

## Dear Future Friars Oral History Interview

Interview Subject: Theodore Josiha Haig  
Interviewer: Nahyr Morales Lugo  
Date: November 29, 2022  
Time: 10:29am

**Nahyr Morales Lugo** 00:00

Hello, this is an interview for Dear Future Friars Providence College's project to interview alumni and document their experience. Today is November 29, 2022 at 10:29am My name is Nahyr Morales Lugo and I'll be conducting the interview today. Please state your full name and your graduation year.

**Theodore Haig** 00:25

My name is Theodore Josiha Haig, and I graduated from the wonderful Providence College in June 1970.

**Nahyr Morales Lugo** 00:37

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

**Theodore Haig** 00:42

I'm actually a native New Yorker. I was born and, actually I was born in Harlem and grew up in the Bronx, New York City. But I live in Florida. Actually, I'm speaking to you from Dunellon, Florida, which is west of it's actually in the northern part of Central Florida, west of Ocala.

**Nahyr Morales Lugo** 01:04

Oh, wow. And what did you study at Providence College, your major and your minor if you had one?

**Theodore Haig** 01:12

Yes, I did have both a major and minor. My major was mathematics and my minor was education.

**Nahyr Morales Lugo** 01:19

How did you decide on the two now? I'm curious.

**Theodore Haig** 01:24

That's also a good question. I think I took a liking to mathematics when I was in high school. In it kind of found myself taking all of the advanced courses. And I was pretty good at it as compared to courses like English, and social studies. So I did like social studies back to mathematics. Early on, I had some wonderful high school teachers, and that kind of helped motivate me a lot and inspire me to specialize in math. And then of course, I continued once I got to college.

**Nahyr Morales Lugo** 02:00

Wow. All right, perfect. So about your PC experience. What did being a POC college student mean to you?

**Theodore Haig** 02:11

Oh, it was the world to me. Actually I transferred to Providence College after my first year college, I actually came to Providence College as a sophomore, finished up as a senior. And the experience was just tremendous. And I was really motivated to come to Providence College because I was really interested in and the basketball

program they had here. You know, when you come out of a place like New York City, you always aspire, especially when you're young, with most of the young men grown up inspired to play basketball in Madison Square Garden. And in the school, I went to my first year, and I did have a basketball scholarship at the time. They didn't come new anywhere near Providence College, excuse me, Madison Square Garden. So I was having a lot of difficulty, socially, racially, quite frankly, living in New Hampshire for school I went to and I had a Western Civ professor who was a priest, and my Spanish professor graduated from Providence College. So I had some wonderful conversations with them during that year, because I really wasn't really wasn't comfortable to staying at Providence, I mean, staying at the school in New Hampshire. And I thought about it seriously, I made dean's list the first semester, and then I decided, let me try to go to Providence College. So I've filled out all of the applications. I can remember the day when I called Providence College and young lady in the admissions office told me that I was accepted as a sophomore, I remember jumping up and screaming and going crazy. I was so happy and so excited. And then and then of course, you know, I finished up my year there. Made the dean's list oth semester - both semesters. I was accepted into Providence as a sophomore, and that following September I showed up on campus and the rest is history.

**Nahyr Morales Lugo 04:08**

Oh my gosh, that's a lovely story. And to go off of that, in what ways did this identity influence your everyday life during your college years and continue to influence you now?

**Theodore Haig 04:21**

Well, I think the process first is an excellent question. I've always been in an environment where I was very disciplined. I mean, I grew up that way. I mean, even to this day, I can God bless my father. I could think about him telling me early on, you do what I tell you to do. Well, I didn't have too much flexibility in that in my household living in the Bronx. I kind of grew up with that. I grew up in a home that practiced Catholicism. We had very very strong principles. And I quite frankly I was very very disciplined so I kind of like fit it if I fit right in when it came to Providence College. You don't you don't notice, but back then, we weren't co-ed. You know, we're all males. You know, we had to, we attended classes, we had to wear a jacket, and a tie. We had to, yeah, we had to stand up when the priest because most of our professors were priests, when he came into the room, and he had to say a prayer with him and before we started the lesson. So I kind of like fit fit right in because I came from a very structured and disciplined environment, my brothers and sisters, no less. But it was very, very structured. So Providence College was the place for me. Studying came easy to me, because that's what I did. I studied four hours a day, every day, except Saturday and Sunday, Saturday, Saturday, I studied four hours, yes. And then a Sunday, I studied eight hours, four hours in the morning and four hours in the evening. So school was very, very important to me. And in those days, we had to take, I think, was 15 hours of philosophy and 21 hours of religion. So I had a very, very, very tough schedule. And then math was just very tough. I mean, it's just a tough discipline to function in. So I found myself studying all the time, but it was okay, because I came up in that environment. So it was very, very supportive for me. So there was strict in a lot of ways. But I was comfortable in the environment. And I'm still that way today. So Providence College had a lot to do with continuing that, that basic fundamental philosophy and principles that I grew up with, that I have to this day.

