

Katherine Duff Rines '71  
Dartmouth College Oral History Program  
Dartmouth Community and Dartmouth's World  
November 14, 2013

DONIN: Today is Thursday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2013. My name is Mary Donin. We're here in Rauner Library with Katherine Duff Rines, Dartmouth Class of 1971.

Okay, Kathy, just to put this into context, since you are truly among the first group of women who went to college here at Dartmouth, tell us how the whole idea of even applying to do a year here came up in your life when you were at Smith. How did you find out about it?

RINES: Well, to put it in the historic context, the men's schools were going co-ed at the time. Yale had gone co-ed and even had had a co-eds week that the students organized, where women could go to Yale, experience classes, guys volunteered their dorm rooms and see if they wanted to apply to Yale. When I applied to colleges—and I applied to Smith and Wellesley and Mount Holyoke—these were the only options open for what I was interested, the women's colleges.

And so I thought, *Hmm, maybe I should be applying to the men's school.* I went to the Yale week, and it just didn't speak to me, and that was maybe my sophomore year, so I was back at Smith, and by the junior year of Smith, I'd headed the athletic association—I thought I'd done everything I really could do at Smith, and I thought, *Why not try a new experience?* And I just picked what could be the most challenging one possible,—

DONIN: [Chuckles.]

RINES: —since I wanted to improve my skiing, and I had gone to camp in Vermont from Michigan, my home state. I thought, *Why not Dartmouth?* I really applied to Dartmouth seriously, but it was as a lark.

DONIN: And how'd you hear about it? I mean, just word was out that this was available?

RINES: Word was out. It's just hard to imagine how casual it was. It was probably a sign-up sheet for when they came to interview, so you write your name down, and there's no e-mail then or anything, so you'd swing back a few days later and you'd see if they had granted an interview for you, if they had enough time. And during the interviews, you were interviewed two by two. It wasn't even a private interview.

I had been to Dartmouth once, and that was two years or three years prior, and it was my first weekend my freshman year that I'd been away, and so I'd come up and seen the Dartmouth bonfire. And back then, we were all put up in professors' houses. You would never stay over in the dorm or fraternity. And all I remember: I had never been colder in my life.

DONIN: [Laughs.]

RINES: And it was kind of, by and large, a fairly miserable weekend, but I was always intrigued by the rigor and the beauty of Dartmouth. [Chuckles.] But I never returned.

DONIN: [Laughs.]

So did you have any guy friends who were students here or classmates at Smith who were going to try coming as well, who tried to get in as well?

RINES: As far as classmates from Smith—we had the choice of Amherst, Williams—it was a called a 12- or 13 college exchange. And so I always thought independently, and I thought Dartmouth is the one that would challenge me the most and help me grow.

And so when I came on campus here—as I said, I had only had one disastrous weekend about three years prior. I knew one person, and he was a wonderful person. His name was Doug Urban, and he was in Bones Gate, and he—actually, I think he could have been president of the fraternity and maybe even president of his class. And I came over, and it was wonderful to see each other because we had known each other through Boston and other friends. And I said, “Doug, I'm going to really try to be brave in that I'm going to

try to make friends and do my own activities, and I know you're always here for me as a brother, but I can't lean on you too much. I have to try to make it on my own." And he was so kind, and he said, "Well, you know we're always here, and anytime you want, I'm here."

And in the spring term, when I knew who I was, I spent more time with Doug and his fraternity brothers, but I did it on my own terms. I speak of Doug in the past tense because unfortunately he married, had three beautiful kids and died in a scuba diving accident.

DONIN: Oh! How sad.

So describe what it was like when you arrived on campus. Did you know where you had been assigned to live when you got here?

RINES: I think I knew that all of us had been assigned to one dormitory. It didn't come as a surprise to me, and I also thought, since so many of the guys were against it—I really almost think they thought that it was safer for us to all be in one dorm together, and [chuckles] it didn't surprise me that they put us in the dorm the farthest away from the Dartmouth campus. It was the last dorm before you fell into Occom Pond.

DONIN: [Chuckles.]

RINES: It was Cohen Hall in the Choates. And I do want to underline the fact that saying where it would be safest for us—I do take women's safety very seriously, but none of us felt a threat for our physical safety. We knew there would be hijinks galore, but as far as—it was really for our emotional safety. It didn't surprise me that we were all clustered together.

And my mother drove me out in a Ford Country Squire station wagon. There was no orientation program. We figured out how to get to Cohen Hall. We started to take my duffel bag and foot locker out of the car, and three guys came up—because there were volunteer groups of guys, who were unpackers, totally not affiliated with any college group at all; they were just so curious to see what women college students were like.

