

Interviewee: Jones, James P.
Interviewer: Crista Hosmer
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Hosmer: This is Crista Hosmer and today I'm interviewing Dr. James Jones at Florida State University. Today is February 20 and he's going to tell about his experiences at UF as a student in the 1950s and about his experiences at Florida State University in the 60s and 70s as a professor. So, Dr. Jones, are you aware that this is being recorded?

Jones: Yes.

Hosmer: All right. And is that acceptable to you?

Jones: Yes.

Hosmer: Good. And just to start off, can you just tell me about your background a bit: where and when you born and . . .

Jones: I was born in 1931 in Jacksonville and grew in Jacksonville and Duval County. Lived there until I went to college, I went to Emory when I was a freshman. I spent two years at Emory and then transferred as a junior as to the University of Florida.

Hosmer: Okay. And what was your family background like?

Jones: My father worked at a railroad in Jacksonville, he worked for the Florida East Coast. He was originally from Oklahoma, but moved all over the place. He moved to Florida a long time before I was born. My father was much older than my mother . . . to work at the railroad. My mother was from a very old Jacksonville southern . . . Jacksonville, Charleston, Savannah family. She was born in Jacksonville so I'm a . . . and my grandmother was born in Florida, so I'm a third generation, which they're not many of at my age. So, that's background. So, my family had lived in Jacksonville. My mother lived in Jacksonville . . . my mother lived in Jacksonville almost all her life before I was born.

Hosmer: Okay. And what was it like growing in Jacksonville? Do you impressions of your schooling there and what was it like in terms of segregation?

Jones: All schools were segregated, but virtually everything was segregated. Theaters were segregated, water fountains were . . . white water fountains and colored water fountains. I was aware of it a good bit because my parents were both fairly liberal and my mother, especially, was extremely liberal.

Hosmer: Really?

Jones: Oh, yeah.

Hosmer: Oh, I didn't know that.

Jones: So, I got . . . I once in my life, when I was about twelve, within my mother's hearing, said "nigger." A woman was walking down the street who worked for a . . . at a house that was about two houses from us. And she was walking . . . nobody liked her because nobody liked the woman she worked for. And baseballs and things like that used to go in her yard. And she would come out and take them from us. And so, nobody liked her very much. And she was walking down the street to catch the bus to go home. And my friends started saying "nigger", and I did, too. And my mother heard me and took me in the house and beat the hell out me. I mean, it was the worst whipping I ever got. And she told me, "If I ever hear the word again, it's going to be a lot worse than this." So, yeah, I grew up in an odd . . . my parents were odd, very liberal politically, and in Jacksonville, there were very few of those. My father belonged to a labor union and so we were Democrats. And my mother - - much more than my father - - but my mother on race was . . . I mean, one of the things I grew up with, one of the best things in my life was, that they were really essentially color blind and race blind and national group blind. Their feeling was that everybody is a human being. And I wouldn't trade it for anything. So that was really, yeah, that was great.

Hosmer: Did you interact with a lot African -Americans as your friends?

Jones: Well, I did because my mother was very ill, my mother had tuberculosis when I was born. And until I was ten years old, she was gone much of the time. She was in hospitals, or in a tuberculosis sanitarium. So, she wasn't around. And I was taken care of . . . my father worked for the railroad. Her medical bills were huge, so he worked long hours. So, I was taken care of, to some extent, by relatives, and to a great extent, by two black women who were sisters who rotated back and forth taking care of me. Their first names were Minnie and Maddie. I have no idea what their last names were. But, I've always been convinced that because they were so incredibly nice to me, and because . . . I mean, I lived in a house with a black person as the only person, except my father would be there a little bit, so in that case, I, you know, had, I think, a feeling that a lot people didn't get.

Hosmer: They were like authority figures for you, kind of?

Jones: Yes. And they were nice people to me. They were really nice to me. And I would play with their kids. They didn't live very far away. Now, a lot of white kids played with black kids. It was something that was fairly common. But I think mine was somewhat different because of my relationship to their mothers. So, I'd play with their kids, and it was . . . you know, I thought it was really a good thing. Those were my major contacts. I mean, black people were just, you know, not around, except people that worked for you. But you did not have, you

know, day to day contact with black people. When I was a little bit older and my mother came home when I was about eleven, ten or eleven, and she was there then and Minnie and Maddie came occasionally to help her out, but not all the time. My contact with blacks significantly diminished. And then, of course, in school never. The one thing I remember later on, because bussing became a big thing later on, was the opposition to bussing kids, you know, white kids or black kids across lines to move to try to integrate a school. And the idea was that, you know, you shouldn't bus our kids somewhere or other because they should go to neighborhood schools. In the period that I was a kid, and in high school, blacks . . . I lived in South Jacksonville. The only black high school . . . there was no black high school south of the river. So, the only black high school was across the river in Jacksonville. There were two . . . eventually, two of them over there. And kids who lived south of me, that is, lived a long way from those high schools, were regularly bussed. And I remember walking to school or riding a bike to my school and looking and seeing all these busses moving from a long way away. They were being bussed to go to an all-black school. And I thought, what an irony, later on when people began saying, you know, "We're upset because you're bussing us out of our neighborhoods." They didn't give a damn about bussing those people out of their neighborhoods. So, I don't remember . . . because of the way my parents were, I don't remember except that one flare up, of being any real hostility with blacks or anything like that. I played . . . not played . . . but I had a sort of black . . . couple of black friends as a teenager and when I was in college, who were . . . one of them was a bartender who had gone to FAMU. And there's a bar that I went to all the time. And I got . . . I talked to him a lot and got to . . . because he was a history major at FAMU. And he was a good musician, but he couldn't get a job doing much of anything. And talking to him about the frustration of running up against, you know, racism and racial barriers, which prevented him from doing anything. And he became an alcoholic. You know, he'd be sitting there, you know, drinking all the time and playing and he was really great. But he and I became fairly good friends. And then, when I was in my mid-teens, I got to know this black guy who worked for the family of a friend of mine. He was . . . he had tried to play baseball, and played in the Negro Leagues, but got hurt. And I used to throw with him . . . I was the . . . in my age group, say, thirteen, fourteen, fifteen, I was the best baseball player. So, I was the only person that could catch him. And we'd give him a ball, and go throw the ball back and forth. And he could . . . I mean, he was incredible. And his frustration level was really amazing because he just . . . he couldn't play professional baseball at that time.

Hosmer: They didn't even have a professional Negro . . .

Jones: They had a Negro league, but it was . . .

Hosmer: Kind of dying?

Jones: Dying at that time, and was somewhat of an outlaw [??] league, too. And he wasn't good enough to make the major Negro leagues. And minor Negro leagues were just, you know, you get a game here, you play, you don't make much money . . . and he had a wife and three kids. And he didn't have enough money to support them. But my feeling always has been . . . his name was Grover Cleveland Washington. I will always remember his name . . . and was

that, this guy, you know, ten years later, post-Jackie Robinson, ten years later, could have been, maybe, a really great professional baseball player, and had no chance at all. So, with those two guys, who I got to know pretty well, with those two, they were a good bit older than I was. But I was amenable . . . I really wanted to hear what they had to say. And I'd go back and talk to my mother, you know, and father, "Hey, isn't this terrible, that Eddie, who's a piano player, and Cleveland," - - that's what he was called - - , "that they can't . . ." And you know, they said, "Yeah. And something ought to be done about it." So when Jackie Robinson integrated baseball, because I had curly hair, among other things, but also because I was almost the only person, again because of my parents, in my group of kids who . . . a lot of them were racist. They didn't want Jackie Robinson in baseball. And I did. And because I was so pro-Jackie Robinson, people started calling me Jackie, and it was derisively because, you know, but, basically what they were saying is nigger-lover. I actually have a book when I went Emory. I still have a dictionary somewhere or other that has my name in it as Jackie because I was called it so much. So, in terms of race, I was really kind of lucky.

Hosmer: So, your family was viewed as kind of strange then because of . . .

Jones: Very strange. All the members of the of family were racist. I constantly . . . my mother had constant arguments with them. My mother was the most intelligent person I've ever known. She was absolutely brilliant. And in dealing with her family members, she could be a pain in the neck in some ways, because she was so much brighter. And she suffered . . . did not suffer fools gladly. So, she would put them down. And they knew what her attitude was about race . . . and about Jews. I means, you criticize Jews to her, you are in very serious trouble. She had some . . . couple of really good Jewish friends. So, all of that stuff . . . I always realized that we were kind of an island here in terms of . . . our father's family lived a long way away and I rarely and any contact with them. My mother's family though, there were a lot of them in Jacksonville. And I always had the knowledge that we were out there on an island somewhere about attitudes about a lot of things.

Hosmer: Southerners are kind of strange because they're to be very, very friendly amongst each other but they seem so . . . like my Dad's kind of like that too. He's a slight racist but he's such a nice person in every other aspect.

Jones: Right.

Hosmer: Southerners are strange in that way.

