

Interviewee: Jones, James
Interviewer: Robert Bendus
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Bendus: I'm sitting here with Dr. James Jones, Department of History, Professor, um and uh, Dr. Jones, I'm recording this conversation. Is that ok with you?

Jones: Sure:

Bendus: Great. Thank you. Can you tell me a little bit about your background, where you were raised, where you went to school.

Jones: I grew up in Jacksonville, Florida, went to Emory for two years, University of Florida for B.A., M.A., and Ph.D.

Bendus: And then you uh, came to FSU.

Jones: FSU in 1957.

Bendus: Right, so you've been here for quite a while.

Jones: Right.

Bendus: Exactly, um, and uh when you got here to FSU, what was the enrollment, what was the makeup of the student body?

Jones: The enrollment was about ten thousand, uh the student body, anybody who graduated from high school in Florida could be admitted to fSU then so. In general the quality of students is not as good as it is nw. Uh, it was a relatively conservative, of course very conservative town. And relatively conservative campus. The faculty were always in my department fairly liberal.

Bendus: Uh, how big was the History Department when you got here?

Jones: Fourteen.

Bendus: Fourteen.

Jones: Thirty now.

Bendus: Yeah, so you doubled, more than doubled. What kind of classes were you teaching then?

Jones: Well, not that different from what we're doing now. I taught, uh, when I first came I taught the intro classes as everybody did. And then, Civil War got put in. We had a Civil War historian when I came and he left. And, so, I got to teach Civil War beginning like the second year I was here. But the courses, we, we had were not that unlike the courses now. We had no African American history course at the time. And, Bill Richardson, he, he retired last year, he put that in, but uh, the courses weren't that different.

Bendus: Was there anything taught on the Korean War?

Jones: No.

Bendus: That was pretty recent, I guess.

Jones: Well it was very recent, somebody uh, uh who would teach the recent U.S. course, we had a course uh, 1945 to the Present, U.S., would deal with that. But it was very recent. And, it never made the kind of impact um, you know, that the Vietnam War did on education.

Bendus: So, you said the student body was relatively conservative, the faculty was conservative, uh, what about the administration?

Jones: Uh, well, you know, one thing you've got to say about the administration, through all that stuff, that stuff being uh, integration, Nam, in that period particular, they were uh, by and large not that bad. And not very repressive in terms of uh, denying somebody the right to speak out on whatever it was, integration. Because I was very active in both integration and anti-war, and uh, nobody ever said a damn thing to me. Nobody ever, you know, threatened me, from the administration, either in my own department, or the college, or the central administration. I continued in spite of what I was doing, I continued to be promoted, and I never had any indication that any of that, uh, had an effect on me, or their evaluating of me.

Bendus: What was the um, the feeling on campus once, uh JFK got inaugurated? Was there an overwhelming patriotic mood on campus?

Jones: I wouldn't say overwhelming patriotic. There was a kind of new hope that his guy's young and uh, and you know, a product of the twentieth century. And he's going to, the Eisenhower Administration had been fairly conservative that's when I came here, uh so the feeling was that you know, maybe uh, things would be better for young people for instance and uh, I'll tell you one thing that was really important, and I vividly remember this was Peace Corps. And a lot of people were turned on by that. One of the best students I ever taught, a young woman, immediately went into the Peace Corps. So, that was, that more than almost anything Kennedy did, that and for me, and for a uh a lot of the people who I was involved with

in the integration movement was integration. I mean because James Meredith and Old Miss you know, and that is, taking part in that period.

Bendus: Right, and it's pretty close to home too.

Jones: Yes, very.

Bendus: Um, what about the R.O.T.C. program on campus at the time, was it uh, it seems like it's pretty large now.

Jones: It is, it was large and pretty strong then. I'd say in many ways stronger then. I think, they may, at that time, had to, had to have —

Bendus: I know a lot of the state schools in the south —

Jones: You had to take R.O.T.C.

Bendus: It was required.

Jones: Yeah, right.

Bendus: Um, do you know if the University was receiving any kind of um, military research funding?