DONIN: [Chuckles.]

RINES: So they came into the room with me, and I kept waiting for them to leave, and they didn't, and I whispered to my mother, "What do I do with them?" And she said, "Be polite." And so I would just smile and said, "Well, I hope you don't mind. I'm going to start unpacking now." And so I started unpacking sweaters and putting them in drawers and all that, and [chuckles] they started fingering all my stuff! [Laughs.]

DONIN: That's weird.

RINES: But it was just something to survive. I just felt so invaded, but I kept smiling. And we all went out for dinner, Anything [Everything] but Anchovies.

DONIN: It still exists.

RINES: Yes, it does.

DONIN: [Chuckles.]

So you didn't—you know, you hear these stories of the early women *not* being welcomed; you know, "Go away," "Go home," "You're ruining our college," that sort of thing. You didn't encounter that when you got here.

RINES: Well, we're talking about the men who had come over to be around Cohen and to help us unpack and to see what these strange creatures looked like. The minute you left the Choates, you were on the college campus, and you never knew what was going to happen in that when I spoke with the women who were coming back for the reunion that we were very welcomed at—I guess the 40<sup>th</sup> reunion—one gal reported how she was walking across the Green and some young man was coming towards her, and she thought he was going to be welcoming her, and he stopped dead in front of her and said, "Why are you girls ruining our college?"

So you never knew when you really would be taken out verbally by a group of young men. It was never abusive, never foul language. I mean, there might have been if people had been drinking later on, but never at high noon. But you

never knew when you would get the hostility, that if you went and sat down in a classroom space, some guys could get up and move to another part of the auditorium.

DONIN: Oh, wow. Yeah.

So let's talk about the academics. So you were here for your junior year, right? No, senior year.

RINES: I was one of the few people here for my senior year because—I would assume it was less than 10 percent—because I really couldn't break away my junior year, so they were very kind and let me apply my senior year.

DONIN: But this was sort of a two-way street. I mean, you were doing the college a favor as well because they were trying this so-called "experiment," to try out having some women on campus, and you were one of the willing participants. Did you see yourself that way?

RINES: Well, I do want to say, having related the story of a group of guys moving, quite honestly, you could almost guarantee that three or four minutes later, a guy or two would come and sit down and say, "I just saw that, and I'm really embarrassed for the school. Are you enjoying it here? So you just knew those were momentary, passing things, nothing organized.

As far as academics, I was an art history major and pretty well had finished all my requirement. You had John Wilmerding here, who was fantastic. But I found the luck of having Arthur Mayer here in film criticism, and Arthur Mayer had been in filmmaking, so it wasn't this ethereal, chatty class. He talked about anecdotes of working with these actors and how films were put together. And so I really started to concentrate on the history of film, and it was just an amazing program here.

DONIN: Since you were here to fulfill graduation requirements, so to speak, you probably felt free to choose whatever sort of struck your fancy.

RINES: Yes, I could choose anything I wanted to. I did know that it should be in the humanities because I had not taken a lot of

science and math, but I had other women who were—we were called co-eds then; I don't think that expression is used anymore. And she would talk about how President Kemeny was very interested in her work, and he would walk from one class to another class with her. And so the women who did do computers and math and science—they were really taken very seriously.

DONIN: That's pretty nice, yeah. I'm just thinking—so you were here just as President Kemeny had started being president, right?

RINES: I guess so. I can't put it in a historical context, but it definitely was President Kemeny.

DONIN: Yes, and he was—yeah, he started in 1970, so you were here right on the cusp of his administration.

RINES: Yes, and he taught—I believe he taught a class.

DONIN: Yep, he taught—I don't know all the years that he was president, but he did continue to teach.

RINES: Mm-hm.

DONIN: So did you feel comfortable in the classrooms generally, then?

RINES: I felt very comfortable. I've always believed in consensus, and so when I came to the Dartmouth campus or I would enter a classroom, I would be aware that there would be some people who had been at this college and their fathers and grandfathers and great-grandfathers had come, and they had been really raised around the dining room table talking about Dartmouth being the all-male experience, and so I was really concerned that I could be hurting something that they thought, they believed was their heritage. And so the best thing I could do was to enjoy what Dartmouth was, and if I could add something to it, I would be very happy to do it, but not at all to be disruptive or irritating.

DONIN: And to ask the question a different way: Did you feel welcomed by the professors, generally?

