

John Mark Williams, Jeff Leonard and, Errol Henry Interview Transcript

DR. SYLVIANE GREENSWORD:

This is Sylviane Greensword. Today is March the third, the year is 2021. We are in the Kelly Center, and I am in the company of Jeff Leonard, John Mark Williams, and Errol Henry. We are in our interview process for the Oral History Project for the Race and Reconciliation Initiative. Gentlemen, good evening. Good afternoon. I want to thank you for being part of this project and accepting to take part in what we're doing here with RRI. Let's start by discussing some of your achievements and biographic information before you joined TCU, in any order.

JEFF LEONARD:

I'll go first, left to right and maybe Jeff Leonard. I started at TCU in '79. Prior to that, I was a Navy brat, so my father, being in the Navy, every couple years we moved around, a little overseas, but basically where there was water, we traveled. I went to high school up in Libertyville, Illinois. And long story short, some friends of my parents who were also in the Navy, they were both stationed at Great Lakes Naval Base. We weren't living on the base at the time, but nonetheless, my parents' friends had two kids that were actually at TCU at the time. I was a junior in high school and I was looking to where am I going to go to college because there was no question in our family, you know, you're going to college. My criteria was, quite frankly, somewhere warm. I was tired of living and dealing with all the snow. So, I was looking around at some southern schools and it just so happened my parents' friends said, well, we have two boys going to TCU in Fort Worth. We're going to travel to Trinity University in San Antonio. I think it is that my sister was going to. So they said, make a stop over at DFW. You could look at SMU and look at TCU. So that's what we did. And I went to the campus and there were some pretty girls that said hi to me. And, you know, I was just beyond ready to go to TCU and, well, of course, back in '79, if you can imagine what kind of computer science program was there, I was interested in computer science. I was programming on those old punch cards back in the day. That was the length of computer science, but I met the dean. Yeah, we're training cobalt and basic. So I met the dean of computer science. We clicked, and of course, as I say, the atmosphere around TCU, it was not a problem for me, the fact that there was actually, I was told, three girls to every two guys. So, long story short, that's what brought me to TCU. I've loved the school, and in fact, I've been a season ticket holder for many of the TCU athletics. So I come here, if anything, just maybe on a Saturday for a football game, but I'm amazed to see how it's changed. I'm also amazed to wrap my head around the fact that this was 40 years ago, you know, where did time fly? But the great thing is I did meet some great brothers through the start of a local fraternity, Tau Chi Upsilon. And I mean, these are guys that I can call once every 10 years, so to speak, and say, "Hey, I'm in town." We're all fortunately within the DFW area, but I'm way east of Dallas. Errol, you're in Fort Worth. John Mark's in Little Elm. So once we heard from you, you were interested in some old alumni stories. That's what brought us today. I haven't seen John Mark in probably a couple of years, but Errol and I haven't seen each other for a while, but I'm really pleased to, of course, see my brothers, but also share some of the old stories. A lot of stories can't be shared. A lot of stories I will refuse and deny to my sons who are now in college, but we had a good time. And I always frame it this way too, that when we came down to school back in that day, the drinking age was 18, hard liquor, beer, whatever. So I went from a state, state of Illinois where the drinking age was 21 down to here at 18. And I enjoyed that opportunity as did we, as did us all, but that's enough for me. Joe Mark, you can.

JOHN MARK WILLIAMS:

Well, my dad was a Methodist minister, and so we moved about every five years. And, so we tried, we moved about every five years. I got ready to go to school. We came and looked at TCU, looked at Tech. And, I think we went to Baylor. I went to about four or five schools, all Southwest Conference schools, which is no more, unfortunately. But, anyway, decided I liked TCU and then I was reminded that both my father and mother graduated from TCU undergraduate. I'd always kind of been focused on SMU because my dad went to graduate school there and went to theological seminary there. I had a less than stellar performance at the schools, Del Mar College in Corpus Christi. And so then I decided I'd come here and came in as an entering student.

JEFF LEONARD:

So did you wipe out your Del College. I didn't get a 9 or whatever.

JOHN MARK WILLIAMS:

I didn't mention my previous college experience. That's smart. I came here as an entering freshman. I didn't. And ended up doing well. And, we had been, what happened was, we were, we were anxious to be involved in campus. And, so we started off with a little organization called the Dwellers, Pete Wright Dwellers. And, we were semi-accepted. We were invited to a couple of sorority deals like ADPI Play Day and, that type of thing and then, but we wanted to actually have a more structure and more of a legitimate organization, if you want to call it a little bit more of an organized organization than just everybody going, "Hey, we're going to have a dweller deal." So we petitioned the school for a local fraternity and, had a guy here, should I mention his name? Rick Funk. And, he was what, the director of the IFC? He was head of IFC, yeah. And, he was less than enthused about our membership in the Interfraternity Council. That is a very fair comment, yeah. And so we kept hitting roadblock after roadblock and then finally, we just had a come-to-Jesus meeting and he finally relented and let us, let us at least go before the IFC, right, to let them vote. And they did vote and, and let us on campus and, that was the beginning.

JEFF LEONARD:

But being on campus didn't consist of a house.

JOHN MARK WILLIAMS:

Yeah. We didn't have a house. So what we did, we had like four guys and so we rented, four rooms 'cause at that time you could have an individual room on campus. And then what we did is we bunked in the two end rooms and then we converted the two middle rooms into a chapter room and we painted that sucker up and it looked good too and we kept a keg in there all the time and it was a good time. It was a very good time.

ERROL HENRY:

That keg had Coke and Dr. Pepper.

JOHN MARK WILLIAMS:

Yeah, well, actually it was Root Beer without the root. But anyway, we must have had probably 60 or 70 guys go through during our time there. And, had super good time with all of them. All of them.

JEFF LEONARD:

The thing that I thought was interesting about our group is, if you look at the fraternities and the sororities on campus, they all have some sort of. If you will, the, you know, "Hey, that's the, that's the hardcore partiers." That's the kind of the Texas boys or this, this, that, and the other rich guys, putting a handle on who we were.

JOHN MARK WILLIAMS:

Yeah.

JEFF LEONARD:

I even to this day, don't know how we, a mash of people got together, and I don't know even begin to understand how it happened because we were so diverse. You know, there was the art majors and the science majors I went from I mentioned I was interested in computer science figured out I couldn't take computer science, so I moved to business but if you know, if you wanted some brotherhood and you just, the other organizations, you didn't see yourself, aligning, come check us out. We're not burdened by the national fraternities and sororities. We did have always issues with Rick. I forgot his name, but, it was just a total hodgepodge of individuals, rich, poor, color, non-color. As Errol shared with me earlier today, I'm blown away by even understanding where, what his background was. I mean, I've known a little bit about the background of my brothers, but we didn't certainly wear it on our sleeves or, "Hey, you know." You know, let me tell you about how I grew up. There was none of that. Kind of reminisce about that a little bit that as we get older, you know, our legacies and histories mean a little more.

JOHN MARK WILLIAMS:

Yeah. We had international students, right? We had a kid who was the son of a family, the owners of The Bear, fourth largest privately held bank in the world, and I never knew that.

JEFF LEONARD:

I mean, you hear bear, what the heck does bear mean? He never came across as that guy, but he's the jet setter, but we didn't have those errors where we would even talk about that.

JOHN MARK WILLIAMS:

Nobody really cared.

JEFF LEONARD:

Well, I might have asked him to buy beer more often. I don't know.

[Laughter]

JOHN MARK WILLIAMS:

Marilyn, you want to go?

ERROL HENRY:

Oh, sure. Well, for me, I was considered an international student, classified as.

JOHN MARK WILLIAMS:

Oh, there you go.