Jones: Well, this was . . . well, there was a lot hostility in the family in part because of that. And for other things. My mother converted to Catholicism when I was a sophomore in college. And that caused a lot of tension, too. I was not very pro her doing it, but, I mean, as far as I was concerned, it was her right to be anything she wanted. But there were . . . her brother really was hostile. And her brother would make just nasty comments. I came that close to a fist fight with her brother. I threw him out of the house one time because he was insulting toward her about that. So, it's families. Families are . . . especially Southern families, I think.

Hosmer: Do you have any memories of World War Two back then?

Jones: Yes.

Hosmer: I guess you were a little boy then, huh?

Jones: I was a little boy. I remember Pearl Harbor, I remember playing football . . . somebody's already asked me this, I think?

Hosmer: Did we? Kathy?

Jones: Kathy. Is she using hers? Are hers and your thing too in there? I mean, are they . . .

Hosmer: No, I think her's is just for her thesis, I think . . .

Jones: Okay.

Hosmer: But, I mean, we don't have to cover this too extensively.

Jones: No, that's all right. Well, the Pearl Harbor thing and the submarine threat at the beach are the two things I remember best. I was in the front yard playing football on December 7, 1941, and my mother, who had the voice that, you know . . . a lot of people thought she looked like and sounded like Katherine Hepburn. She really was kind of dramatic. And so, she came to the front steps and said to all of us out there, "The Japanese have attacked Pearl Harbor." And I, you know, really vividly remember that. And I remember going to the beach . . . because I had a really good friend that had a place at the beach, and going down there. And when you cross the intercostal waterway . . . you know what the intercostal is? It's not . . .

Hosmer: In Jacksonville?

Jones: Yes, it doesn't go as far as you, maybe.

Hosmer: No, I . . .

Jones: It does go to Miami, but I don't know whether it goes south of Miami.

Hosmer: Kind of like an inlet?

Jones: Yeah, it's the inlet that runs parallel to the coast, to the Atlantic, all the way, you know, up to the Eastern United States. When we crossed that, crossed the bridge there, you had to . . . the bus was stopped, if you were on a bus. Or cars were stopped, and it was some kind of a check.. I don't know what good it did, but you were checked anyway about, you know, about

who the hell you were and why you were going to the beach. I guess if you own a place down there, you know, nobody worried about that, but you had to prove it. So, we'd go down there and one occasion, I saw a ship on fire off at the mouth of the St. Johns -- a German submarine had hit.

Hosmer: The mouth of the St. Johns, that's really close, wow.

Jones: Close yeah, everybody knew . . . there were several ships sunk down there and everybody knew there was . . . there were submarines out there. But, I don't remember anybody ever worried that there was going to be an attack or anything, either air attack . . . and submarines were not about to surface and attack anything. But you know, it did make you know the war was pretty close by. I remember D-Day well because my next door neighbor, one of my best friends who lived next door to me, he and I had all these maps of Europe and the Pacific and we had pins on them that we would regularly, you know, keep track of where the war was going. And I remember on the morning . . . woke up on the morning of June 6, and of course, it had been underway already for several hours because of the time difference. And we woke up and turned the radio on immediately, school was out already, so we were at home. I turned the radio on immediately and . . . which I regularly did. And I could open my window and he was . . . his dining room window was next door. And we both opened the windows and yelled at each other, "Come over here." So, he came over . . . actually, I went over to his dining room, he had the big thing on his dining room table. And we looked at the map, the map of France to see where the hell Normandy was, we had no idea, you know, exactly . . . well, we did have some idea, but not exactly what part of Normandy the invasion had come in. So, we followed that all day long and now stuck new pins on there. We already had pins on for the Russian Eastern front and for the Italian campaign. So that's the kind of thing I . . . and Jacksonville was full of service people, because of Jacksonville Naval Air Station. So, anywhere you'd go, they'd be primarily sailors all over the place. I took flute lessons at the time, and my flute teacher had been on the Arizona at Pearl Harbor and had not been on duty when the Arizona blew up. The man who was the musician had been in his place on duty was killed. He was on leave and he came back to the U.S. and was stationed at Jackson NAS, he was really good and a good guy. And he used to take me over to Jackson NAS all the time. They had a really good football team during World War Two because service football is a big thing. And college football didn't shut down, but a lot of teams quit playing. Unless you had a service, that is training . . . you know, flight training or whatever, you were likely to lose your football team because so many of those guys were off, you know, in the service. So, a lot of service installations, Jackson NAS, Great Lakes Naval in Chicago, had football teams who played college teams.

Hosmer: Were they still around even . . . did most of them not go to the war, is that why they were available?

Jones: No, they were just passing through, training. They guys out there were training and literally on their way through. They'd go through flight training and maybe stay a little while longer and then they'd be gone. And the next year, we'd have a somewhat different team. Unless it was training personnel. Occasionally people were flight instructors, you know, and

that kind of thing. And so, they would be there for two or three years. But he used to take me out there to watch them play, which was really great. And to hang around, you know, the naval air station, which was a really interesting thing to do. Oh yeah, and then I got out . . . I told Kathy about this. They got . . . somebody got the idea for ground observer units, people who would . . . there was this tower, not a very big tower, but a tower. And in several places in Jacksonville. And you would go there - - you'd volunteer - - and you'd go there and be on for, like, three hours at a time and report . . . you had a phone. And you'd report whatever planes went over. And you had to be a certain age. And by . . . I think this was '44, I was thirteen by that time. So, I got to do that. And it was really interesting. It was boring sometimes, but somewhat interesting. You felt that you were part . . . I actually used to have a . . . at the end of the war, I got this, what do you call it . . . thing saying that, you know, "Good Service," and all that. Discharge. I had a discharge paper from the Ground Observer Corps, but that was kind interesting to do.

Hosmer: And how did you end up at Emory and what was your experience there? I guess you left after awhile?

Jones: Well, the Emory that I went to was Emory at Oxford, which is their junior college, it's where Emory University began. But the big campus is in Atlanta. This campus was in Oxford, which is about thirty miles from Atlanta. But I went there because I was a bad kid in high school, kind of a mixed academic record back . . . I was in a lot of trouble and got . . . my parents were convinced that if I went to the University of Florida, which is where I would have gone otherwise, that I would get in trouble. I mean, big school and all of that. So two reasons took me to Emory. It was a small campus, and students were really controlled. And the other was, I didn't want to go into ROTC, and they didn't have ROTC up there, and they ROTC in Florida. So, I didn't want to that, and so I went to Emory. And I was there for two years. And I loved it.

Hosmer: You did?

Jones: Absolutely, oh, yeah. I loved it, it was great. The people I met there we some of the best people I've ever known, and still are. My roommate . . . I still have contact with both my two roommates, and that is, after all fifty years later. This year, I graduated fifty years ago this year.

Hosmer: From Emory?

Jones: Yeah, from the two year, you know, AA degree. And I really liked it. I mean, it was really, there were all kinds of restrictions, really, you know, serious restrictions. You could not, you know, be out after a certain time. It was small, 250 people. And . . . I think it's really is at the time probably what I needed. So, I stayed there for two years and then transferred to Florida in '51.

Hosmer: Okay, and at that time, when did you decide that you wanted to get into history? Was that at Emory?

Jones: No, at Emory . . . when I went to college, I was going to be a journalism major. I really thought writing was a great thing. And what I wanted to do more than anything was to be a sportswriter. So, I thought a lot about that. And when I went to Emory, I was going to go to journalism school. And my second roommate, the one from Griffin, Georgia who I still, you know, have regular contact with, he also was in journalism. So, that's what I wanted to do. And the first year I was there, I guess, I talked to a good friend from high school whose father was a writer for the *Florida-Times Union* in Jacksonville. And I talked to his father about, you know, chances in journalism. And remember there's no TV at the time. Radio journalism is not that big a thing, I mean not in a lot of jobs. And newspaper print journalism . . . there were two newspapers in Jacksonville - - not that I had to stay in Jacksonville - - but there were more newspapers at the time because there's been a lot of consolidation, you know, now. But, I talked to him and he said, "There's very little turn over, the guys who get the jobs keep the jobs." And really, he thought the opportunity was not particularly good. And people who are in sports journalism now, of course, can get all kinds of jobs now, I mean on TV in particular and all kinds of things like that. And that just didn't exist. So, I decided that it really probably was not a good idea. So, then I decided I'd major in history, because I'd always done very well in it. And then I'd teach. My idea was that I'd teach in high school. And that's . . . so, I transferred to Florida because I thought that I would have to take, you know, Florida requirements to get a teaching certificate, and I couldn't get them at Emory. Also, Emory in Atlanta, which was a great school, and all my friends were going there, was so damned expensive that with me working part time, or in the summer, and my parents, who did not have a hell of a lot of money, they'd said it would be great if you could go to Gainesville, and so I decided to go to Gainesville.

Hosmer: And so did UF have a particular reputation of that time, or was it just kind of like a . . .

Jones: It was strange in some ways. It was not a very large school at the time.

Hosmer: No?

