

Dear Future Friars Oral History Interview

Interview Subject: Jennifer Lynn Maultsby
Interviewer: Nahyr Morales Lugo
Date: November 29, 2022
Time: 6:24pm

Transcript:

Nahyr Morales Lugo 00:00

Hello, this is an interview for Dear future friars, Providence colleges project to interview alumni, and document their experience. Today is November 29, 2022, at 6:24pm. My name is Nahyr Morales Lugo, and I'll be conducting the interview today. So my first question is, can you please state your full name and graduation year?

Jennifer Maultsby 00:29

Sure. It's Jennifer Lynn Maultsby and I graduated in 1989.

Nahyr Morales Lugo 00:33

Perfect. Where are you from? And where do you currently live?

Jennifer Maultsby 00:39

I'm, well um I was originally from DC. But I live in West Haven, Connecticut.

Nahyr Morales Lugo 00:47

What did you study at Providence College, your major and your minor?

Jennifer Maultsby 00:52

I majored in finance and depending on where you're from finance (laughter), no minor.

Nahyr Morales Lugo 01:00

All right, perfect. Can you just tell me a little bit about why you chose your major.

Jennifer Maultsby 01:07

I thought I would do something on Wall Street - wasn't too sure of what. But that's what I thought I would do. And I had learned that a lot of people on Wall Street have finance degrees and accounting.

Nahyr Morales Lugo 01:23

All right, perfect. So just some questions about your PC experience. What's did being a POC college student mean to you?

Jennifer Maultsby 01:36

Well, going to college was just a big deal to begin with. And going to a good school, or getting into a good school like Providence College was like icing on the cake. So going to PC was just a big thrill.

Nahyr Morales Lugo 01:58

In what ways did this identity influence your everyday life during your college years and continue to influence you now?

Jennifer Maultsby 02:08

I knew going to Providence College was important let's put that way. And when I say important, I mean, a big deal as far as schools. So going to, you know, coming from Connecticut, you know, there was there Yale and Connecticut College and Wesleyan, a bunch of a bunch of very good schools. But to end up in Providence, which we all know now is regional, I think, number one school. It was just just a thrill to succeed in a way, you know, all my hard work in undergrad, you know, well, all my hard work in high school, and junior high, helped me get to where I got at Providence. And just you know, meeting people from all over the country was like another another good thing. It was just a lot of fun.

Nahyr Morales Lugo 03:03

Amazing. And were you a first generation student?

Jennifer Maultsby 03:08

Yes. Yes.

Nahyr Morales Lugo 03:10

And how did that impact your time here?

Jennifer Maultsby 03:12

Well, unfortunately, my father passed away my freshman year. So he was very ill. And, but, he made sure that he saw me off to college, his firstborn. And being the first person to go to college, in my family was a big thing for me to, to realize and also to do. And I had an I have one sister, and she was coming a year later, well not to Providence, but she was going to go to college a year later. So it was a big, big deal to, for me to go to leave the state, and to actually be a part of the Providence community. My family, they were very proud of me.

Nahyr Morales Lugo 04:08

I love that and I can definitely relate to that, because I'm also a first-generation student. And I can relate with what you're saying of like, knowing that coming to Providence College in general was just such a big deal. Just because it's it's college in general, a lot of people don't have that privilege. Yeah. And just to get to know a little bit about your involvement, what activities, organizations or clubs were you involved in on campus?

Jennifer Maultsby 04:37

Well, the first first and main one for me was BMSA. I was the I am the past president of BMSA. I when I was there, BMSA I guess was had been kind of like, extinct for a while for many years. I'm not not too sure how long, but we basically got it back up and running, I was the president while I was there. And I was part of Afro Am, and I was part of the karate club.

Nahyr Morales Lugo 05:12

That's so cool. It's so cool to hear how BMSA has been going on for so many years. Because as you said, I am part of the club as well. And I love the people there and I think it's just such a great community.

Jennifer Maultsby 05:25

It you know, everyone came together. Everyone came together white, Black, everything. And we put on different programs, just like what you guys do now. We started International Day, and I think you guys still do that now. That and that was fun, you know, getting the vendors from different restaurants to, to come in and let everyone taste their food. We had Dr. Hamlin, he was basically a dean, but he, he would have someone make sweet potato pies. And not too many those pies kind of made it out to the public (laughter). Yeah, we loved International Day. So yes, we we had a lot of fun.

