

2-5-2019

Betty Brown-Chappell, February 5, 2019

Matt Jones
Eastern Michigan University

Alexis Braun Marks
Eastern Michigan University

Follow this and additional works at: https://commons.emich.edu/oral_histories

Recommended Citation

Jones, Matt and Braun Marks, Alexis, "Betty Brown-Chappell, February 5, 2019" (2019). *Oral Histories*. 59.
https://commons.emich.edu/oral_histories/59

This oral history is brought to you for free by the Sound Recordings at DigitalCommons@EMU. It has been accepted for inclusion in Oral Histories by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@EMU. For more information, please contact lib-ir@emich.edu.

Eastern Michigan University Archives, Oral Histories

Oral History Interview with Betty Brown-Chappell (BBC)

Conducted by Historic Preservation graduate student Matt Jones (MJ) and University Archivist Alexis Braun Marks (ABM)

Transcribed by Matt Jones

Recorded 2019, February 5, at Halle Library, Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, Michigan

MJ: It is February 5th, 2019, I am Historic Preservation graduate student Matt Jones along with University Archivist Alexis Braun Marks. Today we are in Halle Library talking with Emeritus Faculty member Dr. Betty Brown-Chappell. Before joining the EMU School of Social Work in 1996, Brown-Chappell was already an activist for the poor and oppressed, especially the elderly, children, and women with disabilities. The author of numerous books and articles, her work has been featured in the New York Times, Ebony Magazine, The Detroit Free Press, the Ann Arbor News, and many other media publications. Having served as Associate Director of the McNair Scholars Program at EMU and as Director of the Honors College, Brown-Chappell was the recipient of the College of Health and Human Service Everett L. Marshall Award for Distinguished Service in 2003 and the 2012 recipient of the MLK Humanitarian Award along with Senator Debbie Stabenow. She has met with General Kofi Annan at the United Nations, served as People to People Ambassador in Eastern Europe, and has testified before the Michigan legislature on social work licensing. Brown-Chappell retired from EMU in 2014. The list of your accomplishments and appointments could fill this entire time slot, and we hope to address the majority of them today.

BBC: We should pause for just a second here. There is something there about women with disabilities?

MJ: I may have misspoken.

BBC: That would be generally true but it would be true of all social workers. I have done that but it is not something that I'm known for nor would I identify myself that way. I would probably not use that.

MJ: OK- noted. Thank you.

BBC: That would be the only thing- anyone who knows me would say, "What?"

MJ: OK. Well, let's start with your youth, I know that you come from a large family. A family of eight children?

BBC: That's correct.

MJ: Can you tell us about your upbringing? Who your parents were? Where and when? Take us up through your secondary education- high school

BBC: OK. Well, I was raised on the southwestern part of the state of Michigan. I try to emphasize that because I've seen documents where it was something else. At the time that I was raised it was not uncommon in rural areas, which is where we lived, for people not to have electricity, which we did not. They did not have indoor toilets, did not have telephone, and television I'm thinking came for us sometime maybe in the mid-50s. It was such a big deal that neighbors came over on Friday night to watch the fight. Sugar Ray Robinson and I forget who else. Rocky Marciano. Those kinds of people. Anyway- my mom would bake a cake; the neighbors who bought our old house, they would come over with their kids and it was a party. People had television parties. When we did get a telephone it was a party line, so my mother found out she was pregnant for example, at the doctor she called a friend and the neighbor, a different neighbor said, "Speak up! I can't hear everything!" That was the era. I would say, as the first born, we were a farm family and it was expected that I care for the other children. So, someone said to my mother actually, it was Dean of Health and Human Services, she met my mom in the parking lot and she said, "I want you to know that Betty has done a fantastic job here leaving the BSW Program at the time." My mother said "She should be good at that. She's always been bossy." So, you know, I was raised to do that. I was asked by the Charles Wright Museum, "To what do you attribute your success?" I replied, "I had the good sense to pick the right parents." I think that's probably still true.

My father was a person who farmed as part-time when he came home and on the weekends. Then he had a laborer's job in light industry in the city of South Haven. So what you call "city" over on the west side of the state is two streets that cross and there are a couple stores on each one, and that is The City. I went to a one-room schoolhouse and we all always had retired, white, women who were our teachers. My classmates, as you probably know from looking at my autobiography/memoir, were for a while- there was me and a gentleman named S. Martin Taylor, who in the state of Michigan is famous for particularly being a Regent at the University of Michigan. But nevertheless we were the two out of sixteen people who were at this one-room schoolhouse, and my classmates were not kind, one might say. So one of them kicked me in the head and my head swelled up to twice the size. My mom, giving some sense of who she was, in my opinion was the first radical African American I ever saw; when she saw that she put her white gloves on and her coat, her best coat, and her hat, got her purse and grabbed me. The next thing I knew we're at the schoolhouse and she told the teacher that she never wanted to see me come home again like that. The teacher says, "I'm very busy doing my papers and I can't watch all the children." She said "you're responsible and you're responsible for Betty's safety and all the other children and if I ever have to come back for this, it'll be you and me." I'm in the cloakroom, hiding. Not so much hiding but I'm not supposed to hear all this. I have very good hearing and I'm really nosy. I heard it all as I smelled the disinfectant and the sawdust that they used to clean the floors and all the other smells in the bathroom.

MJ: That reminds me of a story from your book. Didn't you do the same thing with one of your children?

BBC: Yes.

MJ: Did you learn a little bit of that from your mother?

BBC: Everything! My husband is a graduate of EMU. I think his Bachelors of Science and Psychology. 1970. But nevertheless, he is a very large man, so typically when he shows up people just immediately tap dancing. But when I show up, they don't necessarily think that but they better start. I, yes- did learn that from my mom because my son had severe asthma at one point so he's a little fidgety. I went to the school for that and also the teacher had sent a note home saying "He's doing so well! He should be getting a C+!" I was like, "What the heck is wrong with this woman?" Because he was tested at genius level and I knew that, I thought "This is not right." We came to an understanding and pretty soon he transferred to the gifted program. So yeah, I did learn that from my mom.

MJ: Did you expect from an early age to go to college yourself?