Jones: No, there were not ten thousand people there when I went there. It was just under ten thousand, I think. My memory is, like, eighty-five hundred, nine thousand students. It had only become coed four years before I went there . . . and the ratio, the male- to-female ratio, was overwhelmingly male. And so, you know, women had no trouble getting dates, guys had tremendous trouble getting dates, if you wanted to date a student. But it was really . . . I mean the things that made it so different were the GI Bill was still, you know, very much a part of things. And so, a lot of the people I knew really well, a couple of roommates . . . one of my roommates was a veteran of the Battle of Bulge, who was . . . I was probably twenty or twenty-one at the time, and he was like, thirty-two. And he had a job in Jacksonville and he would go home on a weekend. And he was married, but he was down there trying to get a degree in

business. And he was a tank commander in the Battle of the Bulge, it was great to talk to him. I had a lot of people in class who were World War Two veterans , who were trying to finish up. So, that element of the student body I mean, now, there are a lot of older students. But for a long time, that was not true. When the GI Bill people passed, then you had the chunk of time when you didn't have that many non-traditional students. But, there were a lot them who were there after World War Two, no blacks. A very small percentage of women, you know, it was an okay school but the reputation has increased tremendously since. They had a good history department, which I was lucky with. They had a . . .quite a good history department. They had a half a dozen people who . . . and I had great, great teachers. I mean, I had maybe one complaint out of the people I had. And political science which is my minor . . . I mean, I had three incredibly good political science professors and a whole bunch my major professor, a guy who later directed my Master's and Ph.D., William Henry Barringer [spelling ??], who was just . . . he was . . . you wouldn't . . . every time I teach, and I really give a good lecture and I think, you know, I owe him so much. And you know Carrelton [spelling ??], the Carrelton [??] building down there?

Hosmer: Yes, is that the music building down . . .

Jones: No, it's an auditorium, it's sort of in the middle of a smaller auditorium.

Hosmer: Oh, is that really Gothic looking one . . .

Jones: No, that's right next to that one. It's named for a guy who was my political science professor who I liked who was on my Ph.D. committee. So, you know, I have no complaint about instruction at all. Those guys were really good, they were tremendous teachers, and I got to be really good friends with a number of them. So, you know.

Hosmer: Would you say that those professors, when they lectured and . . . the scope of their lectures . . . was there kind of a conservative or liberal slant? Because I would imagine that lectures would be much very different.

Jones: Very liberal.

Hosmer: Really?

Jones: Oh, yeah.

Hosmer: Wow, that's neat.

Jones: They were all . . . oh, yeah, almost all of them were Yankees. My major professor was from Illinois. They were veery liberal. I mean, they were . . . I was right at home with it, because I'd grown up with that. My major professor was from Illinois, he was a very liberal Democrat. Bill Carrelton, the guy in political science who the building's named for . . .

everybody thought he was a socialist. He wasn't, but he was a very lefty Democrat. The two professors that I had for Latin America - - I had two fields in Latin American history - - they were both University of California PhDs and both of them were very liberal. So, everybody I has was lefty politically, yeah. And the students that I knew, many of them were.

Hosmer: I guess most people don't think of that kind of brand of liberalism occurring until the sixties.

Jones: No, it was there before that. I mean, the faculty were clearly . . . everyone was in favor of integration. Everyone of them was, you know, pro-labor and anti-business, basically. Oh, yeah. It was . . . and a lot of students I knew were. It was earlier than . . . the integration activity had really not begun yet, that doesn't happened until I get here. But I remember, I was in class. I was in Bill Carellton's [spelling ??] political science class, it was political parties, on the day that the Brown decision was handed down in '54. And he came in and he had just heard . . . none of us had heard. He came in and said, and told us . . . and told us it was a majority, I mean, excuse me, a unanimous decision. And everybody was really fired up. I mean, political science and history drew at that time . . . and that's one thing about the student body. There was a good bit of division in terms of politics. Political Science and History and English, to some extent, drew a lot of sort of left wing people, a lot of fairly liberal students and faculty. The business school did not, the agriculture school did not. I mean, a lot of those people were much more traditional. I roomed, eventually, for one semester with a guy who was in the Ag school. And he and I . . . I thought I was going to kill him.. I mean, we had serious disagreements over everything, not the least of the fact that he snored the worst I've every heard in my life. But he was very conservative. So, no, it was . . . it was kind of a leading edge of what's about to come. But, I didn't have any complaint, either politically or the kind of instruction I got.

Hosmer: And what dorm did you stay in when you were there?

Jones: Flecter.

Hosmer: Flether.

Jones: It's right across from . . .

Hosmer: Sledd and Thomas?

Jones: Yes, Sledd, yes, in there.

Hosmer: I guess you didn't have an air conditioner, huh?

Jones: No, I didn't.

Hosmer: Terrible. Did you go to summer sessions with no air?

Jones: The first session I went to was summer . . . when I transferred from Emory, I went to the summer session of 1953. Entered in June of '53. It was hot as hell. I had a fan, I mean, you know, a regular old oscillating fan.

Hosmer: People have those still those there. They're still not air conditioned.

Jones: They're not?

Hosmer: No.

Jones: Where'd you live?

Hosmer: I lined in all the '60s buildings, like Jennings and East Hall. I'd would prefer Sledd and Thomas because they're so much more attractive, but they still don't have the wiring to get air in there.

Jones: I lived in Fletcher the whole damn . . . I can't remember the dorm section now. But I lived in that dorm section almost the whole time I was there. And when I was in graduate school, finally I got married and lived off campus. But, I lived in the same damn dorm section. And it was really . . . I liked it.

Hosmer: They're pretty.

Jones: The rooms had suites, I mean inside there were two rooms, kind of a study room and then the room you slept in. And I really . . . I liked it a lot. My dorm section, for a long time, like two or three years in a row, had the highest GPA of any dorm section at the University of Florida, of which there were many. So, that was good. And we had a lot of really serious students. And a lot of noise at the wrong time, somebody's going to be out there on their ass to stop, you know. And I liked it.

Hosmer: And were there any college hangouts that kids went to, or what did people do to socialize and have fun? Join fraternities?

Jones: I did not join a fraternity. Well, I didn't because I was already a junior. Were you in a sorority?

Hosmer: No, actually, I went to UF as a freshman, then I hated it, then I came home for community college, then I went back and transferred, so I didn't join, either. I didn't want to join.

Jones: Well, I had a lot of friends who were already down there, who'd gone straight from Jacksonville down there. So, when I got there, I had a lot of friends who were already in fraternities. And the summer before I went there, I was rushed pretty hard by Sigma Chi and

SAE . . .

Hosmer: You were?

Jones: Yes, because I had two good friends who were Sigma Chi's. The guy who lived next door, who I planned all the D-Day stuff with, was down there as a Sigma Chi. And I had about three or four real good friends who were SAEs. So, I got a lot of, you know, attention from them. I was a fairly good athlete, I was a pretty good student, but I really didn't want to do it. I was a junior, and I . . . nobody's going to paddle me, all that stupid hazing shit. So, I really didn't want to do it, and in the end, decided not. But, they were so kind that I used to go to parties all the time, because I knew them all. So, I'd go . . . SAEs in particular. I spent a lot of time at the SAE house, which used to be right at the corner of 13 th and University.

Hosmer: Oh, really?

Jones: Yes.

Hosmer: I think they changed now. They're the one that has the lion in the front of their house?

Jones: It's over in fraternity row, or something like that. It was right there. And in time, I got to be really good friends with a bunch of Pikes. The Pikes' house was right across from the SAE house, at the corner of 13th and University. So, but, no, I . . . drinking was . . . beer was legal, but nothing else.

Hosmer: In houses?

Jones: No, in the county.

Hosmer: Oh, really? Wow.

Jones: No hard whisky, nothing like that. So, what a lot of people did, if you went to Jacksonville or Orlando, we'd bring back for the weekend . . . you couldn't have anything in houses and dorms, not even beer, which I did all the time, but you weren't supposed to. But the . . . you could bring it back, but if you didn't and if you needed booze, you went to the Marion county line, toward Ocala. It was a bar-restaurant, which was a pretty good restaurant, called Ruby's, which was right over . . . anybody in my student generation down there, if you asked them what Ruby's was, unless they were teetotalers, they would immediately know what you're talking about. You went through Miccanopy, and Miccanopy didn't have a straight road then, Miccanopy had this damn road that was a huge curve. And students were always getting killed or having wrecks coming back from Ruby's, going through Miccanopy, that is. A good bit of . . . a lot of drinking. I collapsed once coming back from the SAE house. Having abandoned my date, or gotten cut off or whatever. Somebody else probably took her home. The Law School

used to be right up there too. The Law School was right at the corner of thirteenth and . . . I don't know where the hell it is now. Not far from the library, just west of the library. The law school was up there. And I remember I passed out in the bushes. And somebody came along an hour later and found me completely grubby and . . . but sports was a big thing at the time. Football was very big. Basketball was played on campus in a much smaller place. I think the gym is still there, the old gym where basketball was played, Bill Conway. But football season was real big.

