

Linda Moore Transcript

Not sure the date of the interview

LINDA MOORE:

A black man, another student was kicked out—these are my own personal social work majors—another was kicked out because she was gay. There have been very few students of color, who have been allowed into the, the Greek Panhellenic fraternity interfraternity council system. They've got housing and then the black and Hispanic or Latinx community meets in whatever room they can find on the schedule, and that's been going on for a long time. It's still really hard to break into that, partly it's financial, partly it's word of mouth. I mean my mom was a Delta, so all her friends are going to be Deltas and we don't want to clutter it up with people from weird cultures, like Yankees or something, and it's so ingrained and it's such an exclusionary system, and it's downright mean in many ways. But I also know that it's a wonderful system—if you're a part of it—because of the connections you can make, which is why I think it's been important for the students of color to also have their own groups. But what that means then is how we work to get them to work together so they understand each other, and you know you talk about black history month all we want, but all we ever really talk about is Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King, and there's this whole list of names that people should know and don't know. This whole list of experiences that people should know. I mean we talk about George Floyd like it's new. We've been lynching for 200 hundred 300 years, 400 hundred—long time, the history of our country, and people are shocked. What have you not been listening to? And that's a fault of us, and the society at large and our own willingness to get over our fear of difference.

DR. SYLVAIN GREENSWORD:

Are you familiar with Tau Chi Upsilon? It's a fraternity that initially was interracial. I think it formed in 1979, so you would have been at TCU at that time

LINDA MOORE:

Was that the service fraternity?

DR. SYLVAIN GREENSWORD:

They, they did service. But they would just you know, a bunch of brothers. They had no major requirement. It was just like this local chapter that they started here and ended sometime in the 1990s. So I did get a chance to interview the founders Jean Marc Williams and a few of his brothers, but they did, they did say that they faced a lot of backlash from the ISC.

LINDA MOORE:

Oh yeah. Well, because it doesn't fit those standards in terms of. It's...it is interesting because you know I believe firmly in the intersectionality, you know the gender, race, and socioeconomic level. Try to be a part of tri delt or chi omegas or you know the guy's the men's and not have an income or a family income that allows you to even pay to be a member, and then, what do you

do when there's a big event? Who's going to buy the clothes for you? And the flowers? And all the other crap that you have to do to be a member? It's a big gap. And I think you'll, you'll hear from a lot of students of color on this campus, you know, the Community Scholars for example. A lot of them don't have that kind of income level. So how do you become a part of it? Darren and I used to talk all the time about how when there were parties, if you don't have a car, how are you going to get to the party? So, the black students on campus, Black Student Union, and the different groups that emerged through that over the years, would have dances in the ballroom or student center or something like that, and then there would be complaints that they were loud. Well, if you went down to the country club, they'd be loud there too. But they're at the Country Club, so what's the difference? I can remember sitting with the basketball team players—well the black ones—because the white ones sat at a different table and in probably '84 '85 at Colonial Country Club. And I said “so how you guys feeling?” so “well you know we wouldn't be allowed to be members here,” and I said “yeah, exactly.” But it was interesting, so the big donors would come over and talk to the black guys, “hey fellas, how you doing? Good game last night.” They would go sit down with the white plays and say “so do you need a summer job?” I mean hello. It, it just and the, the athletes knew it, they know it. They're not blind. And, and so then they get angry, and then they might talk loud. Oh, and then are you going to be afraid of them if they're angry? Well yeah, because you know they're really violent. Really? What makes you say that? We've been told that our whole lives. I was told in high school that I shouldn't talk to this girl that lived across the bridge. I said why? They said she's a whore. I said really? Why? She dates black guys. Not she sleeps with them or has sex with them, but she dates them. She's a whore. That was my first experience. It was like 9th grade or something. I went “wow.” So how do you get over those messages? How do you deal with it? I had an aunt, who was willing to have all of my friends visit her, but not my black friends. She lived in Kentucky. They were fairly wealthy, lived in a very white, wealthy community—her husband was a doctor, etc. Well honey, you can bring all you friends here—because they had a cabin on the lake—not your black friends, and my black friends were like “you think I'm going to Kentucky? You're out of your mind.” I said “okay.” When I lived in Virginia actually, I had friends from Philadelphia who would not visit me in Virginia. They've come to Texas but not Virginia. I said “what just because it was the capital of the Confederacy?” I mean what's the problem? But you know, people don't even think about that stuff or recognize the impact that that has. That's why it was exciting when that student came into apologize because she was listening to what the students were actually saying, and what they were saying had merit and it fit the value system that we're trying to teach in social work, which fits with my value system in my faith, which I do sincerely believe it's the value system as stated at TCU. It's just the actions that make it difficult. Even Chancellor Boschini, bless his heart, you know he met with one of the students who was really active on campus and very popular and not an athlete, although he was asked everyday what sport he played, which is very common at TCU, but he went to talk about the whole issue of the Race and Reconciliation impetus, is what was about, and the Chancellor said to him, “I know you want to be angry, but we have to talk about this rationally.” And I thought, wait a minute, not, you don't want to be angry, you *are* angry, and there's a reason why you're angry, and you need to recognize and accept that I am angry for very good reason, and when you talk down to me like that and condense as if I choose, that, that's not acceptable. So he's not going to give any

