hang a towel on your door to basically tell no one, if it wasn't their room they weren't allowed to come in. At our, you didn't talk about the houses, but they had the open-air dorms. The houses were old, so they didn't have ventilation systems and so everybody, the rooms were tiny. You couldn't really fit beds in them. You'd have desks there and closets, and then to sleep you would go upstairs to the dorms. Just a great big open-air place so it's like-

AA: And at Stratford House it was like a room built off the back of the second story. So in his house it was like at the top of the house, so the whole house was under it.

DA: The attic with all the windows.

AA: But for the girls' house there was air underneath it.

DA: And so it was cold in the winter.

AA: Not heated. Unventilated.

DA: And so when you have 30 people sleeping in one room, you can't have alarms going off. And so they had a system where people would have wakes duty for a week. And so you would hang your name on a little hook by a time, and then it would be somebody's job that week to wake up and make sure that person got out of bed by the time that they set it.

AA: And if you really absolutely, and after they woke you up two or three times or whatever, they had permission to stop bothering you. But if you had turned your tag over to the side that had DMO on it, it means drag me out, and that means that they could not let you stay in bed. They literally could drag you out of the dorm.

DA: Yeah, you had to put your tag, you had to put your tag back on the hook which was a good 30 feet away and so. But that was, that-

AA: And we weren't supposed to use electric blankets because of fire hazards and stuff but people did anyway.

AH: Yeah.

DA: And so in your room, you might have a room with two or three, four people in it but, so if you needed quiet you could hang a towel on your door and that was the rule that nobody could come in. You weren't supposed to have a girl in the room if you had a towel on it either. You could get in a lot of trouble in a Christian- [AH laughs]

AA: Towels mean different things than other housing situations.

DA: That was the Koin way.

AH: That; s funny. And we talked about this a little bit but when you weren't studying or in class what did you do?

DA: Go on walks, go to basketball games, go to football games, did all of that stuff.

AA: Work.

DA: She would- yeah work. I worked, oh yeah work. I worked at a, my junior year I started needing money, so I worked at, there's a Taco Bell on Green Street that closed at, I think it was three am. Cause you had to have, the bars had to close at 2, and then you had to feed the drunks.

AH: Right.

DA: And so they would, we would close, we would lock the door at three then keep feeding anyone that was still in there. And the last ones would trickle out about 3:45 and then you'd mop and clean up and everything. It's like 4:30 you'd be getting ready to drive home to go get a few hours of sleep before you go back to work the next day. I did that for about three weeks before I found out that I could work for NCSA, the National Center for Supercomputing Applications, in the education and outreach group. And I could go whenever I wanted and get paid more per hour to sit at a computer and answer emails for whatever hours, up to 20 a week I wanted.

AA: But not at 3 am if he didn't want to.

DA: And so, some reason I stopped working at Taco Bell and did that instead. [AA and AH laugh] I worked on the Chem Vis project. They had a visualization program where high school teachers could use the Cray supercomputer. The supercomputer, it's not like the one they have now. It's slower than that one. But you could, I always think like this Cray supercomputer, I would imagine, I don't know, I haven't compared the numbers, but I would guess that most of us have a PC in our home that could do what the Cray supercomputer could do at the time.

AH: Yeah.

DA: But it was, but people would, chemistry teachers would load these data for these imaging molecules through this program, and they would upload it and FTP it and then they'd type in through a Unix script to download everything back down. This is kind of one of those markers because, those time markers, because when I came into the project that's what it was. You had a file on your, a program on your computer. You'd type in the data. It would create an output file. You would FTP the output file to the [pray?]. You'd use Unix code to tell it to process it, then you would FTP it down back to your local computer, and then you'd open a different program to open the file to see what you'd saved. And so, and that's how it was developed. In the time I was there, a high schooler who was basically just getting some part time pay to sit around and help program made it, like created one script where you could do all of that on the web. Just go to a

website and answer some questions and it would spit out the image. And so that was like one of those big shifts in moments. And NCSA actually developed the first web browser. I didn't know if you knew that.

AH: I did not know that.

DA: It was not, it was called NCSA Mosaic, and I didn't develop it. My groups didn't develop it, but it was developed- Marc Andreessen I think is his name. Not sure about that, but the guy went out and made Netscape, he started NCSA as just like a seven dollar an hour programmer or whatever, and he built the first web browser, NCSA Mosaic. But then the university owned it.

AH: Oh yeah.

