Interview keywords/topics: Ireland and Appalachia, Community

Interviewer: JC
Interviewee: MS

JC (00:00):

Um, okay. My name is JC and I'm interviewing

MS

MS.

JC:

Um, and this interview is conducted in Belk Library on Monday, November 4th, and it's a part of an oral history project for WRC 2 2 0 2, a fall 2024 history course. This semester we discussed different ways of using and understanding historical information, and we are creating our own historical documents in this project. Okay. So the first question is, where do you consider yourself to be from and what is your hometown like?

MS:

I'm from a small town called Statesville in North Carolina. Um, it's very small, not much to do. Everyone knows everyone, and I think it's shaped me to be very, I don't know, inside the box.

JC

Okay.

MS:

When I go to different towns, it's definitely a different atmosphere.

JC

A different experience.

MS:

Yeah.

JC

I got you. Um, so how were you impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic? Like how did it change you?

MS: (01:10):

So I was in eighth grade when COVID-19 hit, and I just changed schools, um, in that September and then March it, we went to spring break and then we just never came back.

JC
Never came back. Yeah.

MS:
<laugh> and I didn't go back to school until my freshman year, I think the middle of freshman year.

JC
Okay.

MS:
And I think it impacted me with like my social life.

JC
Mm-Hmm. <affirmative>

MS:
Because I was stuck in the house, obviously like everyone else.

JC
Mm-Hmm. <affirmative>.

MS:
But, um, I think it in some ways helped me be more self-efficient.

JC
Mm-Hmm. <affirmative>. That's really cool. Um, okay. And then why did you, or how and why did you decide to attend the App State and how have you changed since you've been here?

MS:
So I was picking between Lenoir–Rhyne or going to App State. Um, I did a tour last October and I just loved everything about it and so I applied and I got in. So here I am

JC (02:06):
So you're a freshman this year?

MS:

Yes

JC

Okay. Cool. Um, how would you describe your first few weeks being here? And then tell me about like, some of the, how, how was like the transition from home to campus or like moving here?

MS:

It definitely was odd. I remember first walking into my dorm and I was like, wow, I don't know how I'm gonna live in a room this small with someone else.

JC

What dorm are you in?

Matti

I'm in Frank Hall.

JC

Okay.

MS:

But, um, it felt like I was staying in a hotel for a while. <laugh>.

JC

I know.

MS:

It felt so weird.

JC

It's definitely weird,

MS:

but it, and I, a lot of freedom came with it.

JC

Mm-Hmm. <affirmative>.

MS:
I didn't have my mom downstairs.

JC
Yep.

MS:
So it was definitely a different experience, but I'm starting to get used to it.

JC
Mm-Hmm. <affirmative>

MS:
and figure my way around everything.

JC (02:55):
Yeah. It's definitely like a weird transition.

MS:
It is, it definitely is

JC
Like. It's so weird, but it's really fun. Um, how would you describe like, oh wait, I skipped a question. Sorry. <laugh>. What are some events and like activities that are really meaningful to you here and how do they like, shape your experience and your belonging on campus?

MS:
Um, a lot of, I've been, I haven't been to a lot.

JC
Mm-Hmm. <affirmative>

MS:
because I do online, I work from home.

JC

Okay.

MS:

So I don't really have a time to do a lot of it.

JC

Mm-Hmm. <affirmative>

MS:

But when I do anything like that, I'm usually outside the campus or I'm in Boone.

JC

Mm-Hmm. <affirmative>

MS:

So I haven't done much, but what I can do, I enjoy.

JC

That's so fun. Um, okay. And then how would you describe like your community at App State? What is like the most important thing that people should know about this community years from now?

MS: (03:50):

In my opinion, no one is judgmental at all. There's a lot of different people, a lot of different groups of people, and everyone doesn't judge who you are. I feel like you're free to express yourself no matter how you present yourself.

JC

Mm-Hmm. <affirmative>, everyone's like so nice here.

MS:

Yes. Like very welcoming

JC

Yes. Um, okay. What advice do you have for, I know you're a freshman, but like next year's incoming students, what would you say?

MS:

I would say just be on top of it.

JC

Mm-Hmm. <affirmative>

MS:

Even before school starts, like with applications and everything,

JC

Mm-Hmm. <affirmative> definitely

MS:

just be on top of it, be prepared because I wasn't prepared for like, a lot of it

JC

Yeah <laugh>

MS:

and a lot of the applications late and I feel like if I would've done them earlier, it would've helped me out a lot more.

JC

Definitely. I agree. Um, let's see. Um, what are some of like the main current events and political topics of 2024 that you're interested in? This could be like local or national or global.

MS: (04:50):
Um, so obviously there's an election this year.

JC
Mm-Hmm. <affirmative>.

Matti
Um, this is my first year voting.

JC
Hmm.

MS:

I haven't voted yet, but I'm voting soon and I'm very interested to see how my first time goes.

JC
Mm-Hmm. <affirmative>.

MS:
Um, but yeah.

JC
Are you registered in Watauga or at home?

MS:
I'm registered at home.

JC
Okay.

MS:
Yeah

JC
I know this was my first year doing it in Watauga County.

MS:
Oh, gotcha.

JC
Usually I do it at home, but let's see. Um, how do you, like, where do you get your news and like your information from? Like would you, how, like would you consider yourself to be well informed about like, local and political topics?

MS:
To be honest, local news channels, I don't get it from a lot of social media because it's social media and that's not a very reliable source.

JC
Yeah. <laugh>,

MS:
I feel like a lot of people, uh, get their news from like Facebook and <laugh>

JC
True.

MS:
And so I usually get it from news broadcast.

JC
Mm-Hmm. <affirmative>

MS:
or newspapers if they ever come about, you know.

JC
Mm-Hmm. <affirmative>

MS:
But, um, I try to not believe on social media.

JC
Yeah. I have,

MS:
I feel like a lot of people do these days.

JC
I'm definitely guilty of that but <laugh>,

MS:
I am too, but I try to chill out on it.

JC
Yeah. <laugh>, I, you gotta like fact check what you see on social media.

MS:
for sure

JC
Okay, well those are all the questions we have, so thanks for answering <laugh>

MS:
Thank you <laugh>