more money to TCU, and I said you go guy, that's one way to deal with it. He's also started another grout et. Cetera. It's just, you know you have to chip away, and you know I'm all for change, but I want it tomorrow, and so I've been chipping away for a long time, and I'm not perfect and I know I've made some stupid mistakes myself, but at least if you give people a voice they have a chance to speak truth, and speak it to power, and that for me was what Martin Luther King Day project was all about. They spoke truth to power, and it changed minds. It changed a lot of minds on this campus, and it made it important, and it made people realize how important. I remember going into Albertsons right over in West Cliff, and I had on my "I have a dream t-shirt." We all were wearing them for days. You know, Martin Luther King Day at TCU, and I turned around and she went "oh they have Martin Luther King Day at TCU now!?" and I thought "oh, break my heart, break my heart." I said "no but it's coming, it's coming." And it did by golly. And that's exciting, that's really success and, and the CRES program, you know we pushed for that for the longest time, we pushed for a diversity council. We didn't get it till 2000. We pushed for twenty years. Twenty-three years. And finally, when we got a new Chancellor in 2000 Mic Ferrari, he set up a diversity council and I mean, one of the first things I ever said to him is we need to have the same benefits for staff as we have for faculty. It's, it's ridiculous that staff don't get the same retirement, et cetera and he changed that that semester. He changed the policy on domestic partner benefits. He was wonderful and he set up a diversity council and I'm I was very proud to be part of that founding group. You know, Darren Turner, Ida Hernandez, and a whole bunch of folks that have been speaking out for a long time. We're able to begin to make recommendations or at least ideas that they need to address. Issues of disability. I've had my students' riding wheelchairs across this campus for 30 years, and they got change made. They got change made. They actually had the disability office moved from the basement of Rickel where you could not access it to the basement of Sadler Hall where you actually could. It's like really? Because people didn't think about it because they weren't disabled or didn't have a disability, and you got to walk in somebody's shoes a little bit or at least on the same path. You know, maybe not their shoes by golly, but certainly the path.

DR. SYLVAIN GREENSWORD:

The best interview of you that I read was in 2012 I believe. I think was part of that, that big project that they did for

LINDA MOORE:

The women's studies

DR. SYLVAIN GREENSWORD:

I do not believe it was women's studies. I think it was an anniversary of TCU, maybe the 150 years something like that.

LINDA MOORE:

Maybe.

DR. SYLVAIN GREENSWORD:

And that was, well that was in 2012 so that was before the lawsuit of 2020.

LINDA MOORE:

Right, right.

DR. SYLVAIN GREENSWORD:

And you said I'm quoting the, you say "the people are really nice here on campus." Would you say that the media coverage of the racist incidents of you know 2020, 2019, do you think that it, and I'm talking about the media coverage not the incident themselves, but do you think that the media distorted what TCU is really like in terms of people being so pleasant, or do you think that it gave a more realistic picture of what actually transpires on campus?

LINDA MOORE:

I think, it might have been taken out of context, I think the media coverage always focuses on an issue. It doesn't focus on the larger picture. I mean the bottom line is people at TCU are really nice. It's a friendly, warm campus, unless you're a black student walking down the sidewalk and a white student steps off the sidewalk because they're afraid you're going to snatch the backpack.

DR. SYLVAIN GREENSWORD:

But they will still have pleasantries.

