

Julia Manson interviewing Crystal Hayman-Simms clip 2
Topic: Racial climate at the University of Delaware

[Crystal Hayman-Simms responding to a question about diversity in the classroom and at the University of Delaware more generally.]

Crystal Hayman-Simms: I was the only Black person in my class...in every class. In every single class. Not another, I don't even remember Asians being in my class. There was no, you know, very little...or I don't even remember Latinos, maybe there were and I didn't know, but I don't remember that. I just remember, you know, Caucasian people being in my class with me, so, it wasn't that diversity and then there was you know the age diversity, which at that time you know really sat with me. What struck me most of all is that in all of my classes, it would be the young people asking me did I do the homework last night and "can I see your paper?" [Laughing] Because... and my other RASA (Returning Adult Student Association) friends would say the same thing because we were so disciplined, and you know, so happy to have... to be able to go to school that we were gonna do our work. There was no way we weren't going to do our work, but you know when you're young you don't always [inaudible]. So that was the big diversity. Now, the one class where I did have African Americans...and...and it wasn't a big class... and it was also the only class where I had an African American instructor, and that was um... Black Women Writers. So... they...they started that year... uh.... Gloria was her first name, and I cannot remember her last name... and she's long since been gone but that's the only class that I ever had that was... that had any Black students in it or Black professors.