ERROL HENRY:

And I was like, what? I don't know why they did, but they did. And, I ended up at TCU because I thought it was more of a Bible college. I didn't want to study to be a minister or any of those kinds of things, but I wanted to study in a Christian environment. My degree is in accounting and that's what I graduated with. And, all my elective classes were art classes because when I was in high school, I was in the concert chorale, I was on the yearbook staff, my junior year and then my senior year I was co-art editor. I'd always done posters and things like that for my church for the different events that they had. So, being in art and taking a lot of art classes when I came to TCU, I continued that because you had to have so many elective classes. So, a lot of my classes, if they weren't in my major, business or all of the other 50 hours that you're required to take for the university core, were art classes. I took ceramics and silk screening and drawing because I had an interest in that, you know, that was my outlet, creative outlet. So, that's what brought me here. But, I also met my wife, who happens to be white. Don't know how that happened, but anyway.

DR. SYLVIANE GREENSWORD:

Her being white or you meeting her, being white?

ERROL HENRY:

No, no, no, being white. No, but, we met here, we got married in '85. In fact, I started in '79 and, uh, I was on a six-year plan because I was having so much fun, you know, helping to start a fraternity and different things like that. But like, John Mark was saying that, or Jeff, I think said that we all came from so many different backgrounds and I was not born into a wealthy family. And in fact, I didn't feel like I fit in at TCU and I spent a lot of my time subconsciously trying to fit into a school with people that drove nice cars and, had cars, you know.

JOHN MARK WILLIAMS:

You're right.

ERROL HENRY:

There was one of our fraternity brothers, George, that had a car. Oh, we have stories we can tell them. But, I digress. It was a challenge for me because I was born in the Caribbean. I was born in Trinidad. My background is Indian and although I don't have an Indian last name, well, I know that there's a. On my father's side, I think there is black in my father's side. So that's where the Henry came from. But a lot of my relatives' last names are Gajada, and my mother's maiden name is Subar, and, you know, all these Dittnerine, Singh, and all these weird names. Well, my dad, for some reason, we were all named Christian names. You know, not the Indian names or any of those kinds of things. Growing up, it was interesting because I was the eighth child, so my brothers and sisters, whatever they did, I kind of learned vicariously through all their experiences.

JEFF LEONARD:

When you say eighth child, you were eight out of ten?

ERROL HENRY:

Out of ten, and, I have five brothers, four sisters.

JOHN MARK WILLIAMS:

Wow.

ERROL HENRY:

My youngest sister has passed away about four or five years ago. Everyone else is alive, except my parents passed away the last few years as well. So, we converted to Christianity, and that's one of the reasons why I came to TCU is because I wanted to study in this It's an environment that would not allow me to go astray. Unfortunately, I joined a fraternity and helped start one, and that's where I learned alcoholic beverages. We were actually classified, I mean, we were Pentecostal, I mean, that's the religion that we identified with. But, but after I got married, we joined, University Christian Church which is affiliated with the Disciples. But being here at TCU, I did have some issues in relation, in regards to, you know, prejudice and things like that. I had a roommate that used to tease me and call me Little Black Sambo.

JEFF LEONARD:

Wow.

JOHN MARK WILLIAMS:

Um. Did we know him?

ERROL HENRY:

Yes, you did. We'll talk about it later. I don't want to name names. But you know, I mean, there are other instances where my ex-wife who I was dating at the time, went to Trinity Park. It was after six o'clock, and we were students, we didn't pay attention to curfews in terms of what time the park closed, and we were just sitting there. I got a story of Trinity Park. Yeah, and, she owned the car, and she was in the driver's seat, and we were just sitting there, making out, you know, clothes on, everything. So, this police car came, pulled up behind us, and asked her to get out of the car, just her, and I thought that was strange. She went, then he went to the back of the car and talked to her and then she came back in, and she was crying, and I was like, "what happened? What happened?" You know, she said that he questioned her as to why are you with this black guy? Is it because the size of his... whatever.

JEFF LEONARD:

Oh my gosh.

ERROL HENRY:

So she was devastated. And, you know, at the time I was so young and naive I didn't think to get his badge, you know, name or number and that kind of stuff. But this was back in like, 79, 80. And, having lived in New York City, before I came to TCU, you know, it's different there. It's

definitely different. At the time they said Texas was about five years behind the times. This was before the internet and all that. And they meant like in fashion and things like that. In fact, our downtown wasn't even developed as it is now. In fact, when I went down there. At six in the afternoon, or in the evening, there was nobody around.

JEFF LEONARD:

You're Talking Fort Worth? Yeah. Yeah. This is the story of it. Five o'clock, the streets rolled up and it was not a place to go, Fort Worth, after five o'clock. You have skyscrapers, people are working, but it was unsafe to be downtown. It wasn't for the Bass brothers that decided, Hey, it shouldn't be like this. They hired their own security so people could feel safe after the fire.

ERROL HENRY:

I don't think it was because it was unsafe at the time. I think they did that in order to encourage people to go down there and, you know, go to the movies, feel safe about going to restaurants down there and to create that climate and that atmosphere, but I think it was that after people worked, it was, downtown was strictly like business.

JEFF LEONARD:

Yeah.

ERROL HENRY:

There weren't any apartment buildings or people that lived down there. So after work, five o'clock, everybody left. And it freaked me out, because in New York City, at any time of day or night, basically, the streets are busy. It's jamming. And, I thought I was in one of those strange sci-fi movies where the aliens came and captured the people, and they're all gone. But, so that was an interesting faint experience that this kind of thing happened. Of course, back in the day, too, I'd never been to western things, like rodeos and open fire, barbecues and things like that.

JEFF LEONARD:

So when you say you were in New York, you were living in New York City?

ERROL HENRY:

Well, Queens, Jamaica, I mean it is called part of the city, but it's not in a high rise building or anything like that. We had our own home. I actually went to Flushing High School. If that gives you an idea of where it was located. So, I lived there from 11 till 17 and then came to TCU.

JEFF LEONARD:

But what were you doing? Like literally looking up what schools have Christian your name and suddenly Fort Worth pops?

ERROL HENRY:

No, I actually I went to one of the college fairs where they had and looked at a lot of them. In fact, the application I brought home, I started filling it out, and I thought, man, that school's expensive, it's so far away, do I really want to go there, and I put the application in the trash can in my room. And then, as the days went on, as I really thought about it and thought about it, finally I said, you know what? I think I'm going to go there. I'll fix it back up. Fill it up and send

it in. And what was funny was I really also applied to University of Texas at Austin because my best friend in high school, he was studying, wanted to be an accountant as well. And he ended up getting accepted, but I didn't because my out-of-state SAT scores weren't as high for an out-of-state student. They raised the bar for us students at UT.

JEFF LEONARD:

Oh yeah, and they probably do that today.

ERROL HENRY:

But I got accepted at TCU. I thought that was kind of strange that a private university would accept I mean, my scores weren't bad. Well, they weren't low. I mean, I don't remember what it was, but I wasn't desperate to find somewhere to go. So, I got accepted here and decided to attend, but the other thing is that I had two brothers that lived in Houston, so I figured within four hours, it's not that far away from home, but if you've grown up in a large family, wanting to have your own space is one of the other reasons too. You know?

JEFF LEONARD:

Sure.

ERROL HENRY:

So, came here then and studied and met you guys and we were in the same dorm Pete Wright and, remember back then it was called kind of the animal house of the, of the dorms.

JOHN MARK WILLIAMS:

Yeah.

DR. SYLVIANE GREENSWORD:

So that's how y'all met?

JEFF LEONARD:

Well, I wasn't in Pete Wright, I was in the COED dorm, down in the great Brockman Hall.