DA: And so they ended up, I think that's what they ended up selling to Microsoft, which Microsoft built IE on top of that. And the guy who actually created that Mosaic, he, I didn't know any of these people, but it was not that, it was around my time. I think that this stuff happened in like 1990, 91, something like that. And I started working there in 94 I think, and so I actually have a Netscape, or I have a, not a Netscape but a NCSA Mosaic red maroon mug at my house. And I would be very proud of it except that the dishwasher like took the image off, so now it's just a maroon mug. So it's [look?] it's the first web browser. [AH laughs]

AA: But it's the Mosaic mug.

DA: And so yeah, I remember that was a very interesting job because I got to go to all these computer trainings. They would bring in these teachers over the summer, and we would teach them stuff to do on the computer. And one of them, I remember the first time Lisa [Bevenue?] took us to the Oregon Computer Lab and she was so excited because she was gonna show us this thing that was totally gonna change everything. I'm like, "Okay what is it?" And so we get there and we, okay, it's like, "Click on this Mosaic thing." We click on Mosaic. And it's a web browser, but none of us knew what a web browser was. And so, "What are we looking at?" She's like, "This is a computer's, it's called a website and this is our website. This is the NCSA website. You're looking at information on a computer across campus." "Oh, okay that's cool." "Now click on this. It's like Iceland. Now you're seeing a webpage for a place in Iceland." "Oh okay." And it was kind of cool, but it was like, "Why do I want to look at a bunch of information [all laugh] about universities in all these different?" And it's like, I think she got what was about to happen, but I didn't.

AH: Yeah.

DA: But it was a graphical interface, and so you could just click around to go do anything you want. And then it was within probably within less than a year I start to see URLs on billboards. You go to a billboard and see www dot something or... oh my gosh, web browsers are getting like big time now. And it was a really interesting time to live through and I don't think, I think anyone who didn't live before doesn't understand what a big change it was.

AA: Well, I talk to my students about it because, so I graduated from high school in 1990, I wrote my high school term papers. I wrote with my hand, my high school term papers. And then I typed them on a typewriter. And then my first year at the university, fall semester, I get a massive eight and a half by eleven envelope packet full of information. Which it might've just been in gibberish. I didn't understand any of it, and I wound up throwing it away. But what it was was the university issuing my first email address ever, but I had no idea what email was. There was no explanation that I understood and I'm like, "When am I ever gonna use this?" But by the time I graduated, you know, I'm typing all of my papers for the university. You know, going into computer labs and-

DA: Yeah, you can email her at-

AA: And using word processing programs.

DA: You can email her at that account.

AA: And using that address.

DA: Aerimov@uxa.cso.uiuc.edu.

AA: Yeah, mine was a uxa. Wasn't yours like ux4 or something?

DA: I was datkins@ux4.cso.uiuc.edu. I should email that and see where it goes. I don't think I have access. I think they cut it off. I wonder if they archive that stuff somewhere though.

AH: Yeah, because I had professors that had @uiuc email addresses that were still active and they hadn't been issuing-

DA: Now it's @illinois.edu.

AH: Yeah, yeah but some people who had the UIUC email address could still access them and still actively use them.

DA: And you couldn't back then, you couldn't just like skip it. You couldn't say datkins@uiuc. It had to be ux4.cso.uiuc.edu.

AA: It was quite long.

DA: Mine was ux4 and hers was uxa because she was older than I was. So the way the different graduating classes I think got-

AH: Oh, okay yeah.

DA: Different, different machines that they were allocated on. [Errormond?]. I called you [Errormond?] for a while.

AA: No, I would not have been able to tell you that was the beginning of that email address.

DA: You didn't use it. Didn't email to it.

AH: Ever?

AA: Oh, oh I see what you're saying. Yeah, right, right.

DA: You used the VI editor to access it through [unintelligible] also.

AA: I don't remember.

DA: As was the style of the times.

AA: I guess it was the style of the time.

AH: When I was an undergrad, it was in Gmail. And then I started grad school and I was very upset because I couldn't use Gmail anymore and I have to use the Outlook web app because when you're a grad student they take away your Gmail access.

DA: Ouch.

AH: Yeah. Which I don't use Outlook. I have a MacBook. There's no reason that I need to use Microsoft ever, but now I have to learn how to use Outlook.

AA: Fantastic.

AH: Um yeah, and what do you remember from your favorite classes?

DA: For me it was probably the ones I already mentioned. Zumdahl just because he would always have the big wild explosions or the fun demonstrations to look at, but then also the [Dukauf?] class. It was actually Charlie Waller was the professor for that, but Daniel [Dukauf?] who was the TA and he did a lot of the talking, a lot of the interactions. But yeah, that class meant a lot to me just because it kind of opened my brain to how science worked more so than anything I had done before. In terms of the process of science. It was a lot of good thinking, discussion questions. I really like the cerebral classes. But those are the two.

