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Dartmouth College Oral History Program
Dartmouth Community and Dartmouth's World
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WOMICK: Today is Monday, May the 6th, 2013. My name is Cally Womick, and I'm here in Rauner Library with Amanda Wheelock.

WHEELLOCK: Hello!

WOMICK: [Chuckles.] So to get us started, why don't you just talk about where you grew up?

WHEELLOCK: Sure. So, I'm from Ringgold, Georgia, although I always introduce myself as being from Chattanooga, Tennessee, because that is sort of the "big city" where I'm from. But it's not—so I'm from a suburb, but just right over the state line. So I grew up in Ringgold with my mom. And then my dad has lived in Atlanta for most of my life—or just outside of Atlanta. And I went to Girls Preparatory School (GPS), which is an all-girls private school in Chattanooga, from sixth through 12th grade. Before that I went to public school in Ringgold. And that was a really incredible experience. I absolutely loved it. And I loved my all-girls education. And Chattanooga is a beautiful city. The Tennessee River runs right through downtown. I was a rower in high school. So I was rowing right through downtown every day. So that was where I grew up.

WOMICK: That's great! So how'd you end up at Dartmouth?

WHEELLOCK: Well, I'd been in the same house since I was three. So I wanted to go new places and experience new regions of the country. Looking out West was a little too much for me just 'cause I think it would have been super expensive to fly me home for vacations and stuff like that. So I kind of looked pretty much exclusively in the Northeast. That was how I first started paring down things was just by location.

And the winter of my junior year—February of my junior year—my mom and I did like the big Northeast college tour. And I think we did like nine colleges in five days or something. So we hit the Philadelphia schools, we hit Middlebury, Dartmouth, Tufts, like, yeah, a bunch of different schools just all around New England. And

I was actually looking for a city school. I really liked Tufts, I really liked Brown, and Providence reminded me a lot of Chattanooga.

But Dartmouth kind of stayed on my list anyways; because even though it wasn't in the city, it was just like a really beautiful place. And, you know, the study abroad really attracted me and the sense of tradition on campus. My high school had a bunch of like really quirky traditions where people would dress up crazy and stuff like that. And so, like, it's not something that I know many people who looked for, like, tradition in their college search. Like, it was important, the professors or the study abroad. But that was actually something that really stuck out to me about Dartmouth, was that they had this sort of like kooky sense. And so it kind of stayed on my list.

And then my senior year I got a likely letter, and so I started thinking about Dartmouth more intensely, I guess. Or started giving it another look. And when I came up, my choices were made easier by... Brown and Tufts were still my top two, but I didn't get into either of them. So I kind of came up, and it was between, like, Dartmouth and Amherst and UPenn. And I came up the April of my senior year and was trying to make my decision and the moment I stepped on the Dartmouth campus – I mean, I didn't actually come for Dimensions or anything.

But I just remember that every person, my host—my random host the admissions office introduced me to was just like, “Oh, my gosh! You're a prospie? That's so cool. Like, What do you want to study? What do you want to do? This is what I study. This is what I do. This is why I love Dartmouth.” And like, it was so obvious to me that this was like a very strong community; and a place where despite the fact that I didn't know anybody here, nobody had any connection to me, just because I was an admitted student, they wanted me to be here, and they were interested in who I was. Whereas a lot of other schools that I visited were sort of like: at UPenn I remember it was like, “Oh, like, that's interesting. You should totally come here. Cool. Congratulations on getting in.” You know? [Laughter] I just didn't like have those connections with people the way I did.

And it was a little bit of a struggle getting here anyways. My financial aid package like wasn't quite what I wanted it to be. But it was really nice because even though at this point I really didn't want to go to UPenn, they had offered me a little bit more money.

So I was able to play Dartmouth and Penn off each other 'cause otherwise I would have gone to Villanova 'cause they offered me pretty much a full scholarship. And I really—Villanova was also a beautiful campus and it seemed like they were really great people; just not quite the academic standards as Dartmouth. So had I not gotten the financial aid package that I wanted at Dartmouth, I would have gone to Villanova. But eventually through like three rounds of negotiations with the two financial aid departments, being like, “Well, Dartmouth just gave me this much,” and “Penn just gave me this much,” I talked them down, and was able to like—I think it was April 29th I like got my last number back from Dartmouth and I had to tell them by April 30th or whatever. And I was like so happy. But it was a very stressful month.

WOMICK: Yeah. I'll bet.

WHEELLOCK: I really wanted to be here. And it was nice because after I made my decision and after I'd like sent in, you know, my acceptance—I don't think they required a deposit, but like telling them that I wanted to be here—my mom was like, “You know, even like from last year, I could tell I wanted you to be at Dartmouth.” And I was like, “What! Like you never told me.” And she was really good about not ever... Like she wanted me to choose my college which like I think a lot of parents aren't so good about that. But she really wanted me to be at Dartmouth. She could tell, even from the first visit here, that this was the place for me before I figured it out. And so it was really nice to like, once I chose, my mom was like, “Yeah,” like, “I think you made the right decision.” So.

WOMICK: Yeah. So what was orientation like when you finally got here for real?

WHEELLOCK: Gosh, that was so long ago! Well, I remember first coming up for Trips, my mom really wanted to move me in rather than, kind of, I think the normal thing to do, if you're on one of the later Trips sections, is to like dump all your stuff in your room and then go to Trips immediately. And then you move in when you get back. But I was really nervous and didn't really want to do that. So we came up the day—but we got like special permission since we were coming from so far away to come up the day before my Trip section. And so we moved all my stuff in. I was living in Rauner 4 in McLaughlin. And, yeah, got all my stuff set up.

And then I remember like my mom driving away, or like leaving. And I just started crying immediately; especially because I didn't know anybody on campus yet, and I was like, Oh, my gosh! I'm gonna spend my first night of college *alone* in my *dorm room*. Like, this is so sad. And I didn't have like a computer yet or anything. And so I went—I like found my UGA 'cause she was there, and I was like, "Do you know like where I could like check blitz or something?" And she was like, "Oh, you're so cute. There's blitz terminals all over campus." Which now there aren't. But back then there were.

And so she like pointed me in the direction of the library. And I went and like checked blitz, and I said, Maybe there's like something going on. And actually that was the day that—I was on Section I—so that was the day that Section E had gotten back. So it was the first day of Pre-O, luckily for me. So they had—Pre-O team had just blitzed out about pizza at EBAs or something. So I just like went and showed up, and I was pretty much the only kid there who wasn't from Section E. But I got to like spend that night like hanging out. I just remember really like playing goofy games in the McLaughlin courtyard and like got to hang out with them and that was like my first night. And then I started trips the next day.

And my trip was super-amazing. I did a trailwork trip. My leaders—one of my leaders, who was a '10, is like still one of my best friends to this day. And I was actually just talking to her yesterday about the job I just got, which is exciting.

But orientation I like barely remember. I came in. I didn't drink in high school. And so I came in not drinking at the beginning of college; I didn't think it was gonna stick with for like a super long time. But just because I wanted to like—didn't want to test those limits with people that I barely knew or didn't really know. So I wanted to like make the friends first and then, you know, start drinking, I guess. If that was like something I wanted to do. So I like went out a bunch, and I was really excited about like the dance-party scene.

But I didn't drink, which I guess was like—I don't know, seemed pretty normal to me. And it was actually really nice. I remember like going out and like both during orientation and like during freshman fall and stuff, and if people—like if I wanted to play pong and stuff like that, it would be like, "Oh, do you want beer?" And I was like, "No, no, I don't drink." And people were like, "Oh, okay." And like it

was never this sort of like, “Oh, are you sure?” which I feel like for a lot of my friends from high school, they sort of did similar things where they also didn’t drink when they got to college and had very different experiences with that. But at Dartmouth it was very much.... It just seemed like, not necessarily that it was a normal thing that everyone else was not drinking, obviously. But like that people didn’t really care either way what I wanted to do.

But yeah, I guess the one.... I don’t remember anything from orientation. I remember that it was really long. I was so ready for orientation to be over by the time it was over. I was—because we had finished classes May 15th; that was my graduation date. And the first day of orientation was September 15th. So it had been four entire months that I had been out of school. And I was like so ready to start classes. Like more than anything about college, I was just like ready to be in class.

And I spent my like.... I took a really, really hard history class. I took History of American Healthcare with Professor Koop my freshman fall, ‘cause that was when all the healthcare debates were raging in the House and Senate. So I thought it was interesting. And I knew it was gonna be hard, but I remember that first night of class. We’d started classes on a Wednesday, and I was on 3rd floor Berry until the library closed at two because I was doing.... Like that class had like 500 pages of reading a week. And like even the first half a week, it had like 300 pages. And I thought like I had to do every single page, ‘cause here I was coming from this like random school in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

I just remember being really nervous about how I was gonna do in my classes because I, you know, knew that I was going to be stacking up against kids from like Exeter and Andover and all these fancy New England private schools. So I knew that like I thought I was smart. But I had no idea. I don’t know. I realized afterwards that a lot of students come into Dartmouth with sort of the opposite mentality of, like, Oh, I’ve always been the smartest person in my class. I’m so smart, blah blah blah. Like I’m so excited to go to this Ivy League school. And then they have this shock where they get like their first B or something. Or like they realize they’re not the smartest kids in their classes anymore. But my mom did a very good job of telling me, like, “You’re not—there’s no way you’re gonna be the smartest kid. Like, you’re going to Dartmouth.” And so I came in with sort of the opposite, of like, I have to work so hard here. Like, I have no idea how I’m gonna do.

So freshman fall was like definitely a lot of studying. I remember people would come into my room on like a Wednesday night and be like, “Oh, like, you wanna go out?” And I was like, “It’s Wednesday. Like what are you people doing?!” [Laughter] “This is not a day for going out.” So I’d go hang out on like Friday or Saturday nights ‘cause I know—I’ve always been like a social person and to me it was like I couldn’t imagine like staying in on a Saturday night, especially just ‘cause I wouldn’t get anything done anyways. But like I studied a lot like definitely during the week.

I started playing Frisbee. I went to.... There was like an Ultimate meeting either during orientation or like the very first week of classes, of like, “Oh, just like come learn about the team.” It was in like Fahey, first floor. And they did this like really funny slideshow about what the ten reasons were that you should play Ultimate. And they were like absurd. And like one of the upperclassmen got water dumped on them. I don’t remember how it happened at all. But like basically one of my floor mates—Sophia Schwartz [‘13], who still plays—like we went together and like sat with a couple of other people we’d met on trips and like all this stuff. And it was just like—it was packed with freshmen.

And so I like knew.... I came in from rowing in high school knowing that I didn’t want to row, but that I did want to be part of a team. ‘Cause I knew that’s a really great way to meet people and also would be.... I knew that I wouldn’t exercise if I didn’t have a set time that I had to be there and like people expecting me to be somewhere. And Ultimate was a sport that I’d always been kind of interested in. But I didn’t really care. Like I was also interested in lacrosse, I was also interested in like, you know, if there was a club softball team or something like that. But I went to this meeting, and I was just like sold on the Ultimate Frisbee team. And just started going to practice a bunch. And like, also studied a bunch. Like, didn’t always make it to practice freshman fall. But like that very quickly became like a really good resource for me.

Like I still remember the first off-campus apartment I ever went to was for Friday Night Beers with the Frisbee team. And I actually ended up living in that apartment two years later. But I remember hanging out with like Rob Collier [‘13], who doesn’t play Frisbee anymore—or didn’t like past freshman fall. But just like going. And it was like this apartment was just like packed with people. And it was upperclassmen and freshmen and just like hanging out. It was

really my first going-out scene that wasn't in a frat at Dartmouth, which was also really nice 'cause it was just like people sitting around and talking, and I just remember the room was like buzzing. You know it was just kind of like not necessarily chill, because there were so many people there, but, you know, not in a basement and like in someone's nice apartment.

