Interview keywords/topics: Ireland and Appalachia, Community

Interviewer: MS
Interviewee: JC

MS (00:00):

<silence> This interview conducted in Belk Library on Monday, November 4th as a part of an oral history project for WRC 2202, a fall 2024 history course. This semester, we discussed different ways of using and under understanding horse. All right. I messed that up.

JC:

Do you wanna start? Yeah, it's okay. We can like cut it.

MS:

Yeah. Okay. Okay. Briefly. Oh, <laugh>. Okay.

JC:

You got it.

MS:

How did you say the day? Um, did you just say,

JC (00:37):

Wait when? Oh, I just said, my name is JC, blah, blah, blah.

MS (00:44):

Okay.

JC (00:44):

And then I said, today is Monday, November 4th. And then I read, oh, well, I guess you don't have to say that part.

JC:

Okay. And it says it's there.

MS (00:52):

Okay.

JC (00:53):

So just do the introduction part. All right.

MS (00:54):

My name is MS, and I'm interviewing

Interview keywords/topics: Ireland and Appalachia, Community

JC:

JC.

MS:

And this interview is conducted in the Belk Library on or November 4th. Uh, it is part of an oral history project. Full.

JC: (01:09)

It's okay. <laugh>. So you totally, let's start over. Wait, Or actually, let's just keep going.

We can just, we'll cut it. Okay. You got it. Okay. Take your time. You're fine.

MS (01:20):

All right. My name's MS, and I'm interviewing

JC (01:23):

JC.

MS (01:24):

This interview conducted in Belk Library on Monday, November 4th is a part of an oral history project for WRC 2202, a fall 2024 history course. This semester, we discussed in different ways of using and understanding historical information. We are creating our own historical documents in this project.

MS:

Where do you consider yourself to be from and what is your hometown like? How did it shape you?

JC (01:48):

Okay. My hometown, I'm from Apex, North Carolina. It's like 20 minutes, like outside of Raleigh.

MS (01:54):

Okay.

JC (01:54):

But, um, I'm sorry, I have to like look at the question. That's <laugh>. You're okay. Um, but it's a very, it's a small town, but it's growing a lot. Yeah. So like, you have a bunch of, like, there's so much traffic now and like new neighborhoods coming in and I'm like, and I've lived there my whole life. Like, I've never moved. Same house, same room, everything. Yeah. We tried, or like, my parents wanted us to move one time and me and my siblings were like, no, Like, we're not leaving.

MS (02.18):

Yeah. I feel like North Carolina in general is growing a Lot. Mm-Hmm. <affirmative> definitely. 'cause it's cheap to live here.

JC:

It is, yeah. But like, I don't know, but I loved it. Like, I have like my little, my little bubble, like everything was like 10 minutes from my house. I know my job. That's, yeah. Mm-Hmm. <affirmative> like my job, I could leave five minutes before my shift started and it would, it was just so nice. And all my friends were there and it was just, it was so fun. I

MS (02:39):

Loved the convenience.

JC:

Yes. <laugh>.

MS:

How were you impacted by COVID-19 pandemic? How did it change you?

JC (02:46):

Okay. So I was a freshman in high school when it hit. And it was like the end, towards the end of my freshman year. But like, and it was, it was just weird 'cause I was just starting high school. I was just making all my new friends. Like, I was just like kind of getting into the groove of things. And then they were like, we're all going home. Like, and you have to finish your classes online or pass fail or whatever.

MS (03:11):

Yeah.

JC (03:12):

And it was just, it was like so new and I couldn't see my friends and it was just, it was hard. But like, and then we, and then my sophomore year was completely online. I did all online classes. There was an option to go back into class or into school, but it was like every three weeks you went in and it was just, it was, it was better for me personally and like with my learning to Mm-Hmm. <affirmative> just stay online fully. But that was hard also. 'cause like, I couldn't see my friends and I, me and my sister were at home alone all day together. Like, yeah. 'cause she's only one year younger than me. Mm-Hmm. <affirmative>. So we were like at each other's throats and like, yeah. But it was, it was fun. Like, we got definitely got a lot closer, but like, it was definitely hard, like being isolated and trying to like teach yourself how to do work. And also, like right before going back into school, like junior year is like where you start to like do the SAT and a CT and prep for colleges and stuff. So like doing, going from doing all of my learning online and then teaching myself everything for junior year and the a CT and whatever. It was just, it was really hard

MS(04:19):

I'm sure.