JOHN MARK WILLIAMS:

Oh yeah. Brockman Hall. That's right.

JEFF LEONARD:

So I was like the Alpha pledge class. So just meeting the various people like, "Hey, come, come check out this local fraternity". Yeah. That just, as I say, eclectic group of people and I was like, yeah, this is definitely my people.

JOHN MARK WILLIAMS:

We had a good time. I remember you and Ted, did CREST?

JEFF LEONARD:

Yeah. See, I associated you with the other art majors, Ted and Brent, but I forgot you were accounting and art.

ERROL HENRY:

Right, right. And that's kind of the reason I lost my hair, I was using both sides of my brain.

JEFF LEONARD:

But that's where being a, you know, a printer, you're doing both, right?

ERROL HENRY:

Yes. Today I own a graphic design and printing company, I was telling you earlier. So yeah, we've done a lot of work for TCU over the years. They're one of our largest accounts. But I think I probably ran into that same a-hole police officer in Trinity. I don't know if I ever told you this story, but I'm with my date now, my wife, and I, I told her, I actually met my wife at Brockman as there's several other marriages made at that co ed dorm. I strongly believe in co ed dorms, but anyway, I had a motorcycle at the time and I told, you know, the girl I was dating, "Hey, get a jacket. I'm going to take you somewhere". Well, back in the day, she was young and naive, and she would do what I tell her to do, or suggested I do instead of being married. But anyhow, she got on the back of my motorcycle, and we drove into Trinity Park. You know, we looked around the beautiful area. We weren't making out or anything, but just talking about, you know what would you do on a deserted island or what have you unbeknownst to us? So that it becomes nightfall we get on the motorcycle. We're leaving. Gates we're locked. It's like whatever eight o'clock at night and the gates are locked. So, my motorcycle was an on off road bike. Thankfully, so I told My girlfriend at the time was like, stay at the front. I got to find somewhere where maybe there's an opening. I mean, the bike's only that wide, right? So I went the entire distance of the whole park. And I finally found a place where the motorcycle could come out. So then I come back, pick up my girlfriend, and then we're driving back out. Cop. Pulled over, you know, what are you doing at the park? He got Cindy in the back of his car and had a talk with Cindy. I didn't hear all what he said, but he said, I will take Cindy home. You follow me. That to me was creepy and odd. So, I'm thinking maybe we had that same guy of whatever he was up to, but, yeah, that's a story we, Cindy and I both talk about.

JOHN MARK WILLIAMS:

I never did that.

JEFF LEONARD:

You never brought girls to turn you down? No, I didn't. It's a pretty place. We had a little more romance, I guess.

ERROL HENRY:

No, I think Denmark took him to a much-scaled place. Yeah, that's true. With a bottle of champagne, Dom Perignon.

DR. SYLVIANE GREENSWORD:

Can you tell us a little bit about that letter that you got from the Chancellor?

JOHN MARK WILLIAMS:

You know, my daughter told me about that, and for the life of me, I can't even remember getting it. It was one where, was it Tucker at that time? Chancellor Tucker? Yeah, that'd be Tucker, Ferrari. Mary Taylor was telling me that he had said that, to look at integrating. And I'm like, I don't remember that letter. It never really popped into my head that we would be doing something for the university. We just invited people that we liked. I mean, there wasn't any conscious so what the chancellor asked us to. Lord knows they didn't do what we asked them to, many times.

JEFF LEONARD:

just allowing us on campus.

JOHN MARK WILLIAMS:

Yeah, I mean, so we had a tense relationship with the university. It was just plain that they didn't want us here. Fortunately, we recruited people that were hardheaded too, and we ended up with. Were you able to reach Chester?

DR. SYLVIANE GREENSWORD:

No, I was not.

JOHN MARK WILLIAMS:

Okay, alright. You should give Chester a call. He and I went to an Arkansas football game one time and had an interesting time.

JEFF LEONARD:

So you have to elaborate.

JOHN MARK WILLIAMS:

So, the first thing was, was that we drove up following the band bus.

ERROL HENRY:

Was he in a band?

JOHN MARK WILLIAMS:

No, it was just people we knew were from TCU, so we just followed them. And, drove up to Fayetteville. And, I was in a tux. Cause I'd been to a formal the night before.

JEFF LEONARD:

You were in your tux going to a football game.

JOHN MARK WILLIAMS:

I was. Going to Arkansas football game.

JEFF LEONARD:

Yeah. Well, at least you didn't have purple on, so maybe they would say you're a zooie.

JOHN MARK WILLIAMS:

It's hard to say that I was a little overdressed is an understatement. But, Chester, I came in from that formal and I saw his light was on. I knocked on the door and he came over and said, what are you up to JW? And I said, well. I was just thinking, let's go to this Arkansas football game tomorrow. He said, "Are you serious?" I said, yeah, let's go. He said, okay. So we drove up, followed, like I said, followed the band bus. They checked into a hotel and so we, we got a couple of girls to let us go in and shower in their room for a little bit. And freshen up a little. And then went to the game and it was, I mean, it was an interesting experience. It was, it was, uh, well - Chester asked me if we couldn't leave because I was, we were getting close to fisticuffs, over racial comments that were made. And, he said, J. W., he goes, I love you, but, you know, there's a lot more of them than there are of us. And I said, yeah. But we had some good times. And you should try to track him down if you can.

DR. SYLVIANE GREENSWORD:

And for the record, Chester is?

JOHN MARK WILLIAMS:

Chester is s an attorney up in Maryland. Well, Virginia now, I think. Dumfries. And he was which class?

JEFF LEONARD:

He was a founder. He was a little older too. He was a junior. We were all like sophomores.

ERROL HENRY:

Who was the other tall guy that was with him all the time?

JOHN MARK WILLIAMS:

Oh, Gus. Gus. He told me a story. I called him about this project. He was saying, oh, you remember Gus? I said, yeah. He said, Gus was funny. And he goes, Gus, he's the head of the fire department out at DFW. What? I was like going, are you kidding me?

ERROL HENRY:

Remember his nickname? Yeah, he did. He was, he could be hard to understand. He was a funny guy. I loved Gus. And, but yeah, Chester can, him being a founder and all, he can tell you, I mean. And that's why I don't think, I'm not sure that that letter played any part in the founders' group. I'm not sure what the date on it was, but I think he was already in when we got that. But, it was a good time. And as Jeff said, it was just a bunch of guys who got together, had a good time. Love the challenge. We loved, or I did. I loved it when people would say, Oh, Talkeyes, huh? And it's like, well, you know what? Let's, let's, let's meet on the, on the field of battle.

DR. SYLVIANE GREENSWORD:

You didn't know you were making history.

JOHN MARK WILLIAMS:

Oh, no, no, it never. But that was the thing too.

JEFF LEONARD:

I don't know if you caught, like what John Mark said, who did that? That was kind of a thing that we all had each other's backs. So, like, if someone was giving Errol a hard time, or any of us, at any given time, you know, it's our, you know, standing alone, you could get picked on, but we all had each other's back. So there were times where we were all jumping in cars to help out someone at the bar.

JOHN MARK WILLIAMS:

Yeah, at the bar.

JEFF LEONARD:

Yeah, at the bar. I was a part of that. I just don't remember. I didn't hear about it. I heard about it afterward.

JOHN MARK WILLIAMS:

I made a phone call and, cause there were like four or five guys like giving me trouble at this bar. So I made a phone call. Next thing I know there's like 40 guys busting in the door. We're coming in. Where are they? J. W. It's like, whoa. Okay. Well, they just took off out the back door, but, yeah, that's the truth.

JEFF LEONARD:

I remember, I think there was an assault you, someone assaulted you at. at the Milton Daniel and even the football players were saying, who is it, tell me, please tell me.

