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Dartmouth College Oral History Program
Dartmouth Community and Dartmouth's World
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WOMICK: I am Cally Womick, and I am in Baker Library with Ben Turner. Today is April 13th, 2013. To start off, where'd you grow up?

TURNER: I grew up pretty close to Atlanta. I lived 30 minutes east of Atlanta. I've lived there for most of my life. Did elementary, middle and high school probably within 10 minutes of where I lived, so coming to Dartmouth was, like, my first time away from home for a long, extended period of time.

WOMICK: What was that like?

TURNER: Growing up, I would say it was pretty normal, growing up. My parents—what I remember most about growing up is in the summer. The summer times I always spent, like, with my aunts and my uncles because I didn't really do daycare well. Once I started pre-k—my first pre-k program, I had to quit, for some reason, but then I started kindergarten. But before that, in the summer times, like, my uncle—like, one of my uncles had, like—like, a big vegetable farm or something, so we'd grow, like, watermelons and different types of greens and stuff. So we would grow those, and we would sell those. And then one of my aunts worked in a fish shop, so I would go there as a little kid and pretend to take orders.

WOMICK: [Laughs.]

TURNER: So that's what I remember most about growing up. But I would say everything about school and stuff—sometimes I remember it.

WOMICK: So how was Dartmouth different or similar to what you had known growing up?

TURNER: Well, my specific neighborhood—my county's pretty diverse, but my specific neighborhood is pretty much, like, I would say 85 percent African-American, so the demographics of Dartmouth are a little different—

WOMICK: [Chuckles.]

TURNER: —from that. And then, of course, there's, like, the other stuff people always mention, like the weather, the snow. That's different. Being away from, like—not being able to get to the city within 20 minutes. That was probably the biggest change with Dartmouth and Hanover, the demographics.

WOMICK: How do you think that experience affected your time here?

TURNER: I would say it made me more aware of kind of—not necessarily other cultures—you do have that here, too, with, like, being a lot of international students. But I think it makes you more aware of how environments change when demographics change, how it is to be, like, in a space that's, like, minority—a lot of minorities versus a space where there aren't many minorities, and you kinda notice—you become interested in noticing how people interact with each other, who are from different backgrounds,—so racial, class backgrounds. And then you can kinda take those experiences with you.

I think when I leave here, along with, like, the stuff I've learned in class, I feel like I've learned so much outside of class. And I guess that's, like, an intersection between just growing up—you know, going from, like, a high school to become an adult, but then also having the experience in Hanover and at Dartmouth with so many different types of people from so many backgrounds.

And then you get to see—the other thing about coming to a place like Dartmouth, because people *are* from so many perspectives, you kind of get to understand and get to know what people think about *you* and what people think about the South.

WOMICK: [Laughs.]

TURNER: When you tell people you're from Georgia or anyplace in the South, people are always, like, "Uhhhhh!" They cringe 'cause they think it's a horrible place. And I understand, obviously, their reservations. But that's interesting, too. Yeah.

- WOMICK: So how did you end up at Dartmouth? It's pretty far away from home.
- TURNER: Yeah. [Laughs.] That's a very good question. Sometimes I ask myself, *What was the process coming to Dartmouth like?*
- WOMICK: [Laughs.]
- TURNER: Honestly, for me, I didn't think much about going away from home, because I always wanted to go to Emory, growing up, which is, like—it's a pretty big university in Atlanta. So I figured I would go to Emory. But then in high school I started looking at other schools. I guess maybe it was, like, some counselors gave presentations on colleges and stuff. And then once you take the PSATs, you start getting so much mailing, and Dartmouth mail came. I think it was Dartmouth—I can't remember if it was called Dartmouth Immersion or Dartmouth—it's something like Dartmouth Bound. It's, like, a recruiting program. So I got a e-mail about that, saying, "Hey, just come out for a couple of days." So I was, like, "Yeah, I'll come." And that's basically what really got me seriously thinking about Dartmouth, aside from, like, some other schools that I was already applying to.
- WOMICK: So what was that trip here like?
- TURNER: The trip here. What was it like? I always tell people that one of my favorite shows growing up was *Murder, She Wrote*, which is—I don't know if you've ever seen it, but it's a show starring [chuckles] Angela Lansbury. [Chuckles.] It's very weird, 'cause I grew up with a lot of old people, I guess. But it's set, like, in a town in Maine. So coming up here, that's all I could think about.
- WOMICK: [Laughs.]
- TURNER: 'Cause I got off the plane in Boston, but it's, like, a two-and-a-half-hour bus ride on the Coach. I never expected anything like that before. And there were just trees and trees and mountains and mountains [laughter]. And all I could remember thinking was, *Where is this school? And There's no way I'm comin'*. [Laughter.] I just remember thinking, *I'm*

gonna enjoy the weekend, and then that's it. I'm not—I can't come to this place.