**Nahyr Morales Lugo 06:41**

All right. And just to go on a little bit about your involvement on campus. Were there any activities or organizations or clubs that you were involved in?

**Theodore Haig 06:50**

Well, you know, back in those days, you couldn't when you transfer to a division one school, you couldn't play that year. So I set out the first year, my sophomore year, but actually actually played and practice with the freshman

team all year long. The second year, you know, my third year is when I actually made the Friar team and played basketball. Absolutely. Well, well, basketball was one of the activities that I participated in. But that was a very difficult period in our history in American history. That was when Malcolm X died during that period, a little later. But during that period, Martin Luther King was killed in '68, along with Robert Kennedy '68. We're in Vietnam War. So it was a very turbulent period in America's history. And I can remember, in response to that, Providence College leadership had some concerns. And I was approached by the Father Morris, back then who were from Mars, who was everybody's partner. And we actually started the Afro American society in response to those to that period of time, and I became the first president of the African American society. (interjection - oh wow) Yes, first president. And before I left, graduated from college, the one of the deans and Father Morris came to me because Providence College responded to that by creating the first the beginning of the Martin Luther King scholarship program. And when I graduated that summer, right after I graduated, I became the first director of the afro, excuse me of the Martin Luther King scholarship program. So I had a wonderful experience. I served in a leadership capacity. I was we were dealing with those social issues, academic, intellectually, we were we were trying to figure out the best ways in order to address it on campus with the students, especially the students that were that were active and wanting to get involved. You know, back then we probably didn't have, I don't know, we probably didn't have any more than maybe 20 or 30 African American students, there was about 3100 students, and the student population, African student, African American student population, I should say, to brown and Black student population was minimum on campus. So we kind of came together around those issues, and we just discussed them and, and invited speakers in and it was, it was somewhat minimally active on campus during that time, we were talking about issues about Vietnam, about the deaths of those wonderful people I talked about earlier, and the impact that they had on American culture. So it was it was it was a wonderful experience I had during those four years the three years I was at Providence College.

**Nahyr Morales Lugo 09:51**

That's so cool to hear because now a lot of my friends are like in the executive board of Afro Yeah. So it's so cool to see like that is started so long ago, and it continues until today. But also, I wanted to mention that thank you so much for your influence, because I'm actually a Martin Luther King scholar, (interjection - Alright!). So thank you, because I've always I've always wondered, like how it started, or like what was like the impact that had to happen for that scholarship to start, and continue now because it helps. So so many of my POC friends, they have the scholarship, and it helps us tremendously, you know, because we're all first generation students, and we're like, we come from families that don't have like that guidance, like they got that guidance. So -

**Theodore Haig 10:38**

I understand, we just went we had a, it was a, it was a wonderful opportunity. I mean, what was beautiful during that time was that that college leadership wanted to do something, you know, they wanted to do something, and they came through me. And I spent the entire summer on campus supervising the first cohort of students, maybe, maybe 25, African American males, were, in fact, in a program. And of course, they were, they would matriculate that September. So we wanted to increase the probability that they were successful once they were selected. And we work with them diligently during the course of the summer. And many of those young men, many of those young men are retired, quite frankly, and made significant contributions to their communities over the years. So I have the distinction of being the first director, I had the distinction of being here, when the program was started, I had distinction of being involved. I remember Father, Morrison, Morris, coming in and sit down with me with the dean at the time, Father Peterson, and discussing with me how it was important for me to, to continue to stay with the program, because I represented at the time, I was a very, very, and I was happy, a very positive influence on campus. So yeah, that distinction of being the first director, so you, you, you have the opportunity to be exposed to the fact that all of this started at that time. And it was definitely related to the social issues that were impacting upon the lives of Americans, and certainly lives of college students at the time.

