Interview keywords/topics: Ireland and Appalachia, Community

Interviewer: FM
Interviewee: CH

FM (00:01):

All right. My name is FM and I am interviewing

CH (00:04):

CH.

FM (00:6):

And we are doing this interview in the Belk Library on November 4th, 2024, as a part of our oral history project for WRC 2202, um, as a fall of 2024 history course. And this semester we discussed different ways of using and understanding historical information and we are creating our own historical documents in this project. Okay. Alright. First question. Um, how would you describe your, your identity or identities in particular as a member of different groups or communities? How has this changed in your lifetime and what would you want people to know about these identities years from now?

CH (00:48):

Um, so I'd probably say my identities like German or Polish. Um, I really, relate to that side of my family and my mom was from there. She grew up in Germany, but was from Poland and all of her family is in those countries. And so I feel like I, I relate a lot to those cultures. I've been there a lot of times in my life and many times I visit that side of my family and experienced, uh, that culture and the way different way of those cultures are. Um, and I think it helped to shape like who I am and to like see and to help that I could see how different cultures are and not always think about like, like a one sided view of everything. I can look at it from an outside perspective.

FM (01:35):

Have you been to Germany?

CH (01:36):

I've been to Germany over 20 times.

FM (01:39):

Really?

CH (01:40):

I have, yes.

FM (01:41):

Dang, that's awesome. What about Poland?

CH (01:43):

Poland? I've been to a little less, I think like six or seven.

FM:

Really?

CH:

Yeah.

FM (01:47):

That's awesome.

CH:

Mm-Hmm.

FM:

All right. Um, where do you consider yourself to be from and what is your hometown like? How did it shape you?

CH (01:55):

So I'm from Cornelius, North Carolina. It's, uh, I lived on Lake Norman. Um, I think it helped shape me a lot, especially the water. I always, I always liked water. I lived directly on the lake growing up, and I thought it was always fun. You could always spend time, but especially during the summer, going out and playing with friends and doing a lot of stuff. And I think my hometown, it's, it's in the suburbs of Charlotte area, so, but I think it's, um, I think it helped, helped me grow in a way to see like, uh, both the city life and the country life.

FM:

Mm-Hmm.

CH:

I guess you can drive an hour one way. You see the city, you drive an hour another way you see more of the country. So it helps to see both sides of that a little bit, but it also helps you see the middle, I guess.

FM: (02:47):

Yeah.

CH: (02:47):

Yeah.

FM: (02:48):

Do you like fishing?

CH: (02:49):

I do a little bit. Yeah.

FM:

Really?

CH:

I'm not. Yeah

FM (02:52):

All right. Um, what are you proudest of so far in your life?

CH: (02:58):

Um, I'd, one of the things is getting, getting into college and going to college.

FM:

Yeah. Yeah. <affirmative>

CH:

That's definitely one of 'em. But other than that, I would say probably like my racing career, I felt I was really happy with that. I wish I could still be doing that, but I think that was always something I enjoyed a lot. And I think, uh, how I did in that really was just

FM (03:21):

Can you elaborate on your racing career? Now I'm intrigued <laugh>

CH (03:23):

I can, so I, uh, when I was 12, I started like racing go-karts.

FM (03:27):

Mm-Hmm. <affirmative>.

CH (03:28):

And I think when I was around 14 or 15, I started, I did Miatas for a little bit. And then, um, coming up on, I guess two years ago, I pretty much stopped just so that I could afford to go to college and go to college. And, um, but yeah, I, uh, pretty much just travel all across the country with like the team that I had and the mechanic that I had and, uh, race cars that go carts forever.

FM (03:53):

Really. That's really awesome.

CH:

Yeah. <affirmative>

FM:

That's cool. Um, how would you like to be remembered?

CH (04:00):

Um, I don't know. I'd like to be remembered. Like, I feel like most people are like a nice guy, nice outgoing person. I hope that I don't leave any bad impressions with anybody. I try to be as nice as I can to everybody that I meet and, and not really, uh, have any, have anything, have anybody to have anything bad to say about me, I guess. Um, but also just as like a, a successful person, I want to grow up and be successful person, like most people probably do. And then just, um, a family man as well, I guess.

FM:

Yeah. <affirmative>

CH:

Yeah.

FM (04:34):

That's great. Um, all right, I'm gonna ask you some questions about App State.

CH:

Okay.

FM:

Uh, how and why did you decide to attend App State?

CH (04:42):

So, uh, I'm from North Carolina, as I said.

FM:

Mm-Hmm.

CH:

And App State's, one of the in-state schools here. Um, originally App State wasn't my first choice, as I suspect it wasn't for many people to go to.