BBC: Absolutely. My mother was an orphan; both of her parents had died by the time she was fourteen. I don't think this part is in the book, but anyway I'll just say it: the stepfather thought that his step daughters would make excellent sexual partners. They didn't think that was a good idea. So the oldest sister moved from the country of Texas to the city of Waco and she happened to move in a rental location next door to a doctor and his wife. For I don't know how long, but a period of time, she would often come over and say, "I have these extra clothes," or "I made some soup and I have too much." Eventually, she said "I want Lucille to live with me." So somewhere in that fourteenth year, my mother became the foster child of the lady, her name was Gladys Adams and her husband. I only know him as Dr. Adams. I don't know what his first name was. She became their foster child and the upshot was she did finish high school, apparently was a good student and had wanted to go to Prairie View, which is a college in Texas. They were not able or willing, whichever, to help her do that, so when she graduated she moved north to be with her family members. But she never forgot that she didn't get to go to college. So, when John F. Kennedy said during his first administration- well his first and only administration, "We're going to give everyone an opportunity," and Sergeant Shriver, his brother in law, was given that task and therefore we have the Equal Opportunity Act, which funded it- it interestingly enough funded low-income and minority students. That was ultimately what helped me to get through the University of Michigan. That was anchor. But I can't even think of a time when my mother wasn't always saying things about going to college. The way it worked was, my mother would help out with any reading, so she, we all had golden books, and she always read that to us, but anything that was an assignment that had to do with reading, she would help. My father on the other hand, if it was math, she would say, "Ask your father." Apparently that worked out. I was never as good at math as some of the other of my siblings, like, you can't do everything unless you're my son. He DOES know how to do it all.

MJ: Where were you in the order of siblings?

BBC: I was number one. That's why my mother said "she's always been bossy."

MJ: Ten people in one outdoor bathroom on a party line telephone.

BBC: I want to be clear: it took eighteen years for all eight of those kids to emerge. So, this sort of changed over time. As I said, the television arrived in the mid-50s and I think the bathroom was before that. All of the other things were before the television. But my sister, Gayle, who is now County Commissioner of Van Buren County, where we live, I like to tell stories on her when I

introduce her formally. That I still can win the toe fights that we had to have because we were in the same bed.

My dad and mom kept building additions onto the house and one of the early additions was another bedroom which they called a dormitory, so I didn't have to sleep with anybody. But we also had a bathroom! An indoor bathroom. His oldest brother and most of the brothers had some skilled trade because my grandfather had had a contract to do business in Evanston Illinois. So I guess all that is to say that they had the ability to build that first home that we lived in, which had a kitchen, a dining room that was also the bedroom, and then a living room and Gayle and I would sleep in there until they built the dormitory. They had more kids so built something else. At that point, my mother got an inheritance, the stepfather kicks the bucket, and she, at that time I think it's three siblings, she shares that inheritance with them. I have all this paperwork so I know her share was \$1400. But she was able to take that and have a down payment on a different property. They saved savings bonds. My dad and my mom saved up \$4000 and they built a new house that had one bathroom. At that point, that was the one bathroom for all eight, plus the two adults. No one in our family as a young person, ever had a slow track because that door was like, "KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK! You know you've been in there too long! Get out!"

MJ: What kind of career did you expect to find after college? Did you know where you wanted to be?

BBC: I did have a career in mind but it proved to be absolutely not practical for a woman. So, the only thing I understood, because you might figure, what had I been exposed to? I had been exposed to the really old maiden teachers. Most of them, when I went to high school, there were some that weren't dried up. That's an ugly thing to say, but anyway. I think I saw one, maybe two, until I was eighteen- I saw two African American teachers in my life. I saw the reverend, and other farmers. I worked in a factory, so that means what do I think is a possible career that I could do? And that would be exciting? "Brenda Starr in the comic strip! She was a reporter and that's sounds good!" I asked my mom in different conversations, like, "What would you be if you weren't a mom?" She said "Oh I would have been a writer." She read all sorts of magazines. Time Magazine, Look Magazine, Life Magazine, Good Housekeeping, Redbook, McCall's. And my dad read a newspaper, so I was like "Oh yeah! That'll work!" When I got to the University of Michigan as a declared journalism major, I went up to the teacher in my first class and I said "Oh- this is what I like to do." He says, "Well, you do know- you'll need to type well." I thought that sounded OK. He said, "Because you'll be secretary and then you could work your way up perhaps." This is not what I'm thinking about. The only person of my generation, near my generation that went the college route and then became quite famous was Carol Simpson (SP). She was the anchor on one of the CBS or whatever stations. I have met her, and she talks about how extraordinarily difficult that was, so my point here is- I made a decision right about there because this thing teachers said- "Well, the best way if you to write is to get an area that you're proficient in." So my tactic throughout has actually been- if I get the proficiency I can figure out the writing. My point of view I that I think I did enough writing. I could always do more, but I'm not sorry that I didn't get to write, let's put it that way.

ABM: Was it always the University of Michigan that you wanted to attend or did you look at other universities?

BBC: I did look. For the undergrad, I think me applied to Western and university of Michigan. I can't remember if I applied to anywhere else, but my mother's dreams gave me the sense that, "well, why wouldn't I go to the best university?" I can't remember if I was in the top ten or fifteen percent or five or whatever. I have my actual graduation papers somewhere so I look it up every so often. But I was in the group that would have been able to, you know, assuming that nobody said "Oh she can't come because she's black," which is always a possibility. But at that time, with Civil Rights and with Kennedy in office and all that, I'm assuming that if I meet the criteria, I'm in. My grades were somewhere like 3.7 or something like that out of 4. On the SAT, my math was probably, let's say hypothetically, that it was 89, and I think that's right, because the one more point and I would've gotten the scholarship specifically for Negro students. I had that, but in the written part, the English I had 97%. So the cumulative was pretty high. Therefore, I was admitted to U of M, I was admitted to Western. When I went for my master's, I submitted to University of Chicago and University of Michigan but that thing that Jimmy Carter says- "Why not the best?" Well, why would I go to Western? I always had a little snobbishness along with my intellectual things.

ABM: What were you first impressions of the University of Michigan?

BBC: Scared off my mind. Yeah. It was a scary place. It's still kind of scary. There were, including our graduate students, 150 of us there. My roommate though, was my dear friend from high school, Alrene Steinberg. There had to be about 15 or 20 of us that went to University of Michigan from South Haven High, which, you know, is kind of a lot considering there's only 199 that graduated. Nevertheless, there were probably at least 15 that went/ I think most of us graduated. The weirdest thing is the guy that go 1600, he flunked out immediately.

MJ: Why was it so scary and why is it scary now?

