

TAPE ONE SIDE ONE

Vivienne Felix: Today is August 11, 2002, and we are sitting in the Special Collections Reading Room of Skillman Library. Today we are talking with Christine Hanson Adams-Kaufman who is in the Class of 1972. She is here as a part of our Oral History Project which is sponsored by Lafayette College Archives. Thank you for being here and participating.

Christine Adams-Kaufman: You're welcome.

VF: My first question is to please tell me about your family and where you grew up.

CAK: I grew up in northern New Jersey. A town called Hillsdale. And I spent my entire growing up years in that community, actually never leaving home until I went away to college.

VF: Please describe your high school experience.

CAK: I went to a public high school in a community that was very focused on preparing the students for their college experiences. Ninety-eight percent of my class went on to college. So it was just a very educationally oriented focus. But I had the opportunity to be a cheerleader and enjoyed the extracurricular activities. I graduated fifth in my class. I was at the top academically, although as I'm learning more we, we had very few sports

activities for the women. We had no field hockey. We had no basketball. Nothing. So that was all pre-Title, is it IX¹?

VF: I believe so.

CAK: But it was an opportunity to have a broad based high school education of arts, sciences, and math. I found early on that I excelled in math and sciences. And when you're good at something you like it better than other things.

VF: Did you have any siblings who attended college? Your mother, or cousins or any family at all who went to college?

CAK: I'm one of four children, and all four of us went to college. My older sister went to Cedar Crest², and actually visiting her was how I came to know the Lehigh Valley³ and to become familiar with Lafayette and Lehigh⁴. My younger brother went to Susquehanna University⁵. And my younger sister went to Johnson State College⁶ in Vermont. My father has a business degree from what is now Pace University⁷, but at the

¹ Title IX was part of the 1972 Federal Education Amendments related to education and discrimination on the basis of sex. Title IX has been widely applied to provide equal opportunities for women in athletics at institutions of higher learning.

² Cedar Crest College, Allentown, Pennsylvania.

³ The Lehigh Valley region encompasses the eastern part of Pennsylvania and includes the towns of Allentown, Bethlehem, and Easton.

⁴ Lehigh University, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

⁵ Susquehanna University, Susquehanna, Pennsylvania.

⁶ Johnson State College, Johnson, Vermont.

⁷ Pace University, Briarcliff, New York.

time it was Pace Institute. And mom is not college educated. All my cousins, my generation did go onto college. Some of us have advanced degrees as well.

VF: How influential was your family in your decision to attend college?

CAK: Going to college was not a choice. My parents were very clear that you would graduate from high school, and you would go to college. The school that we went to was our choice both in terms of preference and academic admission criteria. But there was never an issue. I never even thought about not going because it just was not a possibility in my household. On the other hand they weren't slave drivers with regards to academics, and do your homework. It was, "It is expected that you'll go to college. Prepare yourself."

VF: How do you feel that your high school prepared you for your college education?

CAK: Very well. I was part of the baby boom coming out of World War II, and so much of my growing up was geared towards educating this huge mass of children and students. Again it was a public high school, but we had a lot of advantages in terms of equipment for what it was like in the sixties. But it was a broad scale academic program of math, sciences, English, language, athletics. And I felt quite well prepared. It enabled me to identify my fields of interest which I then concentrated on once I got into college. Do you want more? I don't know... (*Laughter*)

VF: Oh no. That's perfectly fine. Can you describe your college selection process?

CAK: As I was nearing college the women's movement was starting to gain publicity, and I realized that when I graduated I would be forced to work in a man's world. I made the conscious choice to apply only to women's colleges because I felt that it would give me an opportunity to develop confidence and leadership skills, in retrospect, in a safer environment. And I wound up applying to four women's colleges. I was accepted at three of the four and chose Connecticut College for Women⁸. I'd been at the top of my class in high school. I was fifth in my class, but I was the first woman in rank. And I was disappointed that I didn't get into Smith College⁹ which was my first choice. But I was very pleased with what Connecticut College was offering in terms of academics. I was feeling my way through the various math and sciences. And I had an opportunity to take a range of courses that let me narrow down my interests to predominately biology. I found also that it was suited my style of study to be at a girls' school where we studied all week, and then on Friday afternoons when classes were finished we packed our suitcases and went off to visit the various men's colleges that weren't too far away. There were, actually a lot of them within an hour or two hour train ride from Connecticut College. So it was a nice balance of developing new friendships and developing an academic sense of security in a very easy environment. Connecticut College, however, voted to turn coed the year that I was a freshman, and they admitted about thirty men when I was a sophomore. And it was at that point that I felt that if I was going to be in a coed

⁸ Connecticut College, New London, Connecticut.

⁹ Smith College, Northampton, Massachusetts.

environment I wanted to be in something that was really coed, not just these thirty guys walking around. And I looked at a number of the colleges that were just turning coed in the early seventies including Lafayette, Trinity College¹⁰, and Princeton University¹¹. My sister had gone to Cedars Crest. I was very comfortable with this area. It was about two hours from home so I wasn't too far away. And I was very excited when I was admitted. It was a very exciting, but stressful time period quite truthfully realizing that you're now giving up this very safe environment of mostly women, friendships that have been well established, and moving off into a completely new adventure for the College and for myself. As a transfer student I found that there was less women's support available to us in the transfer classes. That a huge amount of effort went into assuring that the freshmen entering class, the Class of 74 which was the first group of women that went through their whole experience here at Lafayette. A lot of support went into those women. And I found that the Classes of 73 and 72 were sort of ignored in terms of support services, recognizing different needs that the women would have. As an example the older class, my classmates were chosen to be the resident advisors in what then was called New Dorm is now Ruef Hall I think?

VF: Yes.

CAK: Is that how you say it? So we were labeled resident advisors, but at the same time we got about an hour training on what our responsibilities were, what that meant, what kind of support network was available. And then we had these young women who were

¹⁰ Trinity College, San Antonio, Texas.

¹¹ Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey.

coming to us asking for assistance and guidance through both their academics and social lives, but we realized that we didn't know very much ourselves about the full scope of what was available at Lafayette both to help and to encourage and educate.

VF: Did the administration do anything at all to have transfer students feel more comfortable at the Lafayette environment?

CAK: I don't recall the administration doing anything for the female transfers unique from the regular transfers. As a transfer student we came in a day or two before the total enrollment so we were here with the freshmen class for two or three days before classes actually started. The few women in the transfer classes were lost both in the number of male transferees and in the number of freshmen women. So there were, I don't recall anything special being done. Actually over the years I feel that the women in the Classes of 72 and 73 have been ignored in favor of the Class of 74. I write my letters and occasionally they get published in the *Alumni News*. And I always get an answer back from the Alumni Office. So it's very gratifying to know that even though not everything is perfect I was always listened to.

