

Johnny Rice II Interview

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SPEAKERS

Interviewee: Johnny Rice II

Interviewer: Bedell Terry

Bedell Terry

Good morning. This is Bedell Terry. It's February 26th, 2024, at 9am. I'm with Professor Johnny Rice via the online zoom platform. And we're going to begin our oral history interview for the University of Baltimore stories: the 100th 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 are creating a digital archive and exhibit and making these recordings available online. So good morning, Professor Rice, how are you?

Johnny Rice II

Good morning, Mr. Terry, how are you doing?

Bedell Terry

I'm doing fine. To begin the interview, let's talk about where you were born. Where did you grow up? What's your background?

Johnny Rice II

Okay, so I am a native Baltimorean. I was born in Anne Arundel County, at Fort Meade. My father was a retired military veteran. And he initially was from South Carolina. He relocated to Baltimore, during his teenage years, met my mother, who was residing in Baltimore and also had family on the Eastern Shore. They were in Douglas High School together at the night school program.

And that's how they met. And so, my oldest sister came first. Then I came a couple of years after her. And so, our upbringing has been centered in West Baltimore. I now live in Owings Mills, but the majority of my life I lived in different parts of West Baltimore Hunting Ridge, Cooks Lane area. Wildwood Parkway, Edmondson Village. And so that's kind of where my childhood years in terms of my peers (socialization) centered around.

Bedell Terry

So where did you go to high school?

Johnny Rice II

It was only one choice. So only one path, I could take Baltimore City College Senior High School. And so I went to City, which was interesting, because, you know, living, basically right around the corner from Edmondson Village shopping center, I had to catch a bus all the way downtown, and then a bus from downtown to East Baltimore over to the Alameda, for four years, and my high school experience was great. It inspired me to excel.

We had a lot of distinguished alumni. At that time, who kind of motivated us. We had great teachers, and also had great peers from all over the city. So even though I had done well in elementary, Thomas Jefferson Elementary, West Baltimore middle school, when I went to City, being at City high school, what they will call a magnet school today, I was with peers from all around Baltimore, who were very talented. So, it forced me to also get to know people from different communities in the city that I may not have traveled in or been aware of, and also learn about the schools they (my peers) attended prior to coming to City College.

Bedell Terry

So, you graduated from City College, and then went on to where?

Johnny Rice II

So, I graduated from the City in 1989. I got accepted to Penn State, York and a couple other colleges, but because my parents, you know, didn't have the financial means to support my living and tuition for Penn State I accepted a scholarship to Coppin State University. The scholarship was a presidential scholarship, I believe. And I was here for like a year and a half. And then I transferred to Temple University in Philadelphia because my goal was, you know, at that time, I really wanted to - if you grew up in Baltimore, and go to school here, you know, most of us as (high school) seniors, when you went to City was to get out of state to see something different and to do something different. And I had already taken college classes at the Community College of Baltimore, and went through Cornell University summer college program, taking college courses (while still in high school).

So, I had a taste of what it was like outside of Baltimore. And so, Temple (university) afforded kind of a closeness, or urban feel. I had family in Philadelphia. So, it worked for me. But similar to Penn State, you know, I was only able to afford to attend Temple for a year and a half. And then I had to come back to Baltimore to work and take care of myself, and to pay off my debt at Temple. Even though I performed well academically at Temple, in order to get my transcripts released, so I could explore my local options in Baltimore, I still had to work to pay off that remaining tuition. And that took me about a

year, year and a half to do that. And then once I did that, I applied to several other schools, University of Baltimore, South Carolina State, and University of South Carolina, Columbia.

And all of those schools, I got into. As I mentioned earlier, my father, his family is from South Carolina, a small town called Denmark, not far from Orangeburg. And so, I was really, again on my journey to get out of Baltimore. But something interesting happened. My sister had my niece, which was kind of unexpected. I didn't know my sister was pregnant at the time. And so, when my niece came, it was kind of an aha moment, because, you know, I was like, well, I want to be around for that, you know, I want to be a good uncle.