BBC: if you ever went to South Haven and you see how very tiny it is, and then the University of Michigan, I had driven through Chicago, so I understood the idea of "big," but it was just very very big and very very white. I'm like, "Oh thank you Lord that I have a roommate that we had gone through what we call now, middle school, together. We had been in a lot of classes together. So we had little tiffs here and there but it was like having your sister as your roommate. She's Jewish and she observes Jewish traditions and I'm not, so it's not like we could go everywhere together. There was absolutely no socializing between them. Completely- no socializing. Somebody asked me a question two weeks ago when I gave a keynote for the Martin Luther King celebration. After I finished, one of the people piped up and says, "Well, I just think that African Americans just segregate themselves too much and that's why they're not accepted." I said, "Well, one might think that, and this pertains to University of Michigan, but I just want everyone in here to do a mental experiment. Think- when is the last time that you had a party, or you went to church, or you went golfing, and you had a number of African American friends with you? Or you even saw other people there who were not white?" And everybody went- you know, they started straight ahead because they knew what I was saying. So by default, we will be together when we see you all together, we think the same thing but it's not as readily identifiable because of our complexion. So, that being said, I did go to some of the

mixers and I was the only person and no one spoke to me. So, then I went to the football games and the first one I went to, so this is the scariest part to me of all, I went to the football game and I'm sitting in the stands and they said "And taking the field now- the 10,000 members of the band that have been invited from throughout the state!" I thought- South Haven is 4000 people altogether! So that was tremendously scary. The best part was that Arlene was in my dorm, but there are other people from South Haven. So even though we're not all constantly together or anything, I'm seeing Sherry Jensen, and I'm seeing so and so, and so that helped. Even though I didn't really have other people to rely on.

Then the extraordinary wealth- it was so bizarre. This one kid; let's see who does he look like? You would call him a "prime person for Grease." So he's in one of my classes, and I get out of class and wave to him and he waves to me, and he jumps in his Jaguar. A lady next door- her parents brought the horse up in their double. They were both wearing a full-length mink coats and they said, "Oh- the jockey said that you'd love to have the horse because he's just mourning your absence. And so tomorrow you'll ride in the morning." I'm like "Yeah. Sure." That's ridiculous. Across from me- you know U-Haul- so this lady's parent owned U-Haul or something- one of the major rental companies. So she's like "ahhh- this is so wonderful. Life is good." I'm like "really?" She's like "Yeah- you know, daddy owns U-Haul (or something like that)?" I'm like, "what?!" I have my homemade clothes. I had spent the summer making clothes and apparently people didn't know because even people that knew me then they're like "I had no idea!" Because now I'm still friend with some of these people and they're like "I had no idea that you were that poor!" I'm like, well I did everything I did to obscure that. But some of that fabric that I made for clothes came from a rummage sale that someone had sent to me- one of my aunts had sent it to me. At any rate, you would say class and race dissonance, a great deal of race dissonance. But it was hard. Just like it is for almost all people who go to college and they were the valedictorian- especially if you go to Michigan. Chicago, Michigan State- those kind of big ticket- Harvard, Yale. When you are there with all the other valedictorians and you're there with all the other gifted people or what4ever. That was shocking too. It want that I didn't know how to work hard, but the expectation of "yes you have sixteen hours but each of those hours multiplied by four, minimum for studying," I was like "What?!" How to do that and keep what young people do- you have to try to keep your money together, have to keep your clothes clean, stay healthy, get along with folks, not forget to go meals because you can't just open your fridge..." A lot of thing that were common to many people but they were very specific things that were particularly difficult for me.

MJ: You talk in your book about the need for students to have support network. I remember a story about you and one of your first jobs in Detroit and being very poor, and your first day people came to your rescue. Did you have that when you were at U of M?

BBC: Yes. You remember even better than I do. The answer is yes. Along the way I'm getting ready to figure- "Oh I have to drop out." Because I have one A-scholarship from the Women's Commission from South Haven, and I have saved up money from the summer. But I went there with, let's say, a couple hundred dollars so I could pay the first installments of everything. Then comes the problem. That's when I met the Delta Sigma Theta sorority and they introduced me to the financial aid officer. His name was Mr. Marion. Robert Marion. I will never forget this because he interviewed me and he looks at my file and's like "How did we miss you? We

would've offered you all of this opportunity award money, but you were not on our radar." So as the person who later did recruiting, what you do is you do a target- you set up targets, and you try to locate where people with this characteristic are. So, South haven, being relatively small and even smaller African American population, they did not know that there was anybody in South Haven who was like that. You would know from reading my book that once I found out, I told all my brothers and sisters. So everybody got some of that money.

Did you want to go back to the first job?

MJ: I think I'm going to come back to that in a little bit. I'm interested in that because being in social work policy and being a faculty member here, I wondered how you react when you see students that don't have a support network.

BBC: It's almost all of the students in social work.

MJ: What do you do? Do you have a set of procedures to help people?

BBC: Well, I guess, "You can spin straw into gold" on some level. The first thing is as a social worker, I have both a policy PhD, and I have a masters in what's called; clinical." I learned to make the system work for people. I never practiced it in a typical social work setting, but when my advisees needed X, Y, or Z and they came up a lot. One case stands out. A couple of them. I knew that Vice President at that time- Courtney McAnuff- I knew he had some discretionary funds. So one of the students was not going to be able to finish her practicum because her car died. Just gone. So she said "I have to drop out." I said, "Come to my office." This is at 9:30 at night. I'm dying, but I'm like, she can't drop out. I said "You tell me the specifics of your situation. I will write this letter from me to Courtney McAnuff on your behalf." So that's what I did. And this guy- I wish he was still here. He was a good guy for that stuff. He would either make it happen or it would come out of his discretionary fund. But the next day that young lady got the funds. If it wasn't the next day, it was the next week. Then, there was the case that you never are supposed to do this, so everything I'm saying- you're not supposed to do. It's against all social work ethics, it's against the principles of the University- it's wrong but anyway, I did it. What happened was, you know when we had that bad as now last week and it was thirty-five below? Knock off twenty degrees. So it's minus 17. But you have the same amount of snow. I had an honors student who came to my office and I forget if she just dropped in or not. She was clearly in the middle of an asthma attack. And she also couldn't see very well because her glasses were five or six years old. So the part that I did that was wrong was, I have at that moment, a new, asthma rescue inhaler in my purse, and the old one. I said "I am not supposed to do this. It is your decision if you want to take this, but I will give you this new one. I will also write a letter to Courtney McAnuff and I will call the University Health System." They had already turned her away. I would do those things because I was afraid she would die if she went out there like she was, because she just came in and she was very unfortunate colors for a white lady. So she was like, looking kind of blueish. She could hardly talk so anyway, that's what I did that was wrong.