VF: In what other regards did you feel that those classes were ignored?

CAK: In terms of recognition of the pioneering efforts that we were doing, setting up standards because we were in the upper classes, some of the advanced classes academically, so that we took the brunt of the professors dealing with women in their

classes for the first time. Looking up in total stun... My nickname was Chris, and they would be going down the roster expecting a man to answer, and when a female voice said, "Here" the professors were jumping out of their skins in shock because they just weren't... I, I just don't think the university... I know that it was voted and effected very quickly, and the differences and distinctions just didn't seem to have been fully recognized. For instance, we were put into New Dorm, and we were told that we had curfews, that they were locking the dorms at ten o'clock at night. None of the men on campus had curfews. And I understand that the school's concern about our safety and well-being, but at the same time it felt like, "Well here we are, but we're being held captive in our dorms as opposed to being allowed to socialize with our classmates who were predominately men." We were listened to. We were heard. We ultimately got keys and were allowed to come and go as we please. The dorm was still locked at ten, but we were given the freedom and flexibility. So again I think it was that people hadn't thought about all of the ramifications of what having women on campus might have meant. But they always listened when we raised our concerns. I think there was a Dean of Women or something. I cannot remember her name to save my life. But there was a faculty member who was responsible for the women in general, and she and her husband lived in Watson Hall. So that when we moved over there the next year she was right there. She was pretty much the only resource that I felt was offered to the women as women.

VF: What was your first impression of Lafayette?

CAK: Oh I loved it. It was a kick to be an upperclassmen. It was a kick to be one of a very few women. There was another biology major, and we went in parallel. We were pretty much the only women in most of the classes that we took, so it was always a lot of fun. And it was very reinforcing to find the academics so much more stimulating than they had been at Connecticut College. And I don't know if that was a function of reaching the advanced levels of the courses as opposed to the base levels that I took at Connecticut or if it was a higher academic standard at Lafayette. Or maybe it was just increased enthusiasm that enabled me to jump into it more thoroughly. I found it was an exciting opportunity to explore not just academics but social roles as well. I mean, where do I fit in, in the spectrum of personalities and lifestyles? Like most colleges there was ... actually I think like most high schools ... there's groups of kids. This was in the early 70s so there were the drug users. There were the athletes. There were the very studious group of students. And as a new person on campus I had an opportunity to interface with each one of those groups in my various classes and make choices for myself as to where I felt I was most comfortable and where I wanted to put my social skills in parallel with my academic skills.

VF: How did you feel that the presence of women on the campus altered the academic and social atmosphere?

CAK: Since I was not aware of the academic atmosphere beforehand I can't really speculate how it altered it. I felt that the women were expected to adhere to the same standards. That there was no sense of, "Well you're a woman, you can't be as smart as a

man.” This is your choice. This is what you need to do. You need to stay with the curriculum. Socially I’m sure that there was a huge change. I know that the guys used to pack up to the girls’ colleges or the girls would come into Lafayette just as I had packed up to leave Connecticut for socialization. I think there was a still a good part of that because there were still so few women. I think only about twenty percent of the enrollment was female at that point in time. I think it’s fifty/fifty now isn’t it?

VF: Just about.

CAK: There still were not a lot of women, but there were a lot of jokes and teasing about the women on campus and how much better we made the classrooms look. And lots of chauvinism. But that was not atypical for that point in time.

VF: Given that Lafayette had just become a coeducational school what did your family think about you applying here?

CAK: Well my dad’s best friend had gone to Lehigh, so the bigger issue was how could he let me go to Lafayette instead of Lehigh. Again my parents were focused on the education. My father’s business associates had a couple of sons that were already here, so they sort of were assigned to come and check on me. So even before I got here there were a couple of names I needed to look up, and they were supposed to keep an eye out for me. But I think my parents felt that as long as I could maintain my grades they were fine with it. I used to say that there were a couple things that you needed to do when you

were in college. One was absolutely you needed to study, and accomplish your academics. But you also needed to meet new friends and have new social experiences. And you needed to have fun. And, of course, you needed to take care of yourself. Unfortunately there was only time for three out of the four. So it was taking care of yourself that you didn't do. You didn't get enough sleep. You didn't eat properly. You were traying down the hills in the middle of the night, kind of things. I don't know if you're allowed to do that anymore, but... (*Laughter*) I guess we weren't allowed to do it then. But my parents were fine with it as long as I maintained the academics. This is now in thirty years' retrospect. I am the second child in my family, but I demonstrate most of the first child characteristics in terms of leadership, assertiveness, willing to try new things, organization of the family and what have you. So I think that this was just one more thing that I was doing that nobody else in my family would ever have undertaken.

VF: After the excitement of arriving passed was it easy for you to get settled and find your comfort zone on campus?

CAK: Externally I'm a very gregarious person, but internally I'm very shy. So I'd never say it would be easy to find my comfort level. I've always felt that I needed to keep struggling to find that comfort zone. What I did find was that after a... You know, I had different classes with different people and again through family members I said, "Look at this person. Look at that person." So I was meeting a lot of new people. And I found that there were a number of people that I spent more time with. In retrospect again I wish

that I had kept a broader approach to spend more time with all the different groups as opposed to concentrating on one fraternity house (that's been ousted from the College) so... That became sort of the focal point of my social network. Academically I mean, I loved it. I wasn't an A student, but I did make Dean's List and graduated with honors so the academics came more easily than the social aspects of it. But I loved coming to school. I can remember when I was at Connecticut and after every holiday it was time to go back I would be very mopey and sad. Whereas after I transferred it was, "Okay, let's go. Are you taking me back to school or am I taking the bus?" "Oh we'll take you." It was, "Okay. Bye mom. Bye dad." I felt very comfortable here. And I liked it.

VF: Did you, where did you live on campus?

CAK: There were only two choices. As a junior transfer student I lived in New Dorm which was the only female housing available. And then as a senior I lived in Watson Hall because we now had the two opportunities of Watson and New Dorm. I believe both were single sex housing just in those initial years. I recall that over time they added coeducation housing, but I think for my first two years they were both single sex housing. I liked Watson Hall better because there were fewer people per bathroom which was nice. In New Dorm it was like Grand Central Station in the bathroom.

VF: Did you find that there was enough housing for women?