LINDA MOORE:

They're very pleasant. They'll say excuse me and hug their backpack to their arm so they don't get robbed and so that's the part that is so confusing I think because you can be as racist as you can be and still be very nice. You know when I think when we think of racism we think of the KKK and people burning and pillaging and you know lynching and things like that, and that's not where the majority of racism occurs. It's what we visualize as racism so we can make ourselves feel better. I'd never did that so I can't be racist. Well, you can't grow up in America and not be racist. You're getting on TV every day. You're getting it on commercials. You're getting it through what you read, what you see, how people hang together, where they live, you know. Go and look for an apartment or a house, and let's see whether or not you get steered into one neighborhood or another depending on your income, not your income as much as your skin color, your ethnicity, your language. You know, I've had Ida Hernandez's is one of my favorite people on this campus, and she's, she calls herself Mexican, and she was at Foster Park, which is a park right down on the corner of Trail Lake and South Drive, and it's a West Cliff area park, and she was down there with kids, and some guy came over and said "you don't belong here" and she said "excuse me I live here" "well you don't belong in this park." Excuse me? You know that's ridiculous. I've students at gas stations who had an accent, which meant they speak more than one language, and they were told to "start speaking, start speaking good English." Okay, okay thank you. Thank you for your help with that. I'm sorry, sometimes it's so ludicrous if you don't laugh, you're just going to sob, and I said, you know, I just yeah, I yeah, it's just so frustrating.

DR. SYLVAIN GREENSWORD:

I know that several members of the TCU Retirees Association have been involved in efforts to enhance inclusion at TCU for decades. Can you please speak to that? Who comes to your mind? And what organizations have made such effort that you would think would be particularly noteworthy?

LINDA MOORE:

Well Andy Fort is one of the first ones that comes to mind. Andy is one of the faculty members and Martin Luther King Day, who voted against us and he, the students went and met with him and he came and met with the students in class and he publicly changed his vote in The Skiff because he talked to the students. He's been really big in hunger. He was on the board of Tarrant County, whatever it's called, the Tarrant County Food Bank thing. If I didn't have a brain in allergy season, I'd be much sharper. Susy Adams was of course you know the Dean of Students and Vice Chancellor and all kinds of stuff. She did a lot of work with students, obviously. Susy Adams, yeah. Susy Bachelor was her maiden name, but she was, I guess she retired about four years ago, four or five years ago, but she was here for the whole time I was here. I'm trying to think of who in the retirees I would, we haven't had a meeting in a year so I'm losing my mind here.

DR. SYLVAIN GREENSWORD:

Because of COVID?

LINDA MOORE:

Pardon me?

DR. SYLVAIN GREENSWORD:

Because of COVID?

LINDA MOORE:

Exactly. Pandemic. So we've been doing newsletters but we haven't actually seen each other for such a long time. The reality is that, in the Retirees, while lots of folks have been involved in things like faculty senate and staff assembly and organizations on campus that have addressed issues, the, the organization is largely white, certainly the people that attend. I mean everybody who retires is automatically a member, but it tends to be mostly white attendees. I think some of that is cost and some of that is cost, not, not cost you have to buy your own lunch, but you know, we have never really been as integrated a faculty and staff as we would like. I think that a lot of people in that group would say that we need to include more people, but it's harder when you're retiring and TCU's just a tad bit brushed you aside. So, you know we'll work on that when and if we ever get to meet again. But I, I don't know how I can speak to that as well as I should, I should be able to better, but again, it's made up of people that have been very actively involved in TCU, and so they're aware of issues, they have been involved in issues. We've also got a few I would like to just slap silly just on principle because they haven't been as involved in the issues