And then I had applied for a job, security job at an exclusive retirement community in Baltimore. And so, I was able to, surprisingly, I got the job. And my girlfriend at the time, who's my wife, now, she had also graduated from City. And she was going to Goucher College. And so, while she was supportive of me moving around, she could visit me in Philadelphia. Visiting me in South Carolina, would be a different type of travel. So, it was like three different things that happened within a short window of time which said to me that you know, what, I need to stay in Baltimore, and I also had a strong network in Baltimore, I knew how to navigate Baltimore. And I kind of let go of this kind of getting out of Baltimore thing.

And so, at that point, you know, I applied to, I mean, I'd already applied to those universities, I got accepted to University of Baltimore. So, it became like the ideal choice. And I always had a high level of respect for the University of Baltimore, because UB was really known. And I knew parents, of friends of mine who went to UB more so on the business side, who are accountants and lawyers. But I also was aware that they had a criminal justice program.

And what's so interesting about this experience is that if UB at that time, you had to, you could only it was upper level, so you had to transfer in. So, the credits that I had from Temple University, the credits I had from Cornell summer college, the credits that I had from Baltimore City Community College, all of those equated... even credits from Coppin and Temple, Community College of Baltimore, Cornell, I just had to 60 Plus or 62 credits, 64 credits, I needed to be able to enter University of Baltimore. And so, but the point I wanted to just kind of echo was, if UB had, now I believe that you can enter UB as an undergrad, if UB had an undergrad program on criminal justice, when, you could enter straight from high school, I probably would have went straight into UB. But at that time, they did not. So I did not consider UB an option.

You know, during that my initial period of coming out of high school. So that's something that I just want to note that I thought was cool, that today students can go straight into University of Baltimore, and that's a cool thing. So, I'll kind of just pause there, but UB's reputation, particularly as it relates to law and business, it's what intrigued me in those confluence of events, kind of narrowed my choice to remain in Baltimore, and to move forward academically in the Department of Criminal Justice at UB.

Bedell Terry

Now, your major in all of these schools was criminal justice.

Johnny Rice II

So, my bachelor's and master's in criminal justice at the University of Baltimore and then I received the Doctor of Public Health earned a doctor public health at Morgan State University with the focus on violence prevention and intervention. So, I love it because I kind of get to navigate between two different worlds, you know, I can navigate between the world of criminal justice, but also I can navigate between the world of public health, which is wide ranging. So public health can look at things such as terrorism, looking at not just crime response, but looking at things such as youth community programs that can be tools for prevention, so that young people don't end up and the school to prison pipeline.

And so, the Morgan program intrigued me because of its broad depth. And I believe that my expertise from University of Baltimore, which was criminal justice focus, and then was ready to kind of diversify. And I thought that the Morgan State public health program would allow me to do that. Because if you look at criminal justice disparities, health disparities, the intersection between health and safety is one that remains even today.

Bedell Terry

Now, when you started at UB, what did the school look like, was it day school night school?

Johnny Rice II

I believe at that time, it was, I think it was they had classes during the day, but the majority of the energy and the focus for me as a student occurred during the evening, I mean, they had active, you know, they had classes during the day. But at that time, it felt as though the majority of classes that I took were all in the evening, because I worked full time, I worked part time, and I went to school full time. So, you know, in my situation, it worked.

Because I will take an early evening class and then have a break after that class, and then go right into the next class. And so, I would be looking at probably four classes or five classes in the evening, during the week. And, you know, it allowed me to still work full time, still work part time and get my education.

Bedell Terry

So, you were in school every night?

Johnny Rice II

Probably three nights a week at a minimum two so I would have let's say that 5pm or 5:20 class. And then after that, I would have like an 8 to 10:30 class or something to that effect. And then I'll probably

have a day off. And then the next evening, I would have that first evening class. And then after that, we'd have a short break, and then go into that second evening class.