CAK: I didn't feel squeezed. I mean, the dorm was full. As a resident advisor I had a room to myself. Everybody else had roommates which was the standard for the school, I believe. So I didn't feel cramped or crowded. We weren't asked to triple up at all. And as they added more women they gave us more housing. Again I didn't really keep track as the years changed. We didn't have the sorority option in those days. I don't even know when sororities were added to the social structure of the university. But we only had dormitory living whereas the men had either the dorms or Kirby or their fraternities. So there were more options for the men. But the women had enough room, and I thought we got the best dorms so... (*Laughter*)

VF: How did Greek life impact the social culture at Lafayette?

CAK: Greek life dominated the social structure of Lafayette. The classes ended early during fall and spring IF¹² party weekend. There was a huge amount of alcohol consumed by underage students. And again over the past thirty years the administrations of colleges and universities are very much aware of the circumstances of underage drinking and date rape. I'm sure those things happened when I was here, but we never... We drank underage. But if there was date rape it wasn't noticed. I don't really have an alternative to say what would have been better than the fraternity structure because at Connecticut College we didn't have sororities, but we had very small residential halls. So each one was in effect a sorority. It wasn't tied to any of the Greek rules and regulations. And I know at Princeton they don't have fraternities, but they have their eating clubs which are as fraternity-ish as things were here. So I guess as a social

¹² Intra-fraternity.

structure finding a smaller group that you can fit in and feel comfortable in is an accepted mechanism of dealing with being away from home for the first time. But some of the detrimental things of the fraternities, like the drinking, was just completely out of control even thirty years ago.

VF: As an RA what kinds of issues did you deal with?

CAK: Things like lost keys, late night phone calls were the easy things. I found that a number of my floor mates were coming to me asking for academic help, which I wasn't either prepared or qualified to offer. I mentioned earlier that I didn't feel that I'd been given enough guidance. I would have liked to have known "for this academic problem send somebody here." "For this, do this." Like what were the academic resources? But mostly they were social issues. The worst one was a young girl down the hall who came in sobbing because she thought she was pregnant about three weeks into college. I was like in a major panic here. But she wasn't. Even then it was just common sense to guide her through what to do on how to handle it. I mean, I think sexual experimentation is part of being away from home, the unbalanced ratio of men to women. I guess we were outnumbered three to one or four to one. I think it made the sexual issues more prominent, but this was pre-AIDS and pre- major sexually transmitted diseases. So sex experimentation was part of what everybody was expecting in your college years. The Presbyterian heritage of Lafayette really didn't hold much sway once someone decided that they were going to be experimenting. And there was drug use. This was the 70s, and there was a lot of marijuana. Less heavy drugs, but again, part of the college

experience is learning how to manage yourself under adverse circumstances, not just your academics. It's really preparing you for life, giving you the spectrum of what you need to survive. And when someone gives you a choice, how are you going to handle it? How are you going to say no? How are you going to experiment to determine you want to say no? As an RA that was completely ignored. You know, it was sort of like the Nancy Reagan "Just Say No"¹³ kind of thing which isn't particularly useful when you're now responsible for about twenty girls on each floor. I'm not sure. But as an RA you're responsible for these people that are coming to you with different needs and expectations and asking for my confidence, yet I knew I didn't have the resources to really answer the questions. So it was a bit difficult.

VF: What was the attitude toward the accessibility of birth control?

CAK: We didn't have the health center here. I noticed what a beautiful building that was when I came in because that wasn't here. The campus physician was a geriatrician, a physician specializing in old age, and yet he came on campus once or twice a week. Most of the girls went down to Planned Parenthood¹⁴ where they were given a lot of good attention. So we used the resources of the Easton Planned Parenthood rather than the college health facilities. And I thought they (college health) could do a good job with the sore throats and ear infections, but we didn't take our reproductive health to the campus physician. In terms of accessibility I think it was more just a general social time of wanting to be sexually active and experimenting with what was appropriate for each

¹³ Nancy Reagan's anti drug and alcohol use and abuse campaign that she promoted in the 1980s.

¹⁴ Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPA) promotes the right of each individual to manage their own fertility. PPA also provides reproductive health care services.

individual person, but still not wanting your parents to know that you were having sex. That was a big deal back then. So, again, we used the Easton Planned Parenthood resources.

VF: What was life like in the residence halls?

CAK: It was a kick. I guess I used that about academics too. We made friends on pretty much a floor by floor basis with the group of people that we were living within greatest proximity. Although we all got to know each other very quickly because there were so few of us. It became cliquish ... Just as the men identified the fraternities that they wanted to participate in, cliques formed although not affiliated with any particular housing arrangement, but there were the cheerleaders and their closest friends. There were the field hockey athletes with their closest friends. And the... we called them the freaks. They were the young women that were on the far spectrum of thought and consciousness I put my younger sister into that same category too, just simply that they were ahead of the times. But, again, there were not too many of them, but they would isolate themselves and hang out together. There was a socioeconomic separation. And there were no black women in my class, but there was also a racial self-segregation that the black freshmen women that chose to come to Lafayette tended to hang out among themselves as part of the women and then with the other black students on campus. But I don't think that's typically different from any place else. After I went into the business world and fought the old boys' network, it was much easier to fight the battle when you realized that people hang around with people that they're most comfortable with. So you

tend to find people who think and react and in some cases look the way you do to create your social structure. I don't think that was good or bad, either. It was just part of being away from home and creating new friendships with people that didn't share any of the background that you had.

TAPE ONE SIDE TWO

VF: What was the racial climate like on campus?

CAK: Well it was somewhat unsettled. We had the bucolic environment of Lafayette up the hill from, quite truthfully, the then very depressed Easton economy. But we didn't have the racial tensions of the Watts¹⁵ in the late 1960s or Rodney King¹⁶ of the 90s. The black students liked to hang around with themselves. I do recall that there was one black student who had been adopted and raised by white parents. And I thought that other black students were cruel to him, that they didn't appreciate... There was almost a sense of if you have black skin you should be hanging out with the black people as opposed to understanding that people hang out with who they are most comfortable with. But I think that there was a greater acceptance. There were some of us that had grown up in completely white communities. There were only a few black students in my high school.

¹⁵ Watts is an area in southwest Los Angeles, California. The area was the scene of a race riot from August 11-16, 1965. The violence and destruction resulted in thirty-four deaths and over a thousand injuries. The riots were indicative of the deeper problems of racism, homelessness, and joblessness.

¹⁶ On March 3, 1991, Rodney King, an African American, was beaten by four white police officers after being stopped and arrested for a traffic violation near Los Angeles, California. A witness caught the beating on videotape. The officers involved in the beating were acquitted of using excessive force, and this sparked riots in the Los Angeles area.