And I found out later, like a year later, that the people who lived in that apartment, who later became two of my really close friends, actually were gone that weekend at a tournament. And one of the other—these were two '11s—and one of the other '11s had [chuckles] broken into their apartment to host Friday Night Beers in their apartment. [Laughter] And I didn't know this until a good year afterwards. And then, yeah, starting my sophomore summer, I lived there.

So it was like, now looking back, you know, I had no idea at the time, but now looking back I have like so many connections just to that one night. It's sort of, like, I think of that as like when I first realized, Oh, this is like a super.... Like that and just the silly meeting that they did were like the first two times that I realized, like this is a really cool community. Like I'm so excited to be a part of this. And like didn't quite realize then like how big an influence that was going to have on my Dartmouth career or whatever. But it definitely did end up having one. So.

WOMICK: Yeah. So, I don't know, just talk about the rest of freshman year, everything that was going on.

WHEELLOCK: Okay. Yeah. So I remember I loved my classes freshman fall. I loved—my first class was a 10. I had like a 10, 11, 2A. And I loved not having to get up until nine in the morning or like even later on Tuesdays and Thursdays. I don't think I ever got up until noon like a lot of freshmen do. But being able to get up at like ten or eleven was super nice.

And I remember getting really long.... One of my very vivid memories from freshman fall was, it was like either... It was a weekday, like Wednesday or Friday or something, and around three, 'cause it was time for practice. And I'd just been Skyping with one of my best friends from home. And I got off Skype 'cause I needed to go to practice, and I just started crying. And like I.... And then Sophia walked in, 'cause we always walked over to practice together, and she came in and just found me like, literally, not even

like in my bed. Just like literally on the floor of my room crying. [Laughs] It must have been the most absurd scene. And she was like, “Oh, my gosh! Are you okay?” And like, yeah I think she like skipped practice for me that day ‘cause basically I was like...I was just like so out of it.

And it was just that feeling of like—‘cause I’d been at the same school for seven years. And so the friends that I had there were like, you know, really, really close friends and knew everything about me; knew me better than myself. And I didn’t—you know, it had been seven weeks. So like of course I didn’t have that.

But I think—I had the impression at least that... I think because everyone goes to college and they want you as their younger friend who’s still in high school to like, you know, see that their school is awesome so that you’ll go there, too, and that sort of thing. And like so I remember when people had come back from college for Christmas—like their freshman year—Christmas or something.... Like in previous years when I’d been in high school, everyone was just like, “Oh, my gosh! I love it!” Like, “You’re gonna love college so much.” Like, “It’s so awesome. Blah blah blah blah!”

And like I had all those feelings, too, but what they don’t tell you is like that first semester like you’re not going to make the friends that you made in seven years at GPS. Like it’s just not possible. And that was just something I never thought about ‘cause I think that was something people only talk about when they come back from their first semester at college. But obviously like didn’t have those really close bonds yet. And so that was just really hard, like being in a place where like no one really knew who I really was.

And I think also like I didn’t realize.... I don’t think being from the South was ever alienating. But I didn’t realize how different it would be. And it was always.... It was frustrating because I could never quite explain it, because it was all these little things that put together like really made a difference. And just like, I don’t know, the fact that like for my friends in high school, we’d all go to the football games on Friday night, and we’d all get dressed up and wear like sundresses and heels. And like that was my Friday night every Friday in the fall. And then after the football games, we would go to Waffle House.

WOMICK:

Yeah!

WHEELLOCK: And like in the North, no one cares about high school football or college football. And like no one wears sundresses. And there aren't Waffle Houses. Like you know! And it was just like really little stuff like that, that like I didn't feel like I was having the common experiences a lot of my peers did.

A lot of my freshman floor was Jewish; and there was like one Jewish girl in my grade in high school, like two in the grade below me. So that was very new for me. It was just like a culture that I was getting exposed to. Like, my roommate was Jewish. And I actually got to go home with her family for Thanksgiving 'cause she was from Connecticut, and it wasn't like feasible for me to go all the way to Tennessee for three days. So that was really nice.

But I remember I had three—I didn't have any exams freshman fall. I had all final papers, and they were all due.... One of them was due Monday, and two of them were due Tuesday. And luckily that was back when I was actually motivated to do things before the day before they were due. And so I remember like most of Thanksgiving I was like holed up in their guestroom, which was like in their attic, like doing research, 'cause one of my papers was a research paper. So I was just doing the research all during Thanksgiving break.

I guess, yeah. One of my other favorite memories during freshman fall was at the first snowfall. It was during finals. So I was like in the library the day that it was supposed to be the big snowball fight. Or that night I guess. And so I just remember like being on third floor Berry, and all of a sudden like everyone getting up at the same time, at like eleven fifty-eight, and like walking out of the library together. And then there was just this like crazy snowball fight on the Green. And then it hadn't actually snowed that much so after like 15 minutes, everyone just went back inside just like nothing had happened and like kept studying for their finals.

And then I remember I would do like that week, I'd write a paper, and then I'd take a day off. And then I'd write a paper, and then I'd take a day off. So I did that essentially for a week. And then on one of my days off, a bunch of my floor mates and I just like went sledding on the golf course. Just like, yeah, took off from McLaughlin, went sledding, and that was super fun.

But at that point I was so ready for freshman fall to be over. Like I was so excited to go home and see my friends. Like I loved my classes. I felt really happy at Dartmouth. I felt like I was starting to

make those close friends. I hung out with my floor a lot. But I think the people that I was really connecting with were the Ultimate team, but I hadn't quite like let myself realize that yet, I guess. But I was so ready to go home and to go back to the South and like to be surrounded by familiar things and like people who really knew me so well. So that was like a really good break.

And I came back for freshman winter really energized. And I'd gotten really good grades freshman fall. So I sort of went the opposite direction of like, well, I came in being, Oh, shoot, I have to do every single piece of work because I have no idea how I'm gonna stack up against these people, to being like, Oh, well, maybe I *can* make it here. Maybe I *don't* have to study as hard. And so I started like going out with my floor all the time. That was like everyone's typical ragey freshman fall was like my freshman winter, where I was just like a little term behind.

And we always had practice. In the winter we had practice in Leverone from ten to midnight 'cause we got the really crappy times 'cause all the varsity sports get like their choice of practice times. So a lot of times if we had practice on Wednesday or Thursday or something, like all the freshman girls would like go out—like go shower really quick and then go out together after practice or something.

And that term was sort of the first term—I was actually thinking about this this morning—of sort of when my work-study—I came in and I had to do work-study, and I got involved with America Reads my freshman fall, which was really great. 'Cause especially freshman fall that was really the only time that I got off campus at all. And even though I was only talking to like second graders, it was nice to be talking to people who weren't 18 to 22 years old.

WOMICK: Mm-hmm.

WHEELLOCK: And that was sort of the first time that my like work-study and my obligations to financial aid and that sort of thing interfered with my academics. I guess really like the first and the only time. Like I think it's been very manageable. And the nice thing about Dartmouth is there are so many interesting—you know you don't have to just get like a library job or a cafeteria job. Like there are so many cool jobs on this campus. I've been able to spend my time getting paid to do things that I think enrich my education, which is really nice.

But I signed up for a shift that term. And they always tell you like don't sign up during your x-hours; 'cause even if the professor says you aren't gonna use them, like if you have to get a sub for an x-hour, like that's not a good excuse 'cause that's a conflict you knew about before. But I was like, Ehh, this professor said at *most* he'll use one, so like I can get a sub one week, and that'll be fine. He used seven of the nine x-hours that term.

WOMICK: Ooh!

WHEELLOCK: And so I didn't go 'cause I had like committed to the—like they had told me, you know, "Don't sign up during an x-hour." And I really loved the job, and I really didn't want to lose it. Like I think this is still a good choice because I'm now student director of America Reads and have been for all senior year. So it's been something that I've stayed involved with all four years. But I just like skipped all the x-hours because like I didn't... I was like, I would rather go to work and stuff. But that was like a really hard choice to make. And I did not do—that's still my worst grade at Dartmouth was the grade that I got in that class.

And I had a 9, 10, 11 that term, which was brutal. I've never taken three classes in a row again. I couldn't do it. By the time I got to my 11, which was really interesting.... It was Gov 5 with [Benjamin] Valentino who was actually my freshman advisor and was like actually one of the only helpful first-year advisors I think, at least back when they had the silly structure that they had when we were freshmen. And it was a great class. But I just like could not handle it. Like I was always so tired. And it didn't help that I went out a bunch and all that stuff.

But that term I really remember.... What I mostly remember from that term is that was really the term where like I started really connecting with a lot of the other freshmen on the team and when I made—like I remember that was when I became friends with Ian Herrick ['13], who's still my best friend today. And like Katie De La Rosa ['13], who I lived with all of junior year. And that was really like.... The UGA who was on the floor next to me, Karen Afre ['12], was really incredible. And that was when I first like actually got to know her. And she was so helpful to me that term.

And like that was when I really first started feeling like, Wow, these people like actually understand where I'm coming from and know who I am, and like want to get to know me better, and I want to get

to know them better. That was the first time I definitely felt like I had these really like solid friendships. And, no, they weren't the same as the ones that I'd had for seven years in high school. But I could see them becoming that in the future. Whereas in freshman fall, I really just like—I had friends, but I didn't have friends...yet, at least.

And that was when that sort of really started to come together. And that was—I got to plan Frisbee Formal that term. And that was sort of the term that I first started...I realized that the Frisbee team hung out and like studied in Collis. I started studying in all the Collis study rooms instead of the library. Freshman fall was like the only term I studied in the library until this term—or, last term when Collis wasn't open. And it was a tragedy. [Chuckles.]

So I'd like go study with the upperclassmen and go eat lunch on the Collis couches, which were like a Frisbee like, you know, mecca basically. That was like where everyone was at like during lunch and stuff. And I remember also like even freshman fall, like end of freshman fall, beginning of freshman winter, I was like one of the first freshmen who like would go up to all the upperclassmen and like sit on the couches with them.

And it's funny, 'cause like the Frisbee upperclassmen are like the least intimidating people. But every year there's a thing where like the freshmen aren't sure if like they're like part of the Frisbee community enough to like go sit on the Collis couches. And I was like one of the first '13s to do that just 'cause I'm like a loud and outgoing person. And all the other—like, I was like—saw one of the other freshmen in Collis and I was like, "Oh, come sit on the couches with us." And they were like, "Noo," like, "We can't." [Chuckles] And I was like, "Come on!" [Laughs.]

But, yeah, that was definitely like a very weird term in that it was like a very ragey term; but also like when I really started to become part of the Frisbee community, when I first started like hanging out off campus. So it was definitely like.... I think that was a term for a lot of like change for me. And like a lot of solidifying. But like also still like freshmen, crazy, lots of stuff going on, trying to balance work and classes, like that sort of thing.

And then I went on spring break with the Ultimate team, and that was really incredible. I very much felt like I was already part of the team before that. But that's really the time when all the freshmen start to like—you know, especially those who like aren't as outgoing

or something and haven't maybe met a lot of the upperclassmen—that's really when they like first really feel like they're a part of the team. And so that was really like such a great experience. We got to go down South, which was nice for me.

And then I came back freshman spring. And by that point I like really didn't hang out with—I just remember that term like something changed, I think. So I started doing Dimensions. And that became a really big social group for me. So that sort of like took the place of my floor. 'Cause at that point I was already feeling pretty disjointed I guess from my freshman floor. People just like weren't.... They were all really nice people, but I just—I didn't quite click with them. So I kept hanging out with the Frisbee people and then started hanging out a lot with the Dimensions people. And I actually met—one of the girls I met through that, Allie Bosch ['13], became my roommate for sophomore year. I had like never met her before spring term.