JOHN MARK WILLIAMS:

Yeah, Big Ed Minner, he was like going, tell me who that was, JW, and that guy was standing right next to me and I was just like, I looked over at him and I said, don't worry about it, it's been taken care of.

DR. SYLVIANE GREENSWORD:

And how did y'all interact with the other fraternities on campus, because the other fraternities were basically just uniraical. Yeah, they were outsiders. I mean, we were not national. We were, you know, new to the front. They were kind of like, Who in the heck are you? You're not part of us. You know, go away. And it didn't help that the IFC chairman kind of had that attitude too. But it just made us a little stronger, if you will, of like, you know, Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer wasn't allowed to be in the reindeer games. And once we were in, you know doing our best to dominate. You know, AD Pi would invite the little local fraternity, much smaller in numbers. You know, we were doing quite well in those silly little academic, or athletic challenges. So, yeah, we weren't readily accepted by any stretch, but as individuals, we are all good people. So there was still some mingling going on. My girlfriend, now wife, was sorority. She didn't like it because I in fact ended up a big brother to another sorority. That's a whole nother issue, but we were known around, but it was also that kind of odd group of, you know, people, as I say, you couldn't paint us into any kind of corner. Rich, poor. Yeah.

ERROL HENRY:

Well, I think part of it too is that we, you know, I think it's amazing today in that we had such a strong bond, not having a house of our own and, you know, we all lived in different dorms and

whatnot and, to be able to still have that strong bond and community and brotherhood. It says a lot. It says a lot about the people that wanted to be a part of this.

JEFF LEONARD:

Right. Yeah, it wasn't an easy journey and a whole lot of people would drop out because of that.

DR. SYLVIANE GREENSWORD:

So did the IFC give you a hard time after the founding?

JEFF LEONARD:

Yeah, they didn't recognize us for years.

JOHN MARK WILLIAMS:

The sororities did. Particularly AD Pi and Alpha Phi.

JEFF LEONARD:

And that was probably helpful that, you know, boyfriends and so forth were like, Hey, and there were probably 10 sororities to six fraternities. So we were another group where, you know, all males. So we were another group to get to know. So yeah, the sororities kind of accepted. I don't know if I would ever consider us accepted by the other male fraternities. I mean, we were finally recognized by Rick, after jumping through a lot of hurdles for several years. And then the sororities were kind to us. And so like we had the, what we had the lakes competition we would do for the whole campus raising money. We would do fundraising. So we weren't all just partying.

JOHN MARK WILLIAMS:

Yeah, and we, and we also, the dorm stuff. You remember the fight night that we used to have? And that was a deal at Clark. And so, I entered as a representative of the fraternity. And I don't remember, were there any other fraternities that did that, or were they all dorms?

JEFF LEONARD:

I do recall, we would go out of our way to wear our fraternity attire just because we were that small group and you know, we wanted them to say well, who are you because we didn't have the dorm as John Mark said so for a relatively small group, they knew us from afar. And then heaven forbid if someone tried crossing one of our members. They knew us from close, too, you know, told them that's not right and don't pick on any of our members for stupid reasons.

DR. SYLVIANE GREENSWORD:

And why did the fraternity get discontinued?

JOHN MARK WILLIAMS:

Well, actually, it lasted for about 10 years.

JEFF LEONARD:

I think it was not having a place itself. They ended up allowing another fraternity on campus, and they were able to have a house off campus, but, I think just over time, you know, the That hard

bond that we all went through, I mean, we weren't going to give that up. But for the new members, it wasn't the same, you know, new, new organization.

ERROL HENRY:

Younger, not the same type of

JOHN MARK WILLIAMS:

Yeah, and they had some internal issues that they had issues. It was just an unfortunate thing, but I mean, we never would have guessed that it would last ten years.

DR. SYLVIANE GREENSWORD:

What did you have in mind?

JOHN MARK WILLIAMS:

I thought it would be there for maybe another two or three. I didn't expect another ten.

DR. SYLVIANE GREENSWORD:

So how would you explain that success?

JOHN MARK WILLIAMS:

I think the kids that I met after we left school were a lot like us. They were very diverse, had a lot of different opinions and stuff. But they, I think they were just bound by the same things we were, which was a character based on, what would you call it being assertive I guess, and saying, you know what, we may not be as rich as you are, we may not be as popular as you are, but, by God, we're gonna, you know, make our mark. Yeah, we're gonna make our mark. And, that's a hard thing to keep going. I think after a few generations, you know, it gets harder and harder.

JEFF LEONARD:

Well, too though that, that kind of personality, they want to make their own mark in their own unique organization. So that's what makes it kind of a cutoff.

ERROL HENRY:

Well, I think part of it too is that we maybe didn't get as much support from us because we were onto our own lives.

JEFF LEONARD:

You didn't have legacy and so organization and part of it.

ERROL HENRY:

But I think also, there weren't, there weren't that you know, like as you would have with national fraternities, you know, that whole established organization. That support and structure. The name recognition.

JEFF LEONARD:

People kind of join a fraternity or sorority perhaps as a legacy. Right. You know, that we didn't have that.

ERROL HENRY:

Yeah. And prices went up a lot. So, the poor kids that would have joined Tau Chi are kind of..

JEFF LEONARD:

Yeah, actually, John Mark and I drove here together and the way in a car, although I think I mentioned earlier, I still visit the campus to see the athletic sports going on, but I don't know. It's amazing again. I've graduated nearly 40 years ago. Like, where did time go? But I don't know what the campus dynamics is today. I'm aghast. Maybe they don't want to hear this, but I've had three... my own, they all chose to go to a Texas school. And it was funny as my mother knows that I bleed purple and I met and married my wife. Also, TCU, my mother-in-law's a TCU grad and as my boys were close to looking at schools, my mother, out of her mouth, said, "I hope you allow your boys to go to a school other than TCU." Because she just knows how fond I am of the school. I said, "Mom, have you seen what the tuition is at TCU these days? Believe me, I am not pushing them to go to TCU. If they get a scholarship, they can go but you know, that's the sad thing and we talked about it earlier is you know, where is the middle class kids? I mean for me I got some scholarship. I mean I fell on some hard times at school. I was pulling the coupons that you know if you're on Medicare, Medicaid, the whole welfare system, you know, I was, I was on food stamps during some of my college tuition, that's not something I was discussing amongst everyone. But I mean, that's a little bit how I made it. We had an apartment back in the day. It's amazing. You talk about how cheap it was. There was three of us living, three of us fraternity brothers living in a one-bedroom apartment and the rent was, I think 300 a month. So we were all paying 100 and I don't think we were all as broke as I was, but we were all poor college kids. But there was a time where the apartment, suddenly we had like an \$80 gas bill. Well, what do you use gas in a 400 square foot apartment for the heat? But anyway, we told the gas company we can't afford this, they cut off our gas. So I was going from you know, our apartment over to the Rickles Center so I could take some showers and not be the smelly college dude.

ERROL HENRY:

That was you?

JEFF LEONARD:

That was me, but those are just something that kind of makes you who you are and you don't like, you know. That's a story you don't really tell so much like just your story of how you grew up, like mind-blowing. Oh my gosh, I didn't know. But yeah, there was definitely an underpinning of, "Hey, you know, these guys aren't gonna, you know, make judgment of me because, you know, I'm driving a motorcycle because, you know, it's far cheaper than a lot of other stuff." And then, you know saw different things that TCU, I think all of us did.

JOHN MARK WILLIAMS:

Did you come in 79?

ERROL HENRY AND JEFF LEONARD:

Yes.