Others had had no experience so that we were just very interested in trying to understand. Well, at the time we were saying we were trying to understand the differences, but in reality it's just the similarities again in retrospect. There was some... I guess there was some tension and the Black Student Association periodically had meetings, and issues were raised and discussed, but they were really very appropriately managed. You didn't have any fist waving, knife stabbing, gun shooting arguments. It was really debate at an intellectual level as opposed to an emotional, personal level. And that's from my perspective. I'm sure that the black students on campus might feel very differently. And as a female that was maybe twenty percent of the student body, I'm sure that the black population was much smaller. And any lack of support that I might have felt, I would imagine that they felt twofold, threefold, fourfold just... I think it was all an experiment and, I mean, it sounds so segregated now, but I know that Lafayette has had black students over the centuries, but not accepting them as people and as students in their own right really. Here, we have our black student. It's almost like this is a credential of the college as opposed to something to... be changed. You know, affirmative action was very big in the 70s so that... I think the administration was trying to be so politically correct. I read someplace about Arthur Ashe¹⁷ who was asked, "What's it like to be dying of AIDS?" And he said, "Not half as hard as growing up black in America." And as a white woman I realize that I don't have a clue. Even now. So there were tense discussions, but not violent discussions, I guess.

¹⁷ Ashe (1943-1993) was the first African American to win a major men's tennis tournament. He discovered he was HIV positive in 1988, and he died in 1993 after working to raise awareness about AIDS.

VF: Were there any groups that were discriminated against more so than others such as Jewish students or students with alternative sexual lifestyles?

CAK: In terms of the stereotyping I think that the Jewish students were recognized as academically invested, and I was not aware of discrimination. And while sexual orientation may have been here, homosexuals were not coming out of the closet in the 70s. They were keeping their personal lives very private. I'm not aware of any specific issues that arose while I was on campus. I didn't feel that there was a discrimination in a negative sense on, on the campus. There were specific individuals that were either not liked, or teased, for whatever reason, it was part of that person and the people that were doing the teasing. But I think that there was enough diversity that there were people that were finding partners, and friends, and mates that there weren't very many loners. Or for the loners there was a group of loners that they would hang out together. But, I mean, I guess we all discriminate on a daily basis when we make choices and selections on what we're going to wear or who we're going to see and visit with. So from the self-selection component, the social stratification, the intellectual stratification, there was discrimination, but I didn't feel a lot of the pressure. But again I was in a group that was being welcomed as women, and the vast majority were white women. I hope that you're including a lot of black women from those early years because I'm sure that their experiences were completely different than mine. My social structure turned out to be ninety-nine percent white. So I'm confident that my experiences were mine.

VF: In the residence halls how were rules created?

CAK: Rules? Well, when we got here we were sat down and said, “Here’s the kitchen rules. Here’s the curfew rules.” And very quickly, I think like most students you figure out ways to get around the rules. Part of a college experience should be pushing the limits of what is appropriate. The curfew rule was recognized very quickly and resolved with keys. The no men on the floor became, and originally no men were allowed in the non-public areas of New Dorm that we were... There were a couple of common areas of the zig zags.¹⁸ So men were allowed there, but they weren’t allowed in the rooms. And then over time it was, “Well, yeah, sure bring your boyfriend. We don’t care.” And we worked out a system of putting flip tags on the bathrooms of “man inside.” There was a lot of... I guess there was a sense of decorum then that might not exist now if many women are sharing bathrooms in dormitories now. Back then it was, “Well there’s a guy in the bathroom. I’m not going in.” And in New Dorm, the only big issue was that there were two doors into each bathroom, so if a guy went in from one side, he’d often forget to turn the sign on the other side. And likewise they’d forget to turn it when they came out. But that became a floor by floor decision on how you were going to handle it, and if you were going to allow men on your floor and in your bathrooms. We had periodic dorm meetings and floor meetings, which was part of what we were asked to do as resident advisors. And pretty much became majority rule, but there wasn’t that much dissent. It was almost as though the rooming authorities created floors that matched in personalities and lifestyles very well. Or else maybe so many of us came from predominately middle class backgrounds in suburban communities that it worked out okay. I don’t know. I think it was also new that people were realizing that we were

¹⁸ Referring to the stairs and split level housing.

experimenting together. And that there was a lot of open mindedness and willingness to talk to each other about problems as they came up, rather than say, “Here’s a rule. You have to obey it.” It was like, “Well why?” But, not questioned in a surly manner, but in a logical and reasonable manner. So and the administration was amenable to listening to our complaints. Sometimes they agreed with us, and sometimes they didn’t. But, I guess... Does that answer your question? (*Laughter*)

VF: Yes. Given the male/female ratio was it easy to find a date?

CAK: Yes. Yes. People found their social network pretty easily. Mostly we met guys in our classes, and found people that we liked just as, you know, for conversation before and after class and started forming pairs. People that I was very friendly with had boyfriends in different fraternities so that we all got to meet even a broader group of people. And then you can decide whether it was the right, if you’d made the right social choices. Some of my girlfriends married their Lafayette sweethearts and are still married to them. I married my Lafayette sweetheart, and am divorced from him. And others realized that their Lafayette sweetheart at the time was a wonderful, exciting college experience, but not somebody that they wanted to spend their life with. And said, “Yes, you’re my sweetheart while I’m here, but I want other things out of my life. And you seem not interested in those other things. So let’s part our ways.” A couple of girl transfer students had come with boyfriends at other schools. I don’t think many of those long distance relationships lasted. And then we always had a couple of situations where Lafayette women were now dating Lafayette men who had had very steady girlfriends

from other parts of their lives, either from high school or from other schools where they'd made girlfriends. So that there was always the triangle, the ruckus, the broken hearts. And as a resident advisor I was often asked to manage that. You know, "Oh well I came here, and I started going out with him, and now I find out that he has a girlfriend of six years that he started going out with when he was a freshman in high school and what am I supposed to do?" And, you know, in the callousness of thirty years hence I should have said, "Well, that's the way it is. Figure out (*Laughter*) how to cope with it. But you can't change what you can't change." So, I think the social life was a good part of the experiments here. And I think it was a good part of why the women were choosing to come. It's "Hey this is gonna be completely new and different. I'm gonna be outnumbered, and I'm gonna have my pick and choose of men. And this should be fun." Yeah, it was fun.

VF: How frequently were Lafayette students able to interact with students from colleges in the Lehigh Valley area?

CAK: I personally didn't at all. I really don't know. I know that Centenary College¹⁹ girls came down a lot and Cedar Crest and the Allentown nursing students came over, but that was more a party weekend, and again I think it was part of the student ratio that was so offset.

VF: Okay. Describe what a night in the dining hall would consist of.

¹⁹ Centenary College, Hackettstown, New Jersey.