**Nahyr Morales Lugo** 12:18

Amazing. And I do want to hear more about that. I do have a few questions about that later.

**Theodore Haig** 12:23

No problem.

**Nahyr Morales Lugo** 12:25

So you kind of touched on this, but if you want to elaborate on it a little bit, what did your roles and these organizations mean to you, and what, what made you want to become involved?

**Theodore Haig** 12:37

I wanted to become involved because I had this, certainly I had this desire to continue to grow. One of the beautiful things about being on a college campus. You know, I don't, I don't really care what, in my judgment, what people do with their lives, ultimately. But I think one of the best ways to make those decisions is to do it with a college education, helping to trigger it, because it's just a wonderful place, sort of a bastion of, of ideas that come on campus and with the professors and intellectually stimulated, and it's a safe environment to talk about issues that are controversial in America, it's a safe environment to bring different attitudes and philosophies and cultures together to figure out where we are today. How do we fit in? And then and then certainly, how do you how do you how do you organize, to address those issues in a responsible way. And then, of course, ultimately, the society reflects the same kind of dynamics and entering into society allows you to continue to advocate for those, those things that that are dear to you. It allows you to to begin to understand how significant it is to critically think through issues and to problem solve and figure out how do you enter into a very complex society and maintain a place because that I mean, that's critical. That's what colleges should be about, you know, it triggers you know, you know, Fareed Zakaria, one of my my heroes. He has a show on CNN on Sunday that I watch, a public square program that I watch all the time and he says that it's a liberal arts education actually prepares you for your sixth career, not your first you know what I mean. Because it triggers in late it triggers and later on, you know, when you graduate you become I became a math teacher, and you concentrate in the areas that you specialize in But in time, you know, something happens. And you begin to understand how best to fit that you may want to take different pathways to continue to fit to continue to grow, to continue to discover what you're capable of becoming with your life. And I mean, I'm 15 years ago, I became a writer. But I was in college, I didn't like English. I didn't like English literature. I didn't like American literature. I just didn't like those courses. Today, those courses are fascinating to me. It's like I forget, if I forgot how to add, what is the 11, one plus one equals to three, maybe at this stage in my life. Because I've just become so, so diverse and so knowledgeable on all of it, in my judgment, I can relate back to spending those four years in college, three, three of them at Providence College.

**Nahyr Morales Lugo** 15:56

I definitely agree they have a very big impact on us that we don't realize until later on.

**Theodore Haig** 16:02

Absolutely.

**Nahyr Morales Lugo** 16:04

All right. So, so going off of like the activities and clubs. What were the resources that PC offered the clubs you were involved in? And did you feel like your group was supported? Why or why not?

**Theodore Haig 16:19**

Well, I think, I think I have to say, from the very, very beginning, I felt as though we were supported. I mean, you gotta you gotta think in terms of back in the 60s is when I went to school, you know, so. So the support today, one would require was significantly different. I mean, there wasn't much that I, that we requested from the college, because we were so thankful that they had allowed us to create this, this, this organization, you know, and we were dealing with issues back then with not only minimum, African American, brown and Black young men on campus, but we had the same problem with the with the faculty. I mean, you know, we were concerned that, and I'm sure that triggered in as a matter of fact, I did, because when I left, when I left Providence College, and after serving that summer as the director of the King scholarship program, I literally taught for the next seven seasons, next seven summers at University of Rhode Island talent development programs, some of the prototype which the prototype which was reflective of a similar program at Providence College, and Rhode Island College had the Upward Bound program. And these were the - and I can remember one of the professors. Oh, by the way, I started teaching that September, mathematics at Central High School. And I met, I met a wonderful man who eventually left Central High School, African American, and became a professor at Providence College, and became the one of the core faculty members here, working with those students over the years. I mean, he was just, he was just wonderful. So there was a, I guess what I'm getting at, there was a, there was a need to Providence College to begin to talk to awaken and recognize that they needed to bring in professors that were of similar similar persuasions, and ethnicities, as the students that they had on campus, especially with this move to increase the numbers of African Americans at the time into Providence College. So that was a major initiative that went on, I'm sure even till the day and I know, province, province cars having issues and dealing with continuing to deal with those. So but the fact of the matter is, it was triggered significantly back then. And it was that move made by by the administration that triggered it. So I didn't really wasn't much that we require from them, other than the fact that they allowed us to be able to, you know, to use a room, meeting room and discuss issues and bring issues to them. And obviously, they responded with the, with the Martin Luther King scholarship program. I mean, that, I mean, it had to be a significant not only was in me, but it was a significant factor in transfer. amazing I guess that's a good word to use. The basic fundamental ideology, so of the college, which in effect, kind of reflected, you know, just the school's philosophy anyway. I mean, you know, it was Catholic institution, you know what I mean? It's kind of like, it was the thing to do the right thing to do. And I'm very, very happy to be a part of it.