JOHN MARK WILLIAMS:

Okay. Did you? 79. Okay. Do you guys remember Milton Daniel?

JEFF LEONARD:

Yes.

JOHN MARK WILLIAMS:

How many 240 Z's were out in front? It was like. All the football players had brand new 240Zs.

JEFF LEONARD:

As I said, I went to the Rickles Center to take showers. I'm not saying people were on the take, but there was a basketball player I would crack up at because he had this huge Cadillac, I'm not going to say his name, but it popped up in my head. But anyway, he would get out of this huge Cadillac and go to his trunk and pull out his basketball shoes and then go up to practice basketball. I was like, wow, you know, who's got a brand new Cadillac, but yeah, the 280 Z's they were popular, but that was back in the day, all the kids were getting paid. Like Eric Dickerson, you know, our nemesis, the SMU was doing better at cheating than we were.

JOHN MARK WILLIAMS:

And, one of our brothers, Randy Whitehurst, his father owned the Nissan dealership over in Dallas and ended up, a lot of those cars linked back to him.

JEFF LEONARD:

You had a lot of connections with the athletes because you lived, for whatever reason, in the athletic dorm. Those are whole different stories that I've somewhat heard of but there's no point in repeating. Yeah, it was very interesting times, and you know, I'd love... hopefully there's a video of all of what TCU is today. Cause I, hope TCU has some of what we went through, but again, I look at just the expense that you mentioned, it was expensive. It wasn't, I mean, for like, for me, I had the maximum grants, and I did get loans, but it was possible to get through school.

JOHN MARK WILLIAMS:

Oh yeah, \$75 an hour when we came back in the day.

JEFF LEONARD:

And then, of course, you wanted to live off-campus as soon as possible because campus was expensive. You know, you could find a one-bedroom slum of a place and live really cheap if you wanted to.

ERROL HENRY:

Do you remember that house back on Lelic and Loudon that we lived in? I don't know. Were you, were there, right? It was George and, Russell.

JEFF LEONARD:

Oh, no, that place. Yeah. I was there. We rented a house, right? There were like five or six of us in there. That was crazy times too.

ERROL HENRY:

Oh. What's interesting is that even though the School of Business was right across the street, some of us would be late for class.

JEFF LEONARD:

So what's crazy too is how much things have gone up in price. As we looked at Fort Worth and TCU, my parents were aghast at how cheap the homes were right around TCU. We're talking \$25,000, \$35,000 at the time. They were like, hey, maybe we could buy this and have you live in one of these places. I'm not so sure about that, but in hindsight, those homes today or whatever, half a million or more. So, it doesn't seem like 40 years, but I guess it's been.

DR. SYLVIANE GREENSWORD:

Can you talk a little bit about the race relation climate at the time within the fraternity, but also outside of it? The numbers haven't really changed much in terms of demographics since you were enrolled. Our chancellor is very big on increasing diversity, especially racial diversity. Can you talk a little bit about how it was like for you in your perspective?

JEFF LEONARD:

Yeah, I mean, we all have come from a different perspective. What Errol experienced, you know, he's telling me some stories today that I've not heard before. I mean, from my background, coming from a military dependent, it was... I grew up with a mixture of folks. If you're in the Navy and you're black, brown, white, it doesn't matter. So, I think my upbringing was definitely where, you know, you're accepting of everyone. Coming to Texas, you know, I did feel a different sense. And it wasn't even like hey, I'm white, I should be accepted. But it was like, I'm a Yankee. Can't hide, I guess a Midwest accent. And there's, you know, the, the Texas boys and their ranches and so forth. So it's a strange mix of everything. Do I think the racial acceptance is better today? I hope so. I honestly don't know of the campus on how well they're integrating, but part of the lack of integration, and John Mark and I talked about this earlier is no matter who you are, if you're academically able to enter the university, but perhaps you don't have the wherewithal to pay for it, even though TCU is giving that money to allow that kid to go to school, I knew how I was of being very cognizant of, hey, my food stamps are coming next week and, you know, I'm just not going to be able to, at this point, go out and have drinks unless, you know, that one club is having free drinks from five to seven. So I think the diversity I think you're looking for is tough. It's just, this is just me and my brain of it's an expensive university, it's a beautiful university, far more beautiful than when we were there. It was always under construction. I look around today and I can see the appeal, but I do wonder where, race relations aside, it's just a kind of a poor kid, whether you be white or black or Brown, you're going to have to find your water level, so to speak, and I think that was kind of the draw to some degree in our fraternity. If you're raised racist, I think you're going to be racist, no matter how affluent you are. But I think there's a barrier for TCU. In my opinion, the color green is a barrier more than probably color itself. I know in my business life; I was a representative of the minority business council. I was on a board of women business professionals, kind of being a mentor. It was interesting where some gals were like, "Well, Jeff, how do you like being the only guy, you know, in our group of 20 women?" I'm like, "Hey, I love it." But honestly, if I were to look at TCU back, as I say, of friends of mine, of my parents that said, "Hey, check out TCU," if I were of a different skin color, there's no question in my mind. Like, I'd be walking around looking for someone who looks like me. Right? I mean, Errol, I'm amazed that, you know, Errol will tell me

he's not black and I'll say, "Well, Errol, you're a little more colored than I am, right?" I didn't mean to say you were black.

ERROL HENRY:

But the thing is, back then I had hair, and you could tell I wasn't because, yeah, in fact, the seventies, a lot of people wore their hair in the afros, whatever. Well, my hair was wavy enough that if I didn't, like, blow dry it, you know, and just let it dry and just, it looked like a bushy afro. In fact, some of the black people at the cafeteria when I'd go through the line, they'd go, "What are you?" You know, they didn't want to know what I was because they couldn't tell.

JEFF LEONARD:

But see, but for me, I would never even ask that. That's just me, but I would suspect, well, I know I'd be guilty of that. There's a black person I'm talking to in the back of my mind. I can't help but think, is he an athlete? Right? Cause that was what most of, people of color were of, hey, basketball, football, what have you. And, you know, that's not appropriate to make those assumptions.

ERROL HENRY:

But there were also people here who were Precious Kids, too. I mean, Ed Cumber, I mean, For me, I worked and went to school. That's really the main reason that it took me a little longer to go to school here. But, one of the things I wanted to say was that in terms of and the friend that I sat next to, I saw him the next day and, to catch up with what was covered and whatnot, and he said, "Oh, well, you know, Mrs. So and so, the accounting teacher, said, 'Oh, where's our token black today?'"

JEFF LEONARD:

Really?

ERROL HENRY:

And I thought, and that bothered me for a long time because I wondered, well, okay, I had never heard her speak like that. I had never, I never thought of her in that way. I love this teacher. She was amazing at what she did and a lot of students loved her. She was funny. She'd stop in the middle of a problem and just start a story.

JEFF LEONARD:

And it just, you know. But in defense of, there's no defense to that. But I would say in the back of my mind, she thought for some reason that was just a glib joke.

ERROL HENRY:

Probably so, yeah. Yeah, because I think she is from Arkansas. And I thought, okay, this guy wouldn't say that in jest. I mean, he wouldn't, that's just not who he is. And, and so I thought, well, she had to have said that. And I thought, well, why would she even phrase anything like that? Of course, I was one of the few people of color in there, you know. And so that, that bothered me. I thought, you know, because I thought I wasn't the top student in terms of grades in there. And I wasn't at the bottom or, you know, I mean, I got B's and A's, you know. And so I thought, well, why would she even. And of course for me, being born in the Caribbean, where it

was, it's a very multicultural country. There's a lot of Spanish, there's a lot of Africans, and there's a lot of Indians. And the Indians, among them, there are Hindus. of that faith and then the Muslims. And growing up, I remember that we weren't supposed to associate with them because they were Muslims and we were Hindus. And I never really understood that as a young child. But, so, I mean, it didn't matter to me. I didn't see, you know, color or whatever. We had all different kinds of friends. We went to church. I mean, families from black Indians. We went to their homes it was nothing, and race wasn't that big of an issue. When I moved to New York City, it was definitely different. I found myself being part of a majority; Indians were the majority there, to being a real minority in New York City and in the United States. So, that was an awakening. Feeling confident about my favorite subject of spelling and getting a test back where a ton of the words were wrong because I spelled it with British spelling and not the American spelling, really shook my confidence. Like, what? This is right! This is how we spell it! Flavor! F L A V O U R, right? Of color! O U R, yeah. But that was interesting.