CAK: Bad food and good conversation. At Connecticut College we had very small residential buildings and each small building had their own dining hall. Their food was spectacular. And we actually had sit down dinners every night where part of the work study program of my classmates would be waiting tables. So Marquis Hall was the dining hall at the time, the student center. I guess it's a dorm now right?

VF: Dorm and student center sort of. It has a dining hall.

CAK: Okay. But that was the main dining hall, so what I liked about it was it was where the non-fraternity people all could meet and mingle in a completely different environment because the fraternity dwellers ate in their own fraternity houses. So it would be a different group of people that ate in the dining halls. And you met new people if you went with a few other people and sat down together; invariably you'd be sitting with your four and there'd be another foursome already there and, so you could meet new people. I remember it just being very loud. The guys always complained that there wasn't enough food. I don't remember, I mean, food was not an important part of my life, so that it was more, again, the social aspects of "I'm hungry. I've got to eat something." We didn't have any like John Belushi²⁰ food fights or anything like that when I was here. So it was fairly civilized other than the quality of the food, I don't really have many recollections of the dining hall. I'm trying to physically visualize it, and I can't.

VF: Okay. What type of music did you listen to?

²⁰ Referring to scenes in the 1978 movie *Animal House* starring John Belushi.

CAK: I was always a soft rock kind of person. I liked The Beach Boys²¹ and Chicago²². And every now and then there'd be a group over at the Allentown Raceway that we'd all pile into the cars and go over and see. Actually music was a point of conflict in the dorms because some people liked pounding rock 'n roll at outrageous volumes. And we'd be banging on doors, "Turn it down. Turn it down. Turn it down." I'd actually had an experience at Connecticut College where a dorm mate of mine had her music on very loud, and I had put off banging on her door. And when I finally couldn't stand it anymore and banged on it, and she didn't answer I went in I... She had tried to commit suicide and I was the one that found her. So I was always very sensitive to pounding music thinking, "What might the listener be trying to hide?" But again there we had our acid rock and our folk rock and The Beatles²³ and The Stones²⁴, and... Oh I'm dating myself so badly. My son who's only seven once asked me if I had ever heard of The Beatles, but they were what we were listening to then. One of the guys' dorms was off to the side, and they would play the loud music and that would filter across the grass and into the dorm in the spring. So that was probably more of a problem than each other. I think girls were just more sensitive to each other than guys might be. That's not a discriminatory comment.

VF: What was your major, and why did you choose it?

²¹ The Beach Boys were a musical group that formed in the early sixties. They were known for their "surf style music" and produced hits like "Surfin' U.S.A." and "California Girls".

²² A soft rock and contemporary music group which has performed and recorded since 1969.

²³ British musical quartet that achieved worldwide popularity in the mid 1960s. Their hits include "Hey Jude," "All I Need is Love," and "Yellow Submarine."

²⁴ The Rolling Stones have produced albums and toured the country since the mid-sixties. Their hits include "(I Can't Get No) Satisfaction," "Brown Sugar," and "Honky Tonk Women".

CAK: I was a biology major. I chose it because I liked sciences. I found it more comprehensible than chemistry and more practical than physics. Doctor Fried²⁵ was one of my first professors, and I just created an instant rapport with him and found that I would take whatever course he might be teaching. I heard things about different professors who were great about this, that, or the other thing, and I would try a class and be disappointed. And I actually had the opportunity to work one summer on campus. I worked on campus as a lab assistant for Dr. Fried. But I had thought I wanted to be a physician. This was at a time when women were really at the forefront of trying new and different things, and in an age when women were stereotyped that they couldn't be doctors because they couldn't stand the sight of blood, I was studying towards that objective. I found biological sciences in general a little more interesting because of the practicality of what it was, what it could offer. And once I started, I mean, I loved it. Early on I had looked at majoring in math, chemistry, physics, or biology. And as I was exposed to the different classes and realized where my strengths were, and where my interests built off strengths, I narrowed it down to a biology major. I had planned to go to medical school, but two things stood in my way. One is that my MCATs²⁶ were not very good. And the other is that my father had very generously paid for me to go to college but not med school. I did not have to struggle through the finances of grants, and loans, and, I always worked summers but that was really a very small portion of what the total costs were. But when it came time for graduate school, and I said, "Dad can I have some more money for graduate school?" He said, "No." I had a younger brother and sister that

²⁵ Bernard Fried, Biology Department.

²⁶ Medical College Admissions Test.

he still was committed to educating. So it was, “Oh no. What am I going to do now?” And I really didn’t know about all the grants and loans that might be available. So I had decided to take a job and figure out what I wanted to do. I’d use that first year or two working to identify what other options might be available to me.

VF: What kind of work did you do right after graduation?

CAK: I was a pharmaceutical sales representative. I had taken a number of on-campus interviews. I had thought that I would be signing up for research positions... You know, a drug company’s posting interview schedules. I was like, “Oh cool. I can go on to research.” And I didn’t do enough homework to really figure out what the job was that they were here for. And it turned out that almost all of them were here for sales positions that they wanted to use your science knowledge. Part of a local representative’s job was to interview on-campus to find new employees for the companies. So I had taken a lot of interviews on campus and actually was offered a job. I did take a position but not through the campus service, because they were paying three hundred dollars a year more than the on campus interview. So I found that the on campus interviewing support was terrific here. I had run into a situation of tremendous sexual discrimination during an interview, not harassment, but discrimination. I signed up as Chris. The interviewer expected a man. And I walked in and, he was astounded. Every time he raised an objection as to why a woman could not be a sales representative I had a snappy comeback. The campus interview office said that they would assist me in any type of retaliation that I might want to take against the company. But I remember the director

said, “Well why would you even want to work for a company that hires people like that?” For instance, the interviewer said, “Look. Sales reps do a lot of driving, and women don’t drive as well as men. And because reps do so much driving, you, get flat tires, and women don’t know how to change flat tires. And reps are expected to work five days a week, fifty weeks out of the year and women,” and I thought I was going to get the reproductive health phrase, but he said, “Women don’t like to work in the rain because they don’t want to get their hair wet.” Years later I actually met this man’s son who happened to work for the same drug company. I said, “I met your dad about fifteen years ago,” and I told him what had transpired. He was very upset, but he said, “You know what, you interviewed with him a year before he retired, and it was a whole new world. That man just couldn’t cope with it.” I found that the business environment accepted women very readily into the entry-level ranks of business, but the challenges were in promotion and advancement. But I couldn’t have asked for more from Lafayette to assist me in starting out on a career. I was prepared intellectually, and I had the opportunities offered to me through the placement office. I couldn’t have asked for more.

TAPE TWO SIDE ONE

VF: Did you ever face sexual discrimination on the part of the faculty?