MJ: I know that you're on the policy end of social work and I wondered how you go there?

BBC: Let me ask you- just rewind your...I want to know what your previous question was. I want to make sure I don't represent the answer with those stories.

MJ: My question was, growing up and finding the importance of a community around you, like a safety net, when you see students having trouble, how do you help? I also remember reading about how lonely it was writing your dissertation. When you see students like this does that effect how you think about policy?

BBC: It does, but let me add some to that comment. Obviously I couldn't run around giving people stuff and writing stuff for everybody. So I also tried to find the resources- that was where I started, with the resources that already are available. So it would be emergency circumstances when I would reach out to a person, which happened in the 17 years I worked here, it probably happened, lets say 15 times that I contacted Courtney McAnuff, and three times that I used my personal resources. But generally speaking, I always tried to get out of whatever system I'm in. The things that the person qualifies for. I always try to make the system respond to what the person needs. Flipping on over to how did I get into policy-

So, I'm now working for the City of Detroit. It was the CCR- Commission on Community Relations. But what we would know, generally speaking, we would know it was the Civil Rights arm of the City of Detroit. So I was working there and one day a friend of mine from grad school, her name was Marilyn Anderson, she calls up and she's like "Hey! Aren't you going to come down to Nashville for the NAVSW Conference?" What is that? She explains it to me and says, "I'm the conference coordinator." Long story short, I go there and I meet all these people from all over the country and I meet the persons who are the Detroit president and members and blah. And they're like "You live in Detroit? What do you do? You need to be in our group!" I joined- it was probably like ten dollars then. I join and the first thing that happens is the president calls and says "Hi! Well, I have the perfect job for you. I want you to be the chair of our Political Education Program." I'm like "What is that?" he says, "well you see, we've been working out licensing for a long time and we can't get that." Remember this is 1976. "WE can't get it through- nothing's been done on it forever and ever. But we have a social worker whose name is Dave Holmes, who's a Senator in the capitol in Lansing. I want you to go meet Dave Holmes. That's your first chore. You go up there he'll tell you everything you need to know and then we'll work on this bill and we'll get it through." I'm like, "Well, ok!" I don't have a clue- I don't even know who to get to Landings. How would I do this? I don't know how to read a map! Anyway, I arrived in Lansing and Dave Holmes is a very gentlemanly, older, rotund guy who's no longer with us. He's like "Baby girl! I'm so happy to see you! We got to do something on this! Come with me to the floor!" He has me sitting right next to him then he goes, "Mr. Speaker! All rise to acknowledge, from the National Association of Social Workers, Detroit Chapter, my colleague, Betty Brown!"

MJ: It sounds like one of those fights you watch on TV- how they introduce the fighters.

BBC: The funniest part of all is that the work that I did- I was pretty good at taking assignments and I always took it seriously. That's one thing that people say as far as getting stuff done. If you ask me to do it and I say yes, if I say no, or if I qualify it by saying I will attend, that's all I'm going to do. If you ask me to do something, I will try to use whatever brain power I have to figure out how to do it. The bill passed. I wasn't the only one- Maryann Mahaffey- was leading the state

social workers because she was president of that. She became president of the National and one of my mentors. So that was passed but it was passed as certification, The next time around, thirty years later when I led as the Chapter President for Michigan, I was the leader that fostered the passage. But in the first go-round, what it was is that they needed a unified front and I was able to make that happen between NABSW and NASW (National Association of Social Workers- at the time a predominantly white organization). I'm not negotiating- I'm just getting the NABSW- the black members, together to fight for that. But, it was the president that was putting the unity there, but the next time, I was the president of NASW, thirty years later and former Vice President of Detroit NABSW.

MJ: Moving up to EMU, how did you choose EMU? How did you find out about the position? Who hired you? Was there anyone who assisted you getting in the door here?

BBC: Well, you'll probably have to parcel that question out so. When I was at University of Michigan as a post-doc and then as a faculty member, I had the misfortune of all of the sudden getting ill. I had never really been sick in my life. I thought I did at that time, think that as most people were under forty or in that ballpark- "Huh, I'll just do anything." So the idea of staying up night after night and cramming or whatever the hell you do- I just thought, one does that. One takes care of one's children and one is married, and one is a member of this group or that and blah blah. I think doing the post-doc was what took me down health-wise because I had to commute every week to be in class and so but I still had my wife and mother duties and blah blah to do also. So, that was not good but I don't know it until I am really ill. I had to go off on disability. It was a "charming" Dean there at University of Michigan which even though George HW Bush had himself led the charge on disabilities becoming the Americans with Disabilities Act, the "charming" Dean did not feel that they should make accommodations. They made sure to usher me out of there. At the same point, I happens to be walking through the library and I saw Linda Kurtz and so she said "What are you doing?" Linda Kurtz was on faculty at Eastern. She was my first faculty member when I was at University of Chicago in the doc program. So I'm like "This is what just happened." She said "We happen to have a job! We never have jobs at EMU! No one ever leaves!" So she said, "You know, you should apply for it and you should try to emphasize this and that and the other part of your background." At the same time, a different person who I had worked with for, oh by then at least eight or nine years, and who had helped me out on- we won't go into the details, another project. So that person had been friends with me, we traveled together, I knew her kids, she knew my kids. So, she's the African American person- Crystal Mills- who becomes faculty at Eastern, and here is the white person who becomes faculty at Eastern, and they are both tenured, and they both recommend me. They are from different camps, but that helped carry the day for me to get the job. Now you have to tell me the other parts of the question.

MJ: Did you apply anywhere else?

BBC: Not really. I think, nope. I didn't want to move from Michigan and the other thing was that it was exactly in my time frame. I believe I came over for the interview. Let's say it was May or June. And the typical application time starts more or less in August/September of the prior year. That really was luck.

MJ: Did you have any affiliations with Eastern before you came here?