Nahyr Morales Lugo 06:17

And just going off of that, what did your roles in these organizations mean to you? And what made you want to become involved?

Jennifer Maultsby 06:27

I knew that, you know, being one of very few African Americans on the campus, that all eyes were on me. So with that being said, I knew that any organization I joined, I was representing all other minorities on the campus. You know, a lot of times I was the only only African American in a classroom, only African American, you know in the BOP, Student Congress, and so on. So with that being said, you know, I was out to have fun, but I also knew that I had to be the example.

Nahyr Morales Lugo 07:10

I definitely agree. It's, it's, it feels like when you're the minority, you're like, you're the only one in the classroom that you have to represent for the entire community that is on campus (mmhmm agreement). I definitely agree with that. So what...

Jennifer Maultsby 07:33

...if you could if you really know what it's like to be the only one in every class? You know? Yeah, that's that's kind of strange. You know, a lot of people today are like, really? Like, yeah, the only one. (laughter) Yeah, take that in. Yeah.

Nahyr Morales Lugo 08:00

So the next question is, what were the resources that PC offered the clubs you were a part of? And did you feel that your clubs were supported? Why or why not?

Jennifer Maultsby 08:13

I believe the clubs were supported by the college. Yeah, at that time. Like I said, there wasn't as much as far as diversity at the at the college. But they did give us what we what we asked for, let's put it that way, you know, within reason, of course, to do as we saw fit to survive (laughter).

Nahyr Morales Lugo 08:44

So just talking a little bit about like, the bonds and connections you formed here. How did the professional connections and personal bonds that you formed that PC affect your time here? And do you keep in contact with any of them?

Jennifer Maultsby 08:59

The personal bonds that I've formed, helped, helped me to stay. Let's put it that way. We worked with each other. We grew with each other. We, to this day, many of the people that I was friends with back in college, we're still friends, and we and there's a small group of us. Five, six, that we even travel together, you know, we've, we've had weddings, we've had funerals. We've had marriages. We've had births. We've had deaths. I mean, we're family. And that's what I tell everyone about Providence College is that there are groups of families that develop on that campus. And I have a I have a family that I go to, they're my go to, outside of my regular family.

Nahyr Morales Lugo 10:01

That's amazing that you just just knowing that you guys.

Jennifer Maultsby 10:05

Yeah, 36 years,

Nahyr Morales Lugo 10:06

you guys have gone through life together.

Jennifer Maultsby 10:13

Yeah. And a few people have said, have told me that they just cannot believe that we're we've been together that long. It's like, yeah, we have just saw them Thanksgiving. We do we take any events on the Providence College campus. We do sporting events together, we we do a lot together. We love each other. And we found each other all at Providence Dore Hall, Fennell Hall, Aquinas Hall. (laughter) Raymond Hall. Yeah.

Nahyr Morales Lugo 10:47

That's amazing. And going off of that question, and about your connections, who or what had the biggest impact on you?

Jennifer Maultsby 11:00

From the, from the college? Oh, sheeesh [sic] I really can't say that there was any one person that had the biggest impact. But I will say, the Dominican friars themselves had a great impact on me, as far as learning. I love learning about different religions, and, and I got that from from attending Providence

College. I love going to different churches and synagogues, or whatever it is. I just love it. And how else can I put it? Just the mission, that that the that the Dominican friars have, I've kind of taken that mission on my own. And, you know, I tried to help others. I try to I try to be the best person that I can be. I've tried to teach my daughter to be the best person that she can be. There's just so much is presented to you on that campus. And you have to pick and choose, you know, what you what you take in from it. And I'm not Catholic. So going to a Catholic school was interesting (laughter). But the first thing they tell you when you hit the campus is just respect the religion. You don't have to be Catholic. Just respect it. And that's what I did.

Nahyr Morales Lugo 11:03

Yes. That's so cool. Um, well, were there any important political events during your time at PC? And were you involved in any protests or other forms of activism?