AH: Could have dabbled in the humanities.

DA: I did. I took a philosophy of physics class in my [AH laughs]. It was awesome. It satisfied the comp two requirement and I have no idea why. [AH and AA laugh]. It was awesome. Basically every, you'd go to these two lectures a week and this awesome guy with like big frizzy hair would like talk about super interesting physics stuff and then you would always have a writing assignment, which was basically to write a response to what you heard in lecture. And that made it writing intensive. You could literally just email your thoughts, and you had to write a paper at the end. I think I wrote something about [flowgestin?] or something but it wasn't that hard.

AA: He always liked to tease me about how my humanities major wasn't a real-

DA: Those classes where you have to write papers-

AA: Wasn't a real major.

DA: Were rough.

AA: [Because?] you'd just have to listen to lecture and read and write papers, like?

DA: I feel like I had-

AA: That's it? And I'm like, yeah and I spend a lot of time doing those things.

DA: I feel like I had three or four classes in college where I had to write a paper. They were so easy.

AH: I had to write a paper in every class. Every class I've ever taken has culminated in a paper.

DA: It's like all you got to do is write some paper that you know you're gonna get an A on because you did what they said? Wow that's [AH laughs]. You have to learn anything or solve any problems?

AA: No, you had to learn stuff. At least you had to be able to take tests. We had a midterm and a final too.

AH: Yeah, I took a lot of midterms and finals, which was terrible. And what's one or more of your most memorable experiences on campus?

DA: That's a good question. I don't have like these big things that stick out. You know, I have just the thousands of little memories of you know doing all the shenanigans that my best, well the guy that ended up being my best man, and I did. You meet a lot of people in college and people who stick with you. We would just do all these, we weren't really smokers but we bought these pipes so that we could smoke pipes and look cool. And back then you could actually smoke inside of Dunkin Doughnuts, so we would walk to Urbana with our pipes, order some coffee, and sit there and smoke our pipes and have deep discussions. But that's not like the big thing I remember. It's just like a thousand little things like that. All the little stories that we have that would take hours and hours to tell them all and most people wouldn't get them. Oh yeah, back to Koin. So the great thing about Koin is it's like three or four blocks from Kams. And so it'd be 2 o'clock, every night at 2 o'clock am, 2:15 you'd hear all the drunks going home from Kams.

AA: Back to their frat houses.

DA: Because we weren't a frat but we were right on frat row [crosstalk] all walking by to their frat, their apartment, they're all just drunk. And so we had all sorts of fun with drunks walking by at 2 am. We had a spotlight that we shown on anyone that would like pee in the bushes. One night we found this discounted like squid, like a squid at County Market or something. Like this frozen squid that was discounted, it's cheap. And we took it home and thawed it. We got on top of the roof and we would just chuck one up in the air and it would like fall amongst the drunks as

they were walking home. [Laughter]. “Ew, it’s raining, what is that? Oh my God! Where did that come from?” So, things like that. Fun with drunks.

AH: [Unintelligible] gone Illini Inn moved it was right there, wasn’t it?

DA: It was pretty close. It was the other direction. I seldom went by there. But it was probably about three blocks from here.

AH: Okay. And how often do you return to campus?

AA: Well, my mom lives in Mahomet so we’re up that way fairly regularly. So every now and then we’ll go watch a football game or something like that and use it as an excuse. Our children are in high school now so there’s been a couple of times that we walked around campus with them and kind of showed them and walked through some buildings.

AH: Yeah.

AA: And all of that so, yeah.

DA: I get back a little bit-

AA: Every couple of years.

DA: More often than she does cause the aforementioned best man and I will rendezvous there. He’s in Valparaiso now, so it’s kind of a nice in-between meeting place. And so we’ll meet up there and spend a weekend and see some of the old haunts and walk around campus. So yeah. The next question is about how it’s changed. It’s changed a lot. Which every generation says that because it’s true for every generation.

Aa: Yeah, Campustown is about unrecognizable.

DA: Yeah, it’s like walking through a big city with all these tall apartment buildings and-

AA: Yeah, the biggest building when we were there was maybe Illini Tower? Maybe?

DA: You mean Illini Inn? The big...

AA: No, the dorm.

DA: The dorm, oh.

AA: Or is that the [unintelligible]?

AH: That is...

AA: That was a pretty big building.

DA: The Illini Tower is the, the Illini Inn is the octagonal thing.

AH: Illini Inn is the bar.

AA: Yeah, it's the bar right on the corner of Fourth and Daniel.

AH: The octagonal one they now, it's called Tower at Third.