**Nahyr Morales Lugo 19:50**

All right. How did the professional connections and personal bonds that you performed at PC affect your time here? Do you keep in contact with any of them?

**Theodore Haig 20:00**

Well, it's an excellent question because I need to go back a little bit because when I was in my first year college when I was in New Hampshire, and I was telling you, I was having some difficulty, I can remember one Saturday morning, watching black and white TV and Providence College was playing basketball. You got to really listen to the story, because Providence College is playing basketball. And again, I'm watching the game and I wanted to go to Providence College. This now listen to this . Today today, two of the men that I saw on TV when I was in New Hampshire are my best friends. Two of the men, Anderson Clary and Alphonse Haste, my best friends to date, and I met them on TV. Okay, so, I mean, I couldn't have had a greater effect. Those students who were part of the first cohort of the Martin Luther King scholarship program, I'm their mentor. I mean, they that they still treat me as though I'm their mentor out of respect. Meaning they're just wonderful men. I just spent the summer, I was invited with a lot of other Prov Friars, I was invited to, up for, Cooley invited all the former basketball players back this summer, in the summertime. And I came up, you know, my, my wife's family's from Providence, anyway, and I was in Providence for a while before I moved out of the state. And I came up, and I had an opportunity to meet Ed Cooley, and all of these basketball players that I've watched on TV over the years. I found out that I was the only -

the oldest one in attendance. And it was just a wonderful week and went on a cruise in Bos- up a Boston cruise. I can remember, I was sitting down on a chair that I was looking up and I was seeing all these tall guys walk by me. I mean guys that were on TV, you watch play basketball on TV over the years, and it was just a wonderful, wonderful experience. And I'll tell you another story. This last Friday, Saturday, the University of Miami, played University of Central Florida at the University of Central Florida. Now the coach from the University of Florida is Jimmy Larry Nagel, who I played with at Providence College. Okay, I went to the game just this Friday, and after the game, okay. He didn't know I was coming. I went to the back of the stadium, and it was a bus that the Miami players were waiting for. And when he came out, I said, I said, I said, I bet you can't guess this is Teddy Haig. He said, No, you're not Teddy. And we hugged and everything, I took pictures. I mean, it was just a wonderful experience. And the last time I saw him personally, it was 52 years ago, 52 years ago, and I stay in contact with a number of, I mean, I mean, I'm not gonna name names, but a number of Providence College graduates a number of them all men, because back then it was all, there were only men. Plus, I've been I've been a continued, I am a member of the PC Black too which is a loosely fitted organization, that African Americans who graduated from PC over the years become a part of so. I mean, it's just a wonderful way to exist. I'm just so excited to reconnect with Providence College and the ways that I have. But I find myself you know, I'm pretty much the oldest of all the guys that finished up college. So, so it's just been a tremendous experience over the years. I don't regret any of the time that I spent on campus.

**Nahyr Morales Lugo 23:56**

I liked how you have like those strong connections, I still like it today and still impact you. That's amazing. Who or what had the biggest impact on you?