Jennifer Maultsby 12:59

Yeah, yes. Yes, I think every every group have their gripes. But I believe we had a major march in 1988. And it was the, you know, march asking the school for some changes. We wanted more African American teachers. We wanted more African American students. We wanted more, more, more diversity, you know, on the college campus, in the f- in the faculty in the Dominicans themselves, just, you know, some changes. And, you know, they worked hard on trying to, to give us what we needed. Like, that's the only way I can really put it. You know, we we've had new deans, new deans come come on board. Yeah, new deans. And they did work on trying to recruit more faculty, and more diversity within the student population. And based on from 36 years ago, until now, it's a huge difference. They can do better, but I can't complain. They're doing they're doing, I think they're doing a good job at diversifying the the teachers, the faculty, and the students right now. With some help, I think it'll get a little better. I completely agree. And I every interview that I speak to with the alumni, I think them so thank you so much for your efforts during your time here because it changed, you know, our future that we have a dean of multicultural, dean of students that I consider like, like, such a cool - We started that.

Nahyr Morales Lugo 15:12

Yeah.

Jennifer Maultsby 15:13

In the 80s we got the multicultural Dean of Students in. Yeah, definitely made it.

Nahyr Morales Lugo 15:21

Yeah, she has definitely impacted all of us. And that's because of your efforts. So thank you so much for all of that. Alright, um, how did your experience at PC influence your current or former occupation?

Jennifer Maultsby 15:38

Well, I did study finance, and ended up going in underwriting, insurance underwriting, and from there got involved in the environmental arena re insurance and found my calling my calling was, was litigation, becoming litigation manager of toxic torts long long-tail toxic torts, and environmental matters. And I know that's a that's a mouthful, but at the time, there were very few women doing it. But I did it for

Aetna, Aetna, casualty and surety. And lived up and down the East Coast, traveled the country working with the EPA and DEP and representing different companies in environmental litigation. So Providence is where it all started.

Nahyr Morales Lugo 16:46

Amazing. Can you share any other successes or challenges you had while in college?

Jennifer Maultsby 16:55

Yeah, that DWC (laughter). The biggest challenge was that Western Civilization - two years. And they still do it. They still do it. Now, I hear my daughter complaining (laughter).

Nahyr Morales Lugo 17:17

It definitely is I I completely agree. But once you're done with it, it's like Okay, finally. (laughter) Finally, we're over with it.

Jennifer Maultsby 17:27

So she has one more semester. So I told her hold on, just hold on. But I have to admit I'm a I'm a whiz kid at jeopardy (laughter). Thanks for Thanks to Western Civilization.

Nahyr Morales Lugo 17:50

Oh, that's so funny. What did you wish you knew before you came to PC?

Jennifer Maultsby 17:57

Oh. Um honestly, there isn't anything that I wish I knew. Nothing at all. You know, I assumed I I came to the college campus like with a mind like a like a sponge. I I was just ready to take any and everything in. And I passed no judgments. The first time I saw a Father walked by me in his, I forget what to what to call the his white the white robe. I stared and I stared and said, (laughter) I was like, why is he wearing his pajamas? (laughter) That's how green I was. But it was so much fun. So much fun just learning about different people and different cultures and, and the different religions and I just loved college. I loved it.

Nahyr Morales Lugo 19:09

Perfect. And what advice would you give current POC students especially first generation students about navigating life at PC or college in general?

Jennifer Maultsby 19:24

Don't be so serious. Yeah. Yeah, don't be so serious. You know, there's more to a college education than than just the books. You know, get out, take in the community. Learn about your fellow students. Talk to your faculty. Just have fun. That's what I would, I would tell what and I told my daughter you know, she's not listening, she's all in her books. I told her there's more to life than just the books.

Nahyr Morales Lugo 20:04

I agree it these are some of the best four years we're gonna, we're gonna get. (interjection hmmm). And then my last question is just anything else you'd like to share can be absolutely anything?

Jennifer Maultsby 20:20

No, I, I think this is a great idea what you guys are doing here. I think, you know, talking to people like myself, you know, might be eye opening for some people but but you know, I think besides talking to former leaders, if you can talk to just regular people that went to and from, you know, class to get their their take on things. Because I find that people who do not get involved who did not get involved, have a different perspective of the college. If you get involved, you see how things working from the inside versus looking, looking from the outside in. And that's what that that's what I love to hear from the what the take is from the student that just came and went. I know that's a that's on the side of what you're doing here. But I think it would be interesting.

Nahyr Morales Lugo 21:26

Yeah, no, definitely. I think that is very true. Like you, when you come and go, you just don't really pay attention to what you were talking about, like the activism and the support of the different groups you were a part of. So I will definitely keep that in mind. Once we're looking at the people we're going to interview. All right, well, those are all of my questions. Thank you so much for meeting with me. I love talking to you.