RINES: Yes, I would say that I did feel—I always felt I was called upon, that my remarks were taken seriously. I do know there were some professors who were very uncomfortable. I know that there was one woman who was a studio art major, and you're supposed to do a studio art senior project, and she kept noticing that she wasn't assigned a space, and so she went up to the professor and said, "Now, where do you want me to do my senior project?" And he said, "Well, just kind of look around, but I have to take care of my previous students first." So every now and then, you might have gotten a professor that was uncomfortable with it.

DONIN: Mm-hm. Fair enough. Yeah.

And so what were the courses that you ended up taking that year?

RINES: Well, of course, I just loved the film courses.

DONIN: Right, right.

RINES: And I think I just took three courses a term. It was a trimester. I took some very interesting English courses. Of course, John Wilmerding was legendary as far as his contemporary art class. And, of course, John Wilmerding went on to—you know, he's also a historian on Winslow Homer and went on to the National Gallery, and he's one of the best-known art historians in the country. And so that was just wonderful.

Also in winter term, I knew my priorities, and I knew I wanted to have classes Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, or maybe it was Monday, Wednesday, Friday because I wanted the rest of the time on the ski slopes.

DONIN: [Chuckles.]

RINES: So I just looked at what was available, and I think I took an environmental science class and other interesting classes like that.

DONIN: So were they able to offer sort of organized skiing for the women that wanted to do it, or was this purely sort of "open skiing," if you know what I mean?

RINES: Oh, it was just open skiing, but back then we really had winters, and so it was wonderful skiing, and you could hitchhike to the Skiway. Maybe there was a bus. I can't remember how I got there. I certainly never minded hitchhiking, because in colleges in the late '60s, all colleges had hitchhiking spots that you could—to digress, you could hitchhike from Smith to Amherst, and now, of course, no one ever even talks about it. But we hitchhiked all over the place.

And so I would just hitchhike out to the Skiway and spend all day there. I will say this: Right from the start, if you were a competent skier and they needed help sweeping the trails at the end of the day so that you would be designated as a last skier and go down and make sure that no one had gotten injured or was still on the trail. They were very gracious about that.

But there were no organized women sports teams at all, so you wouldn't think about, you know—

DONIN: Right, joining—

RINES: —jumping and stuff like that.

DONIN: Right, right. Because you, after all, were only the second group of—whatever you were, 60—was it 60 women?

RINES: I think 75 women.

DONIN: Seventy-five?

RINES: One thing I want to say is that there was—whether it's theater or physical ed—women were always welcome in the modern dance classes, and I think, though I'm sure it's been very well researched by Dartmouth, that—Pilobolus obviously started here at Dartmouth, but the guys—it could be urban myth—just had to use up their athletic requirement, and so some of them said, "Well, let's take modern dance. At least that's where the girls are."

DONIN: [Laughs.]

RINES: But that should be confirmed. It could be urban myth.



DONIN: I think there's—I've heard that story, too, and since we have the papers of Pilobolus here in the archives, I'm sure it's easy enough to confirm that. In fact, Peter Carini, the archivist, I'm sure knows that story, whether it's true or not.

RINES: And the women were brought in immediately, even the class before us, into the folk dancing groups because some of the guys who started Pilobolus—they were very interested in folk dancing also. So the women—that was a natural blend-in, as was women joining in theater. We're all familiar with Meryl Streep.

DONIN: Yes.

RINES: But there's an Elaine Bromka—I should pronounce her name correctly—and she was actually, in '70, '71—she was a lead actress on campus here in that she had many of the leads. And Meryl Streep was known as a very intelligent woman and very interested in doing the character parts. But it wasn't that Meryl Streep was the lead actress on campus; there were other gals who were very strong actresses.

DONIN: I just saw that name when I was going through your collection of questionnaires here, so we can dig that out and insert it into here—

RINES: Yes, it's in there.

DONIN: —and have the names be accurate, right, exactly.

So the academic side went smoothly. Describe how your—you know, other than your athletic life but your sort of social life here developed. I mean, coming in as a senior, you have sort of an uphill battle because the rest of the campus has been around with each other for three years ahead of you, so you really were starting from scratch, you and the other 75 women. Did you all sort of stick together, or did you try to work your way into the fabric of the community and befriend the men via Greek life or non-Greek life, whatever? What was that like?

RINES: That's a very interesting question. As I said, I firmly believe that each and every one of us was interviewed, and I think—

we were very similar in that we were very independent. Each one mostly had a good sense of humor. The women were attractive, but they weren't so beautiful that it would be difficult for men to keep their composure around them. We all looked really like the girl down the street who was a good member of the high school, maybe a cheerleader, maybe a good basketball player. But back then, they really didn't have women's sports that strongly. So we were all just good kids, and I think we were interviewed and recognized as a very independent breed of women, and we really went out into the campus.