AA: Yeah, it was some kind of a hotel back when we were in this [unintelligible].

DA: Isn't there a dorm called Illini Tower?

AA: Yeah, it's closer to the [unintelligible].

AH: Yeah, it's on Fourth and Chalmers. It's like across the parking lot from Newman.

AA: Yeah, so it seems like there are skyscrapers now. I mean it's very different.

DA: The [Fallows?] is gone I think.

AH: Yeah, it's a Panda Express for a while, not the original.

DA: TIS still around?

AH: No, TIS closed in 2016, I think?

DA: I guess IUB has a monopoly on anyone who's still buying books in a physical store.

AH: Yes.

DA: Which is very few people I would guess.

AH: Yeah, well there are some that you are required to buy from IUB. And I know when you're an undergrad that if you have to get like a coded book to access things online you have to buy the code at IUB. Which gets very expensive.

AA: It does. Yeah, when they built. To me, that the bookstore is to me still [the new building even though its 20 years old?]. Cause it was built while I was in school there. But I remember going, it was right across from the [unintelligible], was the old bookstore and it was so tiny compared to what it is now. But I remember going in, spending like 175 dollars on all my books and I thought I was gonna faint, it was so expensive.

DA: It's like one floor in a basement.

AA: Yep.

DA: Just a bunch of shelves with books on them.

AH: And did you ever go into the history museum in Lincoln?

AA: In Lincoln?

AH: Somewhat related, in Lincoln Hall it was upstairs. The collection like became the collection that is now housed at Spurlock. I think it's called like the world heritage museum or something?

AA: Oh, maybe? The museum on the quad that I remember the best was the one, it was in the natural history building, and I went through that a couple of times. So, I don't know with all the renovations on that building if they removed that museum.

AH: They have removed it and it is now also at Spurlock.

AA: What is Spurlock?

AH: So Spurlock is the, it's mostly like natural history but they also have quite a collection of like clay tablets that have been collected from like Meso-America and then Northern Africa.

AA: Cool. Where is it?

AH: That's a good question. I've never been. Oh no wait, I do know where it is. I went to a lecture there one time. So it is in Urbana and if you go, it's near Krannert. Not Krannert Art Museum but Krannert for the performing arts center.

AA: Okay. Check it out sometime.

AH: I've not been to the actual museum though, but the Krannert Art Museum is really cool. I had to go there for a class a few weeks ago and I'd never been in before. Spend a lot of time on campus and not gone to any of these places.

AA: Yeah, who has time for museums when you're a student.

AH: I actually had to go for class, so that's why I went.

AA: If you have some spare time you're finding a couch in a bathroom to take a nap [laughs].

AH: If you're lucky you find one in the south lounge though. You can get food and a nap.

AA: Yeah.

AH: And last actual question. If you were giving advice to an incoming freshman at UIUC, what would it be?

DA: I probably should be able to answer this since every year I send a couple up there, so I need to just try to remember what the last thing I said was.

AH: I think I was told it was like Disneyland. [Laughter]

DA: That would be true because you are going into the humanities so [laughter].

AA: I would say to get involved with something. You know, to find something that makes it so that even though you're cool with being a number, I guess, I don't even know. It used to be your social security number.

AH: It's not. It's a very long number now, although it does include parts of your social security number.

AA: Okay. But yeah, find something that you can dive into, get to know people with similar interests as you. Don't hole yourself up in your dorm room watching YouTube videos every spare moment.

DA: And my advice is related, it's more the same advice I would give to anyone really, kind of in this new political world we live in where everyone just kind of decides what they think and then starts fortifying their brain no matter what, you know, come hell or high water. I would just encourage them to, going to U of I or anywhere else, just that college is a great time to really check out those assumptions because you are going to be around a lot of, a great environment with, diverse environment, with lots and lots of different people with different ideas. And it's a great time to see if the ideas that your parents happen to give you hold up, you know. Question them and see whether or not they fit with, see whether your worldview actually fits with the world or not. That's kind of college advice.

AA: Take a couple of sociology classes.

DA: Sure, take a sociology- [AH laughs]. If you don't mind going an extra year, take it. [All laugh].

AH: Now I think that sociology fulfills some requirements. I took some sociology classes. See, you might be forced to take sociology classes now.

DA: Be good if they force them to take them, but they need to let kids get out of there in four years. It's getting harder and harder.

AH: Is there anything that I didn't ask you about that you think should be included, or anything else you'd like to add?

DA: Certainly, but I don't know what it is right now. [Laughter]

AA: Think of it later.

AH: It can be added later. Send [unintelligible] and it can be added later. Alright, thank you very much.

DA: Thank you.

AH: Turning off-