Bedell Terry

So, you had to be committed to finish.

Johnny Rice II

Yes, you know, and you had to master work life balance. And I will say this, one of the things that motivated me kind of looking at it from my lenses that coming out of my high school, everyone had big plans. So, when I was home that year working to pay my bill. It wasn't a good feeling. You know, because, you know, relative's friends, asking what are you doing? What's going on? You know, and I'm not in school, you know, it's not the school that defined who I was totally, but even I knew that. Okay.

The dream has been deferred at the moment, you know, I'm trying to, you know, so some people would speak with you, and you get the feel like, we hear that from a lot of people, yes. Because, you know, there's always, you know, students who go out of state, come back, never, you know, get a job and never really go back and finish. And so that was echoing in my mind. And I always said to myself, even when I was working those jobs, to pay off my Temple bill, I was like, I'm going to get back in school. And it's going to happen, I'm going to do it.

And so, when that first day of class, and I remember it clearly, it was in the evening, had on my blazer from the job, the new job I had at the retirement, community and work for security. And I just said to myself, I'm going to make the most of this opportunity. So, I was very hungry, very determined, highly motivated, because after a year and a half period, I was back in the classroom. I was back in college, and I didn't take it for granted.

Bedell Terry

And you had to deal with other people's expectations of where you should be at the time.

Johnny Rice II

Yes, and my own, I was one of those voices in my head as well saying, hey, man, you know, what are you doing? What's going on, you know, you say you're going to do A, B and C, but it hasn't happened yet. And so, I was my toughest critic.

And I just knew that the standard coming out of high school was high. And I had, you know, people in my graduating class, we're going to Yale, Harvard, Morgan, everywhere. So, there was just this expectation that you finish what you start. And so, I was back in a position to pursue my education. And again, I was just hungry.

Bedell Terry

Well, the University of Baltimore allowed you to do that and make a life for yourself at the same time. Do you think that's what the University of Baltimore basically does for people?

Johnny Rice II

I believe so. I think also, you know, the reputation. So, coming from a high school, there was a local institution, it felt almost like, okay, it resonated being at University of Baltimore, which had its own unique identity. I think at the time. The President was Mebane Turner, I believe he was well respected gentleman. I felt as though I was in a higher learning environment.

They also had high standards, its own unique indelible imprint in Baltimore, it was a well-respected college or university. And so, I felt good about where I was at. And the reputation was strong at that time. It still is, but it was, it was very strong at that time. And so, I felt as though I was at the right place that was going to allow me to be able to advance and pursue my goals here in Baltimore.

Bedell Terry

Now, what was the School of Criminal Justice like at the time you went, was it fully formed?

Johnny Rice II

It wasn't a school at that time. It was actually, I believe, it might have been under the College of Liberal Arts. But it still had a strong program in the sense that you had, I believe, you had your bachelor's, your masters, they had an emerging forensic program, forensic science or forensic investigation program also that was under Dr. Jamie Grant at the time, she's since transitioned. But it had a very, it was getting even stronger reputation because of that emerging curriculum.

And so, when I was there, you know, the focus was, you know, getting a bachelor's. And if you wanted to go into leadership, if you wanted to oversee teams of people, if you wanted to manage, then the master's program was viewed as the next logical step to prepare you for that.

Bedell Terry

So, you transitioned from graduating straight into your masters?

Johnny Rice II

Yes. And, you know, it was an interesting experience regarding that, because, you know, when I was at Temple, the school was huge. So, the bill that I had at the time was \$2,000. \$2000 Bill. And again, this is in the 90s, mid 90s, I believe. And in looking at it in retrospect, and I was working, when I was in Philadelphia, I worked at the Gap at the Gallery Mall, but those funds were basically pocket money so I could be able to move around and live.

