Shaun L. Gabbidon Interview

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SPEAKERS
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Interviewee: Shaun L. Gabbidon

Fatemeh Rezaei
This is Fatemeh Rezaei, it's April 26, 2024, at 11am. I'm with Shaun L. Gabbidon, we are on the online Zoom platform. And we are going to begin our oral history interview for the University of Baltimore Stories, the 100 Anniversary Oral History Project. The purpose of this project is to celebrate the university's Centennial by preserving the memory of those influenced by the University of Baltimore over the years. We will be creating a digital archive and exhibit and making these recordings available online. Hello Professor Gabbidon. Thank you very much for being here. I'm going to start with some simple questions. So, where and when were you born?

Shaun L. Gabbidon
I was born in the United Kingdom. I was born in Wolverhampton, England on May 13, 1967. I lived there for three years, and then my family moved us to the United States where I resided in Brooklyn, New York for about 10 years before we moved on to Long Island.

Fatemeh Rezaei
Oh, wow. So, you're from England? But you grew up in the States, right?

Shaun L. Gabbidon
Yes, I grew up in The Sates. So, from the age of three, I was here in the States.

Fatemeh Rezaei
How was your childhood? Tell us about your childhood,

Shaun L. Gabbidon
I grew up in a part of Brooklyn called Crown Heights. And Crown Heights was then a very diverse area. That area had a lot of Caribbeans and Americans. And you know, there was also a very large Jewish population on that part of Crown Heights. It was a place of fun. I went to public school PS 241. I had a great education there from K through five. And then my parents put me in a private school. It was a Lutheran School as I recall, and I blossomed from there. When I was in eighth grade, they decided they

wanted to move to Long Island. Brooklyn was getting a little tough at the time. So they made that leap and went out onto the island and finished up my school in there. And we lived in Baldwin Long Island, which most people know as Hempstead, but that's not far from the New York City line from Queens. Moving was very interesting, you know, and having both the city and the suburban life, you know. It was a very different environment, you know, in the city. Mostly I interacted, to be honest, with African Americans or Caribbeans.

You know, my families from Jamaica. So, it was very different when you went to an island, and you're almost like a minority, [laughs] you know, you got mostly white areas, with obviously some blacks, but it was just different. So, I always tell people, when I do my research, that I understand both the city and the suburbs because I lived in both places.

Fatemeh Rezaei
Do you have brothers?

Shaun L. Gabbidon
Yes, I have actually. I grew up with one brother. He's a couple years older than me. He's an artist, but now he works in IT. He's very good in technology so he transitioned into that, but he still does some artwork.

Fatemeh Rezaei
Where do you live now?

Shaun L. Gabbidon
Right now, I live in Harrisburg. I can sort of go through some things.

Fatemeh Rezaei
I want to ask you, where did you begin your college education and with what majors?

Shaun L. Gabbidon
So, when I was actually younger, I wanted to be a scientist, but sort of like a real scientist, not a social scientist. [laughs] But as I sort of transitioned to college, I got more interested in business, and the first school I went to was Iona College in New York, which is where I actually started my education. I was there for a year, but I didn't really like it.

Things didn't really work out there. And I had a high school friend who went to a school in Virginia called Christopher Newport University, which is in Newport News, Virginia. And I went down there, and I actually liked it, you know, so I said, 'Okay, well, I'm going to go here.' So, I finished up my education at Christopher Newport University, and I met my future wife there, and she was headed to Maryland.

So, when I finished my degree, I followed her to Maryland. And the two choices to continue my education for Masters—because essentially, I wanted to become a lawyer. That was my initial goal. But I was kind of a late bloomer, academically. I had two bad first years my very first two years, but two very strong last two years, so I was advised maybe to go to graduate school to show, you know, law

schools that you could really do the higher-level work. So, I applied to University Baltimore, got into University of Baltimore. And when I was there, I just had sort of just fantastic professors. I mean, you know I was interested still in somewhat going to law school, but I kind of learned more about the justice system there. Like I said, I had just great professors there, Dr. Senese, Dr. Fishbein, Dr. Hayslip, Dr. Cheatwood. You know, just some fantastic professors who saw something in me that maybe I didn't see myself, I mean, especially Dr. Senese and Dr. Fishbein, they encouraged me to consider getting a PhD.