WOMICK: [Chuckles.]

TURNER: But once I got here, things changed, and I guess I kind of romanticized Hanover and the town and the place, thinking about that TV show [chuckles] and thinking—I honestly thought—you know, *It's only—it's four years, so I might as well give it a shot and see what comes of it.* And that's how I got to Hanover. [Chuckles.]

WOMICK: So is that when you made your decision?

TURNER: No, it took me a while, actually. Even after I'd been accepted, I went back and forth, because I was deciding between Emory, Rice and Dartmouth. But Dartmouth won out. I guess I was feeling a little adventurous, and that's what happened. [Chuckles.]

WOMICK: I guess so.

TURNER: Yeah.

WOMICK: So did you have a chance to come to campus again before orientation? Or was that—?

TURNER: I didn't. I didn't. I skipped out on Dimensions. It didn't really line up with my spring break well, and I—you know, I can't afford to fly everywhere all the time, so no.

WOMICK: So, then, orientation. What was that like?

TURNER: What was orientation like? Oh, Trips. Trips during orientation. That's great. It was a little awkward for me, like, the dancing parts of orientation. I don't really like to dance in front of other people. I did the rock climbing section of the trip, which I liked but which was also something new for me. Even before leaving, my mom took me—we went to I think it's REI [chuckles] camping store, and we were looking around because they send you a list of recommendations, like, a backpack and “get this.” Well, we left. We didn't really buy anything because we realized how expensive everything was, and we were, like, “Ahhh! I'm not gonna get this.”

But fast forward, getting to Dartmouth and going on trips. I enjoyed it. I enjoyed the rock climbing, the rock climbing experience. Again, I was thinking adventure, something new, you know? Meeting new people was another part of the trips. It's like one of those situations where you're kind of forced to meet new people. Like, throughout orientation everyone is very—we're kind of are forced to be very open. But it's also good because you can just walk up to people and you ask them—everyone is just walking up to each other. Like, "What's your name? Where are you from?" So I think that's a very exciting part of Dartmouth. It's a high of the Dartmouth experience, so I think it's really good, and it really got me excited, going into the quarter.

WOMICK: So how *was* freshman year?

TURNER: How was freshman year? Freshman year was good. Freshman year was good. I can't say I had much of an academic compass. I knew before coming in that I probably wanted to go to law school after Dartmouth, but I didn't really know much about navigating—like, both of my parents went to college local, my brother went to college local, so we're not really of the Ivy League college folk. So I didn't know much about navigating the whole system—like, which classes to pick; like, how to—you know, really schedule—schedule your classes or, like, you needed to take certain classes for certain things, and then you got to balance that with the social life at the nighttime [chuckles]. I had no idea about nighttime social life at Dartmouth, which is a whole 'nother world. They should definitely send you a book along with your orientation guide about nighttime social life.

So it was good. For me, my freshman floor—my freshman floor—I found, like, some really good people on my freshman floor, so that really helped. We lived in the River, so that really helped kind of ease my transition into Dartmouth a lot, 'cause I'm still friends with a lot of people, with a good number of people from my freshman floor.

I'm trying to think of a—I think during my freshman year, I dropped one of my classes, so that was, like, my first experience of failure. *Oh, no! Am I a failure?* But I got over it. Learned from it. And came out pretty good. Yeah.