So that term was a lot of like hanging out at Sig Ep because that was where the Frisbee team was and where the Dimensions kids were. So like that worked out well. A lot of like making up lyrics in random study rooms in freshman dorms. And that was a really good experience. And I really, really loved Dartmouth and was very happy—like, yeah, that was—like, I really loved it. And sophomore year when I was involved as like a leader, I definitely had a much more like measured perspective, I think, than I did freshman year. But, yeah, I thought it was really fun and like a good program to be involved with my freshman spring.

And it finally got nice outside. I think the worst thing about freshman winter was that like it barely snowed 'cause I'd wanted to learn how to cross-country ski and wanted to go to the Skiway. I think I was at the Skiway like once or twice. And like it was just never snowy enough to like do anything. So it was just kind of cold and like not really all that fun 'cause it was cold but no snow.

WOMICK: That was when the temperature got down to -30, right?

WHEELLOCK: No, that was sophomore winter, which was when I was not here—thankfully. [Laughter]

So it got warm out, and like Frisbee was super fun to play. And like we had—that's when we had all of our tournaments. And that was just like really.... I don't even remember much.... Yeah, I remember

like Dimensions taking up a lot of my time and being involved with that group. Like even after the show had happened, like hanging out with a lot of them. And I remember playing a lot of Frisbee and taking like.... I took Geography 1 in the fall, and then I took like my second geography class that spring, and I really liked it and had a couple of other good friends in the class. Like that was a good experience.

I know it was at that point I was already planning on or wanting to do Environmental Studies FSP in South Africa 'cause I took my first pre-req for that freshman spring. I started taking Spanish 'cause I had also, during the winter, I had applied to do the LSA in Mexico. So I did Spanish 1 in the spring, Spanish 2 in the fall. And then went to Mexico my sophomore winter. So that was like—that was a term that was cool 'cause I really prepared, and I felt like I knew what I was doing. So I was taking these classes so that I could do these things in the future. And I knew.... I found like at the beginning that spring that I was gonna do Trail Crew with the DOC for freshman summer. So I didn't really want to go home just 'cause it was so hot in Tennessee in the summers. Yeah. And that was a good term.

And then I mean the biggest thing I remember from that was banquet. Just like we have—the Ultimate team has banquet at the Lodge at the end of every spring. And I just remember bequests. Like I didn't know what bequests were before that, and that was just like such an incredible.... Like that's still my favorite thing about Dartmouth. Like, maybe not my favorite, but it's like one of—I just think it's an incredible tradition of like.... And it's so stupid. But it's just like, Hey, like here's this *stuff*. And like this stuff.... I mean there's some stuff that's on the Frisbee team that's like the actual stuff is meaningful because it's like 20 years old, and it's like from—you know, it's a disk from the first tournament we hosted. Or it's, you know, the team flag or like whatever. So there are some like things that are actually meaningful. But most of bequest is like, Here's this *thing*. It like doesn't—like, it's just a thing. Like it doesn't actually mean that much. But like *you* mean so much to me that I want to give you this *thing* as like a physical manifestation of like how much you mean to me. And I think that that's so powerful.

And especially for me it like.... I love bequests, but it doesn't make as much of a difference to me because all the people that I'm gonna bequest stuff to this year, like they already know that they mean that much to me because I tell them. And I'm like so unafraid

to say like “I love you.” Like, “I care about you.” But like for some of the.... You know, there were like some of the senior guys on our team who I’d like never seen emit any emotions other than like you know intensity about winning or something like that. Like it was so.... Like, you know, there were people like they were just crying. It was just amazing seeing like how much this program and this school and the community meant to everyone and to all the seniors.

And there were sort of.... I mean with the Frisbee team it’s interesting ‘cause you have like the A and B teams and stuff. And there were some bequests that like only stay in the men’s A team, only stay in the women’s B team, something like that. But a lot of them were more just like one person appreciating another person regardless of what team we were on. Yes, we like know each other because we like playing with these stupid little plastic discs. But like what really matters to me about you is like X, X, and X. And that was just really cool to see Dartmouth Ultimate like not just as a team but as like a truly strong community that meant so much to people, like so much beyond the sport. You know it was like really the defining experience for a lot of people at Dartmouth. And it became mine as well.

And then I—yeah, I stuck around freshman summer. And like got to spend the summer on the Appalachian Trail, which was incredible. Like, New Hampshire summers are beautiful. And that was when I also like—I came in really loving the DOC as a part of Dartmouth. And I thought that was like one of the coolest things about Dartmouth. And then freshman year just like didn’t really make it a priority and got kind of caught up in every other thing that I was doing.

But that was the term where I also first felt like the DOC was a really big part of my community because I met so many people who were really involved in it, both who were doing summer crew and that was also the summer that Ledyard was building Titcomb Cabin. So I met a bunch of Ledyard people through that and a lot of CnT people through Trail Crew. And I met a lot of the ‘12s who were around that summer who were part of the DOC, ‘cause one of them would like, you know, come help us for a day; or like we would be at the Lodge on the weekends, and they would be up there eating dinner.

So that was.... Even though I didn’t actually like really get involved with the DOC outside of being on Trail Crew until like junior year or

something, like I came into sophomore year feeling that that was a community I could draw from. Like even if I didn't go hiking every weekend, I knew enough of the people that I felt comfortable like hanging out and stuff like that. So that was really nice. And then—should I just keep going?

WOMICK: Yeah.

WHEELLOCK: Okay.

WOMICK: Just keep going.

WHEELLOCK: Yeah. And then that summer was also great because it rained like four days during the week all summer. So it was like just really handy for us. And on weekends a lot I would come in. A lot of people who were on Trail Crew stayed at the Lodge. But I had a couple good friends—Sophia who's a '13 was on that summer. So I'd come in and like hang out with her, like stay at her house on the weekends, stay with some of the '12s. And kind of hang out in Hanover and like go adventuring. And she had a car. So we like...and she went to Holderness. So she's from like sort of around this area. So we would go for a hike or like go get ice cream or something like that. And that was just like, yeah, a really great summer.

And then sophomore fall was a terrible term. I came into sophomore fall like knowing.... I came into that summer, I guess, like not really sure if I was gonna rush. I like didn't really care either way. I was like, Well, it could be fun. But like, seems like a lot of hassle. Like I don't know, whatever. And then actually that summer, like talking.... What really made my decision, ironically, to not rush was talking to two girls on Trail Crew who were '11s, who were involved with houses and who really loved their houses. So you'd think that that would like make me want to rush. But basically like all the things that they said that they got out of their houses were like things that I already felt like I got out of Ultimate and the DOC.

And so I was just like, Oh, like okay. I sort of understand now more from like actually talking to these upperclassmen women like what the benefits of being in a house are. And like, seems like I already have those things, and I don't need to spend money every term to get *more* of those things. And the way that they put it, too, to me was very much like you get out of it what you put into it. And if you put in a lot of time, you're gonna get a lot of really great rewards.

And if you just like have it as sort of a side thing, it'll be like nice every once in a while, but it's not gonna, you know, give back to you in the same way. And I realized like, I'm not really gonna have a lot of time to put into this. It would definitely be just a side thing for me. So like why spend the money?

So I came into sophomore fall, I was living in Wheeler, in a one-room double with Allie Bosch. And that was really great. She was an awesome roommate, and we had like a blast. And I was taking Spanish still and getting excited to go to Mexico. And, you know, playing Frisbee. I don't remember what else I was taking that fall. Oh, environmental studies, again, to—for the ENVIS FSP. And something else, but I don't remember.

But I really just remember like even though I didn't rush and knew I didn't want to rush, like it took up so much of like my time and my conversations. And it's funny because I think I'm one of the few people who is very adamantly not involved with the Greek system and never wanted to be. But I still hang out there a lot, and I still have a lot of friends who are. Whereas most people, I feel like, if they're not involved with the Greek system by like their sophomore or junior year, they've kind of like completely drawn back from those spaces. Or they'll go out like on big weekends, and that's sort of it. At least that's the experience of most of my friends who are unaffiliated.

So it was very in my face in the way that it wasn't for a lot of my friends who weren't rushing. And just like every conversation I had in Collis or whatever it was like, "Oh, so like how is rush for you?" "Oh, are you excited about rush?" Or like, "What house are you in now?" Like if I wanted to say, you know, "Oh, I didn't rush," they were just like, "Oh, okay." So I had to, even though I didn't really want to have the conversation. I just remember having this feeling of like, Oh, you know... But like, Oh, I didn't rush. "But like, how's rush going for you?" 'Cause that was like all people wanted to talk about.

And I remember—I think the last straw was this one girl—who I actually really loved; she's one of my good friends; she's on the team but like a lot of the Frisbee girls are in Sigma Delt and she was in AZD. And I actually thought that if I had rushed, I would like to be in AZD because I knew a lot of the girls in Sigma Delt already. And I felt like those were people I could get to know regardless of whether I was in the house, which I think was true. But AZD, I—like

all the girls who were in AZD were like people that I knew and thought were awesome, but like didn't know that well, didn't really have a reason to get to know them.

But she was like sitting on.... We were sitting on the Collis couches one day and she was like, "Oh, like Molly," who was like their rush chair or something, "was like talking about you. And like how she would— like it'd be awesome if you like rushed and got into AZD or whatever." And like before I could say anything, she was like, "But, like, I told her, like you're gonna be a Sigma Delt." And I was just like, "Well, I'm not rushing." But like the fact, you know, I wasn't even gonna rush, but like—and I haven't even rushed yet—but like people had already put me into this box of like this is your label, like this is the kind of person you are.

And it just like made me so mad. And like this girl, like I still love her, like she had the best of intentions, but just like the fact that that was like such a normal way of thinking. It was just so infuriating to me. And I was like, Well, if there's any question in my mind about whether or not I was gonna rush, like that just like sealed it. Which, granted, unaffiliated comes with its own, you know, labels and thoughts, too. But like I think it's.... There are more reasons for being unaffiliated than there are for like being in Sigma Delt, being.... I don't know, like it's a larger box that people put you in, I guess.

Oh, before any of this happened, the other part of sophomore fall that was really awesome was that I led trips. And I got to lead like two trips actually. 'Cause I led on section A, and then like one of the trip leaders of section H dropped out. And then they couldn't find.... They'd like gone through all the waitlist, couldn't find anybody. And I was back on campus and was just planning on like hanging out for all of the interim. So I ended up leading two trips of '14s, which was pretty crazy.

WOMICK: That's intense.

WHEELLOCK: I ended up having 14 '14 Tripeeeps. [Laughs.] But I led two hiking trips, and that was like really awesome. And some of my Tripeeeps like.... It was cool to see some of them, like, some of them are still best friends and to like hang out with them that fall. And I don't think I did as good of a job as a trip leader as I wanted to, just because it was like so overwhelming to like have so many. And like also I wasn't having a great term. But it like was a great experience and

was really cool. And was like the first time I sort of like.... It hit me like, Oh, I'm not a freshman anymore. Like I'm supposed to tell these people like what's cool about Dartmouth and what's not. I don't know. Or like what's fun. But, yeah.

And sophomore fall, also, because I don't think it was just like the Greek system thing, but just also the fact that I hadn't left Dartmouth since I'd started. Like I went home for like a few days. I went home at Christmas and I went home in between freshman spring and freshman summer, but for like a very short amount of time. And then I didn't go home at all after freshman summer, so I went right into Trips and interim or orientation, whatever. So I just hadn't—I hadn't been home. And more than I hadn't been home, I hadn't been not at Dartmouth for a really long time. And like even though freshman summer was like in the middle of the woods, it was still like with Dartmouth people, like I was at Dartmouth on the weekends. And I was just ready to be somewhere that wasn't Dartmouth and that wasn't Hanover.