But no one in my family, no one in my network had that \$2,000 And, you know, and it wasn't just myself, it was two of my colleagues two of my peers, who also were from Baltimore, same high school,

went to Temple, we all came back the same time, because the parent contribution, our parents didn't have it. And even though we were working. Again, I worked it was just to put money in our pocket so we could move around Philadelphia to buy our own food, you know, those type of things.

And so, I share that to say when I completed my bachelor's program, I was going to delay the master's program because I was in a similar predicament. I was in a similar predicament as I was a Temple, where I still had to pay off my bill. It wasn't \$2,000. But it was something that in that immediate moment I didn't have. And I was kind of like, you know, I would love to keep going straight. But I really don't have it, you know, working two jobs, but I still don't have it right now.

So, I'm just going to maybe give it a semester break. And so, there was a paper you had to fill out for that. So, I started filling out the paper. And I brought it to I don't know, if the registrar financial aid, but it was a, it was a paper that the form that you had to request, you know, defer enrollment, I think had already been accepted. But I was requesting to defer it.

And when I handed the form it was to an African American woman, I handed the form to her. She said, okay, why are you deferring? And I said, well, I'm deferring because I don't have the money right now to go straight in because I have this outstanding debt. And she said, Is that the only reason? And I said, yes. She said, do you want to go straight in? I said, yes.

So, she was like, okay, well, let me speak to some people to see what I can do. So, she came back. And she said, "This is how you're going to have to cover your bill, but it won't impact you from being able to start the next semester". So, you're good to go. And I'll never forget that moment. Because it's what I do even now here at Coppin in my role, you know, sometimes it's asking the right questions, you know, seeing why someone's trying to do what they're trying to do, and not just take it all as face value. And because of that, it allowed me to because I had a cohort of peers, who I was studying with on an undergraduate level, it allowed me to keep connected and move into the program with that cohort of peers from undergrad straight into grad school.

And I'll forever be indebted for that. So, you know, I was appreciative of it, because it allowed me to proceed with my education. Now, I believe, of course, I'm, I know, I would have come back that next semester, but it allowed me not to miss a step. And so unlike being at a larger university, like Temple where I think it was more like, hey, we can't even entertain, where people are coming from, because there's just too many people, we can't even you know, you got to come up with the money, I think UB was positioned to be able to actually listen, and had some ability to shift resources, so that I could start school and continue to move forward in the master's program.

Bedell Terry

Now, what drew you to Criminal Justice? Was it a major at that time?

Johnny Rice II

So that kind of ties a little bit to the reason I wanted to leave Baltimore, you know, I grew up in the mid-80s, the crack explosion. When Baltimore was Baltimore, you know, when downtown was bustling, when there still was crime and violence, you know, and even traveling, you know, going to school and from and, you know, as a teenager, growing up in Baltimore, you know, it was not an easy task.

And so, you know, many of us, you know, who able to survive and keep our dignity and respect intact, you know, we look for greener pastures, you know, at least from our mind, you know, so I think for me, and I grew up in a home where, you know, there was domestic violence, my parents separated. My father would eventually change from being a violent man to a non-violent man and an upstanding citizen. But that trajectory didn't happen until I was much older.

And so, I share that to say, I think, growing up and experiencing and seeing, you know, my mother deal with domestic violence, that kind of connected me to think about, you know, criminal justice, and you know, the plight of victims. But as a teenager, I was very angry because I saw violence, and things happen to some of my peers. And I felt like the adults would nowhere to be seen, yet they knew what was going on to some degree, but they were not helping us navigate this rough terrain of Baltimore.

And so, my frustration about that. And I'll never forget, one day I was at City, and I was looking down at the bus stops, because a lot of times, neighboring schools and fights, what happened, happened. And you can see it down at the bus stops. And I saw an incident happening. And I was up on the hill, and I was just standing there. And I was just so angry about what I was seeing. And it was like a scene of maybe 30 or 40 young men attacking another young man from my school, and that young man was running, he ran back to our school. And there's nothing I can do. It's like 30, 40 guys down there. And I was just so angry about this.