CAK: I don’t think so. Women were such a minor part of the classes that I was in. Again it was the physics and the science classes and there were maybe one or two women, and there just were not enough of us to almost be noticed by the faculty. I

remember one time when I got a very poor grade on a chemistry exam. I was very upset because I had studied very hard, and when I went to talk to the professor about it, I cried, and he was very uncomfortable because I don't think he'd ever had a student crying in his office before. But I didn't feel discriminated against, that he'd given me the poor grades because I was a woman. And I didn't feel that any students got opportunities above and beyond their academic contribution because they were a woman. Now in the arts it might have been completely different because there were more women in languages... more of the social sciences, than in math and engineering which is what I was a part of. So they may have a completely different perspective on it. But we weren't even a blip on the radar screen when I was here. You always read so much about professors having affairs with their students, and I may have been oblivious, but I never saw it. I never noticed it. I just don't think there was enough of us to make a mark. Now I would imagine as the Class of '74 came through, and the female population grew so rapidly that it would have an impact on specific professors. But no, I never really felt it and definitely didn't experience it.

VF: Did this male/female ratio ever make you feel uncomfortable either inside or outside of the classroom?

CAK: Not really. You know, I knew what I was walking into from a numerical perspective and I was looking forward to it. I was hoping that I could take advantage of new opportunities. I'm a very competitive person, and I liked having a larger group of very smart people to compete with, relative to my Connecticut College classmates.

Again there weren't that many women in the life sciences at Connecticut so that... I didn't like being the smartest person in the class. I liked striving to be the smartest person in the class. So for me it was an opportunity that maybe I just had to work a little bit harder to be seen as being smart. But that for me was an advantage and not a negative discriminatory situation.

VF: How did male students inside of the classroom treat you?

CAK: I'm sorry.

VF: How did male students inside of the classroom treat you?

CAK: Mostly fine. At the college level there were bullies who tended to bully everyone. I can remember in a government class that there was a... I never knew his name, there was a guy who was derogatory about any comment that almost any student made. But I didn't feel that I was picked on because I was a woman. I mean, I still remember that teacher shouldn't have let him do it, because he did it all term. I was probably more annoyed at the teacher for not stopping it, because it disrupted the entire class. I think I was treated as a novelty early on. Like, "Ooh look. I got a girl in my class. Oh, I want to sit next to her. She's cuter than you are" kind of jokes. But never an academic or an intellectual denigration that it was, "You know, I'll tease you because you're a girl, and there are so few of you. But as long as you can take the teasing good naturedly and can keep up with the class..." I felt well-accepted. I think at times in one of our anatomy

classes when we were doing a dissection I think I actually got more attention because the teacher was so worried about me getting sick as opposed to the guys. So I guess that's a stereotypical assessment, but I didn't mind the extra attention. I guess I learned early on how to take what was offered and play to the strengths of that situation rather than be upset at the differences. As an example, when I started working there were very few women in pharmaceutical sales. We had been told that the nurses in the doctor's office wouldn't let women in to their offices because they would be jealous, this was just a complete misunderstanding of the part of the sales trainers on the relationship between the office staff and the physician employer. I actually found simply by recognizing the nursing staff as the professionals that they were, (my job was not to call on nurses, my job was to call on doctors and persuade them to use more of my prescription drug,) but by recognizing the nurses as professionals I found that I had greater access to the physicians than some of my male colleagues. I was a novelty, and I played it for what it was worth and was successful at it. So I guess I looked at Lafayette in the same way, or else maybe I learned it at Lafayette without being conscious of that as a very tangible lesson on how to really capitalize on your strengths and then minimize the weaknesses and the disadvantages.

VF: Did you have any mentors or favorite faculty?

CAK: I did not have a mentor. Dr. Fried was definitely my favorite faculty member.

There were some that I really enjoyed because they were very entertaining. There was a physics professor that used to do physics experiments on a platform in front of the

classroom, and he used to fall off the platform in the process of doing it. So we laughed at him, but... I just found Dr. Fried so knowledgeable, so accessible, so willing to share his knowledge and information. Had I gone into research science I might have looked at him retrospectively as a mentor. Since I went into the business side of science I lost touch with that. But he was definitely my favorite. Mentoring wasn't a concept that had even been identified in the academic environment yet. And while I'm sure it happened for specific individuals, I know now even in professional associations that I work in they have formal mentor programs where they have a dinner where they ask for experienced people to come and volunteer their time to mentor inexperienced newcomers. I don't know, and perhaps it's because people didn't see the need. Perhaps thirty years ago your opportunity was to be admitted, and now that you're here we don't need to mentor you further. You're here. Now you have to make it on your own. That might have been more of the attitude then, than now. Are there formal mentor programs now at Lafayette?

VF: In the form of an advisor I believe.

CAK: Okay.

VF: Did you have an advisor?

CAK: Dr. Stableford²⁷ was officially the biology major advisor. He was the chairman of the department, but he just wasn't accessible for me. He was very busy. Didn't have regular hours. And I found that I always went to Dr. Fried even if it was just after class.

²⁷ Louis T. Stableford, Biology Department.

The thing that I remember most about Dr. Fried was that he always took all of his notes on just scraps of paper. He would tear off the corner of a yellow pad, and he would give an entire lecture from this little scrap of paper. And then when you asked him for advice and information he would scrawl his notes down and give you that same kind of little piece of paper. So I learned very quickly how to read his handwriting and decipher his shorthand, and how to make the most of what you were given, and how to really build on this.

VF: How did you choose your courses?

CAK: I think a lot of it was required. What had not been required at Connecticut College I needed to fill in gaps for the academic curriculum. The requirements to be a biology major, and we had pass/fail options, and for that I experimented with things like music history and art history where I knew I could pass them, but I didn't want to have to worry about making a grade because I really hadn't had much exposure to the visual and the musical arts. And quickly we learned professor reputations. Who would be fun to take a class with and... So I always tried to schedule those. And then very selfishly I tried to pick a class that would be close to my dorm so it would be easy to get to first thing in the morning. I failed at that every term. I was here for four terms, and always I was completely crisscrossing campus. But I tried.

VF: Did you ever have a female instructor?

CAK: My botany professor was a female. It was interesting that it was a husband/wife faculty team here on campus. And under the rules of Lafayette at the time spouses couldn't hold the same degree or the same teaching level, so that he was a professor, and she was an instructor even though she had the same academic credentials that he did. But she was, was it botany and...? One of my physics teachers was a woman. But yeah, we had a, a couple.

VF: Did you feel that there needed to be more female instructors?