And so I think that was sort of it, too, was just like a feeling of like burnout. And I'm really glad that I did what I did freshman summer; like I wouldn't change it. It was an awesome job. But yeah, it wasn't like.... I was ready to be gone by the end of sophomore fall for sure. And it wasn't like a terrible term. Like I had a really fun time getting to teach the new freshmen how to play Frisbee and like all this stuff. But by the time my LSA came around it was like, just, yeah. Like, I needed it.

So I went home for Christmas again, and I went on my LSA to Mexico, and I had this incredible host family. I had two brothers who were about the same age as me, and one of them I got along with really well. So I got to hang out with his friends a lot. And I played Ultimate Frisbee down there actually. So I got to hang out with my teammates a lot. And I definitely did hang out with the Dartmouth kids. That was my biggest problem with the program was that like they didn't ever hook us up with the international students' group or something like that. We really only had each other.

And like luckily, because I had a really cool host brother and I played a sport, I was able to make connections with local students like relatively easily and like much more easily than some of the other kids in my group. But most people like definitely felt.... And maybe some people also wanted to just hang out with the Dartmouth kids. But like I, for one, wanted to go to Mexico to speak

Spanish and to learn about Mexico, to learn about how Mexican college students live their lives. And I think that the structure of the LSA made it more difficult to do that than I expected it to. Just in that you're only in classes with other Dartmouth kids, and they don't really try to like give you any resources outside of that to meet people.

But I managed and had.... I loved Mex— I just loved the pace of life there. I think our history teacher said it really well, in that like, “Americans live to work, and Mexicans work to live.” And like family was just a lot more important there, and that was—yeah, it was just yeah. It was just more relaxed, and you did things because you loved them. And, yeah, you worked because that was what gave you money to do things you loved and to hang out with people you love, rather than like you were gonna work 80 hours a week 'cause like that was what you wanted to do.

I really loved that attitude, and the weather—it was 70 and sunny or 80 and sunny every day. And like it was winter in Hanover. And that was the winter it was really cold and really snowy, and I was not bummed that I was missing it. [Laughter.] And the LSA in Mexico was set up really nicely in that we had like four different fieldtrips. We went to Mexico City, we went to Oaxaca, we went to this like indigenous village and volunteered for the weekend—which, like, as a development, like a geography major, I have some issues with, but [chuckles] like was a good experience. And we got to hang out with really cute kids. So that was cool.

And then we went on vacation for a week, so I went with like half of my group down to the very southernmost part of the country. We went to see some really cool ruins. We actually.... My trip leader, who had graduated the year before, was working down in Mexico studying monkeys. So I got to see her which was just crazy. And then I went to the beach for a few days on the Pacific coast. And that was really the first—I'd been to Australia when I was really little. My dad's family is all Australian. So we had gone when I was like six to visit everyone. But other than that I had never been abroad before going to Mexico. So that was just...having the Dartmouth sort of safety net and having the professor, like Professor [Antonio] Gómez, from Dartmouth was amazing. He's like still one of my favorite professors to this day. And so having that structure was really, really nice, and I'm really glad that I did go on a Dartmouth program.

Yeah, but so it was a little like too Dartmouthy for me at times. But it was enough of a vacation—like when I left Dartmouth I was so ready to be gone and like that was the term that I needed. Like it was really incredible. I learned a ton. I've actually been able to keep up with my Spanish mostly since then, which has been nice. And it was just like an amazing like first abroad experience. And like really, really understanding that like people actually—like, it's not just that people speak a different language or that there's, I don't know, like that the geography is different or something like that; but that it's really a different way of like seeing things from country to country. And like the everyday way that you live your life is so different, and that was really cool.

And that was where I kind of figured out that I really—I haven't like acted on this or anything—but I'm really interested in languages and sort of the differences. And like the fact that there are like words in Spanish that I understand because I speak Spanish, but I can't translate them to my friends. And like that there's things I can express in a language that isn't even my own language that I can't express in English.

Like there's this one Mexican saying—and this isn't even like an all-Spanish thing but in Mexico specifically—like the thing that really sets Mexican Spanish apart from other countries in Latin America is that they have a lot of slang. And there's this one expression, ni modo, that my host mom would use all the time. And like if you really want to really roughly translate it, it means like, Oh, it doesn't matter. It's sort of like, Whatever will be, will be. Like, Now we have—like, Okay, like yeah, that wasn't great. But now I have to move on from it. Like whatever. It can be like all those different things.

But like really there's just no translation for it. And just from hearing her say it in all these different scenarios, like I feel like I really understand the meaning. And there were certain words like that and stuff when I got back and I couldn't explain. So that was really cool. In Mexico it was beautiful, and it was amazing. That was such a good term.

And then I came back straight to spring break with Ultimate team again, which was really fun. And then sophomore spring I lived.... I was supposed to be in the Lodge. Allie Bosch and I were living together again. We had both been off for the winter. She had gone home. And so we got stuck in the Lodge when we came back. But

luckily, like we lived there for a week, and it was like so far. It was like all of the bad, like inconvenient parts of living off campus with none of the good parts of like cheaper rent and like having your own kitchen. [Laughter.] Like, it just didn't make any sense.

But one of her sisters from Sigma Delt blitzed out, and like her roommate had just decided to like leave for an off term like literally the day before classes started. And she had a mid-Mass triple that had like two spots open now. And I'd never met this girl, and I was like, "I don't know. Like what if I don't like her?" But so we ended up.... But Allie was like, "No, you're gonna get along great." So we moved in after one week of living in the Lodge, we moved into mid-Mass, which like everyone had told me like how convenient Mass row was, and I was like, But does it really make that much of a difference? And like it totally did. [Laughter.] I don't know how, but it was like—Wheeler was also really convenient and also a great dorm, but it made such a difference. And so I loved living there.

And so Bailey actually, Bailey and Allie and I—and so it was like Allie and I lived together first, and then the three of us lived together. And then Allie and Bailey lived together junior year, and then Bailey moved in with a bunch of Frisbee players her senior year. So we've all lived together this year. So we've kind of switched everyone around. But that was really great 'cause I just moved in with this like rando girl I'd never met before. And then she ended up becoming one of my best friends and has been and will be for the rest of my life. So that was a very happy accident.

And sophomore spring I came back like so refreshed from Mexico. And that was just like when I really started to feel like, you know, kind of a leader on the Ultimate team. That season was a little tough because it had been so snowy that year that we didn't get our fields until like the fifth or sixth week of term; whereas normally, like this year we got them the second or third week. Like last year we got them the first day 'cause it didn't snow at all junior winter. And so, which, yeah was one of those things that I just never really thought about, like making a difference. But we just like had to practice like on the Green. And you can't really have a full practice on the Green. But that was like where we were. At least the B team. So that was like a little hard.

And I was taking decently difficult classes that spring. I was taking two geography classes, which was my major. So I spent a decent amount of time studying, but like a lot of time just like outside. I

don't know. It was like a pretty unremarkable term. It was just one of those sort of like in-between things, because I had just gotten back from Mexico. I was excited about sophomore summer. But sophomore spring was just kind of like, Eh, like just another term at Dartmouth. And I like don't even really have like very many specific memories from that term.

That was—I'll take that back. I guess the '11s. Some of my best friends on the Frisbee team were '11s. There just weren't very many '10s, at least on the women's team. And the '12s I never quite connected with. But I had like four or five really, really close friends like who I'm still in touch with who are '11s. So that term was a lot of just like hanging out with them as much as I could while they were still here, which was really fun, but also really hard. 'Cause that was like the first year that it was like, Oh my gosh! People are leaving me and scattering everywhere. But other than that, it was, yeah, pretty unremarkable term.

And then I went into sophomore summer, started living off campus, which made all the difference. I love living off campus. Just having my own space. I think especially.... If I had joined a house, the only reason why I would have would have been to like have my own social space to invite people over and to—because I really love like hosting things and like being able to hang out with my friends. But it's so hard to do that if you're like living in a dorm room and you're like, "Hey," like, "come hang out in my bedroom." Like, "Let's watch a movie." [Laughter.]

So I was so excited to move off campus and did so like pretty much as soon as I could. And I moved into that apartment that I had been to like first thing freshman fall that two of my '11 friends had moved out of. And so I lived there sophomore summer and then junior winter and spring with the same two girls, Noam and Katie. And that was really fun, just like being off campus.

Like it was the summer; I was taking two really interesting classes. That was when I got to take the Public Policy class where they had like all of the speakers come in. So I got to have lunch with Rudy Giuliani, and I got to talk with Jeanne Shaheen. And I got to like hear Tim Geithner speak. And like all these really incredible people who are obviously so intelligent. And like I didn't agree with everyone who came in.

But like I think the coolest one was I got to have dinner with like four other people, like four other students, and Robert Reich. And he's crazy. And also like so short; I had no idea. But just like, a) knowing that he had been like a secretary of labor, but then also just like he was definitely the most liberal like mainstream politician that I had met, or like really heard of, I guess. Because he was someone that like was able to...like is pretty, decently radical; but worked in a like, you know, a normal administration as the secretary of a department. Like, you know, very high up there. So that was really cool to see sort of like how he balanced his success, which requires some amount of being in the mainstream and appeasing people; but also like being a pretty radical leftist.

It was cool to see someone like who has sort of dabbled in being...like trying to think of myself as a radical but not quite, 'cause I always end up sort of seeing it more of like the working inside the system being more effective. But that was like stuff that I thought a lot about that term, with it being like my first policy class and like meeting all these people who did have the power to effect such important changes. And then I also took my last prereq for my FSP that I was gonna go on in the fall to South Africa and Namibia.

And ended up working a lot that term. Because I was only taking two classes, so I was, Oh, I can add on an extra job. America Reads doesn't run in the summer, so I decided to start interning in admissions, and that was like a good ten-hour week. And then I was working at the Hop, although I had started that sophomore fall. But during the summer especially they need people to work a lot of shifts just 'cause there aren't as many people around, but there are still just as many shows. So I was working like 20 hours a week. And the most I'd worked in a week before that was like 10, maybe 12 hours on a busy week. And I was pretty consistently working 20 hours a week that term.

But I was like, Oh, I'm only taking two classes; it'll be fine. My two classes ended up being about as hard as three normal classes. So I wanted to plan my sophomore summer in a way that I could just like wake up and not have anything planned for the day and be able to go on an adventure. And I wasn't able to do that. If I wanted to adventure, I had to plan it out. But that being said, like it was still... It was really rewarding doing two jobs that I really loved, like taking classes I really loved. So it wasn't quite as just sort of like as free-floating as I wanted my sophomore summer to be. But it was still really incredible.

I pretty much just spent my entire summer outside, either doing work on my porch or sitting by the river or playing Frisbee. Like I didn't want to be anywhere near Webster, like I didn't want to be anywhere near like the indoors at all. Like, it was just such a beautiful summer. And that was like the best part of the term for me, was just being able to hang out with people who I loved in places that I loved.

Frisbee's really fun in the summer; 'cause you—since there are fewer people on, you get to play with.... The men and women basically join to create like a mixed team. So I got to play with like the A teamers, who I'd never played with 'cause I never tried out for A team, I like always wanted to play B. But also like the men who I'd had never, ever played with because usually women's are all joined in the fall and then we split for the winter and spring. So I'd played with like the other girls who were '13s, but I'd never obviously played with the men. And so we were all just like one team. We all had practices together. And that was so fun. Just like getting to have that bonding as a team and a class.