This was right after school, and I said, you know what, we're good kids, we come in here getting an education. Why do we have to deal with this. So, I said to myself, when I become an adult, and I'm not going to forget about teenagers, I'm not going to forget about what it feels like to have to deal with this kind of stuff. So, at that time, because of the 80s, with the crack explosion, and seeing friends who got into the drug game got murdered, lost their life, or got locked up as a teenager, that was very impressionable on me.

And so, my focus was, to stay on the right path. Don't get caught up and our high school had a track record that if you successfully completed it, you could be successful. So even at a young age, we looked at me and my peers, education as a way for guaranteed pathway to upward mobility, and success. So, we were able to kind of navigate some of the pitfalls. But that stayed with me, you know, and I knew that either criminal justice or political science, between the two, one of those would be the one that I moved towards. And it ultimately ended up being criminal justice. I didn't like what I was seeing in Baltimore, I love the city. But same as I do now, but also, I just felt like no one was listening to young people, no one

was helping us. And we had to navigate adult problems on our own as teams. Adults would tell us to do, as I say, not as I do. But they weren't given us the tools that we needed to navigate Baltimore City, and they knew growing up in Baltimore like we did, it's rough. So how can you let us figure it out on our own when you know how difficult that can be. And so that's motivated me to go the criminal justice as a major, and also motivated me to do a lot of the community work that I was doing later.

Bedell Terry

Now, you went from your masters, did you go straight into getting your doctorate? Or did you take some time before you transition?

Johnny Rice II

I believe I took a break before I did that, maybe. I don't know if it was six months or a year, but I took a short break. And I think that was just because I was trying to figure out what I was going to do. Unlike today where I mean, the one thing I will say is today, education, the costs are exorbitant, but the options are endless. Whereas when I was pursuing a doctoral degree, the expectation of PhDs was that you don't work at that time. And you are in residence, which means you're on campus, you don't have a job.

So, when Morgan State University from there was a new program when Morgan advertises Doctor Public Health program, and they listed several majors, and one of them being criminal justice, and it was targeted towards working, you know, working practitioners already in their field, and that the majority of the classes will be in the evenings and weekends.

That excited me because the American University program, I'd have to travel to DC, University of Maryland College Park had a criminology degree is very competitive. And it had a strong quantitative nature, I was leaning more qualitative, in terms of focus, and so that really did not feel like a good fit for me. And Howard University had a program but again, that was going I think, its PhD in Sociology, with a specialization in like administration of justice or criminal justice, but again, that's traveling to DC. And those were things that I just really wasn't as comfortable with at the time based on my employment commitments in the area.

And so, the Morgan program, you know, I was on the subway reading a Baltimore Times magazine. And when I saw the advertisement and read it is one of the first times and my heart started palpitating. And I was just reading it. And when I saw criminal justice, something just told me, I have to apply to this program. This is for me, a practitioner, someone who's already in the field, the flexibility of it in terms of the scheduling. So that's kind of how I moved towards that program. And you know, when again, when I saw that it had criminal justice is one of the expertise background areas, I knew that UB have prepared me adequately for pursuing that degree.

Bedell Terry

Now, you have secured your doctorate, and then you came to teach at the University of Baltimore.

Johnny Rice II

Yes, so it didn't, it didn't happen. No, no, no, I actually taught at UB. Again, this is where I tell my mentees about being overly ambitious. So, I was so hungry, and so ambitious, I believe I was working full-time, part-time teaching at UB, part time in the doctoral program at Morgan. So, I was grinding, right, I was grinding, and I was also kind of advancing professionally.

