

Devin Roth interviewing Gerald Allen clip 1

Topic: Faculty

Interviewer: When it comes to the racial climate at UD at the time, did you have any bad experiences, if you're willing to open up about that, with white professors or other students.

Gerald Allen: You know what, with the students, I didn't have any issues. I do recall my freshman English class, where, it was in Memorial Hall, and the professor, small class, professor has maybe got 25 people, 30 people at most in there, he was handing out the syllabus. And as he was handing out the syllabus, you see what was going on, what was expected of you, and the professor, not knowing me at all, and I'll never forget this, as he handed out the syllabus to me he said, "I'm just letting you know, the best grade you're going to get in my class is a 'C'" or, "The best grade you can get in my class is a 'C'". And I was a little taken aback, but I worked, I showed him that I knew how to do some work, and of course I got better than a 'C' and I think he appreciated the work that I did...