And each woman had her own interests. Some had, if you will, serious boyfriends and might have spent a lot of time at that fraternity, enjoying that group of men. But really, I would say we were a very independent group, and I think admissions counselors and all that call this type a high impact individual, that that individual will just get out.

As we discussed earlier, we had a woman from Wellesley, Amy—I think it's Sabrin?

DONIN:

Mm-hm.

RINES:

And she's brilliant, and she became the first editor or one of the editors of the Dartmouth paper. We had wonderful photographers. We really went out and joined the various activities.

DONIN:

And one has to assume that you were sort of a self-selected group because coming up to the wilderness of the Upper Valley, you all must have found some appeal in the outdoor life here and nature,—

RINES:

Yes.

DONIN:

—Outing Club activities, that sort of thing, not necessarily Outing Club specifically but being outdoors in nature.

RINES:

It was a very outdoorsy group. Back then, you knew to dress so you felt comfortable walking around Hanover, that there could be the weather change, it could be freezing in the winter. It was a very outdoorsy, healthy group.

DONIN: So did you feel—and I’m stealing this phrase from a comment made in the questionnaires—that your performance there was somehow going to influence—and I don’t mean you personally, but the 75 women and the women who came before you the year before—did you feel any sense of pressure that “our performance here is going to influence the trustees’ decision of whether or not to go with coeducation”?

RINES: I think we all felt it was huge. It was never discussed at all, but I think we felt that it was huge, that if we really said something inappropriate or frivolous in class, the fellow students, the professors—he could go to a faculty meeting and say, “How am I supposed to balance a class when I have this type of element?” It was in how you were groomed: not wearing too much makeup but being well groomed when you went across campus. You really felt that the minute you left Cohen Hall, you were in a fishbowl, and you were being groomed, and you certainly had enough pride that you never wanted to take a step in the wrong direction.

DONIN: Mmm. And I think this quote that I’ve got here—I think was from *your* questionnaire, where you were describing I believe a cherry bomb that was going off under your chair in the 1902 Room in Baker Library, and your description of it was you were constantly being tested.

RINES: Yes.

DONIN: And I don’t mean academically.

RINES: If that room—I think they’ve repurposed it, but if it’s still—

DONIN: It’s a study room, yeah.

RINES: After this interview, I could take you in there. I could show you the exact chair I was sitting in, even though I haven’t been in that room in 40 years. And it was one or two in the morning, and when I concentrate, I concentrate completely, and this cherry bomb went off under my chair, and so I jumped up because I didn’t know what it was. My foot caught the chair leg. I went slamming into the wall, and the whole place had erupted because everyone wondered—no one

was worried about a terrorist threat then; it was hijinks. They knew it was.

And I did remember saying, *I'm not gonna cry. No one's gonna see me cry. I'm not gonna cry.* I didn't even know if I could talk. And I just smiled and said, "I'm okay. I'm okay," because the guys got up and said, "We feel terrible." And I thought, *I just want to be able to make it outside, in the darkness at two a.m., and just be able to collapse with no one seeing me.* [Both chuckle.]

And so that was—yes, you never knew when there would be hijinks.

DONIN: Always on alert.

RINES: Yes.

DONIN: But you felt safe physically when you were in your dorms, in the dorm, in Cohen.

RINES: Well [chuckles], yes and no. You certainly felt safe physically. The guys would try to break in, and you've read all the anecdotes, and they'd have drunken fraternity guys that would have been in mudbowls and they would throw them into the women's toilet stalls and then, you know, duct taped up so the guy couldn't get out. I mean, there could be hijinks everywhere.

A gal on the third floor—it was a challenge to—I don't know what it's called. If you like Spiderman, can scale a wall, and so there was the contest. So she was sitting at her desk, and she saw a guy peer in because he had successfully climbed to the third floor, like Spiderman.

I mean, you never knew, but you knew it was just—it was very spirited hijinks. You weren't really concerned about your personal safety.

DONIN: Another place where—A lot of women tell accounts of being tested when they walked into the dining hall. Can you describe what that was like?

RINES: It was the worst fishbowl in the world in that sometimes I would have to gather up, the first few weeks, my strength to go in. I would duck into the bathroom. I would comb my hair. I'd make sure that all of my books were together, that all my zippers were zipped up, all that. And then I would just saunter into the dining room as though I wasn't expecting anything unusual. And you *would* hear the guys—you know, hear their heads snap around, the buzz of talking. You'd hear it behind you. And you'd just say, *I'm not gonna let this bother me.*

And, as I said, we were an independent group, so I'm not aware—maybe some women tried to cluster it so two or three would walk in at the same time.