**Theodore Haig 24:09**

I was pretty much a loner when I was in school, and I'm not waiting now. So I can't think of I think probably the greatest impact on me was probably to the professors that I had some courses I didn't like, maybe that's the way life works. But it was the the nature of acquiring knowledge. And the only way you could acquire it back then and get compensation for it was to sit in a classroom and listen to these professors do what they do best. And you respond responsibly by studying and learning and getting smarter and smarter and smarter. And probably to the philosophy courses that I took probably had the greatest impact because they, they taught me, they taught me that it was important for me to continue to just to continue to discover what I was capable of becoming in my life. I think that, that that probably had the greatest impact. Now, there were some individual professors, who I probably was, was, in fact, more attracted to it and others. But in terms of imparting knowledge. I mean, I'm a learner, I mean, I get up every morning and write every day, seven days a week. And all of this is directly related to the people that are around the folks that I that taught me, the folks that challenged me, the folks that helped me understand how important it is for me to continue to challenge myself. And I attribute all of that to those those those those years I spent it at college, I would have to say generically, I have to say generally give credit to those people that were teaching me back then.

**Nahyr Morales Lugo 26:14**

So this is the question I wanted to circle back on. Were there any important political events during your time at PC, were you involved in any protests or other forms of activism?

**Theodore Haig 26:27**

Well, not not, not necessarily. Activism in that it was important for us to be around especially the African American students to be around and to, to demand that, that we had visitors that came to the campus that not only looked like us, but who could impart in us information regarding the issues, particularly those social issues that we're dealing with during that time, and issues related to the Vietnam War. I mean, it's, you know, we had the reason

why I didn't go get drafted and go to the Vietnam War, when I got out of high school, because all males back then had to register for the draft at 18 years old. Of course, I registered but the reason why I didn't have to go because I had a deferment to go to college. But before I finished college, the reason why I didn't go into a military and certainly Vietnam War after I finished college, because I was a part of the first lottery draft in 1969. All males born between the years 1944 to 1950, all males had to participate in that draft. It was a lottery draft, just like the lottery today, they take, you know, 360-366 balls, and they float them all around, and they pop them out. And as they emerge, they will be associated with a number. And depending on how you fit on that scale that number, it will determine whether or not you would have to go to war or be drafted after you finish college. And fortunately for me, unfortunately, for a lot of others, I shouldn't say it that way. Because I'm thankful to people who served as were a part of that, that draft and some of them lost their lives. 58,000 of them lost their lives, quite frankly. But I but I was because my number felt maybe 281 or something like that there was no chance of me being drafted. And I was very, very thankful for that. So and again, the activism we had was really around those issues. You know, how America was treating African Americans, African American males, civil rights, I mean, all of those issues, but those were issues that we didn't protest on campus, about because we really didn't have to, but we did have conversations about them. And we invited a few people in to campus who look like us, who can help us better understand and to articulate the issues during that period of time. So that's probably the best way for me to describe our role activism role during that time, it's just funny because I just finished writing a novel that was just published as a matter of fact September 1. And it it, it kind of - one of the characters was really me, I renamed him. And the story that I just told you to just now was a story that emanates that emerges in the novel, and this character, John Luke, who's actually a person I graduated with, but as he was playing my role - actually avoided the draft during that period of time by, by fleeing to Canada which which protected dodgers draft dodgers and, and deserted us and things like that back then. And then you you made me think of it this now but but could because a lot of Americans during that that period of time we're weighing their options rather than going to war and many of them decided become refugees in Canada and ultimately become citizens and many of them still live there to this day even though I believe in 1975 all draft dodgers and deserters directly related to Vietnam were granted clemency they were free from prosecution and things like that. But that was a that was a pretty busy that was a that was a pretty busy and active period during that time. But we kept most of our activity activism orderly and and around the group that we have formed in a college, which is very, very supportive of us that back then.

**Nahyr Morales Lugo 31:02**

I like how you guys spread the knowledge on what was going on. I think that's very important just even for individual activist activism. So how did you experience at PC influence your current or former occupation?

**Theodore Haig 31:23**

Oh, wow. I think the greatest I've done so much with my life. I mean, I mean, you know, I have, I have a bachelor's degree that I obtained from Providence College, I have a master's degree that I obtained from Rhode Island College, I have a doctorate that I retained obtained from Boston College, I have an honorary doctorate that I obtained, which is a it's not a earned doctorate, but it's this celebratory acknowledgement that I got from Uppsala College when I was a superintendent of schools in East Orange, New Jersey, I have a law degree that I obtained in 1970- 1997, when I was 40-, I was 47 years old when I got my law degree from the University of Florida College of Law. All started, you know, from college, I mean, you know, all of this. I mean, I've traveled to sev- to 78 countries all over the world, all over the world. I've been to the North African continent 17 times I've been to Cape Town, South Africa, maybe seven times. I've been all over the world. I have been a teacher, assistant principal. As a teacher at Central High School, a principal and assistant principal at Mount Pleasant High School in Providence. I was a central office administrator. I was a deputy superintendent in East Orange. I was I worked a little Rock, Arkansas as a Director of Personnel. I worked in Oakland, California as coordinator, certificated