And I got to know.... I think the coolest thing sophomore summer was that I got to know a lot of people who I'd already known but never—because I'd wanted to like hang out with my '11 friends—I'd never had the time to like blitz some '13 and be like, "Hey, I think you're interesting. Like let's get lunch, we don't know each other that well." And I also met a lot of people who I'd never met before in our class. And that was really cool. Just like really.... I came out of sophomore summer with two really strong friendships, both with guys on the team, who I'd known for two years, but I'd just never like.... Thought they were cool, but like had never been that close with them. And a couple of other good friends as well. Or like people who had just been kind of acquaintances and now I can actually like call on as friends. And that was really cool.

And then I went to South Africa, and that was amazing. I took a year off from Trips 'cause I was gonna be off fall and winter. So I didn't do anything involved with that program that year. But went home for a couple of weeks to like decompress from Dartmouth and all that sort of stuff and get ready. 'Cause I knew I was gonna be living with the same 13 people, like a lot of the time in tents, for ten weeks. I was gonna be around these people all the time. So I needed some like—so I basically spent like a week shut up in my

room like watching TV at home to like get—like, stock up on the alone time.

And then that was really incredible. I came into Dartmouth really wanting to study international development, that's why I became a geography major. Because I remember like getting the letter from—a lot of the smaller departments sent out these letters the summer before our freshman year saying basically, "Hey, we exist, and we have cool classes. Like here's a list of some of them. You should take them." And I got the one from the geography department and like every class title was like, you know, Moral Economies of Development, like Food and Power, like, you know, Population, Culture and, you know, whatever—the environment. And like they all sounded so interesting to me.

So I came in and took Geography 1 my freshman fall. Absolutely loved it and like was a geography major from then on out. Decided to modify with ENVS so that I'd have a better chance of getting on the ENVS FSP 'cause I really wanted to do that. And then it actually turned out I really liked the ENVS stuff, too.

So I took mostly development classes within the geography department the first couple of years, and with the FSP, the two like sort of focuses—foci—of the FSP were conservation and development. And so we went to all these national parks and were learning about, you know, the conservation management plans for these parks and how like these big spaces can be used to conserve like animals and plants and all this stuff. But then we also went to a lot of like sort of eco-tourism lodges and talked about how the environment is playing a role in development in these places and, you know, especially in South Africa, Namibia, you know, eco-tourism is like one of the main development projects.

And through that FSP I realized that I really didn't want to do development. That I thought it was really interesting, and I like thought that some of the projects were really cool. But it just like wasn't where my heart was. And like that's something where you like need to be in it 150 percent, if that's what you want to dedicate your life to, 'cause it's so hard. And like I thought it was interesting, but I just—and it was funny, 'cause I had this moment where I was Skyping. I was in South Africa, I was in like this little Internet café in Pretoria. And I was Skyping my friend from home, who goes to the University of Richmond. And I was telling her, "I just like"—we'd just gotten back from our first fieldtrip, and I was having these feelings

of like, I don't know. Like this isn't.... Like I don't know if I could do this. And she says to me, "Well, you haven't really liked your development classes for like two years...like really since you've been at Dartmouth. Like they haven't always been your favorites." And I was like, "Oh, my gosh, you're right."

And it was just like one of those moments where like that had been my like—that was what I was gonna do with my life for so long 'cause I knew I wanted to like give back in some way. And that was the most obvious way to do it was like, you know, go work in the Peace Corps after graduation. Go volunteer. Essentially, get paid to volunteer for the rest of your life.

WOMICK: Mm-hmm.

WHEELLOCK: And that was the way that I saw that like I was gonna give back like all the gifts that I had been given growing up. So I knew that like if I didn't have that, then like what was I gonna do? You know, like that was what I'd been interested in. So I couldn't really let it go. And so even though she was right and I hadn't—like, the development classes had given me a lot of trouble and a lot of just like.... In the geography study of development and stuff, there's just so many questions of morality and of, you know, colonial power structures that are still in place. And like all these things. There's just like so many issues. And that had really troubled me. But I hadn't like let myself realize that.

So it was one of those like really nice moments of like your friends know you better than yourself. And as soon as she said that, I was kind of freed from this like.... You're right. Like, I shouldn't do this. Like I haven't been interested in this in a while. Or, my heart hasn't been in it for a while. But I actually did really love the conservation part of the environmental studies FSP. I really got interested in the environmental science part and sort of in the human environment relations.

And also got to see some incredible places. Got to go on safari for a week as "class," like quote unquote. It was amazing! Like it was such an incredible program. Just the fact that Dartmouth offers that is unbelievable to me. And like to study abroad was one of the things that stuck out to me about Dartmouth. And it's been one of my favorite parts. That was an incredible term. I learned so much about myself and about what I want to do with my life and what I

didn't want to do with my life. But also just like being able to see the places we saw.

That was interesting in that my first abroad experience was such a cultural immersion, language immersion, sort of program. And this was very much like...it wasn't meant to be that at all. So I was in this foreign country like very much as a visitor and a traveler and like an academic, and not as someone who wants to try and understand the culture. So that was interesting, too, just in how different they were.

And then meanwhile in the summer and like into the fall, I'd been trying to look for internships for the winter. And I'd applied to work at the State Department and I thought that'd be really interesting, in sort of their Office of the Geographer. And I actually did get offered a position there, but I was gonna have to go through.... Like I had to be cleared at the secret security level to work there. And I was gonna have to do that while I was in South Africa with no internet and like go to like the office in Johannesburg. And I like found out that I got this job and it was like my dream; like it was such a prestigious internship to get. And I also got hired by the admissions office which was—I kind of like applied to as my backup to just work there full time in the winter.

And I realized like (a) it was gonna be such a hassle to get security clearance and like what if I tried to go through it and because I was in this foreign country, like didn't even get it, and then I didn't have an internship for the winter? But also I was like so homesick for Dartmouth, which was funny 'cause at this point I'd really only been for like five weeks. And like at the end of my term in Mexico, like, I didn't want to come back. Like, I mean I was excited 'cause I was coming straight back to spring break. But at the same time it was like a hundred of my closest friends. But at the same time like I could have stayed there for another ten weeks. Like I loved it. And I loved South Africa, Namibia, but it was such a tiring program. And it was also just like I really missed Dartmouth 'cause I had really found.... Sophomore summer was when I really figured out, like, I really felt like I'd found a home. And moving off campus made such a difference for me, like having that sense of grounding and just like I missed that community, and I didn't want to be gone from it for like six whole months in a row.

So I decided to decline the State Department internship and come back to Hanover. And I moved back into my original apartment with

the same girls from the summer. And luckily one of them was also doing a Hanover FSP, so that was really nice, 'cause otherwise I think it would have been like a little lonely at times. But we were always at home cooking dinner together and that sort of thing. And actually several of my other really close friends were also doing Hanover FSP's that term.

So that was really nice 'cause I felt like a real person. Like woke up at six every morning, went to the gym, went to work, got home at like four-thirty, like spent the evening, like—I did—like, I worked at the Hop as well that term, so sometimes I'd go to work or like I was doing Presidential Scholars, so I might be doing research. Or I would just like apply for internships for the summer or like just sit around and read a book. And like that was so nice. And we got, my roommate who was doing the Hanover FSP, and I both got season passes to Killington, so we'd go skiing on the weekends. I just had the freedom to like actually do, like actually just take the time and like have three-hour dinners with people. Not that they always had time to do that with me, but like [chuckles]—'cause everyone else was still taking classes. But that was just like...like sophomore summer and really junior winter were like, man, I finally figured out like who I am on this campus, like where I fit in. That was really fun.

I started captaining the women's B team that term. So I got to know a lot of the freshmen who, you know, I'd missed in the fall. And a couple of them became really close friends of mine. So they were over at my apartment all the time. It was just really, really...like I felt like a real leader on the team, both in that I was captain, you know I had this like position of leadership, and also in that I was the one who they were asking questions about like what classes they should take for the spring. And that had been me two years before asking the junior women then.

Or, you know, or like offering them the space that wasn't a frat for Friday or Saturday night. Like that was just a really nice feeling of being able to be like a social leader on the team also, and provide that home for people. 'Cause that was like really all I wanted to do even since like freshman year. It was just like being able to also give back to like the people that had hosted me at their houses and be able to like do that, too.

And went on spring break again. It was awesome. We had like some really great tournaments. I think that was the spring break where we like—the women's B team specifically like bonded most

as a team, and that was really fun. We had a bunch of seniors last year, which we normally—like by the time people are in their senior year, a lot of them have moved up to A. So we don't always have a ton of seniors. Like this year we had two. The year before that we'd had one; but last year we had five. And so that was just like...gave our team a really strong sense of like a whole team and not just like a bunch of freshmen and a couple of upperclassmen.

And then junior spring I was captaining and I started taking classes again. I kept doing all the jobs I'd done in the winter plus.... Oh, and I really liked working for admissions. I guess that's like an important part of junior winter, too. I got to do like some really fun stuff. My boss was a '09 who like at the beginning of the term was very much my boss. And she was really good, like considering how young she was, at like, you know, making sure that like you're the interns and I'm the boss. But like because I was in there all the...like everyone else was part time. And because I was in there full time, by the end of the winter like she wasn't my boss anymore. Like she was just like my friend that told me what stuff I had to do basically. And she moved to New Orleans at the end of last year. But like she is also still someone I keep in touch with.

That's like.... I don't know. I feel like it's been a theme of Dartmouth for me, is that like the community doesn't end. Like for a long time at the beginning of this year I was really worried about like, I'm never gonna have my friends all in the same place at the same time. And that probably is true. And like I just found out this weekend that I'm moving to California and will be living like an hour south of San Francisco in the middle of nowhere. Like I'm working at this environmental ed center where we literally don't get cell phone service. But like I know that I'm gonna like still have—like one of my friends, who was an '11 who was one of my best friends, lives in Monterey. So I'm gonna be an hour and a half away from him now. And like a couple of my friends are moving to San Francisco.

But even like beyond the geographical proximity, one of my good friends has been in New Zealand for two years at grad school. And like he's still one of my good friends. Like, you know, I've been able to keep in touch with him. I now have a place that I can go, pretty much, a place to spend the night like anywhere around the country and a lot of places around the world, which is such a cool feeling. And like I feel like that community for me, like it definitely relies on you like reaching out to people and then taking the time to Skype or

just like send a little email to someone you haven't talked to in a while, someone you haven't seen in six months maybe. But like it's so...it still happens, and it's so worth it, and that's been a really cool thing to see.

Anyways. So then, yeah, junior spring was really busy. I was captaining, I was taking three classes. I tried to take four; that lasted a week. It was a joke. And I was working four jobs 'cause I was working all the jobs I'd done in the winter plus a couple hours a week for America Reads. I was working a good 20 to 30 hours a week. But it just kind of like.... I think that that's something—a choice that a lot of people at Dartmouth—not a lot—but some people at Dartmouth have to make and have to do. And I really.... A typical work-study only needed to work like eight to ten hours a week. But it was just sort of.... And it sort of happened because I already had those jobs and I really loved all of them. So I didn't want to stop doing any of them. And it was like something that I felt like I could handle. So I did.

And then I was just like super busy all the time, like still was able to do fun things on Friday and Saturday nights, but like—and able to play and all that stuff, but had to manage my time pretty well. And like, you know, didn't really want to get like crazy drunk. Also like even if I hadn't been busy, I don't think I would have wanted to do that. I definitely outgrew that after freshman year. But that was really nice 'cause I definitely felt like I was very purposeful and still like—yeah, loved where I was living. Like that was just a really great term. Junior year was really like an awesome—I really felt like I had a sense of myself and sense of this place. And I knew who I wanted to be spending time with, which was really nice.

I got an internship for the summer working in DC in environmental policy at the Sierra Club. So I found out about that in the spring. So that was really exciting.