as they should have been in their roles at TCU. But again, you know, we're the old boomers, and we, we went through, I mean we went through, I mean most of us spent our career there at the time where we were trying to rise to the challenge that should have been risen to 30 years before we got there, if that makes sense. Boy, I, I feel bad that I'm not coming, I'm trying to, trying to think of the list of people that are in the group. And again, I know so many who have spoken out, but not necessarily been actively involved, but there are some that are coming up on retirement that'll be, that will probably have had more exposure. The whole CRES Program thing, there were a fair number of folks involved in that because students came to a lot of us and said what do we need to do? So we gave them the, the ins and outs of how you submit for curriculum and how you ask for change and stuff like that. The religion department as a whole has always been actively involved in social justice issues of all kinds and social work and religion even had a joint degree program and lots of linkage because of so many different things going on in both of our departments. I love the people from religion. They're just really, really neat. But again, that's because I see them as being very much members of my heart. There's some departments that are a little less warm and fuzzy. But I think there's a growing awareness of we need to get our act together, and I, I'm seeing a lot of folks asking questions. It's been interesting because I've had several phone calls when all this stuff hit the media, you know, what do you think is going on? I said what do you think is going on that hasn't always been going on? And well what can we do? How do we address this? What do we say to people? And I thought that's interesting, in one way flattered, and in others frustrated that the question has to be asked, but you know I mean people's ideas about things to read and what to do and to say, but I think that there's a genuine hunger for stability and peace and justice, but so many people don't seem to know what to do, how to take any kind of action, or to feel like their actions will have any impact, and so, they just sit back and say well I support, I support this issue. Have you written to anybody? Have you signed any petitions? Have you marched? Have you gone anywhere? Well no. Well, you could start doing those things. Lots of that you can do online, and they'll take your name and just click. I've signed about 5,000 petitions in the last pandemic in the last year. You know I write to my legislators regularly, which is such a waste of my time, but I want them bombarded with my messages. But if the people just, it's like their feelings are heard, because we are nice people, so our feelings are heard here at TCU that people would think badly of us. But we need to change our behavior, so people won't think badly about us. Seems to me that would be step one. If people feel badly because of what you did then maybe what you did was wrong or maybe you should question what you did and how appropriate it was at that particular time. I mean campus police again, I had a student who married a black professor—he's Indian actually but very dark skin so of course he's black to anybody who's looking at him—and they divorced, and she had to have the papers served, and she said please just don't do it at TCU. Well, they served the paper *in a faculty meeting*. Campus police came in and said “you know, he had no right to be running around with a white woman.” They served papers in a faculty meeting. That's disgusting. I had a black student who was actually a part of student government, who lived down in Brocklin Hall, which is down in the fraternity, whatever it's called now, I forgot already, back when it was open. It's now destroyed, but it was the campus learning center and it was co-ed, and it was a great place, and so he's walking back to his dorm, and he said “the first time I got stopped by the campus police, I said I live in Brocklin Hall, showed them my ID.” The second time I got

stopped, I thought “well, you know, we all look alike so they probably didn’t recognize me.” He said “the fifth time they stopped me, I got really pissed.” I said “yeah, I imagine.” You know, he’s, he’s like a leader on campus visible, *visible* leader on campus and the cops didn’t know him the fifth time they stopped him for going back to his dorm? I’ve had two basketball players kicked off the steps of the steps of the chapel because they were trespassing. They were waiting for their religion class. I mean really? Come on. I had students collecting, or doing interviews, I can’t remember exactly what they were doing, they were either collecting clothes or doing interviews or something, and they were on one side of campus and then they were over in the athletic parking lot, where the cops stopped them and said, “why are you wandering across campus?” They said “we live here, we go to school here, we are students here,” showed them their IDs and they said “well, you all need to stay in one place,” and this is like four or five years ago. I mean, come on. Athletes are easy targets. We had, we had an incident where, I think there’s somebody on campus, I can’t remember exactly what happened, somebody on campus, and he was described as “light-skinned, probably 5’8” maybe 160 pounds,” every football player was interviewed. I said if you think a lineman, oh I know what, he had come across the track he ran away from these people and jumped the fence at the track. I said “if you think the offensive lineman were able to jump that fence, you’re out of your mind.” You know when you’re 6’8” 320, you don’t fit, the, the profile. What you’re black, and light-skinned? Does that mean any color black?

DR. SYLVAIN GREENSWORD:

Could be a very, it could be a person of Hispanic descent.

LINDA MOORE:

Well, that doesn’t matter. It’s your skin color.

DR. SYLVAIN GREENSWORD:

Somebody a white person could attack.

LINDA MOORE:

Those Italians are in trouble. In Texas, you know, because here we are a blonde and blue-eyed paradise. Take TCU and so, so of course you don’t fit, but you fit the profile, isn’t that interesting? You don’t fit the campus but you fit the profile. Well, and so, that may not happen by TCU personnel, but the cops are TCU cops—that’s TCU personnel, that’s whoever describing the incident. Who’s complaining? Why are two basketball players getting in trouble for sitting on the steps of the chapel when students do it all the time waiting for class? Why the two black guys? So, again, it’s that, internalized stuff—the messages that make us afraid. Darren can tell you, Darren can tell you so many stories about going to his car, he went to his car in the parking lot in front of the basketball stadium and as he’s getting in the girl, the girl in the car next to him hit her lock button and he just smiled at her and waved. He said “she doesn’t realize,” that Darren’s a big guy, “I could have been in that car in two seconds with my elbow to the window.” I mean, come on, and it’s an automatic and silly response, especially on campus. Why are you going to be afraid? I mean I had one football player who was walking through the hallway in

Reed Hall this long ago when they used to have a restaurant down below and the athletic team could eat there, and he's walking down the hall in Reed hall *starving* to death, and this girl grabs her purse and pulls it over, he said "honey I'm just hungry, I'm not trying to get anything out of your purse." But now then, she would say "he's so rude," but then why did you hug your purse?