Fatemeh Rezaei
What year did you attend UB?

Shaun L. Gabbidon
What I did was, when I graduated from Christopher Newport, I decided that I didn't want to get any more student debt. So, I took a full-time job as a security manager with Macy's. I started out as a security detective, just basically a security guard. And then I became a security manager within the first year, and I did that full time, and I went to UB at night. UB had a great evening program, so it worked out perfectly for me. So that was 1989. I graduated in December 1988, and in spring 1889 I started my master's program at the University of Baltimore.

Fatemeh Rezaei
Did you consider other schools?

Shaun L. Gabbidon
The only other school I considered was the University of Maryland College Park, which I didn't get into because they looked at my whole four years, and the University of Baltimore was heavily weighted on your last two years, which was beneficial for me. So, I actually got in conditionally as I recall, so I was like, 'Okay, I got to do really well, or they're not going to let me stay here.' So, I did pretty good the first couple of years, which was important. You know, because I was doing it part time, it took me a little longer. And I remember, Ann Sulton was the director. She was a very influential professor in my life, and I came up there and visited the school and then she let me sit in on a class. And I was like, very interested. So, I did that.

Fatemeh Rezaei
My next question was what did the university look like at the time you attended?

Shaun L. Gabbidon
Oh, boy, it was very different than today when I passed by there. I mean, it had what it needed, but it wasn't like lots of buildings. You know, it was kind of like, you had the library, you had the main academic building, and that is kind of all I remember. I don't know. Maybe that's all I went into, but there weren't really, all these sprawling buildings, these beautiful structures. The law school was kind of there with the main academic building as I recall. But you know as a part time student, you have to realize, I was really coming from work.

So, I didn't have time to have that more traditional experience, even though back then it was basically a commuter school, you know, more so probably than it is today. Maybe it's still mostly commuter school, but back then it was like totally a commuter school. And there was just something about the program. You know, I remember Dr. Cheatwood invited me to do research with them. So that got me really interested in research. Dr. Senese, I remember he just taught me methods. And it was really great because you know, I remember I was having trouble with the course, and he just happened to be up there on a Saturday. And he said, "Hey, you know, if you need some help, I'm here." I went up there on a Saturday as I recall, and he was there. We had to do a research project, and they were just accessible and really dedicated professors.

Dr. Fishbein, she encouraged me to take her class on psycho-bio-criminology. At the time, I had never heard of anything like this, and it was just a fascinating class. We had great discussions, and she was actually the leading person and a pioneer in the area, and it's an area that I talked about not too long ago when I published a book where I included some of that stuff that she talked about, and I have some books where I actually cite her work and stuff like that because it's pioneering stuff.

You know, you don't really know who you're working with when you're just a student, but she was pioneering and that Dr. Cheatwood was a pioneer in season and crime and looking at how seasons impact crime. Dr. Hayslip was working at the Department of Justice at that time, and he's the one who first told me 'There's this thing coming. It's called email.' He was telling us that because he was working with the government and doing government work.

So I was just like fascinated, 'What is he talking about?' But years later, obviously, we all understood what he was talking about. You know, so each of the professors had something that they brought to the table that was like really important and unique. So, you got so many different vantage points of the field. And for me, I was taking Dr. Cheatwood's class on corrections, because he was also big into corrections. And he just made us do a project on a correctional topic, and my topic was racial disparities in corrections.