DR. SYLVIANE GREENSWORD:

So, getting to TCU, did you try and connect with other students of color, or were you just there to get your education?

ERROL HENRY:

Well, I didn't. My mom was, I guess you can say because I was the youngest of the boys, I was kind of a mother's boy, a mama's boy, whatever you want to call it, but I kind of. She would always say, just get your education; there's plenty of time to date and get married and all that kind of stuff. Of course, a lot of that too has to do with our culture, you know. We never really talked about it. But for her, if I had married someone that was black, she would not have been happy about that. Because it's just like Italians marrying Italians or Jews marrying Jews. It's a cultural thing. You know, even though, like I said before, growing up in Trinidad, it wasn't a big deal to play with other kids and do whatever, it was just, you know, but so I ended up getting married to somebody that was white, and she didn't have an issue with that. She would have preferred that I married somebody from our own background because we have so much more in common, you know, and whatnot, but yeah, it wasn't as big of an issue, so. What was the question again? I'm sorry.

DR. SYLVIANE GREENSWORD:

If you ever tried to connect with other students of color?

ERROL HENRY:

Was there any organizations? Yeah, I was part of the international students organization and, you know, attended a lot of different things with them. But I naturally tended to be an easygoing person. I really didn't. I made friends very easily. I'm silly and I make jokes and so, you know, it's easy to get along. I tried to see people for just who they are. Not to look at color, really. And the people that accept me for who I am, I treasure them as well. Because, like I said, coming here and being part of, not having to even think about color, not having to think about who I am, what are people seeing and, you know, what do they see when they look at me? I never used to think like that growing up. And that happened in New York and then when I moved down here it was even that much more obvious to me that. I mean, I never experienced people walking on the crossing the road to walk the other side to avoid me, but, you can tell there was definitely a

difference. People in New York weren't very friendly, let's say, but they didn't go out of their way to

JEFF LEONARD:

Walk across the street rather than get close to you.

ERROL HENRY:

We all lived in the same city and whereas here, I made the mistake when I was here for the first two semesters, going back to New York and, when I moved here, there was such a friendly place. At least people seemed friendly. And you walk down the street, or you pass someone in the hallway and you say hi, and you know, it's just very courteous and so on. Even, I remember driving when I first started driving here, and you're waiting to pull out of a drive or something. And people who have the right of way would stop and let you go. And I thought, this doesn't happen in New York City. No way. No way that would happen in New York City. But I remember walking down the sidewalk in New York City, and I had just forgotten that I wasn't in Kansas anymore. And I was walking, saying hi to people, and they were giving me the strangest looks like, Who are you? And after a while I thought, "These people are not friendly. What's happening here?" But I wasn't in Texas anymore. People kind of go their own way, and they mind their own business, and it's just how they're used to doing it, so.

DR. SYLVIANE GREENSWORD:

In the 1979, 1980, around that time, they actually published a booklet called the Black Students Guide because of what you were saying, Jeff, like our kind of a natural inclination to gravitate toward people that look like us.

ERROL HENRY:

Sure.

DR. SYLVIANE GREENSWORD:

And so they had that pamphlet or that booklet published because they wanted to encourage Black students to actually go outside of their group and make purposeful friendships with people that look differently. Did you ever find yourself in a situation where you stepped outside of your comfort zone on purpose, as an effort to reach out or whether because you were told to or because you're just out of curiosity?

JOHN MARK WILLIAMS:

I don't know. I never had a comfort zone. I mean, I never considered anybody to be different from me until I got to know them, and then I would find the similarities we had and forget about the differences, and that worked really, really well.

JEFF LEONARD:

And I'll concur with that for John Mark. There, John Mark would have friends that, for me, like, I wouldn't say, well, he's Black, I don't want to be his friend, but he would have some big football players that, you know, they're intimidating. I'm not like maybe he could be my friend, but John Mark was amazing where, yeah, he would have friends with everybody. And to where, to your point, I mean, I look back at myself, I was more shy. With John Mark, he would open the

door to look at these guys here at Milton Daniel, and truly, and maybe that came from, you know, being raised a Methodist minister that you just, you know, you're accepting of everything. I was more of a stay out of trouble. But, you know, I was more of a stay out of trouble. Yeah, John Mark brought me through into places and situations I would not feel comfortable in. I didn't feel comfortable meeting people and they're talking about dove hunting and that sort of thing. Or skiing in Colorado where I'm always like, I'm putting myself in my own little box. And, you know, as you mature, you realize how foolish that is. But, you know, I would definitely be the one where, you know, I want to see someone that looks like me on campus. So, you know, kudos to, I would never have the gumption that Errol had. As much as I wanted to get away from my parents and, you know, get somewhere warm, the fact is I chose the school that at least I knew some people that were happy at TCU. So, to your point, how you facilitate that is, it's not easy, right? And I teach my kids that too. First day of school, look for the kid that's sitting by himself. He could be new to the school or what have you. And it was a struggle for them to do that, but they have embraced that themselves. So, there definitely has to be more of that.

ERROL HENRY:

Well, my freshman year, I was put in the same room, a room with a guy from Germany that spoke very little English. We communicated with hand gestures. "I'm going to class now. I've got my books." Yeah. And of course, we, in Pete Wright, we didn't have bathrooms in our room. Or adjoining. Yeah, you go down to those huge communal shower and bathroom. You know, and that was kind of different for me.

JEFF LEONARD:

Right.

ERROL HENRY:

You know, I mean, what you put up with as a kid is just mind-boggling. So, that was an interesting thing. And he was there for a semester. His business, I think, sponsored his being there to kind of experience America and university and things like that. And he was gone the next semester. But he also had another friend that, you know, they would go out and drink and drink their beer and come back to the room, stoned, drunk, whatever. And that was an interesting thing, but yeah, I mean, in terms of reaching outside of my comfort zone to actually meet other people, I mean, I don't know that I actually.

JEFF LEONARD:

I think you did do that. Because as you say, you were always open and friendly.

ERROL HENRY:

Yeah, but I mean, to say that I would target a certain person or group or whatever it is. But I do have to say, though, that John Mark was a very, is a very friendly, outgoing. It reminds me a lot of my dad. He never knew a stranger at all. And you were, you were that kind of person always reaching out to other people and befriending them and no matter who they were. I gotta say, I think that had a lot to do with the fraternity brothers and how we all kind of came together. 'Cause it was really under your leadership. I think you were the president of the fraternity to begin with and, directed a lot of the way things should be organized and, or were organized that were very beneficial and, that leadership role that you played, I think had a lot to do with it.

JEFF LEONARD:

I mean, I had a stereotype of, you know, Southern guys and clearly John Mark didn't meet the negative stereotypes I had.

ERROL HENRY:

It probably helped you that your mom was a schoolteacher, didn't it?

JOHN MARK WILLIAMS:

Well, that, and dad was a minister. Yeah, so, yeah. Your mom was always so outgoing.