CAK: I didn't feel a lack of female instructors. I mean, I had transferred from a predominately female college that had predominately male professors. In the social structure of the world at that time men were in the leadership positions. It didn't strike me as abnormal that there were more men than women. Again, I was also in the sciences that were more male oriented than the languages and the social sciences. And there may have been a lot more women in the social sciences that I just never really ran into because I wasn't involved in history and language and other than the requirements.

VF: Do you remember any distinct changes in the way female students were treated during your experience here as a student?

CAK: Not really other than as... Well I was only here for two years, and we were still in such a small minority that I don't think that the whole impact would have been realized until after we left and each class was fifty/fifty. But, I mean, I didn't really see a

significant change. But I don't know that I was looking for one either. So that sometimes you don't see something unless you are actively looking for it, and I probably was just looking to get through and graduate.

VF: What was the emphasis for post-college initiatives at Lafayette for women? Were they expected to find a husband more so than pursue higher education or getting a job?

CAK: It was really never addressed. It was a very individual thing. If you wanted a higher education I found that the support was there to lead you in those directions. If you wanted a job I used the placement office. I think that there might have been more peer pressure to not do that [get married]. One of my friends was a language major, and she had an opportunity to take her junior year abroad, and she chose not to because she wanted ... her boyfriend at the time would have been a senior, and she wanted to be here. There was actually pressure on her to go, that she was being too focused on her boyfriend. Now, they're still married, so (*Laughter*) it must have been a good choice. But I think there was more peer pressure to do what was right for you. I mean there were a couple of women that were here that were so obviously man hunting that you knew that's what they wanted to do. But most of us were here for education, but we wanted to have fun and be in a precedent setting role to do it. But I, I didn't feel that the administration had pressures on us or, you know, "Okay, now that you graduated get married." That was a good thing.

VF: What kind of extracurricular activities were you involved in?

CAK: Not very many. I was really... I always worked in the lab. My campus job was working with Dr. Fried in the lab in the summer. And then as an RA. But I didn't really... I wasn't a joiner. They had asked me to be a cheerleader. I mean, I went to all the football games and all the main social events on campus, but, you know, I felt like, "Well, let the freshmen be the cheerleaders and grow up with this." But I didn't really... I probably didn't avail myself of the opportunities at the time. But I guess, I don't know, for me the going to class and studying was a very time consuming task. I mean, I'm a good student but not necessarily a brilliant one. And I always used to laugh, though because I did start dating the man I ultimately married here at Lafayette, and he was always mad because he wanted to go out and go to Jimmy Dogs or go to Bill's Campus Arm and have something to eat. And I said, "No. I've got to go to the library." And he started laughing because his grades went up as we started going out, because I was always dragging him into the library to study. So I think study and socializing became mixed as one. But I was not into various clubs or activities other than the RA activities.

VF: How actively involved were you with politics?

CAK: Not very. When I was at Connecticut College was the time when Nixon²⁸ was bombing Vietnam and every campus around the country was doing some sort of boycotting. And I recall being annoyed that they closed the classes and sent us home early to avoid any riots. I'm a pretty mainstream kind of person, so I was not a leader in the political movement. I liked playing a part of it because we would get into the...

²⁸ Richard Nixon, the 37th President of the United States from 1969-1974.

There was one black girl, who was a freshmen when I was a junior. She was having a tremendous personal crisis because she was a very fair skinned black woman. We were relating as friends rather than on global politics, but she was trying to change her whole essence from being white to black. It was hard for her because she was such a fair skinned black person. But that was as an individual not as a political movement. I don't know, I probably should have been more involved to help frame the society we live in today. But I wasn't.

VF: Was feminism ever an idea or a concept that crossed your mind?

CAK: Yes, but I think to the extremes that some of the politics were taking on a national basis it was a bit too far for me. I wanted to be treated with the respect that I earned. I didn't want special considerations simply because I was a woman. And I... While I was here, I mean, you're just so young and naïve that you don't realize what the women out in the world are fighting for. I had been given these opportunities because the Board of Trustees voted to let women in. It probably was not until after I was out of school and working for a while that my understanding of what feminism meant really took hold because it... Despite the opportunity for experimentation, Lafayette was for me a very protected and safe environment. And I wasn't struggling. I think a political commitment comes from a struggle that needs to be won. So no, I wasn't... I actually probably became more feminist when I was working in North Carolina, and I was the only woman in a management level. I was way down on the totem pole, but I was the only professional woman. And there was only one black man in the professional ranks. And

no one could understand why we were best friends. They'd just say, "Well you guys have nothing in common." We still keep in touch, not as often as we should, but I think that's when I understood that you have to push for change, that it really doesn't happen automatically. But not while I was here.

VF: What do you think was the most pressing issue for women during your time at Lafayette?

CAK: I didn't really think that there was a pressing issue for women while I was here. We'd been given an opportunity. We were here to take advantage of it. We were sort of arrogant because the admissions ratio for women was much lower than men. A smaller percentage of the women that applied were accepted so that we tended to have better credentials than our male counterparts. I didn't feel pressured. I didn't remember that there were women's issues. It sounds pathetic doesn't it?

VF: How would you characterize the politics, student politics of Lafayette while you were a student?

CAK: I don't recall Lafayette being a very political campus. I mean, there were always fringe groups, but I think that they were more structured on social issues such as drugs, drinking, dating, than on political issues. The wars were calming down. The environment then was... It had gone into a pathetically stable time. I mean, this was

pre-Watergate²⁹ even so... I don't know whether it was the campus that was apolitical or simply that because I was I didn't notice it. There would be meetings and sessions and workshops on different issues, and if it was of interest I would go. I usually had comments to make, but I don't recall any single thing standing out or jumping to the forefront. (I probably should have read my yearbook before I came to interview with you so that I could have a better recollection of all of the issues.)

VF: What is your perception of Lafayette in your present state?

CAK: I think that Lafayette is... Lafayette to me has a slight inferiority complex. It's a wonderful place, and it has terrific academics, but rather than really capitalizing on its strengths as a small arts and science college that can offer a lot of personal growth and development to students, I think Lafayette feels that it's not quite an Ivy League school. It not quite as good as Yale³⁰ or Harvard³¹ or Brown³². And maybe that's part of... That was part of the situation when I was here that a lot of my friends and classmates did not get into the Ivy League schools and Lafayette was their first choice after an Ivy League. But I still feel that it's almost like trying to be... It's trying to be an Ivy League school rather than focusing on saying that I am absolutely the best school for students that want a small environment with a broad curriculum, demanding academics for the mainstream

²⁹ Watergate was a political scandal of the early 1970s in which President Nixon's advisors were involved in breaking into and spying on the Democratic National Committee during campaigning. It culminated in the resignation of President Richard Nixon in 1974.

³⁰ Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut.