administrative personnel. I was a superintendent of schools and for 11 years, East Orange, New Jersey twice in Hartford, Connecticut, once I went to law school, after I moved to Florida. I was I was a sought out sought after, as one of the leaders to lead educational reform movement in the State of Qatar, where the current world cup- World Cup is being held as we speak. And I lived in in Qatar for 11 years. So I lived in Qatar for 11 years, where I actually started writing. You know, I've just published my, my sixth novel, September 1st, my sixth novel, my seventh novel is scheduled to come out. Next year, my eighth novel is scheduled to come out the year after that my life novel is scheduled to come out a year after that, and my 10th novel is scheduled to come after the year after. All of them are already finished. Okay. So how could I have continued to grow? And all of it goes back to that conversation that you and I were having a little while ago about, about the about a liberal arts education. I mean, what does it do for you? Well, and all of those careers that I just all of those stops that I made that I just talked about a little while ago actually could have retired. I could have stayed in Providence and taught mathematics at Central High School in addition for 20 years, 25 years and retired. I could have stayed there as an assistant principal and retired but I elected not to and the reason why I elected not to be because I had this desire that that was embryonic. When I was at Providence College and began to gain gained steam, gain steam as I got older, and discovered how important it was, for me continuing to continue to learn, and to grow, you know, and all of my novels are about places where I've been my characters have, I've given them all my experiences, you know, and I have mystery, suspense novels, and they all vary. Now, I haven't mentioned anything to you about mathematics. You know, I did that a long time ago. But since then, and all of this is directly related to me spending those years at Providence College. Okay. And I mean, and I haven't stopped, I mean, it's about continuing to discover, so you have a responsibility, in my judgment, we all have a responsibility to continue to discover what they're capable of becoming. And if you don't, and if you don't do that, that's when you, you know, if you decide that you want to stay in one lane for the rest of your life, that's okay. If you decide that you want to specialize in not only your major and then up to your minor as career options that's on you. But if if you decide that, that you that, that you just on this earth, one time, and you got to give it your best shot, and give it your best shot is by acquiring all the knowledge you possibly can, every one of my knowledge, and my novels deal with topics that I knew nothing about - just one of the beautiful things about the internet today. You know, when I, when I worked on my doctorate at Boston College I had, I can remember, I traveled back and forth from Providence, Rhode Island to Boston every day for three years. Okay, I worked with the metropolitan planning project, where my strategic planning skills, and my planning skills and my organizational skills and they were foundational, I got those skills from there. And my dissertation is in that topic, it has nothing to do with mathematics. You know, my dissertation where we were I worked with the metropolitan planning project, which back then we were dealing with the issue of desegregation, which is all related to the, the affect, the affect of, of Brown versus Topeka, Kansas, the elimination of segregation in America, mean all, you know, all of that stuff. And then we were dealing with those issues, not only in the south, we were dealing with the North, and we came up with what they call Metro pathways, where were brown and Black students from Boston, were were able to go, you know, to neutral sites outside of Boston, where they would go to school with students from suburbs and things like that I got all of that stuff, working on my doctoral dissertation and had nothing to do with mathematics. And it's still skills that you develop that allows you to continue to explore and to expand and to begin to understand you're more yourself more to get to begin to understand the social environments that you live in. And so you can better understand the content better, a better context upon how you moved throughout the throughout the rest of your life. I mean, all of that stuff, quite frankly, begins, you know, when you start opening up your mind and those college classrooms if you don't, and again, you know, I hadn't I didn't say anything about mathematics. And again, I got my bachelor's degree was in math education. You follow what I'm saying? And I've been all over the world. Been to Philippines twice. I've been to Australia, I've been to demilitarized zone in South Korea, I've been to. I've been to China, mainland China twice. I've been to Hong Kong three times, I've been to Indonesia, I've been to Singapore. I mean, I've been to Europe a million times. And all of those experiences allow me to continue. I even toured Europe on a motorcycle by myself. By myself, I did 1720 miles by myself. And when I got back, my wife was in a hotel she had flown in from, from New York City.