Jones: I don't know. My guess is yes. But I don't know.

Bendus: Um, and then as the sixties went on, you know, Kennedy was assassinated, uh, the involvement in Vietnam uh, started to escalate, um, what kind of knowledge uh, did the students have of what was going on over there at the time?

Jones: For me the big issue was and this is where, Vietnam gets it, it gets kind of murky and then my memory of it is, because the big issue in the sixties around here was not Vietnam it was integration, by far the most important. Now by, by the late sixties, by uh, the early seventies you know, with the last five years of the Vietnam War, uh, say by '67, '68, Vietnam had become as important as integration, but for a large part of that period, uh, and sometimes in my mind, it's murky to divide the two because everybody I knew involved in uh, the anti-war movement here was also very much involved in integration. So, it uh, kind of comes together.

Bendus: So, integration was supported by the students at the time? Or, uh —

Jones: No, not by the majority of students I wouldn't say, but certainly by enough and faculty, I was, I've always been proud of the stand of the University faculty and certainly proud of my department because we were at that time, uh, there was you know strong opposition, I was

personally by name attacked in the Legislature. Um, about six of us, I was involved in an organization, uh the uh, the inter, I don't know, the uh something like the inter-faith counsel on integration. I was at time an agnostic never went to church but I got on some inter-faith, and so, we were definitely involved day to day with trying to integrate the University, trying to integrate when the first few black students came, trying to integrate off campus eating establishments, and things like that. So, and once again, uh, I would say, student body, there was certainly hard core opponents, um in the student body, but basically, the student body was, uh, ran from sympathetic to apathetic. Um, about integration. The University as a whole, um you know, flowed with the times and was ahead of the times, certainly ahead of state government in their attitude toward integration.

Bendus: Was Tallahassee a segregated town?

Jones: It was a segregated town.

Bendus: Very segregated?

Jones: Very segregated.

Bendus: Interesting.

Jones: Even though well, we had a black university, and that changes things somewhat, because one reason integration moved forward, we had a couple of very active black uh, clergymen, C.K. Steele, and um, here, and we also had FAMU, which was important, so in efforts to integrate, faculty members and students I knew at FSU who were white, would meet frequently with people from FAMU, with the Episcopal, uh priest over at their church and, and, and, uh FAMU faculty and FAMU students, and you know trying to set up boycotts and, and you know, doing things like that.

Bendus: Um, as the sixties progressed then, uh, we got into a period of '68, '69 where the uh, movement really expanded on college campuses and that coincided with the assassinations of Robert Kennedy, Martin Luther King, um, what was the mood on campus when those assassinations took place?

Jones: Um, you know, the mood of uh, I think '68 of course, I'm not saying nothing that nobody doesn't know, '68 was a really key year. I mean, with the assassination of, uh, King and uh, um, I think that really galvanized students to a degree that things hadn't happened before. I mean, it was a jolt, just an incredible kind of jolt. And, we saw a lot more, for us trying to organize anti-war stuff, we had a lot easier time after that. Uh, in doing that, also you know, by '68 the war was coming much closer to students, the draft was getting, was there, the first FSU students, um who died in Vietnam, and I can't remember exactly when, but by '68, '67, '69, FSU students, several had been killed in Vietnam. I don't remember the year but John Stevens who I taught in class, who was a co-captain of the FSU football team, was an infantryman was killed in Vietnam.

And that kind of thing really, the draft will get people's attention, got people's attention. What year, did, the, thing, did the lottery begin, do you know?

Bendus: Uh, that was '66, '67.

Jones: '66 alright. So that the lottery, the impact of the lottery, was, you know, the, I cannot in any way overestimate that, the impact of the lottery was incredible. Everybody knew, you know, when, classes began the day after the lottery, that's all the talk was about in class.

Bendus: Yeah, you had a number.

Jones: What was your number. Um,

Bendus: That's funny.

Jones: My brother in law was way, way up at the, at the top, at three hundred and something or other and I mean he just felt glorious. So, but really, the draft as a whole and the lottery were things that brought it home to the student body, uh, more than anything.

