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KCBSU Interviews

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Jenny Murry

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KCBSU Interviews

Jenny Murry

Interviewer Name: Unknown

September 27, 2014

Location: Unknown

Unknown: This is an interview for the stories capturing of Black Kenyon. The date is September 26th. Correct? Yes. (Laughs)

JM: I think so, yes.

Unknown: (Laughs) Ok, I'll double check. Oh it's actually September 27th (laughs) 2014. Um, and if you would like to go ahead and introduce yourself.

JM: My name is Jenny Murry. I graduated in 1975.

Unknown: Great, ok so if you

JM: And one of things I remember is when I first visited Kenyon, it was considering this school as one of the three that I might attend. The other two that I was considering was Brandeis University and Middlebury College in Vermont. And I made an appointment to visit Kenyon and I remember the warm welcome I got from the students who were currently on campus and it's because of how they made me feel, how important they made me feel as a visitor, and how welcoming, that I decided to come to Kenyon. I also have very fond memories of spending time in the Black Student Union lounge and playing "BidWis" (note: unclear) and all the parties and camaraderie that the students had here on campus.

Unknown: And how about the second question?

JM: The second question, what would you consider to be one of your greatest challenges or obstacles that you faced during your time at Kenyon? When I was admitted to the class of '71, there were three of us that were admitted. There were two men that were a part of the original class and after the first semester both of those men left Kenyon, which meant I was the only black student in my class. And for the rest of the time that I was at Kenyon, there was no one else who was in the class of '75. Sometimes I felt very alone in that class, but the other students in the other classes embraced me and helped me feel to be a part of a larger community.

Unknown: Anything else you'd like to, that you just remember about your time here that you'd like to share?

JM: I remember some of the cold, snowy days, walking down Middle Path and how sometimes it seemed so isolated. Um, but I also remember the beautiful fall days, like we're having right now, and how at the time I visited Kenyon, the beauty of the campus made me fall in love with this area. It was wonderful, there's a certain special feeling as I am coming up 229, to get to the campus, that just warms my heart when I come back to visit. (smiles)

Unknown: And how about any person, that you sort of remember, sort of guiding you, maybe, um, through your time here?

JM: There were a couple of people. One of them, that is real dear to my heart was Dean Edwards. Um, we did not have a faculty advisor at the time I was a student here at Kenyon. And I knew I could always go to Dean Edwards when there was something on my mind that I needed to talk to somebody. Um, and that he was always willing to listen and willing to come to my assistance. There was also a nurse here, Nurse Payne, and I remember her being the only black adult on this campus at the time I was a student. Um, there were a few women on campus that are still very special to me: Lyanton Brax, with whom I have a really, a very close relationship,

Geraldine Coleman-Tucker, who is not able to be with us this weekend, and Barbara Lee, was her name at the time, but her name is now Barbara Johnson. Those women embraced me.

Unknown: Okay, thank you.

JM: You're welcome.