So, you know, I was transitioned from working in my craft security loss prevention, then got a job in the state working as a foster care worker. So, I got to work with families who had experienced violence, dealing with police officers, the courts, attorneys, relatives of the children, it was educate, you know, the educational system, then I had an opportunity to work at Patuxent as an addictions counselor in the prison, teaching classes in moral problem-solving and relapse prevention, and one on one counseling. And then I believe, when I was in the prison, I was in a master's program at UB and they started talking about the need to be in program development, you need to be in a position of administration.

And so, then I transitioned to the Maryland Department of Human Resources as a Program Specialist, and kind of moved up the ranks there, to the Director for the Office of Community Initiatives. So, as I'm doing those moves, when I'm at the Department of Human Resources, I believe that's the period where I taught as an adjunct at the University of Baltimore. And just to share a little insight about that. At that time, there were many, there were several faculty members who were full time.

And I guess today we were, you know, I know them to be tenured or tenure track. And they also had several adjunct faculties, part time faculty that worked in the field. And Dr. Benjamin Wright was the only African American male who was full time faculty at the University of Baltimore in the Department of Criminal Justice. And so, I, over the years, cultivated a relationship with Dr. Wright to be turned into a mentor relationship.

And I kind of made him my mentor, I sought him out. I loved the classes I had at UB with Dr. Kathleen Block and others. And it was just such a great experience, I mean, class would end, and we would still be engaged in conversation. And the professors would be like, okay, time to go, you know, you can go wherever you want, but you got to leave here. So, but it was that kind of love.

And Linda Fair, who was the secretary at the time, I developed a great relationship with her. So, I would time to time check in with Dr. Wright, when he became department chair, as well as with Linda Fair, just to give updates on what I was doing and how things will go on. And it felt very comfortable. And UB just to pop in, and just to see how everyone was doing. In so I said to Dr. Wright, I said, after I got my master's degree and if there is ever an opportunity for me to come back to teach I would love to do it. Please keep me in mind. And I would kind of say that to him each time I would see him, and Dr. Wright would also later serve on my dissertation committee at Morgan.

So, he got to see me helped me to, you know, to complete that, that process at Morgan by serving on my committee as an external committee member. And again, because of the relationship I cultivated with Dr. Wright, he was comfortable and willing to do that. And so yes, so I transition that had several classes, usually one class a semester, but it was different types of classes. They gave me some autonomy in kind of upgrading some of the course curriculum for those specific courses.

Because of the confidence they had in me, the feedback they received from students and peers regarding my teaching was excellent, positive, high level. Even rate your professor, there's comments about me being a professor that cares, a real instructor. And that's from students. And so, I loved it. But what changed was, as I started getting to the latter part of my doctoral program, and started moving into the dissertation phase, something had to go.

And so, I had to transition out of UB. And they understood because I was like, hey, I'm in, you know, working full time work part time, my schedule is getting a little crazy, I got to kind of let something go. And honestly, as a doctoral student, Morgan, my mentors, and Morgan would probably say, well, John, you shouldn't have been teaching anyway, you should have been just focused on 100% on this. So, it was a good experience. And it gave me an opportunity to give back to a program that I thought strengthened me professionally, academically, as a critical thinker, and positioned me for the success that I have today.

Bedell Terry

Now, you're currently at Coppin ? And,

Johnny Rice II

Yes.

Bedell Terry

And you're chair of

Johnny Rice II

The Department of Criminal Justice,

Bedell Terry

Department of Criminal Justice, how is that at Coppin? What kind of program is it at Coppin?

Johnny Rice II

So, it's, it's somewhat similar to UB, we have a bachelor's and master's in criminal justice. We have a forensic investigation undergraduate certificate, we have Postbaccalaureate certificates and policing strategies, investigative sciences, I think what's unique about Coppin is that we are an HBCU, historically, black college and university steeped in rich history initially started out as a teacher's

college, but then grew and transformed to have different majors such as nursing and criminal justice, business. And so, we've grown, and we've grown from a college to a university. And so it's an honor for me to have, you know, to serve as chair, because it also again, gives me an opportunity to work with scholars who come in prepared and excel, but we also give scholars an opportunity that some universities may not, and we coach them up, give them the skills, the resources that they need, so that they can be just as successful as someone who comes into the door freshman year prepared.