And I did this paper that really sensitized me more to this particular topic, because I had majored in criminal justice and taken criminal justice classes as an undergraduate. But this is where I really started to see some of the issues in the justice system that are really dear to my heart. So, I did that paper, and I remember, the paper talked about the demographics of the correctional institutions and how blacks in particular are over-represented in Maryland’s corrections institutions, and I made this prediction that we're going to start having riots in these institutions and, you know, it actually came up [inaudible]. So, I was like, 'Maybe the government should have hired me, I would have told them, You don't need to do something right now.' No, but I mean, it was just a fascinating place to learn about the system and sort of delve into it. And, you know, starting at 89, I finished in 93.

I mean, I was working full time, and I just made a leap because they had so much confidence in me that I could do it. So, I quit my job, which I had to talk to my wife about why I quit my full-time job and said I'm going to go be a graduate student. Which was a leap of faith, but throughout it Dr. Cheatwood suggested that I go to consider Indiana University of Pennsylvania because he had a colleague he worked with, and he said it was a great faculty. So I went there, and it was a great faculty. And, I mean,

you know, it's a lesser-known program in the field, but it's one of the older programs, and everything I could have imagined accomplishing, I accomplished through Christopher Newport and University of Baltimore. You know, some people do their degrees all at one place. But for me, [the combination] was an opportunity to encounter different people, different vantage points, and it was wonderful having to go to the three different places.

And obviously, you know, University of Baltimore, it set a foundation for me for graduate school, because it was really, really challenging. And I tell people this story all the time, they just think when you accomplish stuff, everything went well be you know, but at the University of Baltimore, I remember, we had comprehensive exams, and I failed them the first time. I was like, 'Oh, my goodness,' and you only have two chances to pass them.

I mean, I put so much work into passing those exams, and I passed the exam. And then I went to graduate school and people were all nervous about taking comprehensive exams. But I was like, 'No, I know how to prepare for these things.' And I [inaudible] doctoral programs, you know, because I was prepared by the University of Baltimore's rigorous program that I was in.

Fatemeh Rezaei
That's very nice. So, is there any interesting memory that you have? Like, when you were here, from your classmates or faculty or anything that you can share with us.

Shaun L. Gabbidon
I had a class with Dr. Ann Sulton at the time. She was an African American professor who had a JD and a PhD. I mean, I was just like, wow, you know? And it was interesting, because she taught her theory class, which was super tough. She included minority scholars in there, which is something I had never really thought about or heard about that. Black's had really early on talked about these issues, but you just kind of presumed from your training over the years that that was not the case because it was basically just whites theorizing, so that was very interesting. And like I said, Dr. Fishbein's class was just mind-blowing, in some ways, you know, [realizing] that these things were so important. But it just makes sense, right.

People if they have brain issues, you know, that can have an impact upon their behavior and psychology. I mean, she just really broke it down. And I could tell, you know, that class was interesting, because it's always been a diverse university. So, you had a nice mix of people, you had blacks, whites, and others, and it's kind of like, those discussions were intense when you started talking about biology, crime, and psychobiology, but she just handled it wonderfully and made us understand that this is not a race thing. It's basically a biology and psychobiology thing. And it was really intriguing. There were two classes that I thought were interesting. There was a legal class, and it was actually taught by an adjunct who was an attorney.

I can't remember his name now. But we were talking about a case where a person had been stopped, and a police officer requested to search the vehicle. And the occupant of vehicle declined. And the officer went and got a canine unit to sniff the car, and there was a big debate in class about this issue. Well, the debate was interesting because the person who actually was involved in the stop was in the

class. [Laughs.] So, you know, it was a really good debate, you know about that. But you know, that's the kind of stuff you had at the University of Baltimore because practitioners were coming to get their education to further themselves, so you ran into all kinds of interesting situations there. In another class, there was a discussion about, again I can't remember the class, there was a discussion about Charles Stewart. Now most people don't remember this case, but there was a case back in the late 80s where a woman was killed in Boston, and the husband said that a black man had killed her. It was a big story, but come to find out that, he had killed his wife for insurance money. And it was a big case, because essentially the case produced searches of the black community. I mean, they were looking for this perpetrator.