DR. SYLVAINA GREENSWORD:

This is rude, it's extremely rude

LINDA MOORE:

It is. It is.

DR. SYLVAINA GREENSWORD:

I have just a couple of last questions.

LINDA MOORE:

Sure.

DR. SYLVAINA GREENSWORD:

And it's mostly like just going back to the things you've already said. I just want to cover my bases. You joined TCU in the late '70s and later on you worked with the athletes, but what was the racial makeup of the athletic teams in the '70s?

LINDA MOORE:

Probably very similar to what it is now in terms of football. You know, predominantly black, but they were almost the only black males on campus. There were black females on campus, some of whom were maybe half and half, half of the black woman were probably athletes, track or basketball, and the others were students who were involved in other activities. But every single one of the black woman on campus that I ever talked to, has been asked what sport she plays. Every single black male on campus that I've ever talked to, has been asked what sport he plays. I mean that's just an automatic assumption. Now, you can say somebody's 6'7" and black, maybe they're a basketball player, but they might be an engineering student who doesn't play ball. What makes you think you have to ask that question? Have you ever asked any white students what sports they play?

DR. SYLVAINA GREENSWORD:

Even if they're tall.

LINDA MOORE:

Exactly. Although I have to say, I had a 6'7" maybe 6'9", it's so hard to tell. We were eye to eye while he was sitting and I was standing and I said "do you play basketball?" and he said "no, I'm a pitcher for the baseball team," and I said "get out of here!" But he was a heck of a pitcher. So, anybody that's tall, he was white by the way, I tend to ask. But it, it's just the problem too is, all

the faculty will know who the athletes are in their department because we do grade checks, so you get a list of who is being checked, which means white or black, the assumption is they're not going to be as good a student, although the white students you know are going to do better than the black students. Funniest experience of my life is I was in a class one time, and I gave a test, and the top three grades went to three baseball players, and somebody came and said what was the grade distribution and I said, "it went from 97 to 68 or something," and they said, "who got the highest grade?" and I said, "I'm not going to tell who got the highest grade." "It wasn't athletes, was it?" I said, "excuse me, maybe it was." "Get out!" and I've had athletes say that as well as non-athletes the assumption being...and I've had faculty tell me that athletes, I've had faculty say, "a football player will not pass my class." Well, if you know they're a football player and this is before class starts, is there a little bit of bias in here? Why is that true? I've also had a faculty member say "I don't want women in my classes—physics. They don't know physics," and Ida Hernandez daughter graduated with a double major in physics and math and was the senior scholar in both departments. She has her PhD in physics now. You know what? But you shouldn't have to fight to battle that way because, because you've got enough struggle to get to where you're going without having to fight those barriers. So yeah, it's frustrating. Sorry I get carried away.

DR. SYLVAIN GREENSWORD:

It was, it was such a pleasure to have you here. I just want to thank you so much for sharing your knowledge on institutional memory. Thank you because, you know, it enlightens our, our experience, our contemporary experience, you know, and that there has been a long history of injustice being done on campus but it's definitely a campus worth fighting for.

LINDA MOORE:

Definitely and that's my, I love TCU. I hate parts of what's happened at TCU. I hate things that continue to go on, but that doesn't make me love it any less. It has been the most supportive environment for me, personally, and again, I've been fairly vocal and obnoxious, but I haven't gotten any flack from anybody that mattered to me, let me put it that way, or from the administration. I really haven't, and I probably should have, but I think when you speak the truth and can back up your argument—that's the key—back up your argument, then if you do your research, if you do your study, you can make a good point, and you don't have to put people down to do it, and I think part of it is anger doesn't always help unless you can direct it in an appropriate way, and, and I feel like I've been accepted in terms of the anger that I've felt, and in terms of some of the solutions I've tried to provide, and it's been a great place. You know I've had a lot of crazy things happen to me, and this whole university has been so supportive in times of darkness and light, so I, I don't ever want to put it down, but I want it to the best it can be, and there's a long way to go. Well, we all have a long way to go. Cool. I'm glad you're doing this. This is exciting.

DR. SYLVAIN GREENSWORD:

It is. It is really exciting.

LINDA MOORE:

I'm sure you're getting so many different pictures of TCU.

DR. SYLVAINÉ GREENSWORD:

Yeah. Yeah, and you know, it's like pieces of a puzzle and eventually it comes back together, but we really want to thank you for these words of wisdom, and the, the laughter.

LINDA MOORE:

You bet, if you don't have that you have nothing. Cool.

[End of 35:52 clip]