DONIN: Oh, safety in numbers, yeah.

RINES: But whenever I had to go in for a meal, I'd just go in by myself, and I would usually—if I saw a group of men who had been friendly to me, I'd check out the entire table to see if it was okay that I sat down, that there wasn't any members of those group who were, like "Big Greeners," trying to make a point. And so I would sit down. If I didn't recognize anyone's faces, then I'd just sit down by myself, and usually guys would come up and join me and say, "Don't we have English class together?" But it's something where, every time, you knew it was an experience.

And I did tell you the anecdote: They did all the usual stuff around the Olympics, holding up the scorecard when each woman walked into the room, the clapping and the sports cars—you know, what was the highest? Was it nine, when you get a perfect nine-nine? Or is it ten?

DONIN: Yeah.

RINES: Or is it six? I don't know. So you never knew what was going to happen.

DONIN: Boy, that took a lot of—I think you all were pretty brave to deal with that. [Chuckles.] It's true that you were sort of strong-willed, independent women, but, again, it was a self-selected group.

- RINES: We knew what we had signed up for. You don't go up to Dartmouth as a woman—it's not for the faint of heart.
- DONIN: Was that true with the other schools that were going coeducational as well, do you think?
- RINES: If I can say, women threw themselves so much into their interests and into their studies and into their activities that we were totally engrossed in it, so we really didn't have that much time to talk about it. I know the women who went to Williams thought Williams was just wonderful. They were aware, believe it or not, because Williams is smaller than Dartmouth, of a higher level of gossip in that Williams is so small, the gals were shocked that their every move was noted and discussed, whereas Dartmouth was bigger.
- DONIN: Big enough to sort of be anonymous if you chose to be.
- RINES: Yes.
- DONIN: Yeah. Now, did you participate in Greek life? I mean, were you welcomed into it? "You," meaning the group of women that were here.
- RINES: I would say that most of the fraternities—there would be a few gals that they would either know from hometown, having gone out previously, currently going out, so when I look at the 75 women, there's no one fraternity where we would say "Oh, now, that's a really good fraternity for the women to be at." And it would really be in groups of twos and threes that would form friendships with the fraternities, to be very much there as a social member, as someone who's kind of fun and just came through the door, not any suggestion at all of being an adopted member of a fraternity.
- But so many of the fraternities were very gracious. I think there's a fraternity, Tri-Kap?
- DONIN: Mm-hm.
- RINES: On the corner of Fraternity Row. And that's a lovely fraternity, and they made it very clear that they had coffee and doughnuts every Friday morning and any of the women on their way to classes would be welcome. You'd go in and

you'd be terribly welcome. And so most of the fratern- —it's a very, very informal, very small scale, as I reported in my questionnaire.

DONIN: Your questionnaire.

RINES: You had to worry about the fraternities that had an immature streak in that I was asked really that first day I was on campus to be part of—it sounds terrible—but the initiation thing for the sophomores who were joining it. And I said, "You've got to be kidding that I'd be part of anything." And they said, "Come over to the house and meet—there's someone from the national fraternity." And so I went over that night, and he said, "If you're able to join us tomorrow night, I promise you I will be here. No harm will come to you."

So I went over. I had on a little gathered dirndl skirt that I got—because I thought, *Well, this is, you know, something of an honor.* I had stockings. I had small heels on. Because they told me I was going to read a part of the fraternity history. And they gave me a little book, and then they said, "But we like to do it off campus." And they said, "Oh, also—I hope you don't mind—you're going to be blindfolded along with the rest of the pledge class."

DONIN: Uh-oh.

RINES: And since I had met this gentleman, who I thought was very old—he's probably 20 years younger than I am now—

DONIN: [Laughs.]

RINES: —who said, "I give you my word you will come to no harm," I thought, *We're supposed to join in all aspects of Dartmouth life. You know, be a trooper, Kathy.* So we went out blindfolded. There were some guys in the fraternity who had motorcycles, so I think we were put in a circle. I was aware of a guy on each side of me. And then it got very quiet, and we're all blindfolded, in a field, waiting to be told what to do.

And then after about three or four minutes, I heard a guy, one of the pledges, take off his blindfold, throw it on the ground and say, "Son of a bitch!" We had just been abandoned in a field. [Laughs.] And they were so nice. They

immediately said, “We’re really sorry. We don’t know why they pulled you into this.”