FM (04:53):

Yeah. <laugh>.

CH (04:53):

But, um, originally I wanted to go to NC State, App State was one of the other ones. Um, unfortunately I didn't get into NC State, but I love it here, so it's all good. And then deciding it was kind of just between here and Wilmington. And I chose, I chose here because mainly 'cause of football

FM (05:12):

Really?

CH (05:12):

So, yeah, Wilmington doesn't have a football team and App State does. And I've, I really like football. I've always liked football my whole life.

FM:

Mm-Hmm.

CH:

And so I felt like having, especially college football games to go to was really important for me. So that's why I chose App. And then I think, um, also I wanted to go snowboarding and skiing more.

FM:

Mm-Hmm.

CH:

Um, my family didn't do that much when we were kids, when we traveled, it was to other countries and to other places. And so we never went skiing or snowboarding too much. But I wanted to, I wanted to learn and get better at that and do that more often. So, yeah.

FM (05:44):

That's great. Yeah. Did you have like a favorite football team?

CH (05:48):

Uh, in college, it's Ohio State because that's where my dad was. And the NFL is the Green Bay Packers.

FM (05:54):

Alright, cool.

CH (05:55):

Yeah.

CH (05:56):

Um, what is your program of study and how did you choose it and what do you feel is valuable about it?

FM (06:04):

So my program of studies, international business, um, it's all I'm, I'm minoring in German, which comes with the major. I, um, I chose it 'cause my mom, that's pretty much what my mom does. Mm. She came over here working international business for Continental Tire. Um, but pretty much I just see how, how what she does and how she's to travel and interact with people all over the world day in and day out. And she still is successful at her work. She makes a lot of money and, and she's able to, um, just interact with all those people.

FM:

Mm-Hmm.

CH:

And especially since, since she's from Germany and Poland, she's also able to, she speaks a lot of languages. She speaks four languages. She's able to like,

FM (06:50):

Damn. Really? Wait, I don't know if I can say “damn.” Alright. <laugh>,

CH (06:52):

Um, she's, she's able to interact with just a lot of people

FM:

Yeah.

CH:

Outside, outside of, just in English, which, you know, every, most people in the international business field can speak English, but it's also, I feel like most people would, are appreciative that they don't always speak

FM (07:07):

Speak other languages? Yeah, yeah.

CH (07:08):

Yeah. So, yeah, I think my mom is definitely my big inspiration for my, my major and my study.

FM (07:14):

Yeah. That's really awesome. Yeah. Four languages. That's crazy.

CH (07:18):

Yeah.

FM (07:19):

Um, what has been the most challenging aspect of your time at App State?

FM (07:24):
Um, honestly, the schoolwork. I, uh,

FM:
<laugh>.

CH:
So yes, I joined a fraternity in my first semester here and then kind of going through that and then we had, uh, a big car accident. I wasn't involved in it, but some of the people I was, uh, pledging with did and

FM (07:41):
Oh dang. Yeah.

CH (07:42):
It kind of set back a lot of stuff. And then we, uh, I, I set myself back as well 'cause after that I wasn't as into school as I should have been. Yeah. I should have been more than

FM (07:51):
Were you partying?

CH (07:52):
A lot? Yeah.

FM (07:53):
Yeah. <laugh>

CH (07:54):
And like, just, you know, trying, doing stuff. So like get your mind off of what happened.

FM:
Mm-Hmm.

CH:
Because I was right there when I, not right there when it happened, but I kind of like chose who go, got into the car and so the car,

FM:

Oh shit really?

CH:

So yeah. But, so I, uh, I set myself back my by like not paying attention.

FM:

Yeah.

CH:

And so now it's just kind of been like an upward hill to try and, uh, make sure my grades and, and everything are up to par to not only be able to stay in school, but be able to do all the things that I want to do and graduate with the grades that I need to graduate with to make sure that I, um, you know, I spent, spent my time here wisely and not wasted a lot of it.

FM (08:32):

Yeah. Well I'm sure that's like super traumatizing as well, I'm so sorry.

CH: (08:35):

Yeah. It's, it's all good. Everybody's fine now, so.

FM (08:38):

Yeah. That's good. That's good. Um, what advice would you give to the next incoming students?

CH (08:46):

Um, pretty much that to stay on top of your schoolwork, it's uh, really hard once you get behind.

FM:

Mm-Hmm.

CH:

Not only in the classes, like for each semester but by semester, if you start out like your first semester with a lower GPA building, your GPA a is a lot harder.

FM (09:03):

Yeah. Yeah.