I also found out in the spring that I was going to be on Grant Croo for Trips. So that was super exciting. So I started going kayaking. So that's something I'd done like a very small amount in high school. And I grew up— My parents are both very outdoorsy; they'd taken me camping all the time. So I grew up doing that. And I was excited to get to spend three weeks like living in the Grant. I'd been to the Grant for a week during Trail Crew and loved it. And I was so excited to be able to go up there and to be kayaking all the time. So

it was something I'd wanted to do coming into Dartmouth, like hadn't taken the time to do.

So that was—yeah, just like, a great term of like finding out that I got into things that I wanted and like having this strong community around me. Looking forward to starting new ones like with the croo and that sort of stuff.

And then this summer I went to DC. I worked in environmental policy. I really loved it, and I could see myself going to grad school for that a couple of years down the road. But realized pretty quickly that I don't want to be in an office, which is why I'm working in the middle of nowhere next year. But that was like.... It was, again, one of those experiences that I had, similar to junior fall, by figuring out what I didn't want to do. It was something that I didn't want to do, but I still really loved it, and was still getting to have like this awesome experience. But it helped me really figure out what I did want to do, which was really nice.

I had a fair amount of Dartmouth friends, both people who'd already graduated and were living there full time, as well as other '13s who were there. The Sierra Club hires like 30 interns, so a couple of them—specifically like two girls from Williams and Harvard became two of my close friends in the summer. I played Frisbee, which was, again, like theme of community for me like pretty much whether it's in Mexico or at Dartmouth or in DC like, I've been able to do.

I lived by myself, which I hated. And I realized very quickly that I—I kind of knew that going into the summer. But I had the housing through my family to live by myself. So it was like actually gonna be cheaper to live by myself than it was to live with a roommate somewhere. But I hated coming home and having noth—and like cooking. And then it would be like eight o'clock, and I would be done with dinner. And I would like, would have nothing to do and no one to hang out with. So like pretty much every night—I was like playing Frisbee two times a week. And then I would like try to go to happy hour with people from work or like go over to my friend Ariel's house or something like that. Like I had to have something to do after work. 'Cause if I got home at like six p.m., I was just like—I didn't know what to do with myself. So I don't really ever want to live by myself again. I hated that. I really like having my own room, but like not living by myself.

But that was a really great job. I got to learn a lot of stuff. DC was really hot. But it was nice to see like.... That was my first term really away from Dartmouth. I mean I still hung out with Dartmouth friends, but they were very much like...the three or four people I really wanted to be hanging out with in DC. And then beyond that I was able to sort of form—and also like the people I played Frisbee with, like the way that I got onto the team I was playing was through a former Dartmouth captain who was an '09 who I'd never met but like got to be friends with through the summer. So that community definitely did still follow me.

But I really needed at that point like a term—especially coming into senior year from three terms in a row—I needed a term like away from Dartmouth. 'Cause I really hadn't had one. I'd been like physically away, but I'd been on Dartmouth programs. And, you know, or like both of my off terms had been working at Dartmouth: my freshman summer and junior winter. So I really had never completely escaped it except for like during Christmas vacations.

So that was really nice because it allowed me a lot of distance and, going into my senior year, I gained a lot of perspective on how I wanted to spend my time that year and like who I wanted to spend my time with. And what was important, what wasn't. And also just like what I wanted to do. Like what life was gonna look like after Dartmouth. Like not necessarily that I'm gonna be in a big city, you know living in DC specifically, but just like that I could have as much of that community as I wanted. Like if I reached out to a lot of Dartmouth people, they would reach back. But if I didn't, like that really wasn't what I wanted too much last summer. And I was able to kind of like gain distance from it, which was nice.

And then I came back for senior year and was like freaking out because I'm a senior. Got to be on Grant Croo. Got to spend three weeks hanging out with '16s, which made me feel old, but also like was awesome. And it's just beautiful up here. It's so amazing to me that I go to a school where we have 27,000 acres of land just like waiting for us to go explore it. And that that's like something that we prioritize and is so beautiful. And that was really cool also because through Grant Croo, Ledyard became one of my communities. And I got also more involved with C&T senior year, 'cause I realized like I just want to be outside and doing fun things with cool people. So that like was...I like finally acted on that.

Like I'd always—like I said, since my sophomore year, I'd really considered the DOC like a social community of mine, but it wasn't like something I actively did. And if I wanted to go outside, I kind of like just would do it with my own friends and that sort of thing. But getting involved with those groups was a really like cool part of my senior year that I didn't necessarily see coming until I like knew that I was gonna be on Grant Croo and knew that I was gonna be kayaking all the time. I actually really liked it. And I started going kayaking when I got back to school, too.

And it was really weird like being a senior on the team and being like the people that everyone looked up to. I'd already been like organizing stuff for the team for a while. But like it really fell to us and to the '13s. I'm living with—like in the fall I was living with all senior Frisbee players except for one, like Bailey, who had been my roommate sophomore year who didn't play, and then one junior on the Frisbee team who was like also one of the B team captains, like one of the really strong leaders on the team. [Break for ringing phone]

That was really cool because in the past there's been certain misunderstandings between like the A and the B teams because they have different priorities. And for the B team it's much more a sense of, you know, this community and this entire program. And like, yeah, we want to play Frisbee, but we also just want to hang out. Whereas for the A teams, like some people also have that sense; but some people like they're there to like practice and get good at a sport. And like any community benefits are just sort of like icing on the cake. But their main—like they want to go to nationals. They want to be the best they can be, which definitely makes sense to me, but wasn't always like my priority.

And in the past there have been like a lot of—not a lot, but as I got older I noticed it more. You know, as a freshman it didn't stick out for me that much. But, you know, as I got older and was part of the disagreements about who got practice time in Leverone during the winter and who didn't, and like how important it was to have two B team practices versus one B team practice a week, and that sort of thing.

It was really nice 'cause we had one captain from each men's and women's A and B teams living in the same house. So that was really fun and just like a really great example to me; like just a constant reminder of how much that program meant to me and how

much we were all such good friends, and how like we could bring everyone together. And that was really cool. But also like a lot of responsibility coming into senior year.

I took my senior seminar in geography which was incredible. Richard Wright is an amazing professor. Also just funny, but like his name is Richard Wright, and he decided—and he's like British—and like decided to be a race scholar whose name was Richard Wright, and *Native Son* and also about race. I don't know. I always thought that was funny. And 'cause people are like, Richard Wright teaches at Dartmouth? I'm like, No, no, no, no. I'm pretty sure that Richard Wright is long gone.

But that was an amazing class and getting to know—I mean that's been one of my really cool, like really cool parts of being at Dartmouth is that I think that, not necessarily geography feels like a community and that that's who I'm hanging out with every Friday night. But that I picked a department that's big enough that it's able to offer a good broad variety of classes and cater to a lot of different people. But it's small enough that, you know, we had two seminar sections, but they were at the same time, and they are 2A. And so every Thursday during our 2A break, they like do an extended break of like 20 minutes. And we would go downstairs, and they'd have snacks, like the department would have snacks for us, and we would get to mingle with the other section. 'Cause they wanted all the majors to know each other, not just the people in your section. 'Cause it used to be that they would only offer, you know, one section for the seminar. And, you know, as the department's grown in the last five years they've had to start offering two, but they still want you to get to know everybody.

And like—or, this spring, this winter and spring, one of the professors is retiring. So they're hiring a new candidate. And every time a candidate came to town, one of the things they were doing was they would email out to all of the senior majors in the department and say, like, "Hey, this candidate's coming in. If you wanna have lunch with them at the Hanover Inn on this day just blitz back." So like three or four majors would go to lunch with this candidate and just like get to grill them about like, "Okay, so like if you come here, what do you want to teach students?" Like, "What are your research interests?" All of this. And then we gave our input to the department, you know.

Or after the Dimensions protest several weeks ago—I was actually gone. I was off campus that entire week; I was on vacation. But like one of the emails that I got was from the head my department, being like, “Okay, so what—The faculty has met. Like we want to know what we can do.” Like, “Please send us your ideas.” And the week after that, when I unfortunately was also unable to go because I had a meeting for Tucker, but they had like a discussion of steps that the department could take of like maybe doing some counter-mapping exercises of like spaces where historically like people have felt marginalized on this campus. Or like doing a letter writing campaign like from all the students and faculty of the department to the board of trustees.

And just like being a part of a department that like cares so much about its students and like wants our input on the new faculty member and like wants to take steps to figure out like how they can better campus climate as, you know, as faculty.... Not to mention the fact that I’ve just had such great interactions with my professors. I’ve been able to write papers about things that really interest me. I’ve had the freedom to really study what I want to study. Been able to do really incredible projects that I’ve learned a lot from. That’s been a really cool source of community in a different way than I normally think of it. But like a sense of support, I guess, and a sense of grounding that I’ve kind of taken for granted at times because it’s just like I don’t realize that like not everyone’s departments are like that ‘cause that’s really the only thing I’ve ever known.

And similar with the environmental studies department. There is, you know, a luncheon for majors every term. There’s like—this year they started doing this thing like every Thursday—or I think it’s switched to Tuesdays this term—but like after 2As, they just have like cookies and cheese in one of the faculty lounges, and like everyone’s welcome. It’s like a mixture of undergrads and grad students and professors. And there’s like, you know, maybe ten to 20 people there that’re there like every Tuesday for just like half an hour just like chatting, stuff like that. And that’s really cool to me.

So taking my senior seminar was really nice in that a lot of the geography—like my one big thing with the geography department is that they want it to be really open, especially ‘cause so many students, myself included, didn’t get to take geography in high school. They might not know what it is. So there really aren’t any classes with prereqs. Or if there are, there’s very few of them. They

might have one prereq or something like that. And so with that, sometimes, as a geography major, you can get classes where half the class is like majors and is really interested and they already know half of this stuff and the other half is like—not necessarily people who aren't interested, but people who are taking it for a distrib, taking it as a third class that they're not gonna put that much effort into. Or maybe they just don't even have like the develop—like, by my junior year when I was taking, you know, my last couple development classes, like I had already taken six classes on development, and I knew a lot of this stuff, and I knew a lot of the jargon that someone coming into that class as their first geography class just wouldn't know. Even if they are really interested in the class, that there's no way for them to know that. So the seminar was really great because it was finally a class where it was all geography majors, it was all people who had a background in this sort of stuff, and that was really great.

And I got to take two other—I took History of Jazz and Reproductive Ethics for my last two distrib, which were awesome. And I think it's so dumb that people tell you to take—like get your distrib out of the way freshman year, 'cause freshman year I definitely didn't know like which classes were going to be like the really cool distrib. And by senior year I'd heard Reproductive Ethics was just like an awesome class. So I took it, and it was an awesome class. And like I wouldn't have ever found that freshman fall. So I'm glad I waited to get those done, I guess.

Senior fall was an awesome term. I loved it. That was the first term, I think, that I really loved every single one of my classes. Like I've had terms that were like all of my classes had been pretty cool or like two of them have been really awesome and one has just been okay. But that was like—I was so engaged and like so interested in all three of my classes, which was really fun.

I started working at Tucker. I moved up from just being like a regular America Reads tutor to student director of the entire program. So that was a big time commitment I took on. And so because of that, I quit working in admissions, added on more hours at Tucker. So I was still working about 20 hours a week. But doing like—I was working at the Hop, which I love; like it's such a fun job—as an usher. And then working as student director for America Reads and working as a tour guide were sort of my three things that I had going on.

And it was funny 'cause, yeah, just sometime sophomore, junior year, I realized that—at some point I switched out all of my—like I was involved a little bit in MEDLIFE and like Amnesty [International] freshman year. And I switched out all my extracurriculars that I didn't get paid for for the jobs. So like Ultimate is really the only thing I do outside of classes that I don't get paid for. And it has been that way since like junior year, which is actually really nice, 'cause I'm doing these like really cool jobs as my extracurriculars. But I'm also getting paid for them, so.