So, part of our focus is transforming lives, and empowering students so that they do well. But they also feel that there's a commitment to service and giving back. And so, I've been at Coppin for almost eight years, I started as assistant professor in criminal justice. Then about three years ago, I earned promotion to tenured, associate professor.

And I move straight into the chairmanship. And you know, we've been able to be very impactful with the students that we've graduated. And also, were present as a relates to National Criminal Justice conferences, research publications, and other scholarly and academic endeavors. And so, it's been great being here. Prior to coming here. I was at the Vera Institute of Justice, in their center on victimization and safety working out their DC office.

And I've kind of bounced back. Because, you know, I left Maryland's Department of Human Resources to go to the Center for Urban Families, as in and that's where I kind of grew in nonprofit leadership, got recruited back to Maryland Department of Human Resources, and worked at a higher level than what I did before. I first entered the agency years prior, then transitioned to the nonprofit sector, worked at Vera and then, you know, also taught online at Penn State World University after I completed my doctoral degree, and I ultimately decided that higher ed was the place that I wanted to be because it would allow me to share all my practice based experiences with the next group of scholars that are going to impact our society.

Bedell Terry

Now, you're alumni of University of Baltimore. Do you stay connected to other alumni?

Johnny Rice II

Yes. There are colleagues of mine that I went to school with that were still connected. One of them is a professor at Morgan State. One of them is a lieutenant here at Coppin, had a distinguished career in Baltimore City Police, he retired, now is the number two in command here at Coppin. Another colleague of mine, she is an administrator for NORC, out of the University of Chicago. And so, I stay connected with my colleagues.

And we also kind of support one another, we're also connected through sites like Facebook, Linked In, but when we're each trying to do something, we lean on those relationships that will cultivate it, at the University of Baltimore. And those relationships and that experience that we had together. And the rigor

that we know, we all were exposed to. It kind of bonds us. And so, we know that when we reach out to each other, you know, we were competent, capable people who are in positions to help.

Bedell Terry

So, we've covered all the points that I wanted to cover, do you have anything else you'd like to have memorialized? Then, in the interview,

Johnny Rice II

I will just say that my journey at the University of Baltimore was a great one. And again, it's helped me be who I am today, you know, I'll be in the car with my son or daughter, wife, and we drive through area, you know, and I always say, you know, that's where I went to school[laughing]. Like, we know, we know, this is one of the places you went to school, but I liked it. They you know, and also, you know, I love that just, again, it's Smalltimore, you know, when I was a young man at City College, high school. Then mayor, Kurt Schmoke, would walk through, distinguished alum of City College would, you know, be in the hallways and, you know, and come through for a visit, and people were like, you know, the mayor, the mayor of Baltimore, you know, is a grad of ours, you had Elijah Cummings and Dutch Ruppersberger. I could go on and on and on. And Larry Gibson.

And so, to see Kurt Schmoke is the President of University of Baltimore (a City College Alum), it's just so appropriate is that same standard of excellence is the same focus on intellectual curiosity. And UB I'm sure is a safe haven, to cultivate leaders, and to allow people to test things to grow. So, that when they go on to be in government law, business or any of the other diverse areas that UB has, that they're more than prepared. And I think this project is a great one, because not only does it allow me to lend my voice to an experience that I think it was central to my development, but it will also allow others to do the same and for that, the university is to be commended.

Bedell Terry

Well, thank you for your time, Dr. Rice. It's been really a pleasure having this time with you.

Johnny Rice II

The pleasure. Mr. Terry is mine. If there's any follow up anything you need, don't hesitate to reach out. It was a pleasure on my end as well, sir.

Bedell Terry

Thank you.