- WOMICK: So where did you find your community freshman year?
- TURNER: Where did I find my community. That's a really g—that's really interesting. For me, I would definitely say my freshman floor. Yeah, I would say my freshman floor because I tried out a lotta different—I tried out different clubs and organizations, just based on my interests, whether it was, like, a social entrepreneurship or the philanthropy club or, like, tae kwon do or—just different things on campus. And I can't—I never really found community in any of those things. But I always had my freshman floor, and we've always been close, so I would definitely say that's where I found community.
- WOMICK: Okay. Do you think the friendships you made during freshman year have carried over to the rest of Dartmouth?
- TURNER: For me, they've definitely carried over because right now I live with—I live with my freshman roommate.
- WOMICK: Wow!
- TURNER: [Laughs.] And I live with another guy who was in the same dorm, so those friendships have definitely carried over for me. I don't think that's necessarily the norm for Dartmouth, though, because of the quarter system and because of the Greek system, I think. One thing I've noticed—I'm unaffiliated, and I've remained unaffiliated, which is, like, something worthy of saying in a Dartmouth interview. But what I've seen is that unless you really rush the same place with your friends, you kinda drift apart. And I think that has a big impact on changing friendships when people are at Dartmouth. And if it's not—you know, like, even if they're, like, rushing, like, co-ed houses or different undergraduate societies.
- But me and my friends, I guess we were a little similar in that we didn't invest too much in the Greek system, and that's how we've remained close. And it's probably even made us—kind of reinforced our closeness because especially at a place where Dartmouth—so many people are affiliated, it can—I guess it *can* be isolating, to an extent, if you're

unaffiliated, so I would that probably reinforced our friendship. Yeah.

WOMICK: So, carrying over from freshman to sophomore year, what was sophomore year like?

TURNER: What was sophomore year like? Sophomore year started—sophomore year was good. It did start a little rough, though, because I decided to take up the Mandarin language. [Laughs.] Which is interesting, because—you know, it's a tonal language, so it's an interesting pursuit to take that. So I would say that was the most interesting academic thing of the year. [Chuckles.]

I can't remember much about my social life because I didn't—well, I do remember in the fall being someone who wasn't going through a pledge process. [Laughs.]

WOMICK: Mm-hm. And that was just something that never interested you?

TURNER: [Sighs.] I can't say I never thought about it, 'cause I did think about it. But I didn't have—I didn't have as much motivations to the point where I was, like, *Oh, this is just something I have to do*, 'cause I think a lot of people think you just—like it's just a given: You come to Dartmouth, you have to exist within the frat system. And I didn't think it was necessary to rush. But I think that's also because of the perspective I bring to Dartmouth. You know, my parents—like, I said, you know, college wasn't that big of a—*it was—they really want me to, you know, do well in higher education, but it wasn't that big of a deal for them, so obviously, things like Greek affiliation—it varies per college, too, but it's not as big of a deal.*

And then I can also say I honestly had a negative experience before coming to Dartmouth, more with Greek, just because—a lot of the teachers that I had were actually affiliated. Like,—well, some of the teachers—well, not all of them, but some of the teachers I didn't like [chuckles] were affiliated, so I always thought of Greek organizations as being very—and I know they do—you know, they do good things in community service and all that stuff, but my perception as a kid growing up was just that they were very,

like, socially clique-ish. So I can honestly say I was kind of—probably a little turned off, even before I got here about Greek organizations. Yeah.

WOMICK: Yeah.

TURNER: Yeah.

WOMICK: So how do you think that impacted your sophomore year?

TURNER: Well, in the fall it was a little isolating. [Laughs.] But my roommate—my roommate wasn't going through the process, so that was good. We had each other. [Laughter.] The two of us. [Laughs.] But I'll say it was isolating, yeah.

WOMICK: Mm-hm. So did any of your other friends choose to rush? Did that shake up your friend group any?

TURNER: Did any of them choose...? Right now, I live with—one of the guys I live with is affiliated, but it's not as big of a deal now that we're all seniors. Yeah. But in sophomore year—I would say in the fall, I probably didn't interact with him as much. Yeah. So not like my immediate friend group sophomore year. Didn't really shake up things that much. I guess maybe—and I would say all of my friends kinda had these different—we have—I don't want to call them—maybe some would call them nontraditional perspectives or backgrounds coming into Dartmouth. You know, like, two of my friends—they're, like, children—they're, like, children of immigrants. And, like, my roommate now—like, I don't think—his parents weren't affiliated. Or, you know, they went to a school where they didn't have Greek organizations. So I would say your background also affects how you approach it.

WOMICK: Mm-hm. So what about the rest of sophomore year, going into junior year? What was that like?

TURNER: The rest of sophomore year going into junior... That's when, like, the internship craze started in trying to figure out—it hit me that I might need a job one day. [Both chuckle.] And that's when the pressure to kind of be, like, *Well, what am I kinda interested in?* And I tried different groups on campus. Some of them didn't pan out; some of them did. I definitely started applying for internships around that time. I got

involved in tae kwon do because I needed—I started it as a PE credit, but then I really liked it. So I, like, became more involved in, like, tae kwon do at the gym, and I would say I probably branched out more with just discovering more about Dartmouth.