But yeah, I was just like working a lot again and taking really interesting classes. Starting to get a little freaked out about the fact that it was senior year and like I had no idea what I was gonna do. But I knew kind of like coming out of the summer, I knew that I really wanted to be working with the environment, wanted to be working with kids, didn't want to be working in an office. But I wasn't really worried about like looking for jobs yet in the fall. And... what else? Yeah, I don't know.

I was so excited about the long break 'cause I got to go to Peru with a couple of my good friends. It was one of those things where it was like a big splurge for me. But I was like, when.... You know, I have no idea when the next time I'm going to have a six-week break to just go off and do something. And like, everyone tells you, like, "Go and travel when you're young." So like I'm young; I'm gonna travel. So a bunch of my friends went backpacking in Peru for three weeks. We went to Machu Picchu. We went to the deepest canyon in the world. Like it was amazing. I got to use my Spanish, which was always funny because out of the five of us, I was somehow the only one who spoke Spanish, any Spanish. So I got us through, especially in a few rural places where no one spoke any English. But that was really incredible, and, again just like getting to travel abroad was really amazing and like a great way to spend break.

Came back for the winter. I was pretty miserable at times. [Laughs] I don't know. I just like was taking not even—sort of decent like.... I mean decently hard classes. But was taking really interesting classes. I took Environmental Applications of GIS, which was my last major class. I took an English class, which was super hard but was so interesting. It was 20th-century lit, and it was like—I loved English in high school. I hadn't really studied it here. And I've loved 20th-century literature. So I took that. But I was reading like yeah a novel or two novels a week. And what was my third class? Oh, and then I took Emotion as just like an interesting third class that I

NRO'd and didn't really have to.... But just the other two classes—really just English was like so much work. And then like on top of that, you know, like having to do all the normal work I do....

My sleep schedule in the winter always gets really messed up because we have practice from ten to midnight. And if I'm running around at eleven-thirty, I'm not gonna get to sleep until at least two. So, but I was still captaining, so I got to do that for like all of junior and all of senior year, which is really fun. And, you know, getting to teach the freshmen. So like it had all the makings of a good term.

But I think like just because of the weather and because I was like starting to get stressed out about you know next year and about leaving, and the fact that I really hadn't applied for anything yet. I really didn't apply for anything until the spring just 'cause I didn't have time. And this spring I'm not taking classes. But, yes, I don't know why I was so stressed out all the time in the winter. I don't know if I had like seasonal affective disorder a little bit. Maybe that's what was going on. But I was just like kind of stressed all the time, like not always in a great mood. But like mostly just, you know, trying to make time to spend with friends and I don't know....

But then this spring has just been like really incredible. So I went—I kind of wanted to go on Ledyard spring break 'cause that would be super fun, to go kayaking, but I was captain, so I couldn't really like ditch Frisbee spring break. And it was also really fun 'cause we have like—the freshmen every year get to like make fun of—like, make up skits to make fun of the seniors. So it was like such a weird feeling like being made fun of 'cause I remember the skits that we did to make fun of the seniors. And I remember watching the '11s get made fun of and then finally like being—the '13s are being seniors, and that was like just pretty—such a weird feeling. You know, of being like so old. [Laughs] But it was just so like—yeah. It's been such an incredible community for me so it was nice to have my last spring break; it was so fun.

And then I came back, and I'm not taking classes this term. So I'm working still for Tucker, working at the Hop. I'm actually doing—this is—God! Dartmouth has so many cool things. So I like took this English class last term, and it was like an eight-person English class; the smallest—or a nine person—it was the smallest class I've ever taken at Dartmouth, and it was my last term. And for me the reason why I wanted to take an English class is 'cause I always like—I read these books, and I'm not like—or, I'll read a book, and

I'm like, Oh, that's so interesting. But I know that if I was talking about it with like six other people right now, I would get so much more out of it than I just did. And it happened with this book *Disgrace* [by J.M. Coetzee]; my junior fall I read about it 'cause—or, I read it—'cause we were in South Africa, and it was about South Africa. And I was like, man, like if only I were in English class reading this book. And then I actually got to read it as part of my English class the next year, which was cool. And definitely did get so much more out of it the second time around.

But because of that, like when there were things that like we didn't get to in class and stuff, I would just like go in to my professor and talk to her. And so one day we were just like talking about a book we'd read—a book I'd read; I think it was *Disgrace* actually—and we started talking about like my life in general and other sorts of things. And she was just like, "Oh, you're not taking classes next term so like you'll probably have some extra time." And I was like, "Yeah." And she was like, "Do you wanna do research for me?" And I was like, "I'm like not an English person. Like, I don't know—I don't know if you know." [Chuckles] And she was like, "No, you'll do fine. Like you're doing great in the class. Like, I'd love to have you." So, like I've taken, you know, one English class, didn't—like, she just like offered me this job. So now I've been doing research, a little bit of research, for her this term in addition to like my usual jobs. And then mostly my job for the first couple of weeks of term was like looking for jobs.

And now that it's nice out, all I want to do is just like.... Oh, and I was in a musical. 'Cause like two '16s like wrote a musical. And I just like, was like, "Yeah, why not? Like I'm gonna have extra time next term." So I tried out for it at the end of the winter and I got a part. So we're doing that like this Friday and Saturday. So that's like—this week is busy 'cause I'll be in rehearsal all the time.

But, yeah, this spring I've just been like trying to spend as much time as possible—like now that it's nice like outside, and it's such a beautiful area. I'm actually working at Camp Moosilauke, half an hour north of here, for the summer. So that'll be really fun. But—so beautiful, and the people—and I just want to spend as much time with my friends as I can. But, yeah, I don't know. It's been such a great term and such a great way to end. I'm so glad I didn't take classes senior spring. It's been so great. I don't know, I think I'm running out of things to say.

WOMICK: So looking ahead past graduation, what do you see your continuing involvement with Dartmouth looking like?

WHEELLOCK: Hmm. Well, it's funny. I guess after talking through all this, like it's very obvious to me that like I have changed a lot while I've been at Dartmouth. But I came into Dartmouth with a really strong sense of.... I don't know. Like I don't notice this as much maybe because I took geography classes, and like people in my classes are like pretty strong-spoken in general. But like a lot of my friends, especially those who are in like econ and government and some things that are typically like more male dominated, say, like women in their classes don't really speak as much as the men do. And like I have just never had that feeling. Like, espec-—I haven't seen it as much, but I also never had that feeling about myself because I came in from my high school and my all-girls education with this really strong sense—like, I don't know.

I think a lot of kids come into Dartmouth as kind of like they were the nerd in high sch—like if they went to a traditional high school, like they were the nerd in high school. And like they had friends, but they were never like celebrated for their intelligence. And Dartmouth is a really like liberating place for a lot of people in that way. And for them like Dartmouth is really like who—Dartmouth is really like what makes them who they are.

And I think that Dartmouth obviously just, because I was a young adult here, like Dartmouth has molded me in a lot of ways. But I've always—the way that I always have kind of looked at it is that if I have like a hundred dollars to donate, I'm gonna donate to my alma maters, like I'm gonna donate like 75 of it to GPS and 25 to Dartmouth because I feel like I came in with such a strong sense of self from my high school. And that that was really like—Dartmouth has given me an amazing education. Like, it gave me those great abroad experiences. But like, yeah, I'd formed a lot of myself before I came here. And I've definitely changed a lot since I've been here. But not in like the fundamental ways that I feel like I changed in high school and that developed that sense of self. And I think that that was like—I don't think that all girls or all boys education is good for everyone, but it was amazing for me, and I credit a lot of it to that.

So like, what this has to do with Dartmouth, I guess, is that like it's not necessarily that I think I'm gonna be like the most involved alum, and that I like really owe so much of myself to Dartmouth,

and I want to give back and all of this. But just like what I noticed while I was in DC, you know, the fact that like one of the first people I told about taking this job wasn't.... I mean like I told my parents first. But it wasn't necessarily like my best friends who are here and now. But it was like my friend who graduated two years ago who I'm going to be an hour and a half away from; because like I've only seen him like once in the last two years 'cause he's like been in California.

You know, and I think the community will follow me. And like, God, I hope I'm—like, the nice thing about being in California is that I won't be the alum that like comes back for Homecoming and Winter Carnival and blah blah blah. Which, granted, like when those alums do come back, I like love getting to see them and hang out with them. But I think I would feel weird doing that. But it's more just, yeah, that sense of I know I have a place to sleep like anywhere in the country, and that's such a cool feeling of just like knowing that the friends I've made here are gonna be in my wedding, and they're gonna be, you know, like they're gonna be there for the rest of my life, and I'm gonna be able to hold onto that community.

And just also like.... I guess it's one thing—I don't necessarily—like, some of my friends who've moved to Boston like only live with other Dartmouth people, like only really hang out with other Dartmouth people. And that's not necessarily what I want. But I do like think it would be awesome if like, you know, I end up like in DC in a couple of years for grad school or something like that and I know like two or three people from Dartmouth who live there who can introduce me to people that I didn't even know while I was at Dartmouth but are friends of theirs. And I think that's a way that like the community.... I don't know.

Like I feel a lot of my friends whose parents are married to other Dartmouth alums didn't know each other while they were at school. Or if they did, they knew each other very tangentially. And I think that's cool because I think that I've seen with my friends' parents, and even with some of my older friends, that the community continues to grow even after you've left. Which like...granted, I say that, and I'm also like terrified of just like only seeing, you know, these really close friends of mine whom I currently live with like once a year. Like that does terrify me. But that's obviously with any college and any like big movement in your life. But I think that that's...yeah, something that I've seen that's maybe more unique to Dartmouth is that that community continues to support you, if you

want it. And if you don't, you know, like if you want to leave Dartmouth and like have nothing to do with it, I think it's also possible to do that.

But it's pretty easy to find those connections and use them, like whether it's.... I mean hopefully I'll just use them—or, not hopefully, but like I plan on just using them more for like friends and a sense of home. But, you know, people also use them to like get really cool jobs, which I think is like also really valid. So hopefully that's sort of how Dartmouth will continue to shape me after I graduate.

WOMICK: How do you think you've changed since coming to Dartmouth?

WHEELLOCK: Well, I've grown up a lot. I mean I don't think—like, even junior—like last summer I lived by myself in a big city, and like I couldn't have done that three years ago. I don't know if that's Dartmouth or if it's just like me getting older. But it happened while I was here. So Dartmouth probably had something to do with it.

I think I've become a lot more realistic or like —not necessarily less optimistic, because I think that that sounds bad, or sounds negative, and it's not a negative thing that I'm trying to portray. But just like.... I don't know. Like freshman year I like didn't realize that like.... Like I think—I don't know. I was talking with a couple of my friends about like the Dimensions protest from a couple of weeks ago. And freshman year, (a) I was in the show, so I probably would have been like crying and freaking out. But also like everything that they said about the fact that sexual assault happens here and like racism and all that stuff like would have been news to me. And it wasn't as a senior. And I think that was the weirdest thing about watching it, was like trying to like help my freshmen friends.

Especially because like the Frisbee team, I think, is a very insulating—I'll say insulating rather than isolating—but insulating community, in that a lot of our freshmen just like didn't know that that was like experiences that their friends had already had, too. Or like other freshmen that they know. Because like I think it is a very supportive community. And like obviously it has its flaws just as like every community does, but I think because you have such really strong connections to upperclassmen from the get-go freshman year, you're, yeah, insulated from a lot of those problems. And I was.

So I think that like just within Dartmouth I've changed, in that like knowing that those things happen. And like I guess know—like, I knew that they happened in like the real world, too. But, you know, just maybe.... I guess, yeah, not necessarily less optimistic, but taking things more with a grain of salt.