Bendus: Then, um, of course there was, the uh, um Nixon was elected and we had Kent State.

Jones: Right.

Bendus: And uh, what kind of impact did that make on the students?

Jones: A lot.

Bendus: That students were being killed on campuses.

Jones: Kent State, Jackson State, both of them were huge. They really were huge. Uh, it's a kind of next step, I mean the beginning of the draft, and the draft remains enormous, I mean it's got to be, I mean you know, on a university campus, the draft is huge. And, uh, but Kent State and, and Jackson State were enormous. I mean the feeling that easily could have happened here, and that kind of thing. Just anger about that.

Bendus: So, how was the anger translated into action? Were there, were there, organizations? Was there any S.D.S. on campus?

Jones: Yes, yeah, uh, I, was, I had been involved earlier, uh, primarily faculty, and I was sort of on the edge of the S.D.S., and we would meet occasionally with S.D.S., but um, I was, I was, I cannot say that I was on the inner part of what S.D.S. was up to, but I certainly was involved with them and we supported them, uh, and there were demonstrations and cops were called to campus to deal with the S.D.S., have you run across the seizure of the Student Union?

Bendus: Yeah, I've been looking at the papers.

Jones: But that night I'll never forget it. Because I was at, I was at home and uh, uh, I got a call from a junior member, a junior faculty member of the department called me and he said, "get down here" because, this was a guy who'd been involved with uh stuff, "get down here because there's uh, you know the S.D.S. has taken control fo the Student Union and the cops have been called, and all that." So I haul ass, haul ass down there immediately, and indeed, they had ringed the Student Union. And this is the confrontation that, uh that I had, uh, nobody was being let in and um, we didn't know what was going to happen. It was so volatile that, the immediate, you ask about Kent State Robbo, the immediately, I mean, one of ht first things you think about is are we going to have another Kent State. Is one of these trigger happy bastards going to shoot somebody? Because, you now it could easily happen. Um, and uh, I was uh, at the Union and I was uh, sort of in the front of this group of people who were pressing up against the cops and I began talking to this, this guy who had a bayonet, he had a riffle and a bayonet, and he pointed at me, and of course they pointed ,they had the things pointed at, at everybody in the crowd, and so he had this thing pointed at me, and so, I began, uh, I ask him, uh, you know, why are you out here, and uh, you know, don't you know that this is the wrong thing, you're out here on our campus, this is our campus, what the hell are you doing out here. And he said he was following orders. And I ask him have you ever heard of Adolf Eichmann? He hadn't. Adolf Eichmann was a Nazi who carried out the transportation of thousands, millions of Jews to the Concentration Camps, and he said he was merely following orders. That didn't register with him very much. And, I pushed forward a little bit more and he shoved the bayonet in my tummy. Now, I don't mean, don't, you know, nothing but just a faint nudge, but, his bayonet touched my stomach. And I backed up, you know, but uh, that's as close as I ever got to anything like that. But it was an extremely tense night.

Bendus: Absolutely.

Jones: The only, I mean the students that, that were really active, Jack Lieberman who was really active, and then the damn guy who was the S.D.S. guy was an Australian and I can't remember his name. I just can't remember his name, but I think he was an Australian or a New Zealander, who was, I think he was a grad student here, who was really actively involved in that night in particular. But, um, it was really tense.

Bendus: Was there any repercussions for the students from the administration?

Jones: You know, I, that I don't know, just off hand I'm not aware, I'm sure they must have done something to the S.D.S. leadership, that I frankly don't remember. But across campus, now, always Rob, always in that period, when you ask about students, I was involved with students who were anti-war. So, my, my memory would be likely to uh, give you the impression that student body was more anti-war than it was, because these are the people that I talked to all the time. But, the student body as a whole, surely I mean there were still plenty of people, and Rob see, still plenty of people who believed that the war was great, the war was wonderful, and