So we had to go tromping through fields in, I might say, a very nice pair of shoes I had bought for that year.

DONIN: Oh, dear.

RINES: And there weren’t cell phones, so we had to go to a farmhouse, and they asked me—they said, “They’ll probably be less frightened if you go to the door. Do you mind knocking on the door?” So I knocked on the door, and I said, “There are 18 of us from Dartmouth here. Can one of my friends come in and use your phone to call a friend?”

So we were called and picked up and brought back to the fraternity. And, of course, when we went through the door, everyone cheered and yelled and laughed and said, “Welcome, you’re now—this is a special ritual of this fraternity.”

And so, you know, it’s getting back to hijinks. And so fraternities, I was a little bit wary of, especially at night if I thought there could be drinking and possibly more immature behavior coming out. And so I kind of self-regulated myself as far as fraternities.

DONIN: But, to be honest, compared to the stuff that goes on today, as you say, it sounds completely innocent and harmless.

RINES: Well, women did not—and I want to say I take it very seriously, but women were not as concerned about date rape then because the boundaries were longer in that—you know, there was more separation, in that you didn’t—women just would leave an area if there was excessive drinking and some bad behavior.

DONIN: Was it your sense that the fraternities—I think you alluded to this a little bit—some fraternities had different kind of personalities than others.

RINES: Oh, totally. Some of them, you wouldn’t even want to step into, and the women didn’t talk a lot among themselves, but certainly a woman would put a card on the table and say, “I



would not go into bloop-di-bloop fraternity. I would not step through the front door,” whereas what I just said about Tri-Kap, there were wonderful gentlemen there.

DONIN: Mm-hm, mm-hm. Well, it’s like today. I mean, some are welcoming, and some are not.

RINES: Mm-hm.

DONIN: Some are safe; some are not.

So how would you describe—I mean, I realize you only had one year here. Did you end up with a community of friends that you could describe?

RINES: This is something very interesting. I felt that I lived my year at Dartmouth full throttle. I loved the film society. I wrote reviews. I was an usher at the Hop, so you’d go to events free. I loved skiing. I did skiing in Tuckerman’s Ravine. I’m only, at best, a B-quality skier, but Tuckerman’s Ravine was so wonderful. They said, “Do you want an experience? Come up. Just do what you can.” I did the down-river canoe trip that we started paddling up here, —

DONIN: [Sharp intake of breath.]

RINES: —and we paddled to Old—I guess it’s Old Saybrook?

DONIN: Yes.

RINES: And there was another one, Kathy Chiverton? You’ll have to—

DONIN: Yes, I read her account.

RINES: And it was the two of us, and—because if there ever was a wonderful experience—I thought, *This is a once-in-a-lifetime thing.*

DONIN: How long did that take you? Days.

RINES: Days. And days. And if you’ve ever seen the film, *Private Benjamin*—at the orientation, it was very kind—a Dartmouth senior, whom I had met, said very casually, “Do you want to

share a canoe together?” And after an hour or two on the first day, I don’t know what I would have done without someone who was strong at paddling. I had gone to camp, so I knew all the strokes, but I had *never* done anything this challenging. And you had to portage two or three times, just lift all your gear and the canoe up and all that. And I did do a *Private Benjamin*, because the first day, woke up in the tent, and it was pouring rain, and I said to my tent mate, this very nice guy—he said, “You’ve really got to get up and get going.” And I said [chuckles], “Why? It’s raining.”

DONIN: [Laughs.]

RINES: And he said, “Kathy, we’re paddling.” And I said, “You have got to be kidding.”

DONIN: [Laughs.]

RINES: And it was—it was icy. It was awful. But, you know, you gotta be tough. You gotta keep going. And then it got better.

I want to say Peter Webster could have been head of the down-river, and Peter, I see here in Hanover, and he’s a member of my class; a lovely guy.

And so the guys started to tease me a lot and say, “We’re going to stay over in the Mt. Holyoke police station” or fire station, so I said, “Uch, I can’t wait.”

DONIN: [Chuckles.]

RINES: “We’re gonna hitchhike to Smith and Mt. Holyoke and see some *real* girls.”

DONIN: [Laughs.]

RINES: And so, not to be outdone, I said, “That is a great idea,” and I stuck my thumb out and hitchhiked to Amherst.

DONIN: [Laughs.]

RINES: And fortunately, an Amherst fellow gave me a ride home. But it was late. It was around 1 a.m. And so we went to the—I went to the desk captain, and I said, I’m with the Dartmouth

down-river canoe group upstairs. Could you please let me up to the sleeping floor?” And I’ll never forget what he said to me. He looked at me, and he said, “I was born at night, but not last night. There are just men up there.”