And also geography, too, has like really taught me...like it's a very critical discipline in that it teaches you to question. It also teaches you—like I think the coolest thing about like my liberal arts education and specifically geography is that I studied a lot of things that I already knew about or was interested in. But I looked at them through the lens of space and spatial relationships and scale. And it makes a difference as to like which lens you view things from. So I think that like I notice things at Dartmouth or in the real world that I wouldn't necessarily notice had I not spent four years like sort of refining these muscles, you know, brain muscles of like looking at things from a spatial perspective. And sort of how that changes things, which is really interesting. Yeah, so I guess I've become a little more critical but in a positive way, I think.

I think that...I mean, Dartmouth, definitely, just like through—like I never would have been able to do the internship I got last summer had I not gotten—I got funding through Rocky and through the environmental studies department. And just like being an unpaid intern in DC was like [chuckles] literally the least possible thing for me without that funding, like DC's so expensive. So just in that I've been able to like—and with—especially with my study abroad I've been able to really figure out like what I want to do with my life. So that's been really cool; 'cause I think just in like how I want to spend my time after college, that's really changed in the last four years obviously. And I wouldn't have been able to do that without Dartmouth's resources, without the ability to go abroad.

I mean, I think that....I've always wanted to travel, but I never like made it a reality in high school. I mean it wasn't possible for it to be a reality. So that's been just like what I've gained from that and what I've learned from that and knowing that that's something that I want to prioritize in the future. I think I always knew that, but on a very like sort of heady sense of, that I wanted to travel and that sort of thing. And now that's like something I really want to prioritize. Like I'm excited to like go live in a new part of the country next year. And I'm excited that I got to go to Peru with my friends. And like that sort of thing. That I wouldn't necessarily have done a couple years

ago. So definitely I've become more...I think I've always been decently independent. But I've become more so at Dartmouth.

I don't know. Yeah, those are all the things I can think of right now. There's probably—there's definitely other ways, but.

WOMICK: How do you think Dartmouth has changed during your time here?

WHEELLOCK: Hmm.... I've seen—hmm.... It's hard to answer 'cause I think that I just see things that I didn't see freshman year. Like I don't know if they've changed or if I just like wasn't aware of them four years ago. But my perception is that I think Dartmouth has started to acknowledge a lot of its problems, which I didn't talk about very much [chuckles] in the last like hour whatever, hour and a half, that I've been talking. Which is funny because I think that there like—like a lot of stuff that I really like struggle with and that I really think about a lot, but haven't really been part of my....

Like when I think about Dartmouth 30 years from now—and granted this is like speaking from a point of privilege, where like, yes, I'm a woman from like a relatively like lower socioeconomic class. But like I never—like, you know I worked 20 hours a week because I wanted to, not because I had to. And, you know, I'm white and all these things. So it's like coming from this point of privilege where like I don't really have to think about like Dartmouth's problems. Or I won't think about Dartmouth's problems so much as I will think about the incredible experiences I had, because I don't have to and they've never been in my face. But, you know, at the same time like I think that Dartmouth has started to face the issues that it does still struggle with.

And I think that, you know, that also comes from like even just the age of the alumni body or like the makeup of the alumni body. Like when, you know ten years ago or however long it was, when James Wright decided to like take over the Greek system, like almost all of the alumni.... It had only been 30 years since women, any women, had even been here. It hadn't been very long since it had been 50-50. So, you know, the vast majority of alumni were like rich white men. And now even ten years later, it's been 40 years of coeducation, you're starting to get—so those women are now about 60. Ten years from now they're gonna be donating, you know, the big bucks, like the way that the old rich white guys are right now.

And there are more and more women who are alums, and there are more and more students of color every year. And so that's, you know.... And as those people graduate, like I think that alums have a lot of power here, because they—and I think that as much as I—my priorities don't necessarily align with those of the old right white men who are on the board of trustees right now, the fact that they do care so much, like in a way is very empowering. It can also be very disempowering. But like I choose to see the fact that Dartmouth alums are so involved, like even if we don't have the same priorities, I see it as a good thing and like as a place for common ground. And as a place to say like, "We both care about this school a lot." And I think that because alums care so much, you know, as the alumni makeup changes now that the student makeup has changed so much in the last 20, 30 years, that's going to be a really interesting change to see as Dartmouth, moving forward.

But even just in the last four years, like.... And again, maybe because this is just me personally becoming more aware that like I feel like we've opened up the dialog about sexual assault so much more on this campus. And, you know, I feel like people, especially now this term, I feel like people are really talking about what we can do to change things.

And I don't know that concrete change is as easy as we want it to be. Because like as much as you can change the policies of the administration or, you know, make it so that all students convicted of sexual assault are expelled, like (a) studies show that if there's harsher punishments for sexual assault, fewer people report. You know there's all those complicated things, so like even within just changing the policies, it's not as black and white as it seems.

But also like even if you do manage to do that, the reality of the situation is that it's other students who are you know committing sexual assault. And it's other students who are making homophobic comments. And that's not the administration's fault. So I think that concrete change is going to be hard to come by.

But I think more and more people are talking about it and are upset and are, you know, letting other people know that the status quo is not necessarily always a good thing. And again, like this comes from—for me at least—this comes from a place of really loving Dartmouth and really appreciating what it's given me over the last four years.

And especially for me, I think, coming from the South, like one of my best friends goes to University of Tennessee and like [spells] “f-a-g” is like a normal thing that people say. Like it’s barely a slur there. And like, you know, here it’s like, yes, it gets said. But I’ve never heard it. I know that it does, but you can choose to hang out with people that like don’t say it (a). Like there definitely are plenty of people on this campus who just like would never even think about saying it. And like if, you know, it is said, like it’s seen as an attack, and it’s seen as, you know, like either if you said it like someone might be like, “Whoa! That’s not okay.” Or like if it gets said to you, there are places of support and that sort of thing.

And so I think that like, I want Dartmouth to strive to always be the best it can be. But at the same time, I do think that this school in many ways is very supportive. And that’s what a lot of people have been trying to talk about. And maybe the message that hasn’t gotten communicated as well as I wish it had; in that like when people are protesting or people are saying—‘cause this happened with my high school, too—not that we had like a big protest, but by my senior year, like there were a lot of things that I wanted to change. And like I was, you know, somewhat known by the administration as like a rabble-rouser and like.... But I loved my high school. And like now I donate money to my high school every year. And like I want to go back and like, you know, ten years from now when I actually have something worth sharing and like telling these students, like I would love to go back to my high school and talk and like, you know, share whatever my journey is with the girls there. And like however else I can give back to my high school because I loved it; it made me who I am. And that’s why I wanted to change it.

And I think that that’s the same case at Dartmouth for a lot of people. And that hasn’t, unfortunately—I don’t think it’s been communicated as well as I wish it had. And like all these things that we want to change are coming from a place of love and gratitude and the fact that this is a great place, and the fact that like that word is even not a common thing the way that it is where I’m from. And like, you know, racism is still such a huge issue in the South. And obviously it’s at play here. But again, like not on anywhere near the scale or the magnitude.

And like we shouldn’t be complacent because there are other schools that don’t do as good of a job. We should still strive for change and I’m glad that people are striving for change. But I think

it's just starting, over the last four years, you're just starting to see that switch. In that, like when people have complained before—or not complained. But when people have spoken out before, it's been this, “Well, this is wrong, and we have to change it.” And it is wrong.

But now we're just starting to see that not just the people who are angry, but I think also the people like me or some of my housemates who I've been talking to, you know, my friends and that sort of thing, like really love this place and see those things as problems we want to change because we care so much. And I think that's [snaps] when you're going to get like a lot of change from the rest of the student body who like hasn't been affected by these things and do love Dartmouth and understand. Like, that's where their common ground is. It's like, “We love this place, and we want to change it, and like here's why. “And be like, “Oh, yeah, I love this place, too. And I can also see why that upsets you.”

So Dartmouth has changed—like, what all that was trying to say is that like I think Dartmouth has just started to really change positively. And like even with the Trips program, like talking to Chris O'Connell ['13], who's the trips director this year, just like the intentionality that he has behind his work is really incredible. And just like I think that the potential for that program to affect incoming students for the better is so great. And I think it already does a really good job. And it does such a better job than it did even two or three years ago and like will continue to do so.

Also Dartmouth has gotten warmer. There's like way less snow than there used to be, I feel like, that's another thing [chuckles] that's changed in the last four years.

But, yeah. And I think that Dartmouth, in a weird way, like has gotten—my understanding, not in the last like four years necessarily, but the last like ten or so it's gotten like more Greek. Like I know for the '13s, it was like our sophomore summer like 83 percent of our class was affiliated; whereas normally it's like 60 to 70 percent. And then for the '14s it's only like 60 percent or something; it's like a relatively low number. Relatively being the key word. But what's interesting is that I think it's gotten.... The Greek system here has gotten big enough to the point that there are very few—if you don't like to play Frisbee and you don't want to be outdoors.... I don't know, those are really the two—I mean, maybe just 'cause I'm a part of them; like I'm sure there are other communities outside of those as well. But those are sort of the two

like largest—just in sheer numbers of people—communities that I see outside of the Greek system. If you don't like to do either of those two things, it's very hard to find like a large, supportive community.

And it's sort of gotten big enough where like even if you don't particularly want to join, you have very few alternatives because so many other people are joining. But because of that, there are so many people who are in the Greek system who like don't really...not that they don't like it. Like I think they've found a lot of support, and like I think that the communities formed there are really strong and can be very wonderful and positive communities. But like one of my best friends is just like—like, he's in a house and he says, you know, like, "My ideal Dartmouth would not have a Greek system."

And I think more and more people now are affiliated with the Greek system but have serious problems with it. Like there's not necessarily like—I think it stinks, 'cause the numbers that you see show this like very wide support, like unconditional support, from the student body for the Greek system. But when you dig a little deeper, I think more and more now you're seeing students who recognize the problems that come along with it. Whether that's socioeconomic exclusivity or racial exclusivity—or not even exclusivity, but accessibility. In that it's not accessible to students of certain socioeconomic levels. It's not accessible—or it's more accessible than it was 50 years ago to students of particular racial backgrounds, but it can feel very inaccessible to nonwhite students. And, you know, also like very obviously—but I don't think this gets talked about a lot just 'cause there aren't as many students who this affects on our campus—but students who don't particularly identify with either men or women. Like, you know, single sex, single gender organizations are obviously incredibly inaccessible.

And I think more and more people who are even affiliated with that system—or, in my time—again, this could just be 'cause as I've gotten older, I've had more conversations about this, but my impression is that more people who are part of that system recognize those problems and like want to change those, whether that's through—like, some of my friends who aren't affiliated with the Greek system want to get rid of it completely. Like others want to reform it so it's better. But like that has been interesting, too, in that like, yeah, it's not necessarily just like, oh, you either love it or you hate it. Like there's a lot of really intense, confusing emotions

and thoughts that people have about that, which has been interesting to see as I've gotten older.

WOMICK: Great. Is there anything we haven't talked about yet that you want to cover?

WHEELLOCK: Ummm... I don't think so. Yeah. I mean, I guess the things that have been most important to me are like my academic work, like my jobs outside of class, my—like, the team, for sure, like the team, and the DOC and like just.... I think that Dartmouth and Hanover have given me a lot of opportunities, whether it's to get outside or to go live in DC or to go abroad that like it's just—not necessarily that I didn't expect coming in, but like...that I was hopeful would happen and like completely came true. And like that's what I will take from Dartmouth most is like the experiences I was able to gain and the friendships that like, as I said, like I know are gonna last because I've already been able to like keep those with people who have graduated before me. Like I'm really excited to be a part of that community and like have that continue to grow and change like even after I'm not physically here.

WOMICK: Great. Thank you.

WHEELLOCK: Yeah.

WOMICK: Gonna turn these off.

WHEELLOCK: Okay.

[End of Interview]