Like, through the Tucker Foundation I started volunteering. I joined the Big Brothers/Big Sisters Program, started working with a kid in West Leb, getting to know, like, more about, like, the geography, the landscape around Hanover—like, the towns—you know, Upper Valley is not just Hanover. Trips to West Leb. Became actually, like—getting to know the kid and his family and learning more about, like, the schools.

And I think that was also the time when, like, a lot of workers are on campus were probably—like, there were cuts. There were a lot of Dartmouth cuts. So that became a big issue on campus, and a lot of students kind of protesting the cuts and trying to, like, bring our attention of students to, like, the human effect that financial cuts would have on, like, workers—like, their health care and their family budgets and things like that. That was really big during that time.

WOMICK: So how have you felt being involved in the surrounding communities has impacted your experience at Dartmouth? Do you think that that's standard, that a lot of people do that?

TURNER: No, I don't think it's standard. [Chuckles.] One thing I always joke about is the staple at Dartmouth of the bake sale. [Laughs.] Me and my friends always joke about it 'cause, you know, the community services like the bake sale or the fundraiser dinner, which is fine, but it doesn't really get you involved in the surrounding communities, so I don't think that many students do it. More students should definitely do it.

In a way, it's made me—it's made me more aware of kind of the—the gap between a place like Dartmouth, which is just, like, so well off and so affluent, and then you go, like, 10 minutes over and you literally have families who are just literally struggling, struggling in their everyday existence. I've always had a tendency towards, like, community service, I guess, just because I've always kind of had, like, a community approach to life and thought it was very important to be involved in just, like, community work, I guess.

But this has definitely strengthened my commitment to—like, when I leave Dartmouth, to volunteer or do other things that are helpful and that have, like,—you can kind of see, like, this real impact on people’s lives. I always just think if we could somehow just take some of the, like, educational resources or opportunity and just give a little to West Leb, it would be good.

But it also taught me—it also taught me the importance of Dartmouth—like, the economic importance of Dartmouth to the entire region ‘cause so many people work at Dartmouth, and that’s kind of going back to when we talked about the impact that financial cuts would have on the Upper Valley and people’s lives.

WOMICK: Yeah.

TURNER: Yeah. So I guess I started thinking about, like, institutional—I don’t know if it’s power or impact, I guess. Yeah. And it really helps you—I don’t want to conflate people’s experiences, but it’s kinda like when you’re going through foco or you’re in the Hop, ‘cause—kinda between, like, people who work with DDS and custodians. I feel like those are, like, the most Upper Valley residents and possibly—like, more native Upper Valleyans that Dartmouth students come in contact with. So I guess that kind of humanizes them a little more and it makes you a little more curious. Like, what’s his story? Or where he’s from—what’s his life like? Yeah.

WOMICK: Yeah.

TURNER: Yeah.

WOMICK: Would you say there is a, quote, “Dartmouth community”? And, if so, who’s a part of it?

TURNER: A Dartmouth...I would say there are many communities within the Dartmouth community. [Laughs.] Obviously, the larger Dartmouth community being the university and the college, the campus and everyone who comes here. We all—you know, we’re all here for the degree. We all are invested in higher education, ‘cause Dartmouth’s, like, a

great place, a great school. So I think that's the overall community.

But then there are many other communities. Like, I'm affiliated with the AAm. There's, like, you know, Greek communities, divisions within the Greek system that, I would say, probably make up different communities. A lotta sports teams, I would say, have their own communities. I would say the college works hard or definitely likes to promote an overall community, but Dartmouth is a place where there are a lot of smaller communities within the larger community. Yeah.

WOMICK: So we got up to junior year. What about this year?

TURNER: This year. Well, I finally got a good internship [laughs] that I did last summer, and that was in sales at Google, and that helped me to realize I will never work in sales. [Both chuckle.] And, you know, I did some things. Like I took LSAT. I studied and took the LSAT and sent off my applications to law schools, finished my major, got lotsa recommendations. I took some classes with, like, the same profs—like, the same profs over again, which I find is one of the good things about, like, getting older at Dartmouth. You really get better relationships with you professors, especially if you take them multiple times.