DONIN: [Laughs.]

RINES: So I said [chuckles], “Please get”—I said, “You know who Peter Webster is.” He said, “Yes.” I said, “Could you please wake Peter and say, ‘Kathy Duff is down here and wishes to go up to her sleeping bag.’” So a very sleepy Peter Webster came downstairs and said, “Yes, she’s with our group.” And the desk sergeant just shook his head and said, “Now I’ve seen everything.”

DONIN: [Laughs.]

RINES: But that was wonderful. That was one of the most physically demanding things I’ve ever done, but you just never give up, and you never complain. But I had a wonderful person who volunteered to share a canoe with me.

DONIN: Mmm, mmm. So those must have been some of your friend group, as they’d be called today, that you made that trip with.

RINES: Yes. What is so interesting is that they knew very little of us when we came, and then we left, and we all scattered. And then you had all these subsequent layers of experience, and then I went out and became a newspaper reporter and photographer and filmmaker. Then I went back to Harvard Business School, and it was the same thing. It was 15 percent women, so you really felt, every time you were in a classroom, that you were being judged, and you wanted women to start being accepted.

And then I went out, and I was in the treasurer’s office of General Motors. And really, I forgot—it just went way to the back of my mind, because I never wanted to have my feelings hurt by the fact we were just kind of inventory here for a year.

And then my two daughters were going to camp, the same camp I went to, right up the Connecticut River—you know, Lake Morey, Lake Fairlee. And I thought, *What do I have to*

*lose?* So I went into the Dartmouth alumni office, expecting to be just totally rebuffed, and said, “I was here ’70 –’71 as one of the 75 women exchange students.” And I said, “I make a small donation every year to every school I’ve attended, and there is a hole that exists for my senior year. Could you just send me some materials?” And by the time I got back to Michigan, it was “Katherine Duff Rines, member of the Class of ’71.” And I was blown away about how embracing Dartmouth was, and I started to send them a contribution, and I would get news from Dartmouth.

And then my life brought me back here, of course, each summer, when I was with the girls at camp, and then I started to live most of my time in the Upper Valley here in Hanover about 10 years ago. But when you asked about a friend group—and now I have, as house guests, anyone who wants to come back to reunion and all that. We scattered to the wind, I think.

DONIN: Mm-hm.

RINES: There was a quite good group of gals, coincidentally around Meryl Streep. These were spirited, fabulous gals, and this was the group of gals who decided to liberate the sauna because the women asked to use the sauna, and they said they’d love it but it’s really just for the men. And after they politely asked a few times, with the help of some guys, about three, five, maybe seven women stormed the sauna, and Meryl Streep was in the group, and some other gals were just terrific. And the guys just went into shock.

DONIN: [Chuckles.]

RINES: Security was called. The gals were ordered out, but they were then—it made, I think, the newspapers—you know “Co-eds Storm the Sauna.” Possibly there are some pockets who have remained roughly in touch. Also there are the things that we might have had two Dartmouth co-eds dating in the same fraternity, marrying the guys, and so they were looped in with their husbands, and Dartmouth returning. But by and large, I would say we scattered to the wind.

DONIN: And so that was the—so the genesis of this effort to find all of you and bring you back into the fold, so to speak. How did that develop?

RINES: I think we have to credit somebody by the name of Arthur Fergenson, who maybe was in the Class of 1968, about?—because I always refer to the three years of women exchange students, but really the first year was about 14, 16 women who were brought on campus here to be the female, the women leads in the plays. And these women—they had to find their own housing. They worked them 'round the clock at the performing arts center, and with all theater groups, it's a greater family. And these guys, 35 years later, said, "We had such immense talent in that group. They were with us 24/7."

There was one fraternity—I don't—Tabard [pronouncing it TAY-bird] or something like that, —

DONIN: Tabard [pronouncing it TAB-bird].

RINES: —that welcomed them in. You have to confirm that. And Arthur Fergenson said, "We have to recognize these women. We have to bring them back." I think maybe 14 out of the 15 came back. They immediately made them adopted members of the class. And then I think Arthur and everyone with good hearts thought that that would get the ball rolling. It absolutely stopped dead the following year. So I think Arthur stirred the waters and said to Dartmouth. "What are *you* doing to bring the women back?"