Hosmer: Do you remember the rivalry with Florida State that began in the late fifties?

Jones: I was up here.

Hosmer: Oh.

Jones: Yes, I was a Gator fan for a long time.

Hosmer: Then you switched, huh?

Jones: They began playing in fifty-eight and I'd been up here for a year. The first game was down there. For a while, Florida wouldn't play up here, they said the stadium was too small, they were just . . . they were chicken shit. So, we went down there. And I was a Gator fan until sixty-seven. So, it's almost ten years. In sixty-seven, I'd begun to have a lot of students that were football players in class. In sixty-seven, I had Kim Hammond [spelling ??] in class, who is now a judge and was a really, really good guy and a bright student. And he got hurt in that game, on a really dirty hit by a Florida linebacker. And I was in the end zone and watched as he came out and the trainer, Don Fowles [spelling ??], who was the FSU chief trainer, who was a good friend of mine, led Kim out and Kim clearly had a concussion and I was out of it. And I got so mad that . . . and I realized to myself, "What is this? I am now critical of the Gators." So, when Kim came back, he did come back and go in and FSU won the game the first time they had ever beaten Florida down there. And it began to turn me a little bit. And then over the next few years, that turned me a bit more. And for a long time, I was . . . even though I taught here, I was still a very big Gator.

Hosmer: What was the town like in terms of . . . in the late fifties, did the town begin to integrate and did they have black students at all?

Jones: Not before I left. There was almost none before. You see, I left in '57. I came to teach up here in September of 1957.

Hosmer: Did you have your Ph. D.?

Jones: No.

Hosmer: When did you get your Ph.D.?

Jones: In sixty-one, so I still . . . or sixty, in mid-year, sixty. So I was up here about two and a half years without a Ph.D.

Hosmer: Oh, okay.

Jones: Yeah. So there was very little of that at the time in Gainesville. I mean, the first experience I had was up here. Now, I was involved in some little bit activity down there when I was working on my Master's in fifty-six . . . fifty-six, fifty-seven. I did become involved - - or fifty-five, fifty-six - - I did become in some small stuff, but it was very low level and not much, and with no success at all. One of my best friends in graduated was extremely - - was a socialist, probably - - extremely liberal and was defiantly pro-integration. And he got me involved. So, we would meet occasionally with NAACP, black people and talk about anything we could do to improve the situation, but I don't remember any real success. It was really early. The Brown decision . . . only two years passed . And really no . . . it was a terribly frustrating time. So, the first time I was really involved in anything like that was until I got up here.

Hosmer: Okay, do you think I should stop now . . .

Jones: Do you have any more Florida questions?

Hosmer: I don't think so, I think that covers Gainesville, unless you want to add anything else about the city and the . . .

Jones: I remember it as a really small, kind of jerky town.

Hosmer: Was it similar to Jacksonville?

Jones: No, it was much larger.

Hosmer: Right.

Jones: See, I think Gainesville now is a much better town. I mean a good town. There are a lot of really good places to eat. There was almost no . . . there were two restaurants in Gainesville that you might take somebody to a date to, or, you know, anything like that. But not much. It was really a kind of a small, redneck town. The county seat of Alachua county and not much . . . so I don't remember it as a particularly . . . it had a really good bookshop kind of newsstand that was downtown, right in the middle of downtown, across from the courthouse. But it was really good. It's not there anymore. That's one of the few things I remember . . . it was pretty good. Restaurants, terrible. I mean, there were two . . . one of them was a Spanish restaurant that was run by a woman who was Spanish, not Cuban or. . . you know, Spanish. It was really good. And there was one kind of traditional Southern restaurant downtown that was

pretty good. But not much. It was really a small town.. It was dominated by . . . I mean, university was a huge part of the town. So I don't remember . . . when I got to be a senior and a graduate student, I was invited to faculty places and homes, so that . . . I got to see the inside of people's homes. But I don't remember Gainesville as a particularly attractive or appealing.

Hosmer: And I guess students really didn't have any hangouts and restaurants because they couldn't drink there.

Jones: No, you couldn't drink.

Hosmer: That sounds boring.

Jones: Right, I know it. I didn't have a car the whole time I was there either.

Hosmer: Did most students have cars then?

Jones: I don't know most or what the percentage would be, I mean, I really don't know. But a hell of a lot of people I knew didn't have cars. I mean it was a totally different time in terms of that kind of thing. I mean, people have cars at fairly young ages, in high school and all of that. Well, at that time, that was not the case. I mean, my family didn't have a hell of a lot of money. And everybody did not have a car. So, a lot of people didn't have cars, which clearly cramped your social life. I mean you can't drink, there's no place to go quickly to drink, not that every time you go anywhere you have to drink. But, all those things put together, it was

Hosmer: So fraternities did sneak alcohol the whole time.

Jones: And one reason you joined a fraternity was it at least gave you . . . now, they could get placed on probation quickly if somebody caught them. But it was a thing . . . one of the reasons people joined them.

Hosmer: Did you hang around Lake Alice, do you remember what it was like?

Jones: Where the hell's Lake Alice?

Hosmer: It's a big lake where they have alligators walking around and stuff like that.

Jones: On campus?

Hosmer: Yes.

Jones: I actually caught one and threw it in there at one time.

Hosmer: An alligator?

Jones: Well, I was going with - - yeah, I know where that is - - I was going to, about this time of year, three friends and I were going to St. Pete to see the Yankees and Cardinals play in a spring training game. And on the way down there, of all things . . . I don't remember . . . it was around, Brooksville, I think. We found . . . we saw on the side of the road a gator walking along, I mean, clearly moving from one pond to another. It wasn't a very large gator, or we would have left it alone. And one of these guys, who already had too many beers, decided, "I'm going to get out and catch that gator." So he did. He caught the gator. The gator's snapping at him . . . I mean, the gator really isn't much longer than that [gestures with hands]. Anyway, the gator's snapping at him and he took his belt off and lowered his belt like a lasso over the gator's mouth and pulled it to. And I'm saying, "What the shit are we doing with this gator?" And he opened the trunk and threw it in the trunk.

Hosmer: And did it die?

Jones: No, the gator's in the trunk. We go to the game, and it's not all that hot. So, we go to the game and come out and look and the gator has chewed all the wires in this and so we have no taillight, I mean, nothing. No brake light or anything. And the gator is hissing, you know, as you opened the trunk cover. But, we took the gator back to Gainesville and now the question is, "What the hell are we going to do with this gator?" So, we took it inside Sledd, I guess, . . . these guys lived in Sledd. Took it in Sledd and put it in the shower, and this guy poor guy goes in . . .

Hosmer: More like it's natural environment.

Jones: That's right. This guy goes in and they wanted to scare the hell out of him and there is a gator on the shower floor and, you know, it's a wonder it didn't bite him. And so, you know, played with that for a little bit and then finally decided we need to take it . . . and I'm sure that's where we took the gator and threw it in the lake.

Hosmer: Well, it's probably still around then.

Jones: Probably much larger now, but it's some years ago.

Hosmer: Can you remember Homecoming games and Gator Growl?

Jones: I do.

Hosmer: What was that like?

Jones: I remember Growl. Growl . . . I liked Growl a lot. Growl was good at the time.

Hosmer: Any celebrities? Or no, they didn't do that?

Jones: The celebrities I can remember are up here at homecomings since. But at the time, I don't really remember anybody. I'm sure they had them, I just don't remember who they were. But I liked Growl a lot, I thought it was really . . . I remember funny damn stuff at Growl and really good, you know, good skits. Did they do skits with you?

Hosmer: Actually, I didn't go to the Homecomings, or the Gator Growl. But everybody complained about the skits a lot, that they were really bad. And unfortunately, they had alumni do some of the skits . . .

Jones: Oh my God.

Hosmer: . . . like from '50s, so that wasn't funny.

Jones: No. These were fraternities and sororities that did skits. And fraternity skits, I really were pretty good. Yeah, I remember that. And I remember about Homecoming. I've never been to a Homecoming . . .

Hosmer: You've never been . . .

Jones: No, since I graduated. I have never been to Homecoming. I may have been to a game or two, just because it went to . . . I used to go to games down here a lot, not just the FSU games, but other games, too. But, yeah, I remember Growl really fondly. I thought it was pretty neat.

Hosmer: Do you remember any college hijinks, like panty raid type stuff and any wild things from college students?

Jones: See, panty raids, again, were after I came up here. I was teaching here when panty raids were here. I mean, our . . . the most getting into trouble stuff, most of that was at Emory, when I was at Emory, not at Florida.

Hosmer: What did you do then, or all your friends do?

Jones: At Emory?

Hosmer: Yes.