So they went into the black community, and just basically did a shakedown of the whole community because he said it was a black person. That was intriguing because in the class, there was an African American man who was in Boston at the time, and he was a part of this shakedown. I mean, they just basically—so he was talking about the experience of encountering that kind of racism, in a sense. So I mean, that was kind of a regular thing. We just had ordinary people in these classes who had extraordinary experiences to kind of, you know, give us a hands-on [account] of what it's like out there. So, I mean, I was still thinking about law school, but because of these kinds of things and the encouragement of my professors, I was like, 'No, I want to actually do research in this area. I want to do a little bit more educating people, just like my professors educated me.' So, they were just perfect role models to get me interested in this particular area.

Because most people don't want to get a PhD and stuff. They just want to go to law school, or they just want to continue on in their career. So, I think it was just a wonderful time to be at University of Baltimore for me. I'm sure it's still great, but back then, I mean, the faculty was so strong. Even though [the University of] Maryland had the only PhD program in the state, people were talking about doing a PhD program [at Baltimore]. They had a plan, and everything was ready, but it was simply that the budget crunch hit. Which, you know, it's typical that Maryland's higher education gets those cuts, unfortunately. But had that happened, I would have stayed there and gotten my PhD because there were just so many good professors there that it was very strong.

Fatemeh Rezaei
That's interesting! I'm glad that you had a very positive experience.

Shaun L. Gabbidon
Oh, yeah. Oh, yeah.

Fatemeh Rezaei
So, you earned your PhD from Indiana University of Pennsylvania, worked at Coppin State University and have been working at Penn State University since 1999. Is that an accurate summary of what happened after your graduation from UB?

Shaun L. Gabbidon
Yes, it is.

Fatemeh Rezaei
How would you describe your journey after graduation?

Shaun L. Gabbidon
After graduation? Well, I'll first say a couple of things. I remember. During that time, there were two master's programs in Baltimore. It was one at Coppin State University, and it was one at University of Baltimore. And there was talk of eliminating one of them. Because it was like a duplication because of expenses, and I remember being very proud when they invited me to come to a session where they were appealing it. So, I was able to appeal on behalf of the program and why the program was important and stuff like that. So, I was very proud that they asked me to do that.

But then after that, they asked me to be the graduation speaker of the graduate school, so I remember that fondly as well in 1993 [inaudible]. But after that, as I moved on, I thought I just really wanted to teach, right? So, it really is the interesting thing that when I left there I really just wanted to go to a historically black college and teach. Alright, so I didn't really want to be like a big researcher [even though] I liked research.

So, I went to IUP. Then when I was there, I got more interested in research, but I still wanted to go to an HBCU. It was intriguing while I was there, I decided that I wanted to go to an inner city one. Right, so I ended up at Coppin State University, that same school that was involved in that kind of hearing to figure out which program they were going to keep. And they kept both programs, obviously. So I was able to get that appointment there. And I was there for four years.

Fatemeh Rezaei
You came back to Baltimore?

Shaun L. Gabbidon
Yes, I moved back to Baltimore. It was interesting——

Fatemeh Rezaei
Did you live in Baltimore City, or did you——?

Shaun L. Gabbidon
Well, I'll just say this. My wife was in the PhD. program in Maryland. So, we decided to stay in the College Park area because that's when I was at the University of Baltimore. That's where I was. I was commuting, you know. And interestingly, most people will not know this. When I was a security manager, I was a security manager at Tysons Corner, Virginia. So, when I had classes, sometimes I had to drive from Tysons Corner all the way to the University of Baltimore. And I could have technically transferred to another school, but I didn't. I wanted to finish up at the University of Baltimore because I had great professors, and I really liked it. But anyway, that's an aside. So, I decided to go to Coppin State University, even though I had offers to go elsewhere. And I was there for four years, it was good at times, and it was terrible at times.