ERROL HENRY:

So my daughter started, she got accepted here, we were talking about schools and where, and it was between this and Chapman because they're both affiliated with the Disciples, and she received scholarships to both and decided because she wanted to be an animator, she wanted to, her creative side. She wanted to go to Chapman because it's right there in California where all the students, it was number seven rated at the time. Although she was shy as well and somewhat introverted, I mean somewhat, a lot, we just didn't want to stand in her way. I mean, we really wanted for her to go to TCU because as a young child, we dressed her up in the little cheerleader outfit.

JEFF LEONARD:

I remember that, yeah.

ERROL HENRY:

You know, the pleated skirt or whatever it is, and she had little pom-poms. And painted a frog on her face, and you know, all that stuff, you know. And she loved it for a while until she got to be about eight or nine, like, I don't want to go to that age. So, yeah. Plus she wanted to be her own person. She didn't want to go do what mom and dad were doing and stuff like that.

JEFF LEONARD:

I think that was a lot my boys too. Like, yeah, I'm okay TCU, I'm going somewhere else.

ERROL HENRY:

However, like I said, in her junior year, she was having some anxiety issues and stuff and Brought her back home and got her some help for that and, after about two years, she decided to apply to TCU because it was closer to home with her anxiety. We didn't want to be that far away. And got accepted and finished here.

JEFF LEONARD:

Did she thrive at TCU?

ERROL HENRY:

She actually did, she lived at home. She didn't live on campus, which was good, for her. But, yeah, she finished and got a degree, a general studies degree with an emphasis in Chinese. So because she took Chinese in high school, she had taken Spanish and she thought, I better take

Spanish. And so she decided she was going to take Chinese and loved it. Absolutely loved it. And, I remember when she was like eight years old, too, she would be listening to all the K-pop and Japanese music. It's like, hey, dad, hear this one. Isn't this great? And I'm like, sure, honey. I understand a word they're saying, but it's great. But yeah, she ended up with, with this Korean Chinese. So, what do you do with that? Well, you work with your dad, graphic design and printing business.

JEFF LEONARD:

But I mean, don't you just love that? She's still there. I was telling John Mark, my eldest son is living with us and, you know, my family were like, hey, he's 24, you know, he should be on his own. Yeah, he should, but you know what? I like him being at home. And, you know, he's waiting on some of his, his friends to graduate, and they'll eventually, be on his own.

JOHN MARK WILLIAMS:

Yeah, and there's always somebody extra to take out the trash and stuff.

JEFF LEONARD:

Amen to that. Yeah.

JOHN MARK WILLIAMS:

Doing chores around the house.

JEFF LEONARD:

After three times of asking, the trash does get dumped on occasion. And occasionally, he'll even buy food. Yeah. What the heck. There you go. So any other questions?

DR. SYLVIANE GREENSWORD:

Not really, unless there is anything else that you would like to share. What, about, what do you have to tell the next generation of boys or girls that, is looking for a way to make a mark on campus?

JEFF LEONARD:

So I'll tell you from a perspective only from my three boys, I've got one that just graduated, one a junior in college and one a freshman. They don't go to TCU, but to a T they all are realizing that they wish they had joined more organizations, done more things, reached out beyond what they're comfortable with. And as parents, we push that, but for some, it doesn't sink in, but you know, there's far more regrets of what you didn't do versus what you did do. And some of that's just their personality types where I've got my middle son. I have to tell him, you know, there's only so many things you can do, but that's the enriching, the college environment is so unique. And, you know, where am I going to find a guy from Trinidad and a Southern Methodist, son, Yeah, as I said, I came from the Navy, so we had the Navy background, but, the great thing about TCU it's just maybe not as racially diverse as everyone would hope for, but I do know geographically they're very diverse. And, I cringe at the thought that, you're going to a school and everyone's from Texas, right. Or everyone's Christian for that matter. I'm a true believer in diversity, but yet you can go to diverse. Anything and just hang out with your people so to speak and you're not fully enriched if you do that and it's a shame and yeah again kudos to John Mark

he could do that to no end and he brought us along with that ride, but yeah, just go out there join as many groups as you can and you know, hopefully you peel back your insecurities and, you explore people.

ERROL HENRY:

Well, I think sometimes if you, if you don't do that, if you don't step outside of your comfort zone, you're not going to find that this is really not what I'm interested in, but I'm really interested in something over here. But if you don't explore, how do you know? And that's one of the things my daughter has, I told you she was on the autism spectrum slightly. Bright. I mean, intelligent. I mean, just so smart and, a great sense of humor. However, sometimes, when she has to make decisions, about certain things socially, she would rather stay at home. She'd rather not, you know, she just feels comfortable being in her own environment. So for her, I have to push her a lot. We've had to do that quite a bit. I give her the example of, you know, some of the things that I've done. I'm really a very shy person. I'm really an introvert. I worked really hard to be able to sit here. In fact, today that is the reason why I might be there today. At last minute I was looking around the house and most of the pictures at our house is of both of them. I stay behind the camera. I don't want to be in the front of it. I did things when I was a deacon at our, in our church. It was, it's a sizable church, about two to three thousand members. I was also an elder, served as an elder. Which, you know, you have to pray at the table, at the communion table.

JEFF LEONARD:

I can't do that.

ERROL HENRY:

I didn't think I could do it, but a lot of prayer. Right. But I served on boards, the DRC was the last one, Day Resource Center for the Homeless. And I did a three-year service on the board. And prior to that, it was Habitat for Humanity. And there were things that I was interested in and things that helped other people. So being an introverted person, you really did push yourself out. Yeah, and then Parenting Center, I did that for about six years. And I did other things related to the business. The different advisory boards for graphic arts. So, I tried wherever I could to broaden my own self in terms business and networking purposes, but also, to not always be that shy, introverted person. Life has a lot to offer, and if you sit back and just watch.

JEFF LEONARD:

And you know, it goes by so fast.

ERROL HENRY:

It does, it does. I mean, she's been out of school now for a couple of years. Well, no, one year in May. And, I keep telling her, I said, "you don't have to stay and work with me. There's so much else out there".

JEFF LEONARD:

You mentioned a point where I struggled, my kids struggled with because when they're applying to colleges, especially the big Texas state schools, you're applying to a college within the university. And, my kids are saying, well, I don't know what I want to be, and yet I hope TCU

doesn't do it this way, but I know the big state schools do. You're applying to be a finance major or an accounting major or allied health, pre-med, and they only let so many in. For me, I mentioned I was a computer science major back in the punch card days. I totally understood after three years that that's the last thing I want to do and I just woke up one day and said I'm gonna be a business major and I went down, changed my major. It was all fine and dandy, but I see my kids, my first one thought he was going to be a physician assistant. He applied to allied health, got it. He's in there realizing, hey, this isn't for him. Right. And I'm totally telling our kids. These kids today are 17 and they're going to be an oral surgeon. It's like, who are they? And how are they so fixated on what they're going to be? Yeah. Those are anomalies and heaven forbid that kid one day figures out it's not who he wants to be. So, I tell my kids to explore everything you can, but sadly the schools don't let you do that. And like I have, you know, my son with allied health figured out, I thought he was a little more like me. It's like, you know, I think business is your forte and he sweated to be able to transfer in at his school into the business school and there's no guarantee and I've got now my youngest son doing the same thing, you know, you want to explore things and yet the programs themselves don't let you take certain courses if you're not that major, you know, silly me, but I think school should be explore it all, you know, take basket weaving, if that's something you, you never know where you're gonna go with it.