BBC: I slept with the Eastern grad- that's all. My husband seems to be pretty much able to do whatever- he was very successful in his career. I knew other people who had graduated from Eastern and I did some research- it wasn't like I just popped up and I said "Oh yeah hire me!" You have to do your research and know what it is that you may be getting into and be able to answer the questions from the perspective of the department. So I knew that they had an Aging concentration and that they'd had it for a very long time. I knew that their emphasis was on teaching. I had gotten some teaching awards at University of Michigan. I had done some innovative teaching materials. I knew sort of who to watch out for and to say the right words to that particular person whom I will not name. There was a person considered the "Dragon Woman," and that person had a specific thing they were looking for. I made sure and emphasized that thing. Something that was sort of funny to me that happened during the interview- when I had my second child, I think it was four weeks later, I had gotten six national papers accepted. One, two of them were lead papers. I didn't want to not go. So the doctor and I worked out this plan and I went. I'm going to connect it back to Eastern in a minute. But the paper was called something like "Multicultural Teaching Focus 1,2,3,4-A," which was, you must integrate content about gay and lesbians. This, my daughter, is going to be 37 this year so this is 1982. People are not running around talking about the LGBT or transgender or any of that stuff. But we did this paper and it was just more than standing room. Every Dean and director- there were people everywhere. Fast forward to Eastern. Part of the interview is figuring out where you're going to eat. They took me to the top of the tower. The tower restaurant. I will never forget eating this- biting down on those little cheese triangles and it was ice in the middle of it. Just as I took the bite of ice, a lady who was a lesbian- an avowed lesbian, it wasn't like it was a secret, she says to me, "Now you've covered everything else but I want to know to what extent you have any curricular background in the LGBT community." I choked, and then I knocked it out because I was one of the first in the country to ever do that.

MJ: You joined the faculty in 96.

BBC: It was a long time ago- let's say 1996. That sounds fine.

MJ: What were your first impressions of EMU when you were hired? Working conditions? Where was your office?

BBC: Do you really want to know? My favorite story of all. There were some things that worked out well. Don Lopnow was the Department Head, which is what they called the school at that point. Before I even agreed to come on, I had asked him if I could have an air conditioner, which was not done in King Hall. But it was because I had asthma and I was having trouble. I had been there to that building and I knew it was hot and un-air conditioned and I had a dust allergy. So he made sure that someone cleaned my office well and that it had an air conditioner. That was very important. King Hall was an extraordinary dump. My favorite story that I was going to tell is that I, on occasion, had to bring my kids if I didn't have a sitter and I had a night class and my husband was out of town. I brought my daughter to Eastern and she said, "Mom I'm not upset to be here in your office and that's cool and I'll go to class with you, but do you know I have a report tomorrow and the most important part of it is I must have a display of insects. And they have to be from this genus." I'm like, "What is that?!" She said, "I need a moth, and whatever roaches are..." I said, "That's no problem! Let's just go in the bathroom! I see them every day!"

We're in there scooping them all up, she's like "Oh Mom this is so great!" I'm like, "Yeah!" We're all used to them- that's Bobby over there and Suzie over there etc." You know she's got this project and I have to take these bugs. Other faculty were like "Well we got used to them being here!" then the other famous time I will never forget- Linda Kurtz didn't have children and she was very maternal about her students. So, she's teaching across the parking lot from me and there's a severe tornado warning and really, they say you should take cover or go home but it's kind of too late to go home. So you have to take cover. So we called in ADD (to Public Safety) somehow or another, they're explain that you have about 45 minutes, which I can't get home that fast. Linda could have but she says, "I couldn't possibly leave my students." I was like, "Oh I'd leave mine but I can't get home fast enough." So we're in the basement anyhow and there's stuff dripping around and goo drops coming down the walls because it really was not suitable for people to be teaching. The tornado apparently made some sort of landing close by and all the lights go out. I'm standing there because you are responsible for these other people's lives, so I'm going, "Does anybody have a flashlight?" "No but I have a lighter?" Yeah, sometimes there would be water down there and they said they'd drain it. I was glad to move to Marshall because King was not good.

MJ: When you arrived here, what kind of challenges existed in social work policy? What were you focused on in the late-90s?

BBC: I do want to say a couple of little things about the department and then I'll do that question. So, a couple of things that attracted me, very practically was that no one had been denied tenure. I wasn't going through that again. The other thing was that supposedly it was a teaching school and I had a lot thought and a lot of materials for teaching policy. That was really good. The thing was that I was taught classic approaches to teaching policy what that means is national and state and local policy, and the way they had them teaching it more like an agency policy. How would you implement sexual harassment policies in the library as opposed to how would you write legislation or regulations at the federal, local or national level. So I had been taught the big picture and they were teaching agency policy, which is, from my opinion and my approach, was not the same. But once you're assigned an area, that's the area that you work on. Most of the time you're given a lot of . So I taught those classes and I had already taught similar classes at U of M. I could adjust the materials for here. But then I also decided that I shouldn't just say "Well I taught this at U of M I'll just teach it here. I should find out what other universities are doing." I think I got some new faculty money- I think I got a little fellowship or something to get a one-class release. I requested syllabi from, I think it was Howard- University of Chicago, Wayne State, what was the other one? Not Michigan because I already had that. Let's say 4-5, to compare how they were teaching it. No place else was teaching the agency policy model. Now, I think that's where they're going back to- that's up to them, I don't work there. But the way they had been teaching it wasn't consistent with what the field was doing. I saw it as my responsibility to bring that in line. When we were accredited, the accreditation team started speaking to me instead of the other people who were really in charge of it. And so I knew enough to know what these thing should look like but the politics- the other thing about Eastern, I told you these other things it was known for but it was also known to be rather contentious. Faculty. They're really proud of that.

ABM: Within that specific department? Did you receive a fair amount of push back from your colleagues- this younger up and coming faculty member who was trying to change the curriculum?

BBC: I was actually not so much younger but maybe just new. They were all quite distracted initially for the first two or three years because Don, the third week that I was on faculty, got made Vice President. So, it was insane. The person who came in- I'm trying to see how I can put this- nobody was too worried about ME. So mostly I could just do what I did. The problem I confronted, and now I'm talking holistically in the department, was that I really didn't see giving the students anything less than what I knew was the norm in the field. They didn't like that but I think the other problem is that, like in many faculties, there are camps. There was a particular camp that just said "We want to save that position for our person whenever we want that person to get it. We don't want them to get it now but we don't want her in there either." At one point I had applied to be the Department Head. So grateful I didn't get it. That's when they sort of thought, "Well, who is she and who does she think she is?" People try to make whatever asset you have a negative, so the asset was, "Well look at her education- number one in the country and she thinks she's better than the students and blah blah." Which I absolutely didn't think, I just thought students would be able to find a job anywhere in the United States and not have to say well actually I'm not as good as others. It ended up, as time went on, that my students did extraordinarily well. Not every student, but even though the grades- they were extraordinarily inflated. But if you got an inflated grade from me, this is what happened: you had to do these ten various extra credit projects, which the University was even promoting the use of extra credit. They brought somebody in to teach us how to use extra credit to foster the overall learning of the students. The students- they would do more work for extra credit than for their assignments which I thought was hilarious. I just gave it to them. Ok, so instead of a B- you want an A-? Here's what you can do! They would read this whole book! There's this whole book- it's 585 pages and I said I will meet you and we'll even have pizza and twelve of them showed up. I would have never did that- I would have done my work in the first place! They ended up knowing an awful lot. They had to quote from it. They were like "Well, on page 55, she says..." So I figured out all these ways and also I want to make sure to mention the Honors College. You want me to wait?