There were a lot of——you know, it really wasn't what I thought it was going to be. I guess I can say that and leave it at that. So, I applied for other places, and I got lots of interesting offers, and I decided to go to Penn State Harrisburg. It was an interesting place because it was a Penn State satellite campus, but it was joined with another campus, which was called the Schuylkill campus. And this Campus was about 50% minority. So, it was kind of like, you know, I was like, okay, 'I can do what I really want to do. [I can] mentor minority students' and others, obviously, but it was there. So, I did that. I took that appointment. And they also had a very lucrative salary. I have to say that too, if I'm honest, it was much more lucrative than all the other places as well.

So, I did that. But after about four years, I decided not to stay at the Schuylkill campus. I just changed my appointment to Harrisburg, and I've been here ever since. It's the largest campus outside of University Park campus. So, we have about 5000 students. But when I came, it was just a fledging campus. I mean, it was just upper division. It was kind of like the University of Baltimore. I mean, when I got to the University of Baltimore, it was just upper division, juniors, seniors, and graduate students in law school. But that was the same thing I went into it at Penn State Harrisburg. But over time, it became a residential campus.

And we went from about maybe 2500 students to 5000. We have online programs, and it's just magnificent in terms of the growth that we've had and the resources. But I'll say I stayed there for 25 years because it's just been very supportive. And I have great students. The administration has been, you know, by and large good. Every now and then you run into some bad administration wherever you go. But the support and being able to accomplish anything I want to accomplish has been, you know, I don't think I could have accomplished much more elsewhere. You know, in terms of just what I wanted, what I set out to accomplish, so it's been good.

Fatemeh Rezaei
Nice. So, you have been very active in the academic community with many publications, including books and articles related to your field. Could you share some insights about your research area?

Shaun L. Gabbidon
Okay, sure. My primary research area is Race and Justice, which essentially looks at how the racial disparities throughout the criminal justice system. My other topical interest is actually private security because I worked in the field. I do consulting in that area. And I also have a general interest in criminal justice pedagogy, so things just related to teaching criminal justice. My initial doctoral research for my dissertation was an analysis of the criminological works of W.E.B. Du Bois. And interestingly enough when I picked that topic, a lot of people were like why are you doing a historical dissertation?

Some of my mentors were like, 'Well, you're better than doing something like that. Do something quantitative!' You know, all that stuff. But they didn't understand that at the time that's what I needed to do for my own self-development because that took me into a realm of black history that nothing else would have. Studying the historical aspects of the black experience was very significant to my personal development. Now I also had visions of grandeur that when I did this dissertation, since nobody knew about Dubois's contributions to the field, that, you know, everybody would be like, 'Wow, this person's done all this great stuff, we'll just add them to the field.' But, you know, it's really taken 30 years for

people to catch on. I mean, the top people in the field now are starting to realize that they really missed something. So maybe about three or four years ago, I got an email from a top figure in the field. And he basically apologized for not listening to me 30 years ago because he finally read some of the work of DuBois and stuff that I produced related to DuBois. And so, this is like some of the top stuff he's read from that era.

So, you know, beyond finally getting the recognition, it was just like I said, important for my personal development. It connected me to scholars like myself, who were trying to do the same thing a century or more ago, you know, trying to understand and trying to help deal with some of the racial disparities in the system, because they have persisted for centuries, a century or more, you know. So yes, so that's how I started out. But I branched out into other things. I've done some things that I feel like challenged the field. I try to tell people all the time that I try not to do the same thing that the other person did. I think that's the problem with fields, you know, we replicate ourselves over and over again, do the same thing.