ERROL HENRY:

Right. Right. I mean. All the learning that you take is going to help you somewhere or another. However, you know, can you see yourself doing that for the rest of your life? Right. And of course, back in the day, that's what most people did. Today, if you decide, hey, I want to go into real estate, which I got my real estate license about over a year ago because I thought, well, I'm going to get rid of the printing company. I'm going to try something different where my time is a little bit more my own and whatnot. So, you know. I mean, people have four and five different careers these days. By the time they're retired.

JEFF LEONARD:

Well, I tell my kids, like, you know, people my age didn't say, I'm gonna go work for Google. There was no Google. Right. So don't even think, you know, the kids that think they have it all figured out. You gotta be adaptable. You don't know what you don't know or what you like and what you don't like so yeah I think the general studies for a couple years and then maybe apply to a certain College of Choices is a better route.

ERROL HENRY:

Unless you're one of those... What do you call them? Those folks on the internet that have a huge following because they're all

JEFF LEONARD:

Social influencers. That's a whole nother profession I can't even wrap my hands around. We didn't have the internet, right? Like, believe it or not, kids, there was a day where we didn't have internet.

ERROL HENRY:

Till when Mark was our influencer.

JOHN MARK WILLIAMS:

Well, yeah, along those lines of not putting yourself in any particular spot. The same thing accounts for interpersonal communications. I went out and I spoke to people, and if they were friendly and they liked me, fine. If they didn't, I didn't worry about it. I walked down to the next guy. It's not something that, it's not a personal thing. It's just the way people are. And, you know, you just have to be the one to take the risks and because somebody else doesn't take the risk with you does not make them a bad person. You just have to say I'm gonna go out and meet people and not have any preconceived ideas about who or how and just do it and stop worrying about how they react. It's a matter of just meeting the right people.

JEFF LEONARD:

Rejection was never your thing that you got hung up on.

JOHN MARK WILLIAMS:

I never, no. You couldn't.

JEFF LEONARD:

Yeah, well, but it is a natural thing for some of us to fear rejection. Oh, I'm waiting out to something I don't feel comfortable with. And, you know, we're talking about your daughter being socially awkward or shy, my first son, you know, I recall having some fun times in high school, but my first son, shy, he's now really matured outside of that. But you know, I saw him in high school, junior, senior year, Friday nights, football games and all that. And he's home with dad. Hey, I didn't mind it. We were watching, you know. Sports on TV, but I'm like, "Hey, Logan", you know, and I knew in a lot of cases his friends were calling him to do stuff, but he just didn't feel comfortable with it. He didn't have a driver's license until like 18 and a half years old. And I would be taking him to the soccer games to play soccer and be like, don't you want to drive yourself? No, I'm cool. And today he's mature enough to realize. I didn't feel comfortable. I was shy. Just that, that leap. Yeah. For a lot of us, it wouldn't be much of a leap to think I'm going to get a driver's license. You can't be the outgoing, you can't give that to them.

ERROL HENRY:

Right, right.

JEFF LEONARD:

You know, the ability to be outgoing, nor instill the confidence. It has to somehow come from within.

ERROL HENRY:

And I think it makes it easier for when I sound like my parents when I say that, say this, but for children today to not have to engage. Face to face with people because of all the technology.

JEFF LEONARD:

That we have that's a scary thing. You see the kids today and they're, they're buried in there. They're together, but they're buried in the phones. We didn't have any of that.

ERROL HENRY:

Yeah, but saying that's the thing all of her friends. They text each other. She wouldn't even text. She wouldn't even text. So that was too much to get her to make a phone call. You know, hey. You know, call your cousin in New York. You know, she sent you this present for your graduation. You know, you need to call and thank her. It took her 10 minutes in the car. I said, you can call her now, just, it took her to think and think and think and get over her fear and her anxiety to speak to another human being.

JEFF LEONARD:

Well, let me give TCU credit though, when I think of my kids schools in TCU, it's clear that they built the school for living learning. And I do see, you know, the Dorms that are I think they're now more co-ed, but they open up together. So, I definitely like the fact that I'm sure it's intentional that they're trying to get the kids to mingle together. We didn't have the frog camp. You know, and that seems to be a big thing that schools are doing today. We're all a little bit shy in our own world, and we're coming to see. It's a new school as a freshman to getting counselors and so forth that will help facilitate meeting people.

ERROL HENRY:

Yeah. Well, and then today with COVID, we're going to have to relearn all of those things. We come out of our homes and start gathering.

JEFF LEONARD:

Yeah. I feel sorry for those entering freshman year last year under COVID or even graduating. COVID's a whole different problem.

JOHN MARK WILLIAMS:

Yeah, Mary Taylor didn't get to walk. I think she will in May. And I'll be here.

JEFF LEONARD:

Well, Lauren didn't either.

ERROL HENRY:

Oh, she graduated from JCU? Nice. I didn't know that.

JOHN MARK WILLIAMS:

She's looking to go to law school in the fall. Awesome. Where? She know yet? We're hoping SMU. She's got 50 legacies at SMU. I mean, Dope Walker was her great uncle.

JEFF LEONARD:

Yeah, that doesn't hurt.

JOHN MARK WILLIAMS:

And so, then we have all his kids, all... I mean, my parents. Nothing wrong with SMU. I checked out SMU. Didn't you get your master's there?

JEFF LEONARD:

Master's, but for undergraduate, I applied to one school. And I got early admittance because again, I walked on the campus, fell in love with the co-eds there and they had a program. But, yeah, SMU is a great school, but I looked at SMU as I described. We went to DFW airport and we looked at both SMU and TCU and SMU just didn't have the friendly vibe. And, yeah. You know, to your point, I did get a master's there, but I don't feel any affinity to the school. I really delved into TCU.

ERROL HENRY:

Well, TCU at the time was such a, in terms of the numbers. I mean, it was 68,000. Much smaller, yeah. I mean, it was very small school relative to this.

JOHN MARK WILLIAMS:

Well, we were like less than 10, right?

ERROL HENRY:

Yeah, I think we were close to that.

JOHN MARK WILLIAMS:

It was something they kept talking about. Yeah, we're gonna get more students, we're gonna get more parking. Yeah. Oh, they have done a good job on the parking over there. My goodness. But, yeah, I mean, TCU it's a, I think for most alums it'd be a very, very good memory.

JEFF LEONARD:

I agree.

JOHN MARK WILLIAMS:

That's all the advice I got to give.

JEFF LEONARD:

For those that are going to TCU, just absolutely jump in. I do know the school does try and get you out there. You can still hide behind your in your dorm, but, you will not regret putting yourself out there.

JOHN MARK WILLIAMS:

Yeah, they can't force you to go out and meet people.

JEFF LEONARD:

True.

ERROL HENRY:

Well, they need to have a day where they put all their technology away.

JOHN MARK WILLIAMS:

Yeah, that's a great idea. That would be a great idea.

ERROL HENRY:

Cause the, like you said, the campus is built on purpose. They brought the community back to the campus. Because, you know, a lot of people at the time, there's a large percentage that lived off campus. Yeah. And having all of the the dorms in that quad area and then the Frog Fountain. And from what I understand, Movie Night is shown blankets on the grass and it's projected on one of the buildings. And so they're out there in, you know, I mean, it's just a, a different place. We used to watch it up in the ballrooms, through the center ballroom, we'd wear our pillows and things like that and listen to it from the landing, between the floors. But yeah, I mean, it's definitely a better campus in terms of community and allowing people to mix and meet others, so. Yep.

DR. SYLVIANE GREENSWORD:

Well, I truly appreciate your words of wisdom and your willingness to come here and share those stories and making us laugh. I truly think that that effort that you were part of is really part of what can help us build that future that we're looking into the reconciliation and just looking for a campus where everybody is respected and valued as a person. So, these are those efforts. You didn't think you were making history, but here we are. So, I just wanted to say thank you, thank you, and thank you.