And I've also—this year, for me, has been more a year of kind of reflection and rethinking my Dartmouth experience. Like, *What haven't I done?* Like, just last week, I did the intro at the wood shop, and I'm gonna attempt to make a rocking chair before I leave. Yeah. [Chuckles.] And I bought a movie pass from the film society. So I guess just trying to do all the little things that they always tell you in the view book. "This is what you can do."

So now I'm doing them, and I'm still working. I work at Kresge, so I'm still working at the library. Yeah.

WOMICK: What would you say has been your principle community at Dartmouth?

TURNER: My principle—

WOMICK: Would you say it was friends that you made during your freshman year or that you met over the years in different activities? Just how did you find the people that you spend most of your time with?

TURNER: For me, the friends I met my freshman year are definitely at the core. And now it's expanded to include, like, a friend of my freshman floor roommate or a friend who you met through someone else, who we just kind of—I guess we just clicked with. That's how it's kind of grown. It's grown really organically. It hasn't grown through organization—like, affiliation with organizations.

WOMICK: Have there been any times at Dartmouth that you felt like you were on the outside or that you didn't belong?

TURNER: [Pause.] I would say there are definitely times when you feel like an outsider, you know, especially myself: like, minority student; I'm not rich. You know. [Laughs.] So I don't really fit into, like, the WASP-y upper-class, privilege, "Let's go to the Derby party" lifestyle. [Laughs.] So just having kind of a culture surrounding that on campus. And not that there aren't other groups. There are a lot of groups at Dartmouth who try to promote different cultures, different experiences, but just having that play a dominant part, and having that be normalized, I guess, is really—is really what makes it a dominant part of the Dartmouth culture. Yeah.

So I guess when you come up against that type of atmosphere, whether it's, like, events or certain—or just maybe certain viewpoints within classes or just the fact that it's so normalized. And it's not necessarily seen as another perspective but just, like, the standard Dartmouth. Like, this is what Dartmouth should be.

So in those instances, I would feel like an outsider. But I've always felt—[Long pause.] This year, I think I'm starting to feel more like Dartmouth is more my own. [Chuckles.] Which is kind of sad, because I'm leaving. But it will be good for alumni relations, I guess. [Laughter.]

WOMICK: So do you see yourself keeping some sort of involvement with the college after you graduate?

TURNER: I do. I do because I think it's important that people from different backgrounds and different experiences stay involved in the college and make sure that a lot of perspectives and interests are represented in the college, just for future students and future, like—just making the college better every day, like in the future and all.

WOMICK: Yeah.

TURNER: Yeah. And I think—because I think it's just important for everyone to have a sense of ownership in Dartmouth.

WOMICK: So right now, who would you say does and who doesn't?

TURNER: [Pause.]

WOMICK: There's no wrong or right answer.

TURNER: [Chuckles.] That's a tough one. Well, if you feel like you're an outsider, you probably don't have a sense of ownership in the college, and a lot of times you may feel more stress than anything else about being here, especially if your background is different—[Pause.] Or just any type of differences that are kind of apart from kind of the dominant frat culture. So that probably would give you less of a sense of ownership in the college.

But I think everyone has the ability to, you know, go out and kind of voice their experiences, kind of articulate what they would like Dartmouth to be or become, if they feel like it's insufficient in any ways for them. But it's not always—it's not gonna be easy because, as you know, if you voice any type of—like, anything that kind of differs, or sometimes even if you just voice a criticism, sometimes it can be—Dartmouth is such a good place and it's such an affluent place, with so much opportunity and so many good things about it—whether it be, like, the academics or the clubs or, you know, all the great speakers we have on campus, that sometimes people can—it's such an ideal world. You know, it's kind of like I was saying how I romanticize Hanover earlier—that it can be hard for some people to hear criticism of a place like Dartmouth and they can just kind of dismiss the criticism as just someone who is just kind of complaining, because Dartmouth pretty much appears to be perfect, you know.

There are a lotta—and it's really good in many ways. But I think it's important to voice criticism, especially when you're feeling like an outsider.

WOMICK: What role has the AAm played in your time here?

TURNER: I would say for me—I'm not as involved in the AAm now as I was, but I would say for me, the AAm has been a supportive place, especially—more so even when it came to kind of, like, academic guidance and, like, study groups and being able to kind of meet with the black student adviser and just kind of making my academic trajectory work well for me. I think it's been very important.