JC (04:20):

But like, I don't know.

MS(04:21):

Do you think Covid to 19 is still impacting you?

JC (04:25):

Um, I think so. Like now my, I'm not, I like didn't read during any of that. Like my learning, I feel like I'm always a little bit behind. Like, I don't know

MS (04:37):

For Sure.

JC (04:37):

Like, I taught myself how to do math and I like, kind of forgot it right after I did the test. Mm-Hmm. <affirmative>. So it's like, I think in that aspect it definitely is. And

MS (04:46):

Definitely. How and why did you decide to attend App State?

JC (04:52):

Um, so I okay, so in 2021, like right af- like during sophomore year of like covid and stuff, I was home and I broke my wrist. So I was like, my mom was like, we're going on a bunch of college tours. Mm-Hmm. <affirmative>. And like, you're doing this, you're not sitting at home with your broken arm or whatever. And so, um, the first school we toured was App. And it was, I loved it. Literally like the second I got here, it was like my favorite thing. It was so beautiful. And it was, I just felt so at home and everyone was like, so nice. And then we went on other tours and I was like, it doesn't feel the same. So I was like, I knew that feeling and I just, I loved it here. And they had my major and everything, so I was like, yeah, it's perfect.

MS:

What are you majoring in?

JC:

Public health.

MS:

Gotcha. Mm-Hmm. <affirmative>. Do you think you've changed since you arrived?

JC (05:41):

Um, definitely. I was like, especially with like covid, I was like you were saying Mm-Hmm. <affirmative>, like, it affected like socially and like, I think I, I was very shy in high school and so getting here, like I've

definitely like come out of my shell a little bit. I'm still working on it. Yeah. But like, um, definitely I'm a lot more confident than I am than I was in high school and before I got to Appstate.

MS (06:06):

Yeah. Could you describe the first few weeks of your undergraduate experience?

JC (06:12):

Um, it was definitely very rough.

MS (06:15):

Yeah. I think it was for a lot of people.

JC (06:17):

Yes. Definitely. Like coming here, it's completely new. And I didn't know my roommate very well. We were not very close, but like, we definitely got to know each other a lot better. That's good. And it helped being, like, doing things with her in the beginning of the year.

MS (06:32):

Yeah.

JC (06:33):

And we kind of just literally, we went out every single day, like on campus just hanging out just to get to find friends. Like Yeah. Because it's like, what do you, you don't know anybody. It's so weird. But, and then one of my friends from high school, I kind of like stuck with her and then that's how I made my friends also.

MS (06:51):

Yeah.

JC (06:51):

So it's like, it was definitely a hard transition though. And I was very like isolated and lonely the first couple weeks. Yeah. It's, you just have to like ride it out and take, take your time.

MS (07:02):

Put yourself out there.

JC (07:03):

Yeah. Definitely.

MS (07:04):

Mm-Hmm. <affirmative>. How was the transition from home to app?

JC (07:11):

It was very hard. Like, I'm very close with my parents and so I call them like, I still do, I call them every single day to the point where they're like, JC, I have to go. Like, I'm at work. They are hanging up on me. Mm-Hmm. And I'm like, what is this? Like, it's, it's weird. But then for sure, yeah. And me and my sister are also really close, so it was, it was hard. And she's the youngest, so it was hard like leaving her at home. And she's not close with my parents, so it's like leaving her at home without, it was definitely difficult

MS (07:39):

But understandable. What are some events or activities that are meaningful for you here?