MJ: No go ahead!

BC: The other thing I discovered was by happenstance, because somebody took a sabbatical and she had Honors students and they said to me, "well, she's a student that's in your class, can you please supervise her?" I said OK. Once I was introduced to the Honors College, I was like, "Wait a minute- this is the only place on campus that they have money! And the students can get this money if they do this project, and if I recruit them, then I can find people and be their supervisor." So we started with that one person, then there're were 2 people and in the end there were 21 people. About half of them got this free money which wasn't exactly free, but why wouldn't you want \$2000 that you don't have to take a loan for? Most of my students in that program- they graduated, which is not a small thing because the graduation rate at the time was something like 33%. So if you have 90% graduating, that's a good thing. They got money- not everyone got money, but most of them got money and they finished their projects and they graduated. That was my mission in life.

MJ: You talked about there being a lack of black students in the Honors College. Did the Honors College address issues like that or was it up to someone like you to move in and say this is a problem?

BBC: Probably, I hark back to my answer earlier where I said that people thought, "Well why aren't black people doing this? They're not approaching us. They're not at our church, why?" It was the same basic thing. Like, why aren't they applying to the Honor's College? WE don't know! It's a mystery! I had one student- Edwin, oOh I can't remember his last name. He was a vet and he was an Honors Student and every time they needed a picture of anybody, they wanted him to come and take the picture for the Honors College. I think it was shortly thereafter they took an affirmative step=- they had worked for three years to develop the McNair Scholars application. They got it. They got a very high rating. Then, when I heard about it, someone encouraged me to apply and my husband said "You know this is what you really love and what you want to do so you should apply." So I did. By hook and by crook I got that appointment. I think I was able to, by having the McNair Scholars Program, they were on a great trajectory for more integration, but since then, which I am obviously not working here but I think that over the last two years that I was working here, I announced the Brown-Chappell Scholarship when I go the Martin Luther King award, and we've always had a diverse group. We have this coming spring, 2019, I think we'll have nine scholars. We have had every descriptor of every demographic of students.

MJ: that's at the Honors College or McNair?

BBC: Oh- the Brown-Chappell Endowed Scholarship is actually housed in the Foundation and administered through the Honors College. What happen is every year there is this poster with these brown people on it that says "We want you!" I think the first person was the first awardee was, one of them was Guatemalan and I think the other one was Polish descent. This year it's a Native American.

ABM: What was the motivation of the scholarship for you and Michael?

BBC: It was me because Michael has a good heart but he's sort of like, "Yeah! That should happen!" We're all only going to be here for X amount of time. Nobody lives forever. So I said to myself, 'What would I like to be known for?' And then by going back to this idea about the Eastern students in general, are not very- they have humble financial backgrounds, and they leave with these extraordinary loan obligations- it's ridiculous. All that being said, and having had those students in my office- "I can't breathe right now and I can't buy my medications." That was an Honors Student. Clearly there was a need to do something and when I got the McNair Scholars Program, I had planned to leave Eastern the same year I go the job. I was like, "Well, I don't HAVE to leave, and I'm having fun and my husband decided he'd be a volunteer." So he used to do all this stuff with me- like my job, he would do various things like help me chaperone to Happy Valley- they call it THE State University of Pennsylvania. So he would do all that kind of stuff, so we were together. Getting back to your question, I'm making a consistent and significant amount of money and I hadn't for it but I thought, "Well, if you're going to leave and you want to leave it better than what you found it, why don't you do this." I remember I borrowed the money- I was cash-poor- my daughter was still in college. I borrowed from my 401K because you had to have \$2000 to start it> from then on, it became almost like a non-issue financially because you can take it out of your weekly check. We were in such a high tax bracket,

not compared to billionaires- I'm talking about those of us who pay taxes, so that this was actually helpful from a tax point of view and I'm going to accumulate enough to have this scholarship. The situations came together very nicely that I had unanticipated raise of about 30% and my daughter ends up getting out of my pocket so I was able to accelerate and it took about four years instead of it taking, to get to the 10k, 10 years or so. But I got there in four years so by the time I got the MLK Award, we were awarding for the following year. Now, because we've continued to donate and we get other people to donate, probably the highest success- her name is Elizabeth Allen Louche (SP). So if she donated \$1000, she's an alum. She works in Washington. And friends- another friend of mine who happens to be a millionaire- she donated a thousand dollars. And the kids donate. I told them not to give me retirement gifts or other holidays- put it in the scholarship. With interest, you eventually get to 32k. We're going to keep going because we would like it to be for a semester of tuition. We also put it in our wills so assuming that I don't live to 100, I'm going to work at that, but you know. I'll still be giving every year whether I live to 1000 or not so either way the University wins. It's a sure bet for them.

MJ: You were appointed Director of the Honors College in 2008?

BBC: Not the Director- Associate Director. And I have to get the resume to keep up with that because I let it all fly out of my brain.

MJ: How long did you do it?

BBC: About two and a half to three years. Because I left because they had black mold growing under my office. WE did not know that except that everybody that was on my staff and me we would get really sick. I went to the doctor with various asthma complaints. She said "How many times a day do you use your asthma inhaler?" I said, "Oh, 4-6." She says, "I'm looking at your medical record and that's more than you used it in the whole year last year." So we don't know what it is. I kept complaining to the University- there's like an EPA for EMU. The poor lady- it was one person- they used to browbeat her to death. Their response was "Well there's as much mold outdoors as there is in your office so we don't know what your problem is." So finally I talked my boss into letting me use my faculty office. So I worked out of my faculty office and then my secretary started getting sick. So then we put her in an office- a little room right across from me. But it was not going to be resolved. Starkweather is worse off than King was at the time I worked here. I don't know now. It sits on an underground river. There was a cancer cluster prior to me moving. A friend of mine told me I really shouldn't go there because so and so died who worked in that building. When my son was undergrad- he was in chemical engineering. He toured around and came back and said "Mom- you're just the canary. You have to leave." He didn't know it was black mold but he said the situation in that building- that was a sick building. To get a chemical engineering degree, you have to be able to certify buildings. If you were building this building, there's a person who signs off, who says that it's chemically blah blah blah. It's structurally, you know, air quality. He says no way could I sign off on this. This is horrible and you have to get out of here. That's why I left.