Jones: Well, drank a lot and did what we could to evade . . . remember, it's Methodist and had very strict rules. And a lot of us got in trouble a number of times for doing that and we . . . chapel. We had compulsory chapel. I hated it. Four times a week. And I really didn't like it, and nobody liked it very much. But we had to go four times a week. And we got . . . my roommate and I go on and another guy . . . one night into the chapel and found it was open and got in there. And took a whole bunch of thumbtacks and put them in - - there was no organ,

there was a piano. And chapel began when this woman played this great chord on the piano and that's when you knew to shut up and chapel was about to begin. We put thumbtacks in the hammers.

Hosmer: In the hammers?

Jones: In the, you know, the hammers of the piano. Which hit down to make notes. And it sounded like a bar room piano. And it was one of the most wonderful moments in my life. I mean, here we are sitting in there and the three of us were, "Hey, this is going to be great." And "Bam", and the whole place went absolutely nuts. Administration was completely bent out of shape about it and absolutely furious about this and demanded that whoever did it report or they're going to campus everybody, they'd just keep you and not let you go. And in the end they relented and never found out who did it. The rules were really pretty strict then. I used to sneak away to Atlanta. Was caught once doing that. But Florida . . . I don't remember . . .

Hosmer: Did you have dress codes or any codes of conduct that . . .

Jones: No. At Florida? At Emory?

Hosmer: Florida, or Emory.

Jones: No. No way. Dress code? Do they have a dress code now?

Hosmer: No, no.

Jones: No. I was grubby as hell. I wore jeans then and . . . no, no way. I didn't shave half the time. I always hated to shave, so I . . . I mean I . . . as a student, I mean, really . . . I didn't grow a beard, I just wouldn't shave. No, there were no dress codes or clothing codes or anything like that, not when I was there. There may have been for women.. Because there were for women after I came to teach here. There were codes for women.

Hosmer: Like not shorts or . . .

Jones: Slacks.

Hosmer: No shorts after . . . before five o'clock or something.

Jones: That's right. Except on Saturday. Here, you could wear shorts on . . . did they have rules at Florida?

Hosmer: No, I just read about those.

Jones: No, you couldn't wear shorts except on Saturday. I know. For a while, you

couldn't wear pants, women couldn't.

Hosmer: Right.

Jones: Can you believe? How stupid. But, that's about all I can remember.

Hosmer: All right, well thank you.

[End Side A, End of First Interview]
[Begin Side B, Begin Second Interview]

Hosmer: Okay, so when did you begin teaching history at Florida State?

Jones: 1957.

Hosmer: How'd you end up here, of all places?

Jones: It was a job. I can't remember . . . I didn't tell you this? Outside my, where I was living in Gainesville, and my major professor came out and said there's a . . . I didn't tell . . . Okay, I might have told Kathy on one . . . anyway, I was ABD, I had not done a dissertation but I passed comps. And I needed a job. I had a very young child, and so . . . my major professor got wind of . . . or somebody got in touch with me . . . it was a job up here. It was a temporary, one year job. And so, he came out to see me. I was living not very far from campus and my daughter was a teeny little thing. She was in a playpen and I was washing her diapers outside on a really nice day. And he came by and said, "Hey, there's a job at FSU. It's a one year job and why don't you . . . are you interested?" And I said, "Yes." He said, "Why don't you get up there and interview?" So, I went up the next day, came up the next day to interview. And I was taking the place of a guy named Cal Billman [spelling ??] teaching . . . FSU used to have places on service installations. And he was teaching in the Canal Zone, and he decided he wanted to stay one more year, so there was a vacancy for a year. So, I came up and interviewed and got the job. And it was only about three weeks before school started. No, maybe a month before school started. So, I came up in September of '57. And at the end of that . . . I was only temporary. I was a temporary acting instructor, which is the most impermanent title anybody ever had. For forty-two hundred dollars. And he . . . the guy whose place I took came back. But somebody else left the next year. At the end of that first year, or half way through it, I thought I was going to have to get another job. And I was looking. But then, somebody else left, so I could stay. And so, I came here, you know, in that very impermanent position, and I've been here forty-four years. So, that was it.

Hosmer: What did they have you teach when you started this?

Jones: I taught . . . I didn't teach the Civil War for a couple of years. I taught . . . and we didn't have World Civ at the time, we had Western Civ and an American survey, which was

at the thousand level. And then we had a course called . . . Latin American History was very big at the time, all over the country. And we had a course called The Americas. You could take the survey course and the history of the Americas, which was not only the U.S., but was . . . no, it wasn't the U.S. at all, it was Latin American History. It was everything from Mexico to Tierra del Fuego. So, I taught that as well. I had two fields in Latin American History at Florida, so I took . . . which was one reason I got the job, because I could do that course, too. So, I taught nothing but surveys to begin with. And then . . . I wish I brought . . . I have a list of everything I've ever taught and the students I've taught . . . so, in a couple years, I started teaching the Civil War. And then put the political history course in a little later on. And I didn't teach World War Two until 1989, that's the first time I taught it.

Hosmer: And so, when you were a young professor were you incredibly nervous when you began?

Jones: Never.

Hosmer: Never? No?

Jones: Not really.

Hosmer: Did the students treat you as if you were kind of a new professor, or did they . . .

Jones: Not really . . . but . . . I was only twenty-four when I started teaching . . . five, I guess when I started teaching. That's not true, I was twenty-six, twenty-six when I started teaching, yes. But no, I really wasn't. I mean, I taught as a graduate student at the University of California when I was out there. But I never really was particularly nervous. I guess I've always really liked to talk because I'm full of shit, and you know, it's just always been easy to do. So, I didn't remember being terribly nervous. And again, the people I had at Florida, I think, had a lot to do with it because they were so good. As I told you last time, they were . . . I mean, my major professor and two or three other people in History and the people in Political Science, were just so good that I just watched them. And I just learned from watching them. And I talked to them about it a lot. I would go . . . I'd talk to them about teaching and things like that. So, when I got here, I thought I was really prepared to do what I was doing.

Hosmer: And when you first got here, what major differences did you encounter between UF and Florida State?

Jones: Florida State was smaller, more women, percentage, in the student body by a good bit. It was . . . one of the big differences, and it still is a difference in spite of change, is that FSU had come from FSCW, and it had been a Liberal Arts college, really. And that's still what this was to a great extent. FSU did, at that time, have a business school, no law school. But a business school, you know, and one or two education . . . still, Liberal Arts was . . . the College of Arts and Sciences was the major . . . by far the most important part of the university.

Whereas Florida had all those professional schools. So, Arts and Sciences was just, you know, one among many. Law and Engineering and, you know, all of that. Pharmacy . . . there was no med school at Florida when I was there. But still, it was different. And that was the difference. It was clear that A and S was more the central focus of the university. And Liberal Arts and Science more central than it was at the University of Florida, which I liked.

Hosmer: Yes, I guess that's how . . . definitely it is that way still.

Jones: Yeah, it is, it is.

Hosmer: All right. At Florida State, in the late fifties and sixties, how involved were students in the civil rights movement?

Jones: Here?

Hosmer: Yes, here.

Jones: Not that much yet. A little bit, but in the sixties . . . in the late fifties, still not much. But there was a little. And it had begun . . . I mean the first year I was here, already . . . we are now, by this time, three years past the Brown decision and every fall, by then there were crises, you know, all over the South in terms of integration. There wasn't a great deal of activity in Tallahassee yet until the nineteen sixties, until the early nineteen sixties. In the fifties, already, you know, a little bit. And I was involved from almost the beginning. But students, not yet. By the sixties, students became very much involved. After all, FAMU right across town was . . . they were beginning to demonstrate, you know. The first things were public accommodations things. Lunch counters and, you know, things like that. So they were beginning. And then, by the early sixties, by sixty-one, two, three, there was already a good bit of activity here and I was involved in a lot of that.

Hosmer: And so, when did the first black students begin to arrive here?

Jones: It's still some time. The first black students here don't come until, you know, I can't remember the exact year, but it's a little bit later in the sixties. The first black football player is not until the early seventies. So, it is beginning . . . they are beginning to come. But there already is a lot of civil rights activity even before they come here. Because of FAMU and the demonstrations there and because of . . . I mean in downtown Tallahassee. The first two things are the bus boycott and trying to integrate lunch counters. Those things before there was any integration at FSU. There's the beginning of that . . .

Hosmer: So, that's what the FAMU students were protesting about then?

Jones: Yeah, that's what they were doing, yeah.

Hosmer: And when integration finally did begin, what were your impressions of FSU's actual integration program? And did it run smoothly?

Jones: It ran reasonably smoothly. Remember like most of those things, it was run so slowly that you didn't even notice. Because I was in history, I knew more about it because black students tended to take liberal arts courses and intended to take History and English and things like that. So, the first black students were people that I knew. And so, fairly early on, I had, you know, some of those people in class. Harold Knowles [spelling ??], who is one of the first black students at FSU . . . had been one of the first black students at Leon and then became one of the first black students at FSU. Harold Knowles [spelling ??], who's a lawyer now in Tallahassee, was, you know, somebody I knew very early on. And our department was very good . . . really on that whole issue. There was almost no opposition in the department. Overwhelmingly pro-integration. And Joe Richardson was a graduate student then and he was - - and he came back as a faculty member - - and he was certainly active in all of that. So, I was really proud of the department. But the university . . . it went reasonably well. You know, not a great deal of difficulty. Slow, way slower than it should have been, but still, not much violence or opposition or anything like that.