And I was a known quantity here in Hanover, so the wonderful alumni group found me. They said, "Can you come in for a meeting?" They said, "We've put interns on it, and they've Googled your names, and we think we've been able to track down maybe a third or a half." And it was spread over three years, and the data was very inaccurate, but it was a starting place of data in that I'd get the women's names, and they would have to sort themselves out as far as what year they were here.

And so Dartmouth really got the ball rolling, so it really is up to the women exchange students, for us to continue this and

find each other and get these women, if they wish, to reconnect with Dartmouth.

DONIN: Did any of the women who came here during those three years—of course not your age because you were already ready to graduate, but did any of them actually apply to matriculate here when the college went co-ed in '72?

RINES: It's a heartbreaking chapter in that I can't speak for the women exchange students the year before me because they knew they were the first ones on campus. I think if you tentatively said, you know, "I'd like to stay here," and they were told, "No, this is just really an experiment. We already have a new group coming in." But we heard the tom-toms in our year, and we knew that Dartmouth was moving towards coeducation. And I was a senior. If I had been a junior, I would have applied to continue at Dartmouth.

I'm guessing that maybe a third of the women, maybe half of the women petitioned to stay, and I think all but a few were summarily declined, told that they couldn't. But maybe seven or ten were, and I just know, being alone in my single room as a senior, I just thought, *Thank goodness I don't have to be a part of this conversation*, because it was heartbreaking.

And I think it was really even worse the next year. There were 150 women, and I think just about every one of them applied to continue, and only a few were selected. And it was heartbreaking. And most of the women are saying, "It was tough, but life goes on." And really, every time I approach a woman to see if she wants to fill out a questionnaire—there are, like, two questions on it—I am aware that I might get a hostile reaction from either bad experiences while she was here at Dartmouth or the anger at not being able to continue. And if I were to quantify it, I'd say maybe 10 or 15 percent, when I reach someone—they might say, "Oh, it's really in the past. I'd rather not participate."

DONIN: Mm-hm, mm-hm. Well, now's a chance, though—I mean, reaching out to them is a chance for them to sort of move beyond that and come back, but that's a personal choice.

RINES: Yes, it is. And unless it was something really serious,—

DONIN: Right.

RINES: —which you have to take seriously—if I can do any bridging—and sometimes I think humor is a great way to bring people back. I mean, some of the stories we have are just—they're just amazing.

DONIN: Right, right. And that's what we hope to document next reunion time.

Okay, Kathy. Those are my questions. Anything you want to add? You don't have to; I'm just giving you the opportunity.

RINES: I can't really, because you always hope in life you prepare for a wonderful opportunity like this, but then you really find that you just really come in on the fly, without really any remarks.

The one thing I will say—I'm going to spend a bit more time thinking about it, and in the past in thinking about it, when we came up to set up this interview—I did ask to see the *Aegis*—I didn't even know the name of it, the Dartmouth yearbook, and I thumbed through the pages. I don't think the pages are numbered. Maybe it's a little bit more than an inch, inch and a half thick. And you forget how crude photography was back then, all kind of blurry black-and-white pictures. But in fanning through it, in no place was there any mention of the 75 Dartmouth women exchange students. It's like we didn't exist. And it was really—there was just nothing there, and this thing is about an inch and a half thick.

I will say this: When I looked at the pictures, I think coinciding when we were here—it was a time of terrific upheaval, in that we were coming into the depth of Vietnam and the draft. There was a lot of anger on campus. The previous spring, there had been the student strikes, and a lot of schools had essentially suspended exams or done it as take-home. There were graduation ceremonies where half the people didn't wear robes; they wore anything they wanted to.

It was a time of just an explosion on campuses. The guys—I would say they were very hairy. I mean,—

DONIN: [Laughs.]

RINES: —they wore beards. There were sideburns. You can almost—it's almost palpable about feeling the anger and uncertainty when you look at all the guys' faces. And so we are looking at it from the dimension of women and coeducation, but there was a lot of stuff going on in that when—I graduated, as I said, in '71. When I started college, all the gals were always put up in professors' and administrators' houses, and by one year later, we were all—when we'd visit Princeton or Yale or Dartmouth—we were all just in the dorms, and the guys would sleep in the commons room, and they would give up their room, and you'd get in the bed and find half of the sand of the lacrosse field at the bottom of the bed.

DONIN: [Laughs.]

RINES: And so the change—I mean, the change in these three or four years was just staggering, and women were just one of the components of it.

DONIN: For sure. Lots of upheaval in all sorts of parts of society. Exactly right.

RINES: It was just simply a huge time.

DONIN: Yep, it was. It was. And you were part of it. [Chuckles.] Well, thank you. I'm going to turn this off.

**[End of interview.]**