³¹ Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

³² Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island.

student, rather than the super-intellectual students that would go to these Stanford³³s and Chicago³⁴ and Harvard, Yale, Dartmouth³⁵ kind of places. So I don't know if that's still a carry over. I mean, I know that the one thing that, that strikes me as... The post-graduation network of people is based on personal connections that carries on with friends, and we meet, or crisscross paths, that sort of thing. Whereas at some of the other colleges it's a much more formal network. And I know that we're trying to formalize the summer intern programs. And I think as an alumnus I was asked to mentor someone who might be interested in, I'm just trying to remember. But it's a more casual post-graduation network and maybe that's where the difference might fall apart. I live near Princeton University and on alumni weekend you can't go into the town of Princeton because it's so overrun with old men in orange and black jackets and their spouses and children and grandchildren. I just never felt that drive that I had to come back for alumni weekend and things like that so. And I know people do, but I don't know.

VF: In your opinion what was the Lafayette ideal for women in the 1970s?

CAK: The Lafayette ideal was an attractive, smart woman who played field hockey, was a cheerleader, and was on the student government. And I think that I can think of about fifteen of my friends from the Class of 74 who meet those standards in criteria. And I know some of them are very still involved with Lafayette. I'm answering that question from today's perspective. At the time I think that the expectation of women was that they perform academically and graduate with the standards that were expected of all students.

³³ Stanford University, Stanford, California.

³⁴ University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois.

³⁵ Dartmouth College, Hanover, New Hampshire.

Now I think the women on campus met that ideal. I can't think of any other way to answer that question.

VF: Okay. Were there any skills in particular that were developed at Lafayette that helped your post-Lafayette experiences?

CAK: For me it was, and I guess it's a social skill, but it's the ability to stand up and speak in a room full of strangers who might have a negative, preconception of me. I guess that walking in I expected to be discriminated against because I would be the only girl in the class, and I expected to be teased or dumped on and none of that happened. I found that if you had something positive and intriguing to say, people listened. And I wasn't afraid to stand up and say it. So that when I went out into the business world and people would say things, "Well you can't do that because you're a woman," I found that I just got annoyed at that. And I said, "It has nothing to do with a woman. It has to do with intelligence." And I tried to remove the non-essential distinctions and move towards a performance-based commitment to excellence. Don't accept me or reject me for what I look like, but wait until I say something. And if I'm completely off base then you can boo me because I deserve it. But I just think the ability to think on my feet, walk into situations that I was uncomfortable, but overcome that discomfort. And in retrospect to really make it in man's world because that's what I needed to do professionally, and that's what I did here academically because I didn't have a choice.

VF: Did you pursue higher education?

CAK: Yes, after I had been working for several years... I went into pharmaceutical sales because I liked the life sciences, but over time I realized that I liked the business component of pharmaceutical companies as much if not even more than, the scientific aspects of it. I ultimately got my MBA from Duke University³⁶. I have been able to maintain both aspects of my education, biology from Lafayette and the business from Duke, in terms of my business skills. I've always worked in the pharmaceutical communications field. And I've been doing it very successfully for thirty years.

TAPE TWO SIDE TWO

VF: Has your perception of Lafayette changed in any way?

CAK: Since I graduated?

VF: Yes.

CAK: No, and that's a good thing because my perception was that the administration didn't always do the right thing, but they always listened. They were always accessible. That there was involvement with the students, the alumni, the faculty, ... Everything was accessible, and I think that's the main advantage right now that Lafayette still seems to offer to its students in terms of... wherever you fit in your academic stratum, there's someone here for you. And I guess some of my negative sense was, because I was given

³⁶ Duke University, Durham, North Carolina.

the opportunity to be here as a transfer student, I sort of expected to be given more information and support. But once I realized that it wasn't going to be given to me and learned it was here for the taking, then I loved it. And I think that that's pretty much what Lafayette still affords its students. It's here for the taking if you avail yourself of it. If you don't, you'll be disappointed in your college experience. But nobody's going to just give it to you. But that, too, is a good thing.

VF: Was transferring the best decision for you?

CAK: Oh absolutely. Absolutely. I have stayed friendly with some of my Connecticut College girlfriends, and they've gone on and done wonderful things in their own lives and their own professions as I have. But for me, it set me on a course of pushing the envelope, just being a little bit different without being totally on the, ... I guess being on the leading edge but not the cutting edge. And it provided relationships and intellectual frameworks that have created the person I am today. And I really like who I am today. And I like my life as it exists today. So I think yes, transferring was the best decision.

VF: Considering that we are interviewing you for an oral history project we think that being in one of the first graduating classes of women is historically significant. What do you think about this?

CAK: I do think it was really important. I wonder how many people would actually sit down and listen to the tapes. I think that this is an exciting project. It's almost like I

wish you'd had the foresight to interview us in 1972 and now in 2002 so that we'd have an accurate history of what it was like, not what my recollections of it were like. I think that this is a really exciting project because the female students now can't know what it was like to be pushing that envelope. They're here for their academic and athletic and social reasons. And hopefully they're succeeding in what they're striving to do. But when somebody wants to try and figure out what it felt like to really push ahead, they're gonna have to go back just as now, you know, the space shuttle goes up ever three, four, six months, whatever. We don't even pay attention to it unless there's a problem. Yet we need to go back to the taped histories of those first flights and to truly understand how exciting it was. I know that recently there's been some news reports of a female basketball coach who is at the leading edge of all of the sport challenges, I guess Title IX. And her daughter is also a basketball player and has no understanding of what her mother went through, even though her mother's talked about it for years. I think the biggest thing is what stimulates the curiosity in people to learn and understand the past that creates their environment for what it is right now. I mean, I'd like to listen to the tapes of the students that were here when sororities were being formed. What made them decided to do that? Why was the dorm life not what they wanted? Just what was going on then? And what, so what stimulates the curiosity to me is almost as important as what happened because if we don't keep asking questions, I think the society as a whole will keep spiraling downward. So we have to challenge, and that's what I hope that this project will do.

VF: What would you say about your Lafayette experience to sum it all up?

CAK: I said it already. Transferring was the best thing I did. It set a framework of intellectual, personal, and social standards that have framed my life, that put me on a professional career that I never even knew existed when I was twenty-two years old, but yet has satisfied me professionally and financially for the past three decades. It was the best thing I did.

VF: Is there anything that you would like to say or talk about that I did not address?

CAK: I don't think so. I think you've done a wonderful job. It's very thought provoking. I almost wish you'd given me your questions beforehand as opposed to the scope of the questions, but... No I think you did a great job with it. Thank you.

VF: Well thank you so much for participating.

CAK: No it's cool. This is great.