Hosmer: Were there any specific types of conservative movements among the students or administration that really voiced . . .

Jones: Well, there were individuals, but not . . . certainly there was opposition, but it was not . . . not much in the faculty or administration at all. But among students there was some. I mean, I was threatened fairly early . . . either the first or second year I was here because I was talking in class about integration and how important it was and I got a threat. I got a phone call one night and somebody had said, "We're going to kill you, nigger-lover."

Hosmer: Wow.

Jones: Yeah, so it was . . . you know, but that's just one thing in passing. But, by the sixties, it had definitely changed.

Hosmer: So were most of the students, especially the men . . . were they southern boys, or is that kind of . . .

Jones: No, it was still a very southern place. But, you know, there were people that very clearly didn't like it. But, it's a long time. It's the seventies before you get much of a black presence on the campus at all. Because integration came, you know, very, very slowly with only a few students.

Hosmer: Did it begin with the graduate studies and professional studies? Is that where they mostly . . .

Jones: Well, a few, but they were undergraduates, too. Harold Knowles, who came here as an undergraduate . . . but again, it was so small. You're talking about, you know, half a dozen students early on. And then, I don't know what the student body as a whole was, it must have been somewhere between fifteen and twenty thousand. So, you're talking about, maybe campus-wide, even after a few years, you're still talking only about twenty, twenty-five students. So, you don't . . . if you didn't . . . I saw them because they were around where I was because they were taking courses that are Arts and Science courses. But you know, you could go across this campus for some time after integration began and not have a very good idea that this school was integrated.

Hosmer: And when they were in your classes, in the late sixties I would say, were treated well by their peers in your classes?

Jones: Yes, they were either treated well or just ignored. Nobody made much of a fuss over them. I don't remember much of a fuss being made, either negatively, or . . . I mean in class. I don't remember any student consciously or making a fuss, "I'm not sitting next to this guy," or something like that.

Hosmer: In the sixties, how rebellious were the students? Were they beginning to become rebellious? Was that in the later sixties?

Jones: Well, it's really mid-sixties. Early sixties is still not a big deal. Well, by sixty-four, there's certainly is a good bit more. And it's both integration and anti-war. The two of them combined become much more. And just a kind of general rebelliousness. We had a huge issue here over language and censorship. A big issue over censorship, which I have a copy of somewhere. And in it, this is a little later in the sixties, was a short story . . .

Hosmer: I think I remember . . . some thing a bout a pig or something ?

Jones: Right. "Pig Knife", that's the name of the story. By a guy who was a Vietnam veteran and the story was about that. And he used "fuck" in his story. And that causes this incredible hassle. And they suppress the magazine and the president of the university was totally bent out of shape about it, and that caused a big stink, too, which I was involved in. The anti-administration position on that against censorship. So, the big issues in the sixties and going into the early seventies were anti-war. By the late sixties, anti-war. Integration still, because integration was still moving pretty slowly. But integration had ceased to be quite as important as anti-war.

Hosmer: How did students act out their protests of the Vietnam war?

Jones: Well, there were all kinds of demonstrations out here. There were demonstrations at the ROTC building, demonstration against, you know, almost any . . . there were parades all the time and demonstrations on Landis Green. In sixty-eight, in the election of sixty-eight, I had

a number of students who went to New Hampshire to campaign for Eugene McCarthy against Johnson. And then, Pete Ripley and I and Pete's wife went to D.C. in the March on Washington in sixty-nine. There were always a lot of people . . . David Ammerman [spelling ??], who was in the department then, went to the March on the Pentagon. So, there were always a number of people here involved in marches here, marches elsewhere in Florida and going to DC as well in opposition to the war.

Hosmer: I guess students definitely felt dissatisfied with Johnson then . . .

Jones: Now, when you say students, you talking, remember about a minority of students still. You're talking about . . . student activism had increased, but still it's not . . . most students came and went on with their ordinary lives. They might well have opposed the war, but they were not demonstrating. The number of people actively involved was a fairly small percentage of the total student body.

Hosmer: When did student begin to present themselves as more . . .

Jones: Conservative?

Hosmer: Oh, no, more in the hippie lifestyle?

Jones: Oh, mid sixties. Yes, mid sixties it began a little bit. The first time I saw anybody with really long hair, a guy with really long hair . . . I can even remember where it was and who it was. It was a guy who was really well known as a kind of radical . . . he was even called Radical Jack, even though he wasn't all that radical. And I remember . . . could sort of looking . . . "God, this looks odd." So, that's sixty-six, sixty-seven, something like that. And it increases as the decade goes on to the seventies.

Hosmer: Were the nature of protests different in the seventies than they were in the sixties?

Jones: There never was any violence. There were never any really violent protests. You know, I have a hard time, Crista, in keeping in my mind exactly when . . . I can remember big things like going to Washington in sixty-nine and the sixty-eight election, and then the demonstration in the seventies because of Kent State. But after that, it blurs a little bit. I mean, they're out of Nam, you know, by seventy-four. The demonstrations still go on, or not quite . . . a little bit later . . . till go on until the early seventies, so. But they're never any . . . there was a lot of activity here, but not a great deal of violence, ever. Slopping blood all over whatever . . . records . . . because there's not much. Unlike a lot of schools that had all kind of government contracts and the felling that we've got to attack whatever it is here because they're making napalm for something . . . there never was that much of that here. But there always was the feeling that FSU, more than a lot of southern universities, was sort of in the vanguard, but qualified, for southern universities. I mean, compared to Berkeley, Wisconsin, Columbia, who were three . . . probably the most radical campuses . . . we were way, way beyond. You know,

no body seized any buildings or anything like that. Although we did have sit ins all over the damn place. Sit ins in the front of Westcott, against the "Pig Knife" thing and over the war and various other things like that. There were sit ins on Landis Green and sit ins on the front of the administration building.

Hosmer: And what activities were you involved, or have we covered that, I guess.

Jones: Yes, I guess. The big one was integration and trying to integrate. After we got students, the big issue that then developed was why students can't eat at eating establishments on the edge of the campus. I mean, why anybody would want to eat that crap . . . but still, you know what I'm talking about. So, we already have black students but the . . . there were three or four eating establishments on the edge of the campus. And they had no . . . they would not permit black students in there at all. So, our argument was: they are FSU students, they've got to be treated like other FSU students. So, I was involved in several efforts to shut them down, I mean, to picket them, you know, and all that. So, I was involved a good bit in that. I was on a committee, some thing like the Joint Faith Committee, and I, at that time, was an agnostic and did not go to church at all, as did half the committee. But the university chaplain, who was a real good friend of mine, was the leader of this thing. So, we organized this committee to try to force those people to integrate. And the other big thing at that time was also integrating theaters. Because blacks were not allowed in theaters. We had black students, but they could not go to theaters in downtown Tallahassee. So, I was involved in an effort to try to do something about that. We went to the university chaplain and the head of the Episcopal student center - - both of these people were good friends of mine - - went to and I . . . the three of us went to Jacksonville to talk to the man who owned the theater chain to try to convince him that he should integrate his theaters, with absolutely no success. Well, not in the short haul. But no, he said, . . . and it was interesting because he was from Jacksonville and George Fidel, the man who ran the Episcopal Student Center, the Episcopal priest and I, were both from Jacksonville. And the other guy, Paul Meyers, who was the university chaplain, was from Charleston. So, we're over there and we're talking to Mr. Kent and, you know, trying to talk him into integrating the theaters and he basically said, "No", he wasn't about to. And one of the things he said was he was convinced if you lowered the lights in a theater and there were blacks and whites in there, that immediately black men would attack white women, and so you couldn't do that. Every time I walk into a theater, and have for years, I and I see, you know, white men and . . . whatever the hell it is . . . and they lights go down, I think, "Boy, we've got rape and murder, right here now." And of course, it never happened. But anyway, we tried to argue with him and finally he said, because he knew George, because George was the Episcopal priest, Father was the . . . one of the best known lawyers in Florida. And he was from Jacksonville. So, he knew George. And he said, he turned to the two of us, to Paul and I, and said, "Well, you people don't understand what our . . ." - - and he had no idea who we were - - ". . . what our . . ." - - we set him up for a real bummer - - ". . . you don't understand what our situation is here. And you really . . ." Basically, he said you know, basically, he said, you are outside agitators and you don't have any idea what's going on here and let us take care of our own problems. And Paul said at that point, Paul had lived in the North a long time, so he did not have the Charleston accent anymore. But he said, "Mr. Kent, I grew up in Charleston, South Carolina." And Mr. Kent sort of . . . and he

said, "I think I do understand." And then I got my greatest moment of all time, maybe. We were up in this big building in Jacksonville and I walked over to the window and pointed out across the river and I said, "I was born right there. And I grew up right there. And in the first grade . . . I was in the first grade with your daughter." I should have said, "And I skipped out of the first grade and she stayed there." But anyway, "I was in the first grade with your daughter and I went to school over there. And I know exactly what I'm talking about here. I mean, I've lived with this all my life." And that really took him aback. But he didn't do anything.