CH (09:03):

It may seem, but also it's not like high school. I, I breezed through high school, but I didn't go to class much in high school. I didn't do much in high school, but I still had great grades and it was pretty easy. But in college you actually have to study and

FM (09:18):

Yeah.

CH (09:18):

And go to class a lot. Yeah. For you to be able to succeed that and it's not as easy, as just breezing through high school was. So I definitely just say that, but also that like kind of pace yourself. It's the first time you're away from, from home and like parents and everything and I've seen a lot of people get way outta hand with it. And so you gotta have to pace yourself to make sure you don't do anything rash.

FM (09:44):

Yeah. I feel like it's kind of hard 'cause they, 'cause in high school they're always telling you like, “that's not gonna slide in college,” but it kind of does. But I don't know about you, but in some of my classes, um, attendance isn't mandatory. So I feel like a lot of people are like, “well I don’t have to go!”

CH (09:58):

Well I feel like yeah, in high school. Yeah. Attendance is always mandatory.

FM:

Yeah.

CH:

They called your parents and they didn't. But like, even like now, I feel like most of the teachers are, they're in college, are starting to do the attendance is mandatory thing.

FM:

Mm-Hmm.

CH:

More. I feel like most of my professors been like, “we didn't do this last semester, but we're doing it now.”

FM (10:14):

Yeah.

CH (10:15):

To try and encourage people to come, but yeah, even then sometimes like you can just like wake up a little late and then be like, ah, I guess I'm not going.

FM (10:23):

Yeah. It's also kind of like a big jump 'cause it's like your parents aren't telling you you have to go to school, it's, you kinda have to do that yourself.

CH (10:29):

Exactly. Yeah.

FM (10:31):

Um, okay. So how severely were you impacted by the hurricane and, um, when it came to hurricane relief, do you think App State was successful providing ample resources to students and faculty? And did you utilize any of those resources?

CH (10:49):

Um, so I wasn't greatly affected. Uh, I mean, of course everybody was affected and there was flooding right outside of my window of the apartment I live in. So I live in Rivers Walk and there's a river or a creek behind it. But that got up to my window.

FM (11:03):

Oh dang.

CH (11:03):

But other than that, nothing much. It was just, I mean, like most people had no water, electricity and everything. And I was lucky enough to be able to, to just go home that day.

FM (11:13):

Yeah.

CH (11:13):

So I drove home and, and my home wasn't affected really at all by the hurricane. So I was able to kind of avoid it. I mean, I think what was, what was the second question? Sorry.

FM (11:27):

Um, no, you're good. Um, do you think App State was successful in providing ample resources to students and faculty?

CH (11:33):

Um, I think they, they were kind of are, I think they did kind of the best they could because not only, not only were the students of App State and faculty affected, but the school itself was affected all the buildings were flooding and, and things happened to that were unexpected and you can't, you can't really predict. But I think, um, yeah, I don't think I was nearly as affected as majority of the people who had to go through the hurricane or had to deal with the hurricane. But, and I was lucky enough to be able to, to go home and, and not have to deal with like, my car or my house being flooded or anything like that.

FM (12:09):

Uhhuh

CH (12:09):

So yeah, I, I think I was able to kind of, uh, escape the hurricane.

FM (12:15):
Yeah. I think we all kind of booked it

CH (12:16):
<laugh>. Yeah.

FM (12:17):
Did you have water?

CH (12:18):
I did not have water, no.

FM (12:19):
Really?

CH (12:20):
So, no. So my, my house did not, or my apartment didn't have water.

FM:
Yeah.

CH:
And there was like a boil effect for the longest time, but

FM (12:29):
Oh my God. I remember. Yeah. That sucked.

CH (12:31):
Yeah. So I just, I didn't come home, or I didn’t come back to App from home until probably a few days before we had to go back to school.

FM:
Mm-Hmm.

CH:
Just 'cause I didn't feel like having to deal with like, boiling water and all that. Yeah. And I was, it's

FM (12:44):
A hassle. Yeah.

CH (12:45):

I was perfectly fine at home not having to deal with any of it. Yeah.

FM (12:49):

Did you have to use any of the resources?

CH (12:51):

I did not have to use any resources. I mean, everybody had the opportunity, but I felt like I wasn't effected enough to take the resources.

FM:

Uhhuh <affirmative>.

CH:

Like I should have, like, I was good to leave for other people.

FM (13:03):

Yeah.

CH (13:03):

And not use for myself when I wasn't affected.

FM (13:06):

That's understandable, yeah. Yeah.

CH (13:08):

Yeah.

FM (13:08):

All right. Well that was the last question. Um, I learned a lot about you, I feel like. Yeah, that was, that was good. Alright. I don’t know if I have to have an outro. No, I think we're good.