MJ: How did the McNair Program start at EMU? Did you have a lot to do with it?

BBC: None at all. Gary Hammond I believe in the Chemistry Department did the primary work and Jim Knapp, who was a faculty member in English- he became Director of the Honors College.

Sometime into his tenure when it became clear that he had to use my same African American student for every brochure- he decided, oh geez- we should do something about this. So he go the University to agree that there would be a consultant to tell them what they needed to do and when. So they put a team together and Verner Polite (SP) was the Dean of Education. He had been personal friends with Ron McNair and he was on the National Advisory Committee. Putting all that together, they got that funded. I competed for the job, unfortunately from Gary Hammond- against him. Let's just say it was made known to the appointing official, Jim Knapp, that why exactly are you not taking someone who has all this administrative experience and is tenured? That's how it happened.

ABM: You mentioned that before you were appointed to McNair, you were considering leaving. Retiring. Was there a reason for your retirement? Were you just tired of teaching?

BBC: I was old! I am old! I was old! And I am getting older by the minute! Luckily, all three of us are. My husband had been retired by the time. I can't remember all the specifics, but he had been retired for 7 or 8 years by the time this came up. It was wearing thin on him and me that I was grading papers like an idiot and not having fun anymore doing it. We didn't technically need the money and it wasn't fun anymore so I thought, well, I can retire. And he was like, "You always wanted to do this!" He also would look over my financial sheets and help me understand how to jockey this that and the other. When I came into my office the first day at McNair, there was a little chair, not white like this- smaller than that- and an old computer that didn't work and no printer. I sat down on the chair and fell off onto the ground. It was not an exalted position. Michael- he says, "You need a computer? You need a printer. Let me go in my office." He's a hoarder. He came out with new stuff until they bought it for me. He's very helpful. They used to call him their Daddy. "You're our mom and he's our dad!"

MJ: How was recruitment done for McNair? Are student informed of it and they apply themselves? Do you have to go out and find people?

BBC: Let's figure out how to say this. People do their jobs differently. Remember I had come from university of Chicago where I was Assistant Dean for Recruitment and Placement. I had a bag of tricks. I knew how to do it because I had increased their enrollment at Chicago. When I went there it was like 78 masters students incoming and when I left it was like 234. The number of African Americans was seven. When I left it was 53. So I knew how to do this. One of the big ways is to make sure that all students know they are welcome but particularly those who were the target of the McNair Program. We did outreach, I did a lot of outreach. The Program was already three months late when I started. WE were supposed to already have three months of programming. As soon as I knew I got it, the semester before, I started recruiting every place in all my classes. Jasmine Lee that I just mentioned- she's now Dr. Lee and heading this program at University of Baltimore. So she was in my class, and this is actual what she says on her Facebook. She said she didn't even know what that was until Betty Brown-Chappelle said I had to go apply. So we had an inordinate number of social work students. We were supposed to have twenty five. I had twelve social work students. I'm snatching people who are already past our goals. Then, we could do it more routinely and you put out newsletters to all the Honors students and you put things in the alumni, you run around and get article placement, you send articles, little blurbs to everybody's hometown and then you find key faculty members. It's not directors, it's

the other people in the Honors. The Honors coordinators and directors in every department. There's also an advisory committee. So you build the infrastructure that begins to send you people. The current regulations for McNair require that it only be people who were in hard sciences of which in the social sciences, only psychology qualifies. So what exactly they do, I can't say.

MJ: You were appointed, I have to read this one, President of the National Association of Social workers, Michigan Chapter.

BBC: I wasn't appointed. I won an election. Elected.

MJ: It was under the appointments on your CV.

BBC: that may be but I was elected. IT was a contentious situation but I won.

MJ: Why was it contentious?

BBC: It's one of those little ugly stories. The guy running against me- his name was Howard White. Do you know the governor right now who has the blackface and the hood? This would be his brother. Howard, which we will not be using his name here **EDIT OUT NAME**. 1:31:15 He would run around and tell people he ran after me again, and he got it and he said "Well, that little black butt is going to be white washed," and things like that. There are other stories but we won't go in depth. The answer is, yes, I was elected to be the President. At that time it was the fifth largest chapter in the country of NASW chapter- yes.

MJ: Were you the Director of the School of Social Work at the same time?

BBC: No- I was never Director of the School of Social Work; I didn't get it. Let me think. I was Director- when I got that I was Director of the Bachelors of Social Work Program, which they have bachelors, masters, and Gerontology certificates. That's how it worked.

MJ: So you were doing both of those at the same time? With everything you were doing, I can't help but wonder how you balanced everything. You balanced all of these committee appointments and elected positions and teaching and everything else with having a family and having a husband. How is it possible?

BBC: I just read something about that. What is her name? The CEO of Facebook and Sheryl is her first name.

ABM: Sheryl Sandburg.

BBC: Yes. "Lean In." that's horseshit in my opinion and here's why: there are two kinds of ways to actually have everything and be moderately successful with everything. One is if you're very wealthy of any color and you have people who have your car, take it in, get you clothes to your house; you choose them, they wash them, they do everything. You do not raise your own children; you have a nanny. The nanny doesn't go home like mine did. You basically see your children for playtime. You might have one or two divorces or whatever. That's one way. I did not do that because I'm not in that ballpark. But over here, which is why she could say "Lean In" and just take it all! I can't do that. But what I did would be phased. So my answer when people ask me that is that you can have it all but not all at once. For me, that's how I did it. When I left the