Hosmer: So what happened eventually?

Jones: It was some time before integration. It was still some time before integration.

Hosmer: When was everything basically integrated?

Jones: The seventies.

Hosmer: In the . . . I guess the . . .

Jones: By the early seventies. You took seventy-five for about a kind of target date.

Hosmer: Wow.

Jones: But it's slowing coming.

Hosmer: It really is slow.

Jones: It's still . . . I mean in some case, by the early seventies, there was more integration. But still, it's pretty slow in coming.

Hosmer: And just kind of looking back now from then, would you say that race relations have improved now, or is there more of a gulf between the races?

Jones: It's hard to say. I mean, I don't even think about it anymore because the university's so integrated. I have black students all the time, black students as graduate students, black faculty. I was chairman when Maxine was hired. So, I just don't think about it. I mean, I know that there's still a great deal that black students and black faculty feel that they are not dealt with fairly and they are second class in some ways. I don't see it day in and day out, because, as I've said, I have black students in every class and they're there and I don't think about it. I don't think about it . . . I don't see them as black or green or anything else. They're just students. So, as far as I'm concerned, I don't see it, you know, in normal academic life. But, I think there is a feeling that they are dealt with unfairly, on their part.

Hosmer: Just to go back a little bit, do you remember there ever being any black power

movements back then?

Jones: Oh, yeah.

Hosmer: And what were those like? Were they . . .

Jones: Well, they never became really violent here but there was . . . sure there was black power. And occasionally, and I can't remember who, but occasionally . . . I think Stokely Carmichael [spelling ??] came here to speak, or to Tallahassee. I remember we . . . it was sometimes difficult in going to meetings . . . when you asked me about FSU, it's difficult for me to always to separate FSU from FAMU because . . . unlike Florida, where clearly there's no other place than coming to the University of Florida. But here, if you went to meetings . . . and I'd go to, you know, meetings involving SNIK the committee to . . . somewhat radical. NAACP meetings and SNIK meetings. And they were joint meetings of FSU and FAMU people. So, and I always. . . I didn't stop and ask every black person I saw, "Are you a FAMU or a FSU student?" And sometimes I knew, and sometimes I didn't. And so, it was difficult really to separate them immediately. And one reason, I think, that things worked fairly well here because it was already a large, educated black population in this town.

Hosmer: Do you remember how the women's liberation movement manifested itself here? Were there any shocking . . .

Jones: No, no. I was . . . well, again, this had been a women's school.

Hosmer: Right.

Jones: There was a higher percentage of women faculty here than at the University of Florida by far. However, when FSU became FSU, a lot of women who'd been here a long time were very angry because they felt that they were dumped on. And a lot of new men were brought in and men were made chairmen and deans and things like that and got better treatment than they did, which I think is true to some extent. But, certainly there was . . . there were feminists, I mean, many of my best friends at FSU were feminists. There were . . . but there was not a great deal of . . . I don't remember much in the way of marches and things like that. Little by little, there certainly were organizations in which women could present their views and that . . . I'm still convinced that women are dumped on in this university. I mean, in this department, we have denied tenure to two women and are probably about to deny tenure probably to another woman. Across the university in the last few years, there has been . . . that's happened to a number of other young women. I don't think women are treated very fairly.

Hosmer: Do you?

Jones: No, I don't. But, comparing whatever is meant by the women's movement as opposed to civil rights and anti-war, there was always . . . and there was a great deal more

agitation. And those things are really easy to remember. The sit-ins for this and sit-ins for that. There were not any big sit-ins and demonstrations for . . . the only one that I can remember that I was involved in very directly was the Equal Rights . . . ERA. I was really involved in that and marched. I remember several . . . when there was a hope that Florida would go ahead and ratify. Marched and there was a demonstration in the House chamber, in the legislature in favor of that. I remember being there for that. But, there was less . . . certainly it's gone on and all those organizations were around. But as much activity as the ones from either black civil rights or anti-war.

Hosmer: Do remember student hijinks back then in the sixties and seventies, like streaking and . . .

Jones: Yes, streaking.

Hosmer: What happened with that? Was it a big thing?

Jones: Well, I remember . . . the biggest example of streaking, and it made national news, was the streaking at one of the anti-war meetings, a sit-in. The sit-in on Landis Green. And I remember during that sit-in there were a number of people who did a lot of streaking. Panty raids, I remember that. One of . . . the biggest one here . . . I was teaching honors courses at the time and I used to, because they were fairly small, I'd have everybody in class come out to my house, you know, several times a semester. So, they were out there one night and two of the women students I was driving - - a lot of people didn't have cars then - - I was driving back to dorms and as we got close to the campus, all hell would break loose all over the place, and that's what it was.

Hosmer: What are they exactly?

Jones: Panty raids? Breaking into women's dorms or sorority houses and stealing underwear. Don't ask me . . . remember, it was a very different world at the time. I mean, sexual promiscuity, sexual sort of openness did not exist at the time. I mean, there were all sorts kinds of dorm regs for women, you know, what you could wear, what you were talking about last time, and hours coming in and out and all that. I mean, most of the time, women had to be in . . . at that time in the sixties and early seventies, virtually no off campus housing, for women especially. Women lived in dorms and sorority houses, period. You had to get some kind of special dispensation to live off campus, if you were an undergraduate, graduate students could. But undergraduates, you had to have really special dispensation.

Hosmer: And this wasn't the case with male students?

Jones: No.

Hosmer: They could live anywhere they wanted to? Wow. Then could you live your aunt

or something if you're a female student?

Jones: You could but you had to have a good reason. You had to have be some kind of reason that you did this, and it was some sort of real hardship sort of thing, that type of thing. One of the . . . you're talking about FSU in the sixties, one of the most memorable students was . . . I did not teach, but knew fairly well was Jim Morrison.

Hosmer: Wow, really?

Jones: Yes, who went to school here for about a year and a half. Speaking of hijinks, there's an example. He and a friend of his went a football game and on the way back from the football game, stole . . . one of them, I think, took a cop's helmet that was sitting on a police car. It blocked off West Pensacola and the other guy took a lantern off of one of the barricades. And they were caught and they were going to kick them out of school. And a friend of mine in the department had him class and had discovered he was a really good student.

Hosmer: Was he really?

Jones: Yeah, he was a bright. And anyway, he had actually given me . . . he had written a paper on Harrimish Basch [spelling ??], do you know who Harriamsh Basch is?

Hosmer: No, I don't.

Jones: The medieval . . . the painter. Anyway, it was a perfect Jim Morrison subject. Because Basch is totally weird. Anyway, I read the paper, and I always liked Bausch's paintings. So, I . . . , "Hey, this guy's pretty good." And then he comes to me any says, "Hey, the guy who wrote that paper . . . they're about to throw him out of school." And my friend had just been here . . . this was his first year, I think, and I'd been here a good while. So, he said, "Would you try to do something about it?" So, I went to the Dean of Men and said, "Hey, he hasn't done very much here, so why don't you put him on probation and don't put him out." And he agreed to do that. So, I basically saved him and kept him in school. And then so I became . . . we became friends and drank together for the rest of the time he was here. So, I knew him, for a while, fairly well. No drugs at time, it was early for drugs. Nobody I knew was even smoking pot at the time. But we drank a good bit and drank with him. And then he left here . . . he went to a new . . . he went to . . . I knew he wasn't going to stay here very long. He wanted to go to UCLA to film school. So, he left and went to UCLA, which was the last I ever had any contact with him. And I will never forget though being in a record store and looking down at the album cover of the first Doors album and thinking, "Shit, it's Jim Morrison." Because I didn't have any idea what . . . I thought he would be an actor . . . no, I thought he would be a screen writer, that's what he wanted to be. And he was fairly creative. So, I thought that's what we would . . . if we ever heard from him again, we would hear from him as a screen writer, you know, suddenly.

Hosmer: You saw him on Ed Sullivan, or things like that?

Jones: Was he ever on Ed Sullivan?

Hosmer: I don't know, one of those shows.

Jones: I don't know whether he was or not. But the next thing I know, he's "dropping trou" in Miami, that's what . . .

Hosmer: Oh, that's when exposed himself in concert, is that right?

Jones: In Miami. Yeah, so, that added . . .

Hosmer: Dropping trout, that's funny.

Jones: Right, yeah. But he was a . . . I remember him as a very bright guy and somewhat unstable. Hated his father, which everybody knows. But he was one those interesting people that you meet along the way.

Hosmer: Do recall any other students that ended up being students who went here?

Jones: Oh, yeah, Burt Reynolds. I knew Burt Reynolds. And . . . I had him in an honors class, the infirmary's named for him now . . .

Hosmer: Thagard.