And then, you know, had to I had to settle my life down because I was all fired up. It's all wired up. I had to sell my life down. And then we spent some time in Germany and Switzerland. I've been we've been to Switzerland twice. I've been to Turkey. I mean, Republic of Czech, I've been to Moscow, Russia, and years I've been England several times. And so, and I tell you all of this, because for a couple of reasons. First, you are The question and I want to answer the question, but the second thing is to tell it is hopefully these young people can be exposed to these these messages and, and understand how important it is, and how they need to assume the responsibility for their own taking control of their own growth and development. And do it in a way where you continue to grow and grow and grow. And then in the process, you can contribute more, because you understand more. And you can influence more people in order to begin to live their life out so that you can have a full life. You know, I mean, obviously, and I'm not comparing myself with other people, because everybody has a right to decide what their life should look like and how it should be. How it should be marshaled in and marshaled out, that's their responsibility. But if you don't take control of your own growth and development, nobody else is. Nobody else says, Hey, I see you later. Take it easy, you'd be good. But if you could, there's so much you can get out of life. When you get out there. And you're like, I remember when I had - in 2016, was, I think was April 16. I could be wrong. April 16, there was an earthquake in Kathmandu, Nepal, 9,000 people were killed, I was on my way there. My wife said, Don't, don't go. So I waited until June 15. I got on a plane and flew to Kathmandu, you know, and I found myself walking around the novel, The rubble, one of my novels, is called Ernest, Ernest, excuse me, we've no horness, Hornest Weaver. You know, he was a financier, in New York, and he was getting all kinds of problems, but the novelists around him developing these, these social startup companies and going in a pile and help and helping them come out of the rubble. But it was so powerful, because being gay, you can see how resilient people are still having to survive and to thrive amongst all of that natural disaster that had occurred. I would have never, ever experienced this if I was living in the Bronx, and, you know, getting on the bus every day. And going, you know, going to work every day. You know what I mean? I would have never, never never lived outside of that environment, it doesn't matter what environment you're in. Because those environments have a way of keeping you in and holding you tight and holding on to you. I've been able to live outside of that. And, and but the most important thing of all of that is not only living outside of that, but it's understanding yourself in relationship to it. So I become a better person, a man because of my travels in the world. Anyway, I answered that answer that question with a long answer response. But I think it's important that the people who are listening to this are particularly young people to understand how important it is not only to get a college education, but to use that in a way that you continue to grow and develop. Because not only for yourself, but you're in a better position to make a better contribution to people that you come in contact with.

**Nahyr Morales Lugo** 43:24

No, that's a great message. Um, can you share any other successes or challenges you had while in college?

**Theodore Haig** 43:34

In college? I think (audio malfunction - inaudible - sound muffled) the difficult thing for myself. And I hope I got the right title and in the name, but I remember but the book was so powerful because when I read it, I couldn't believe I was reading about myself. I never I said this man knows about me, and he's writing about me. And it helped me to understand better about what it is represented in this world. You know, and, and the pathways that I'd have to follow. I got that out of Providence College. I got that out of those philosophy courses that was required to take and I feel as still one of the one of the books I haven't published it's it's an academic book, quite frankly, and it's called Thrive coping and thriving and seemingly impossible situations. And what my one of my heroes, Eli Wiesel, who just passed away a couple of years ago, by the way, I spoke to you earlier about my my A psychologist actually I received an honorary doctorate with Olympia Olympia Dukakis, who passed a few years ago. She's a famous actress, and Ilya Whitson, who's a Holocaust survivor. And he encouraged me at the time to visit Auschwitz, Ian Poulter. And years later, I did, I actually visited Auschwitz. I mean, I was at Krakow and, and just, I mean, it was