So one thing I did was I created a whole new area of study on consumer racial profiling. So instead of just looking at racial profiling as it relates to traffic stops or in the airport, I expanded that area to racial profiling in retail settings, you know, the suspicion of minorities as they enter a retail setting. So, I'm probably the foremost expert in the field on that. I get contacted by attorneys, retailers, you know, to help give them advice on that. I've done major studies on this particular area. But it's just, it's one of those things where it's not the easiest thing to study because you're dealing with a private entity, and they don't want to give you any information.

But when you work with the industry, sometimes you're able to do some very interesting things, which I have been able to do in that particular area. The other main thing that I've done is that I've produced a series of books related to race and crime. I had this vision. Even though most academic institutions don't like you writing books, they don't value it as much as an article, I said, I don't care. I felt that the books that were being produced on race and crime were ahistorical. They just provided numbers, and just talked about disparity, but they didn't provide context.

So, I came up with a series of books. The first book was going to be a book that looked at sort of the historical, the contextual issues related to race and crime and how we've gotten to where we are before talking about the statistics. And the first book, "Race and Crime" is pretty close to being the top book in the area. I'm either number one or two, you know. There's another book that came out right before mine. So, I'm either one or two in that one. And then from that book, there's a chapter that looks at what ideas or theories people have to explain racial disparities in offending. And I looked at the chapter, and there was so much out there.

I produced a book called "Criminological Perspectives on Race and Crime," which looks at all of the major theories and how best that they explain sort of offending differences between the different groups. And that's, you know, that I would say, it's probably a classic book. It's probably my favorite book because it just takes the field to task in terms of, saying how limited these theories are in explaining some of these offending differences by race and ethnicity. It took a while to do that because I had to go back through all of the different theories. But the other thing I'm proud of is, when I first

published the book, it had probably the largest number of inclusions from minority scholarship. I mean, I particularly went out there and dug up what minorities had to say about this topic from way back when before the turn of the century, which nobody typically cares about. You know, people just typically care about what they would consider mainstream, but it's basically mainstream white scholarship [inaudible], but I have black scholars in there and others in there.

So, I really like that book. But then, as I was doing this book, I found a lot of international literature on the same topic. So, it's not just a United States issue, it's an issue further around. So, I published a book called "Race and Ethnicity, Crime and Justice: An International Dilemma," which essentially took several typically English-speaking countries and examined the question there. So, I looked at Australia, United States, Great Britain, South Africa, and Canada, and I kind of looked at how the problem has sort of evolved in those particular countries.

And basically, I was looking at how the colonial system has impacted them on this, which I get into. And another thing that the field doesn't really recognize is the colonial model. In that whole book what I used to contextualize is the colonial model. So, for me, I was going to print one more book, but I didn't do that. I ran out of steam. Well, I guess it didn't run out of steam, but I was going to write a book on white crime that just looked at white criminality because so often when we think about race and crime, everybody goes to minorities in crime, when in fact, whites commit crime, too, you know. So, I ran into an issue where I had another person who was going to write a book. So, I'm a series editor for a book series like a publisher.

So, he came to me with this idea to write a book. And I was like, 'No, that's a terrible idea. It's not going to sell.' I said, 'This is the book you need to write.' And he's like, 'Well, I'll write that book, and you write it with me.' So, I had to give up the white crime idea books because I couldn't do them both. So, we published a book called "A Theory of African American Offending: Race, Racism and Crime," which essentially said that the field is going in the wrong direction, the field is looking for one theory to explain all criminality.

And we said, 'No, there are unique groups, such as African Americans who have such a unique experience, a general theory, can't explain it, that you need race specific theories.' And we kind of lay out some of the ideas behind that. And now we have people doing, like, race-specific theories. So right after we published our book, some people tried to apply theories just to Latinos. Though, some of the tenants that we have [inaudible].

Then we had a group of people publish a theory on elite offending. And recently a book just came out that is sort of a theory of white offending. You know, some people are trying to catch on. It's not that we're abandoning some of the general theories. What we're doing and saying some of those tenants are good. But you need a little bit more specificity to actually get to where we need to go in terms of explaining these things to the fullest. So that book is heavily cited.