I think one thing—just the AAm being here, if you're a student—and it's the same thing for, like, LALACs or the Chinese Language House. And that's not saying I think people should go into the AAm and never come out. [Both chuckle.] 'Cause I know that's a criticism of the type of cultural diversity, like, plurality that Dartmouth promotes with affinity housing, that it just kind of segregates campus.

But I think just having the AAm there as a presence, to kind of say Dartmouth—even if everyone in the community doesn't necessarily agree with the AAm being there, Dartmouth as an institution supports the AAm being there, as a space for all students who want to meet, but especially the place where students of color—where they can feel a sense of—a sense of ownership and belonging to the overall Dartmouth institution. So just being there as a symbol. I think symbols are powerful. [Chuckles.] Just like—you know, just like we know Greek life dominates campus and one of the symbols is just that you can drive down the entire row there. That's, like, right in the middle of campus. So it's symbol.

So I think the AAm, in the same way, acts as a symbol, just like other affinity housing on campus.

WOMICK: Did you ever live in Cutter-Shabazz?

TURNER: I did, during my sophomore summer, actually.

WOMICK: Yeah?

TURNER: Yeah, which makes a lot of sense 'cause usually if you're affiliated, you move into your—well, a lot of students move into their affiliated housing during their sophomore summer. And I moved into Cutter. Well, the reason I moved into Cutter is actually because they needed more people to live there, to keep the house open for the summer. And I was, like, *Well, I'm not gonna let them close the AAm*, so, yeah, I moved in there.

WOMICK: What was that like?

TURNER: It was pretty good, actually. I never—I always tell people that sophomore summer was my best term here, and I always attribute it to, like, the sunshine—[Laughs.]—the great weather, the great classes. I had one of my best, one of my favorite professors, [Susannah] Heschel.

WOMICK: Ahhhh, yeah.

TURNER: Yeah. What a wonderful lecturer she is. It was just—it was really nice to see her every day or three times a week. I think it was.

But I never really think much about my time in the AAm and how living in the AAm affected that summer. But it was great. It was great. It was a really—it was a good sense of community.

WOMICK: Where else have you lived during your time here?

TURNER: In dorms. I started out in the River. Sophomore, junior year I was in Gold Coast, and now I'm in McLaughlin, which is another sense of community 'cause I live in a suite with four other people, four of my close friends, who are unaffil—one of them is affiliated, but the others are unaffiliated. So I guess I'm kind of on the outside, creating my own little communal spaces, which is good, which is good.

WOMICK: Yeah.

TURNER: Yeah.

WOMICK: How do you think that you've changed at Dartmouth?

TURNER: How I've changed. Hmm. Well, like I said earlier, I would definitely reiterate I think I've become more aware of, like, different cultures, different class backgrounds, different experiences and how they impact something as straightforward as—not just, like, someone's political ideology or just, like, in a class, just someone's response to something, to a topic of discussion. You know, it tells you—I'm not gonna say you can hear their response and read their background, 'cause obviously that's not always the case. But it's made me more aware of how the entire experience—everything from this moment starting here to since we were born, how it just all comes together to make the entire person.

I would say it's also made me a little less idealistic, a little less idealistic because I remember my Dartmouth interview. I talked about, like, microfinance; I talked about, like, social development. And, you know, I was really—President Kim would always quote Dickey, you know, “make the world's problems our own,” to paraphrase. And I could say that was really my approach coming into Dartmouth. [Chuckles.] I was very excited about the big problems. And I still am, to a certain extent.

But after coming to Dartmouth, it kind of gives you a better view on why we can't always find the solutions to the big problems, just because there are so many different experiences and there are so many different approaches, to the point where, you know, some things I thought were problems, you may not think are problems, and some things that you think are problems, I may not think are problems.

So you get a more complicated view of the world, whether that's through the academic experience of learning—you know, learning so much—or just going out and meeting people and having lunch conversations and talking with your professors. The world gets a lot more complicated. [Chuckles.]

WOMICK: Yeah, it does.

TURNER: Yeah. [Chuckles.]

WOMICK: So how do you think Dartmouth has changed since *you've* been here?

TURNER: How has Dartmouth changed since I've been here? Well, it's kind of hard for me to answer, simply because I don't really have the perspective of before I got here, so I don't know if things just move in cycles [chuckles] around here or if what I perceive as change is actually—you know, it's this type of linear or long-term change.