Jones: Norm Thagard he was . . . I had him in class. And a lot of well known athletes. The governor of Maryland right now, _____ [??] Dennings [??], a former student of mine. And almost any time a - - not so much anymore - - but for a while, I would have from ten to fifteen members of the state legislature I would have had in class. A member of the College Football Hall of Fame and Pro Football Hall of Fame, a lot of major league baseball players. A member of the International Basketball Hall of Fame.

Hosmer: Who's that?

Jones: Dave Cowwins [?]. _____ [??] _____ [??], Football Hall of Fame and Ron Sellers, College Football Hall of Fame. So, yeah, over the years, you know, had a lot of people like that.

Hosmer: Do you recall . . . I think Victoria . . . no, there was another celebrity that went here. Faye Dunaway.

Jones: Faye Dunaway. That was before I was here. She transferred to Florida. She

went the opposite.

Hosmer: As a professor, do you remember your kids in class that you've had, besides the ones that have become celebrities?

Jones: Yeah, sure. Well, I've had 18,500. But, yeah, I remember a lot of them and still have contact with a lot of them. You know, I remember . . . I can remember a hell of a lot of people. Not 18,500, but a lot of them, sure.

Hosmer: When you arrived here, what were Florida State's sports like?

Jones: Well, they'd begun to play a major college program. They started Florida the second year I was here. I came here in '57 and they first played Florida in '58. They were already playing Miami and Georgia Tech . . . were two of the first two big colleges they played were Miami and Tech. And basketball was okay, they played Florida in basketball already, not in football until . . . but in basketball. The baseball program was really good. Already they had a really good baseball program. Dick Howser, after whom the stadium is named now, played baseball in that period. So, overall, for a relatively new school that had only been in existence . . . by the time I came here, it had already been in existence for ten years. But it already had a pretty good college sports program.

Hosmer: All right, Florida State had its first few bowl games in the sixties, is that right?

Jones: Yes, they actually played in the minor bowl earlier than that. But the first big bowls . . . the played in the Gator Bowl in '64, the first really big bowl, they beat Oklahoma.

Hosmer: Do you remember how the UF and Florida State rivalry began and what that was like?

Jones: Yeah, it was nasty. And I was pro-Gator at the time. Florida didn't want to play FSU and they argued that it was to no advantage to them because it was . . . they said, "Beat FSU," everybody would say, "Well, you're supposed to beat FSU." And if FSU beat them, it would be a horrible blow to Florida. So, and to some extent, I can understand why they wouldn't want to. But it was finally almost forced by state government that they should play. So, it began in '58. It was . . . the first few games were played in Gainesville, because they wouldn't play up here. So, until '58 and '64, - - the first game here was in '64 - - and FSU won that one. But, yes, they were . . . they were tense. There were a lot of fights. A bad fight after the third or fourth game in Gainesville, a really bad fight. So it was a lot of hostility. And it was really a kind of sick series because FSU was perceived as a kind of step-child, a kind of minor program and Florida, the big program. And yet, Florida had never done very well. They had never won the SEC, and had never really done very well. So, you know, Florida's feeling was that there's nothing to be gained from playing FSU and so it was . . . it was really kind of sick on both sides with a lot of kind of nastiness and bitterness on both sides. I sometimes wonder why

the hell this was being done because it wasn't a very pleasant thing.

Hosmer: And do you remember the year of the Lane Fenner pass? Is that a terrible . . .

Jones: It was terrible for me because I was still a Gator. And everybody I knew up here, of course, thought that Fenner was in bounds. And I had to, in spite of the pictures, keep saying, "You know he was in bounds. It's a still picture and he could still not completely have control of the ball." Now that I'm a, FSU fan, I'm absolutely convinced that it was in bounds and I think he was in bounds. As a matter of fact, he is well in bounds. He wasn't even on the line, he's that far in bounds in the end zone. So, yeah, I remember that really well. I was living out in the country then and the next day, my wife and I had a party for a lot of people who'd been up here for the game. And one of the people there was Jim Smith, who later on was the attorney general and ran for governor, who is a good friend of mine. And a big Seminole. And he and I had this horrible argument with me saying, "Oh, you're wrong. He really was out of bounds" and him saying, "Well, the pictures . . ." And of course, the morning paper had the pictures, so yeah, that was a big moment.

Hosmer: I bet you got a lot of flak from just about everybody.

Jones: The sixty-four game . . . I lived in an apartment on West Pensacola, not far from where Morrison stole whatever he stole. Anyway, up near the stadium and when I came back after the game, my car was painted all over the score of the game. 16-9 was on the windshield and all the windows and it had . . . fortunately, it was not . . . it was not the kind of stuff you could get off. Most of the time I could rag them because Florida won most of the time. But that one . . . and then in sixty-seven,, when FSU won for the first time in Gainesville, the second time they won in the series, by that time, I'd begun to swing in the other way, to FSU. So that was a . . .

Hosmer: Football in the seventies . . . Florida State was not very good in the seventies, in the beginning of the seventies anyway . . .

Jones: How do you know all this stuff?

Hosmer: I know all this [laughs.]

Jones: [Laughs].

Hosmer: Bobby Bowden came in '76. So, do you remember what huge changes he made?

Jones: I was on the committee that picked him, I was on the search committee that picked him. Yes, by that time, I was on the Athletic Board. I'd written the first book that I wrote about Florida State football, so I was on the Athletic Board. Yeah, he made a lot of changes. The first year we . . . it was the only losing season we ever had. The first year, we

were not that good, but he had not had a chance to recruit anybody because he was hired totally after the recruiting season was over. The next year, seventy-seven, they were really good, they beat Florida and won the Citrus Bowl . . . or the Tangerine Bowl is what it was called. So, yes, things really began to turn around with him.

Hosmer: Were you friends with him, or did you know Bobby Bowden then?

Jones: Well, I was on the committee, and then I was on the Athletic Board, and then I was chairman of the Athletic Board, so I got to know him pretty well. So, yeah, I was . . . I wouldn't say we were close friends, and I don't see him very often but we . . . we worked together a good bit, for, I don't know, ten years, roughly, while I was on the Board and doing stuff that he needed to get done.

Hosmer: Just going back to the seventies, what do you remember about the Kent State killings? What that a big event here?

Jones: There were big demonstrations immediately afterwards, and there were on almost all university campuses. You know, I don't think I was here. I was somewhere, not here, when it happened. So, I think . . . I didn't get back here until . . . So, I don't remember what the demonstrations were like but . . .

Hosmer: Were most angry students about it?

Jones: Most students were never anything, but a number of students were certainly, yeah. I mean, a lot of students go through life . . . a lot of guys go through life checking out chicks or with whoever who their girlfriend is and trying to get good grades and get a job and keep their parents satisfied or whatever and don't worry much about . . . and that was always true. Even in that period. The vast majority of . . . you always had to know, no matter how many people were out here demonstrating, the vast majority of the students body are not demonstrating. And they might sympathize one way or another, but they're not going to get involved. I'd say that the percentage that did become involved was certainly higher in the sixties and seventies than it is now.

Hosmer: Especially now.

Jones: No.

Hosmer: In 1978, with the Ted Bundy killings, do you remember how the school reacted to that?

Jones: Terrible. I have a vivid memory of it because my daughter lived in an apartment house not very far away from the Chi O house. And so, I remember just being terrified that

something might happen to her. And I was . . . several things . . . the first report of who might have done it . . . the name was Ken Meissner [spelling ??], who was a good student of mine. And he was FSU's best distance runner because Bundy had stolen his driver's license or ID card or something or other. And so when he was stopped, he said his name was Ken Meissner [spelling ??]. Which I knew . . . that couldn't be true. But, I . . . yes, the campus was really in a state of . . . I wouldn't say panic, but certainly concern and upset.

Hosmer: Did a lot of female students go home for the semester?

Jones: Yes, oh yeah.

Hosmer: Do you remember if there were a lot of university sponsored sanctions or any rules, curfews to keep students in?

Jones: Yes. The first things was locks on doors because, evidently, the door in the Chi O house . . . I mean, the lock worked, but it hadn't been closed completely. Or maybe the lock had not been turned. So, there's this fanatical security thing about making sure that all the locks work, which is understandable. Yes, it was a scary time.

Hosmer: Overall, how would you say that Florida State has changed and evolved during your career here?

Jones: Well, size alone. I mean, a tremendous change in size. It was a small school when I came here, and it's not a small school now. Far less personal than it used to be. I think impersonality, to me, is a serious problem. I'm talking about faculty. I don't know anything about students. I expect students, too, but I'm not sure. As far as I'm concerned, I've gone up and down with administrations and how they are and all that. And now, my feeling is as hostile to it as it's ever been, in the forty-four years I've been here, toward the administration and toward how a lot of things, like tenure, and that kind of thing are handled, which I think are miserably done now. And looking back on the forty-four years . . . the best president that I ever served under is Bernie Sliger, who I think is two presidents back. Sandy D'Alemberte's administration has been a terrible disappointment to me.

[End of Interview]