I'm sure that's why I'm winning all these awards, because it's taking the field in a new direction [inaudible]. Right now, there's still crime. So obviously, the theories aren't sufficient. So, let's try and modify them. Then the other thing, the other book that I think is of significance is a book that was

published four years ago. It's called "Shopping While Black: Consumer Racial Profiling in America." It's basically a compilation of some of the work I've done related to racial profiling in retail settings. Industry likes that book. And, you know, it's not a heavy seller, but it lays out the foundations for people who are interested in this topic to do something about that particular topic.

In there, one of the chapters deals with a victimization survey that I sent to residents of Philadelphia to see if they had experienced this, at what rate, where, how, if they actually did anything after they experienced it. And I just got a grant to do the same survey in Canada. So, I'm going to be seeing, you know, how the situation of those who experience racial profiling in retail settings in America matches up with those people in Canada.

And then next spring I'm going to be doing a Fulbright to Great Britain. I'm going to do the same survey there too. So, the hope is to get a sense of like, is this a universal experience? Do they differ? Things like that. So, I think that's, again, challenging the field to do something different and hopefully leaving something for somebody who wants to do something different to kind of buildup, and that's kind of been the trend over time. So those are the main projects. You know, in terms of book projects. I mean, I have other books. I did a book on DuBois, which is essentially my dissertation.

I've done some edited books where I've done African American classics in criminology and criminal justice, where I have tried to expose the field to black scholars' work. I've done a book, "African American Criminological Thought," which is basically, we take 10 black scholars who are significant and kind of highlight their work. Each one is just trying to do something different, bring something different to the table, expose people educate them to the contributions of blacks in the field of criminology and criminal justice.

Fatemeh Rezaei
That's amazing. I mean, all of the topics that you mentioned are challenging, and interesting. Thank you for sharing that. So, is there anything else that you would like to say about both your experience or your time at UB?

Shaun L. Gabbidon
Well, I mean, another thing is when I worked on my PhD, University of Baltimore is where I taught my first class. So, you know, they gave me an opportunity. Probably nobody else would have with the background I had, but I actually taught a course on environmental crime, which was kind of a new topic. But I took that course during my first semester at IUP, and I really loved it. So, I decided to teach a class there.

So, I got great feedback, I learned a lot from teaching the class there. So, you know, they didn't just cast me off, you know, they said, 'Okay, well, come on back.' And, you know, they still nurtured me even after I left, so I'm very thankful for getting that teaching experience there. You know, for many years, they served as letter writers, I mean, I'm still in touch with Dr. Fishbein, up until a few years ago, I had communication with Dr. Senese who's been president at, I don't know, two or three universities now. All sort of inspiring instructors who gave you a vision that, you know, you could actually do something that you didn't think you could do initially. You know, so those are the memories I have of

UB, and they're all, fairly positive. I mean, I don't recall having any negative experiences there. During my tenure, maybe I did. I can't recall now because it's so long ago——

Fatemeh Rezaei
That's good that you can't recall.

Shaun L. Gabbidon
But generally speaking, you know, when I graduated, I was a commencement speaker. That's a positive thing, you know. If you think about it, then you go through that, and I graduate, and I asked them if I can teach, and they let me teach. So, I mean, I think everything has been positive. It's just sort of that phase where you get your undergraduate and something in the middle has to push you. And that was that important part where I got pushed to actually go to doctoral studies and actually accomplish all these things. So, it was a very important part of my development, the University of Baltimore, you know, was crucial to who I am today.

Fatemeh Rezaei
I'm glad to hear that. And thank you so much for giving us your time, and I really enjoyed listening to your stories.

Shaun L. Gabbidon
Okay. Well, thank you so much for including me in this particular project. You know, it means a lot to me to be able to be a contributor to success at the university.

Fatemeh Rezaei
Thank you.