But just during my time here, I think I've seen—whether it's, like, the students who, you know, kind of represented or joined forces with the workers to protest the cuts, or articles that made national news about hazing. Not necessarily commenting on motives, but just having the whole hazing thing come out and be questioned, or—

Just last week, there was a great—there's, like, this cool program in FoCo, in the Food Court, the red cup program, where students can use a red cup if they wanna meet new people, which I always think is great because I always say after orientation, people just stop—they stop meeting new people. So I think that is great.

So I think there have definitely been some positive changes. There've been, like, some changes I would view as positive since I've been here, just from some of the criticisms I probably initially had with Dartmouth.

I would also say—what's some other changes? Well, the campus has changed. The campus has changed since I've gotten here. The new arts center, the Black Arts Center opened. The Loew Theater was moved. I actually went there a couple of weeks ago—well, right before spring break—to watch a French-language film there. So that's nice.

And I guess the Life Sciences building opened since I've been here. The new Food Court, Collis—yeah, there have been a lotta, like,—[chuckles.]

WOMICK: Campus looks really different.

TURNER: Yeah, campus looks different, a little. So those are the changes I've definitely seen. The Dean's Office moved, too.

The deans moved into the library, whereas they used to be in Parkhurst. I guess you can say they moved closer to the student population.

So those are some changes that have definitely happened since I've been here.

WOMICK: Yeah. That's a lot of changes.

TURNER: Yeah.

WOMICK: What would you say has been your most meaningful experience at Dartmouth?

TURNER: [Pause.] I wouldn't say there's been a single meaningful experience. I would really say it's the way they've kind of all intersected and they've kinda all come together. So from participating in, like, different organizations, to volunteering, to working at Kresge—you know, working under a manager [chuckles], to moving in with my friends this year, to goin' out in town, turning 21 and getting the first margarita from Molly's. It's definitely just all come together to create a meaningful experience. But I wouldn't say I could point to one particular time and say, "that, that was the most meaningful experience."

WOMICK: What advice would you give to someone who's just coming to Dartmouth?

TURNER: I would say explore your interests. I would say explore your interests. Explore your interests, meet new people. If you find something you're really interested in—like, one, maybe two—I wouldn't overextend myself 'cause in the long run, you'll probably be more impactful if you just have one or two things that you really can dedicate time to outside of class.

And if you're a athlete—so, I would recommend that you join something else and not necessarily Greek related. [Both chuckle.] 'Cause Greek is great, but I think a lot of Dartmouth students spend a lot of time with the—because we have no many organizations at Dartmouth, but I think a lot of them suffer because between the quarter system, between not having—you already don't have a lot of time for your classes, and then we just spend so much time on Greek life, which is

great, but I would say try to pick at least one organization outside of that and really, you know, try to build something there and dedicate your time to it. Yeah. And I think you'll find that it's really fulfilling, and I think it really adds overall to campus life. So the organizations aren't just failing and restarting every quarter, which is, like, the story of Dartmouth. [Chuckles.] Yeah.

And just stay positive, I guess. [Both chuckle.] And have fun. It's college. It *is* college, you know? It *is* college. So definitely have fun.

WOMICK: It is college.

TURNER: Yeah.

WOMICK: So I think that's it for my questions. Is there anything I haven't asked you about you wish I had or that you'd like to talk about that we haven't covered yet?

TURNER: Dartmouth's location. The location is interesting, especially the question about "does it impact your sense of community," because I don't necessarily think it impacts your sense of community, but it makes you—well, you could say it impacts your sense of community, but I think it really makes you question community and how you feel about community and your relationship to the community, because you're here; you're in Hanover; there's nothing else. So you're kind of like in a relationship and you have to make it work. [Laughs.] So I think there's a lot of critical kind of questioning and analysis of community relationship, how Dartmouth kind of blends. More so if you feel like an outsider. [Chuckles.] But it's still there overall, within the institution. So I think that's a positive, I guess, that people are kind of forced to—it's a good experiment. It's a good experiment to kind of bring everybody together and just kind of force us to make it work. Yeah.

WOMICK: Yeah. Big change for some people.

TURNER: Yeah, a big change for some people. For others, not so much. I think just having the critical voice there is good, too. Yeah.

WOMICK: Anything else before we turn off?

TURNER: No.

WOMICK: No? Good. Okay.

TURNER: I don't know. "Go, Big Green." [Laughter.]

[End of interview.]