City of Detroit and we were on our way to Chicago and my son is like, three months old by then, I had at that time, I'm president of Michigan Chapter of Gerontology. I also was a national officer in NABSW and blah blah blah. I counted everything up one time and it was like 52 or something. Sometimes I tell people I will use my name, other times I will come to the annual meeting and then other times I will do other things. But when I had my son, I'm like, "I'm out!" I didn't go back. I think I went back to visiting nurse- I was on the Visiting Nurse Advisory Committee and that was it when we moved to Chicago on purpose. When I knew that my husband and I wanted to have careers, we made a deal. You get to go crazy over here for this amount of time, and then you can go crazy for this amount of time and there will always be someone for 14 years. We never called her "Nanny." If you called my son up and said "Well was Mrs. _____ your nanny?" he would say, "Ahem- we called her a housekeeper." But she did everything that nannies do. She did wash our clothes, iron our clothes, make our dinner, make dinners for the weekend, and take the kids to the doctors' appointments sometimes. We mostly did that. She was there when I was getting my PhD and my son was in an accident on his bike. I was finishing my dissertation like when you have to have it ready for the dissertation secretary. You guys know that that means? It's all done and it's approved by your committee but there's a little gnome that sits in a little office and goes "hee hee hee. You have a page that is one millimeter off! You're not graduating! Hee hee hee!" that's who the dissertation secretary is. At Chicago because they publish the University Of Chicago Manual Of Style- it's a very popular thing. I'm doing the last bit for that person and I'm going "Wahhhhh." Mrs. _____ says "Stay there. I called Mr. Chappelle and he's on his way home." That's a key piece- a lady that is doing this remarkable job for us. Then there's my husband and we believe in equal marriage. Now we have a little different notions of how that works, but we've been married now for 43 years. It more or less works. Some days more than others. When I was doing McNair. I don't have my daughter- she's in New York. My son, by then, he moves so much I don't even remember what city he was in. I think he was in Portland. Yeah, Portland. He's a professor himself, and my husband is retired and wanting to help work with me, so yeah, I would get there at 10 in the morning and leave at 10 at night and he'd come and have dinner with me. We'd sometimes go to a McNair event or have an event. He was at most of the events. Then the students were like "Where is he?!" if he did something else.

MJ: I still have a few more questions here.

BBC: Where are we now?

MJ: We are at one hour and eighteen minutes.

BBC: Oh- ok.

MJ: I have to touch on this tenure battle.

BBC: You really like that. Tenure is a game- that's what I call it.

MJ: I think there are quite a few times when you use military imagery to talk about getting tenure.

BBC: yeah. I do.

MJ: That section of your book is painful to read.

BBC: And more painful to do it.

MJ: Of course. If you could just describe that situation and then also I wanted to ask- I think it's too easy for students to assume that academic departments are unified places. I think that students are shocked to hear about the politics sometimes, especially when it turns into animosity. Would you mind talking about that situation you experienced and then talking about academic departments?

BBC: We have to parse those out because these are each two hour answers. The tenure game situation. It was real and it is written in a way to be anonymous so that it would not face litigation. Excuse me- I think I said somewhere in my book that one of my particular difficulties is that I like to know who's on first and so bureaucratic work to me is a lot easier. "Shmo" is an ass, but Shmo's the boss. I figure out how to get around over, under, or with Shmo. But I know Shmo is It. In the academic setting, you have Joe Shmo, Stinky, and Sally. They are all It. My experience of it is that it's supposed to be egalitarian by saying "everybody's It." But in my experience, in every university I ever worked at, there's always some people- could be one, or could be a whole department, that have a sado-masochistic approach to life and particularly to their jobs. It's very difficult I think within that situation where you are simultaneously the judge and the jury, to not have people behave in some of their worst ways. The way that folks behave, for example, at University of Chicago it was always various senior faculty that come to me and say, as I'm Assistant Dean, "You know that guy is not really smart. He's very famous, but if you look at his work, it lacks depth and rigor." Then at University of Illinois, it was Shmo was on the Today Show this morning for his work and I think that's the last thought he ever had. There are places where the more publicity you got, the more that everyone internally decided you were not serious. There are places where everyone is a genius. They just are. You just cannot be at Chicago as a student or as a faculty member and not be a genius. But for whatever reason, that was their blood sport- to figure out which one was the fairest of them all. Which of us is really a genius? Why are they doing that? That was their thing at that time. Then, at this, whatever university I called it in the book- Green? At Green University, it was people who we used to call in social work practice, 'welfare queens, or king.' At one time in time it referred to a point in time where there was all that federal money that came really fast into urban areas. The people who knew how to get things done were sometimes pretty shady. Maybe they got something great done for the community action programs, but they also break off enough to get Cadillacs. Or to have an extra account or whatever. Back to Green University. The modus operandi there was that there was one person who actually had a Master's of Social Work. The other people there did not. Those other people, let's put it this way- they were the playmakers. They were not thrilled to see additional folks who had the credentials necessary for them to be an accredited program. You're messing up peoples' financial windfall where they could cancel classes and shoot the shit with students. You're messing with someone's financial windfall plus their extra-sexual peccadillos. When I heard that that man was having sex with the quadriplegic, I could not- I didn't care if they fired me. I didn't want to be fired but I can't let that one go.

MJ: You learned about that...

BBC: From the student. Then she took it to the other two people, who were like, not only is she messing up our fun thing that we had going and how we're getting all this extra money for not

working, but we're also having our other specialties that we want to keep going- that's getting messed up. I couldn't believe it until I asked him. He was really pissed off. From then on he went after me.

MJ: You said you learned not to talk to your Department Head about anything remotely personal. Did you carry that over into every other job, like here at Eastern? Did you never trust your Department head?

BBC: You don't unless you're an idiot. There are people, and it took me a really long time to learn this, there are people that you can be friendly to, but you're not friends with. Also, I used to tell my husband, now we're married 43 years, I used to say to him, "OK- I don't trust anybody till I know them 30 years. You're still on probation." So, you know, those situations taught me that the faculty circumstances are- it shouldn't be but it is- if someone ever knows of one where they really are collegial and 'I want to help you be better, and can you help me be better? And together we'll make something even better?" I would love to find that place. I haven't experienced it. It might be somewhere but I don't know where it is.

MJ: It's 1:28.

BBC: I think that will do it, yeah.

MJ: No more questions, Alexis?

ABM: Is there anything else you want to share with us? That you wanted to share?

BBC: I guess the main thing I would share is that nobility of the Eastern students. I just think even when they go kicking and screaming because they are not exposed to professors who really are demanding, they really have what it takes. I feel; humbled by being able to be a part of that process. I just really admire them for giving it a go and trying. I think I said in my MLK statement, they come here on a prayer. They are those who graduate and who are doing just the most wonderful things and I'm just so proud of them and so happy for them. They don't all have to be national and international figures that I have had the honor to teach. Most of them have integrity and ability and they're working to their max. That makes me feel very happy.

MJ: That answered the other question I had.

BBC: WOW!

MJ: Thank you for coming.

BBC: It was great. Thank you.