JC (07:47):

Um, definitely football games, <laugh>, <laugh>, like, I think like the atmosphere here, like they make it a whole weekend, like it's game day. Oh for sure. Like, you wake up it's game day. Like everyone just starts like getting ready and going to tailgates and going to see everybody and seeing people you don't get to see during the week or like traveling to away games, like, and it's just like, it's so fun being on the hill and in the student section with all the friends, all your friends. And

MS (08:16):

It definitely brings everyone together.

JC (08:18):

Definitely does. Yeah. And you see people and you meet people that you might not have seen just walking around campus.

MS (08:23):

Mm-Hmm. <affirmative> how would you describe your com community at App State?

JC (08:29):

So I think my community is definitely like, my friends, like I'm with them 24 7. I, they are like, it's like you're moving to a new place. Like they're my new home. Like I consider them my community here. And I just love being around them. And like, it's like, it kind of is like my home in Apex. Like this is like my little bubble, my little town. Mm-Hmm. <affirmative>. So it's like I just go to their apartments, we go to the parkway, we go hang out. Like we go do stuff together and that's what makes it a community.

MS(09:00):

Yeah. What do you think people should know about our community years from now?

JC(09:06):

Oh my gosh. Um, let's see. Just like how, like the school spirit and like the town of Boone, like everyone is just so welcoming and so nice. Mm-Hmm. <affirmative>. And they just like want to get to know you and they want to help and like, I don't know, it's just,

MS(09:19):

So there's always resources.

JC (09:21):

Yes. Like there's so much available to everybody.

MS (09:23):

Yes. What advice would you give next to your incoming students?

JC (09:28):

Um, put yourself out there for sure. Or like, definitely like when, when I was starting out. Like just going out on Sanford your first day and like, just go hang out with people. Go talk to people, sit with them in the dining hall. Like if you see somebody sitting alone, absolutely go sit with them. Like, that's what I did and it was just, it was so, or like people did that to me and it was so helpful. 'cause now I'm like, I'm still friends with some of those people. Mm-Hmm. <affirmative>. And it's also, even if you don't stay friends, it's a familiar face that you see around campus and that just makes it feel like, it makes the campus feel less big.

MS(10:01):

For sure. What are the main current events or political topics of 2024 that you're interested in? It could be local, campus, national, or global.

JC (10:12):

Well, definitely the election.

MS (10:14):

Yes. <laugh>.

JC (10:16):

Um, it's definitely something that everyone's talking about. It's all over campus. Everyone's making sure people are registered to vote and

MS 10:25):

Mm-Hmm. <affirmative>,

JC (10:25):

It's just, and this is my, I voted in like the local stuff at home a few years ago, but this is my first time voting in like, the presidential election. And so I registered in Watauga County so I didn't have to go home 'cause it's like a three and a half hour drive. Mm-Hmm. <affirmative>. But still. Um, so when I got to vote, I voted already, but it was just, it was a new experience and it's like seeing everyone, like campaigning around campus and seeing all the posters and whatever. It's just, it's very interesting to me.

MS (10:57):

How do you get news and information about what is happen happening locally, statewide, nationally and or globally late?

JC (11:05):

Um, honestly, I get most of it from social media. <laugh>. Yeah. Just like, it's just easy 'cause I'm already on it and it just, it pops up. But like, I try to, or I make sure to fact check it or like, before I just go around believing it or like spreading it, you know. Um, I do look up like some, like before I voted, I made sure to look up all the candidates. Yeah. And like, I did my research, but like, also like, it's just so easy and it's right there, but you do, it's everywhere. Yeah. You just have to be careful with like what you're, what you believe. Yes. Yeah. But that's where I get most

MS (11:42):

<laugh>. How well would you consider yourself to be Informed?

JC (11:46):

Honestly, not that, well <laugh> I did, I did my research, but like I, there's some things that I have to, like I ask my parents about or like Mm-Hmm. <affirmative> make sure I'm understanding it correctly. 'cause I don't, I'm not, I don't follow politics that closely. Yeah. So it was just like something I had to like look up, but Mm-Hmm. <affirmative> or like, make sure I'm fully understanding before I just go cast my vote, you know? But definitely, um, that's where I get most of it, but Yeah.

MS (12:21):

Well, thank you for, thank you doing this interview.