a wonderful, it was a horrible experience, don't don't get me wrong, I don't want to understate how significant that period of time was, and the loss of all of these wonderful people. But, but by being there, I mean, you could, you could feel the presence of, of, of, of, of a very, very difficult, horrendous period in our history. And if you read the novel that I just published, I start out with that experience on that. Okay. So it was just a wonderful experience again, but all of it, it goes back to the heart of your question. I mean, what, you know, what kind of experiences did I get out of, out of Providence College, and, you know, those those powerful experiences, because they led me to all the things that I'm discussing with you today, it made a man out of me so to speak, you know, it helped me to be comfortable with living away from home and knowing that one day, you know, once you graduate, you got to be on your own. And I remember I had tears in my eyes to when I realized I became a man, but it was a wonderful, wonderful experience. And, and again, it goes back to being around these wonderful professors and these people who invited you and inspired you to learn. And the students, you know, coming from different parts of the country. That's the other great thing about being a you know, you're with people from all over the country. So you learn how to live with in America with people who many of them don't look like you, they don't act like you, they don't talk like you. But yet, they're important to, to what it is that Americans, particularly us, you know, we we represent. Okay.

**Nahyr Morales Lugo 47:27**

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

**Theodore Haig 47:41**

Well, I think the first thing is that take advantage of in college at PC, the opportunity to be in an environment where you're free. To be able to think about what it is that you want to think about, you know, I spent 11 years in Qatar. And you can almost feel it as you walk down the street. How imposing this notion of you can say, and think, the way you want us the way you want to think, and, and say what it is that you want to say, You can't do that in a place like Qatar, okay, in America, boy, you can do that, you know, as long as you're not hurting anybody else. As long as you're not violating anybody else's freedoms, you can feel free to be able to think the way you want to think, you know, to say what you want to say and to behave fundamentally, you know, the way you want to behave in our society. So I tell all of the students at Providence College, really appreciate that because there are other places in this world where you can't do that. Okay. And then, of course, as I said before, I can tell him to begin to understand the differences between being goal oriented and vision oriented. Because you know, you can have 1000 goals, but one vision, you can't have 1000 visions, and a lot of goals. Become vision oriented. Vision oriented is so important because it allows you to set the set timelines in your life, so that you organize those goals systematically to help you get to meet those visions, that that vision that you establish it, you're going to be the goal orient it and that that's important, because those those goals allow you to not only grow and develop, but they allow you to reach your vision. And then every five years, you look at your goal, your vision and see whether or not it's still working for you. Because you may decide, and this is all consistent with I said earlier, assuming responsibility for becoming it developing the capacity to become what it is that you're capable of becoming, that's all consistent with. So be goal oriented, I've seen maybe vision oriented, have goals that are measurable, that are doable, and to use the college as a springboard to not only understand that, but to begin to plan in your life accordingly today. And don't just settle on being one thing. I mean, you have 20,000 neurons in your head, 20 million neurons in the head, excuse me, which means that you can have each one of those neurons can hold information, you know, and they say, we only use maybe 1510 to 15% of our brains throughout our life. I mean, you can do a whole lot of things. And because when it's all over, it's really all over. So I would get those give students at Providence College, I would want them to really begin to understand what that means and establish the base right there at Providence College for doing that. So that they can have a wonderful, wonderful, wonderful life, because I think that's what living is really all about. Taking advantage of. Okay.

**Nahyr Morales Lugo 51:35**

And just the last question, is there anything else you'd like to share? It can be anything?

**Theodore Haig 51:41**

Okay. Well, I think I've I've done a lot with my life. I've had an absolutely wonderful life, and I come from, I come from New York City. I mean, we're urban, in a city could could could environment could you live in, you know, so. And I live down here in Florida, and I live in a live in the woods, as a matter of fact, I mean, how did I get from there to here? You know what I mean? But in between all of that. I mean, I've been to 78 countries, you know. And as I said earlier, many of those countries, I've been to many times, I've been to Italy, five times, South Africa seven times have explained to Brazil, you have lived in the Amazon jungle for a few days. I mean, you know, I've just taken the opportunity while developing while Well, I'm looking seriously at my career and figuring out how to become a better person. I've been able to expand myself exploring and using that, that which I got from my parents and what I got from Providence College as a base, and to allow me to continue to grow and to develop, you know, I've just become a better a better personal over the years because of the things that I've done. And it all started about most of us started from my college education. I think I think I've basically covered a whole lot of stuff, and I don't think I've lived a normal life. But I've certainly lived a very, very productive one. From my perspective, and I'm very, very happy and satisfied with with with how I live over the years. So I think that's probably the best thing for me to say in my closing remarks since this has been an excellent opportunity to begin to discuss it and rethink it and to reveal it to those that will access this in the future.