were ready to go over there and fight, so, I have no idea exactly what the breakdown would be. Uh, but never get the impression that you know, that the entire student body was, was, however, there was so much activity here compared with a lot of other schools in the deep south. You were, a while ago you were talking about elite schools, I mean you think about Columbia, Wisconsin, places like that. But I wouldn't say that FSU was, was, I mean we were maybe not the Weathermen, at here, but we were, for a southern school, at least, because, uh, in that period, I remember fairly vividly, that we were, at one time, I have no idea where this came from, but FSU was called, I don't know who did this, but it was kind of picked up around here, the UCLA of all things of the south. Somebody, who didn't have any idea about anything but, the feeling was that we were for a southern school at least, and I remember, um in '64, just after Kennedy was assassinated, the response here, and then we play Auburn, we played Auburn up there, and I went to the FSU-Auburn game, and, the Auburn campus looked as if they had n idea, can you hear, the Auburn campus looked like they had no idea that Kennedy was assassinated, the war was going on, anything like that. And I remember going to other campuses across the south, even the University of Florida, although it was sort of like us, but in the deep south at least, I would say that FSU, there is no way to measure this, but I would say from my impressions at least that FSU was more engaged than most southern schools.

Bendus: That's interesting. Do you think it has anything with being the capital, political or anything?

Jones: I think it did to some extent. I think it had something to do with the faculty, because our faculty was, they were pretty good. Had been pretty good about integration, and, and this somewhat carries over, but um, there were, there were a hell of a lot of faculty members who were, um, you know, um, my department was pretty solidly anti-war. And, uh, fairly active. Our graduate students, Pete Ripley, who I'll give you his name, Pete's hard to get to these days. But he was really active, really active. In fact, far more active than I was. In '69, Pete and I and his wife, that is what I remember about it more than almost anything, the March on Washington in '69. Uh, Pete says you know, hey, we got to go, and I said absolutely, so Pete and I and his wife got into their damn broken down VW bus and drove to D.C. it was one, one fo the great moments of my life. Marching, "Ho, Ho, Ho Chi Minh, the NLF is gonna win." Uh, marching up the Mall, uh to on, the March on Washington. And we had marches around here too. But it's kind of murky in my mind between the integration marches, the anti-war marches, we had a teachers strike in the state as well, and we were very active in supporting the public school teachers. So, there were a lot of things going on then.

Bendus: A real active time.

Jones: Yeah, it was. It really was. Uh, fascinating absolutely fascinating time.

Bendus: Do you recall if there was ever a struggle between a peaceful movement and a violent movement?

Jones: Yeah, there was, I wouldn't say violent but certainly, there was tension between those who wanted to demonstrate but not seize the, for instance, there was tension around seizing the Union, about the S.D.S. sitting in the Union. And the feeling that that was going a little too far, and while it might work in Madison or, or Columbia or Cambridge, it would not work here. And it was something that would create a backlash that was probably not a wise idea. So, yeah there was, there was some, uh tension inside.

Bendus: But it never got tot he Weatherman, you know, level —

Jones: No, no, no not close.

Bendus: What a great time.

Jones: Yeah.

Bendus: Um, I guess shifting gears a little big you know, we're involved in a, a similar conflict, uh, can you compare the moods, is it more apathetic now on campus?

Jones: God! (Chuckles) That's the dumbest question you've ever asked.

Bendus: Yes sir.

Jones: Uh, yeah, I would, uh you know, apatetic, I mean nobody seems to I've much of a damn about it. Occasionally, there are people who don't like it, almost every graduate student that I know is bitterly opposed to this damn war and most of the faculty are, but as far as activity is concerned, demonstrations of that kind, it just doesn't exist. To me there's one big difference, the draft.

Bendus: Exactly, exactly, it's not hitting home.

Jones: No, it's not hitting home. I read every day, and I make myself read aloud in the New York Times to myself, the name, the age, and the hometown of everybody who's killed over there, to make an indelible mark in my myself that that damn thing is gong on. And, and you do it over and over again and you know, that the number of Hispanics, the number of, every black person's name is not immediately identifiable, but a lot fo them are, so the number of Hispanics, the number of Blacks, the number of, of, uh, people from, it's a huge number of Samoans, Hawaiians, people from that fringe of the American empire are killed over there. And, the number of, you know, WASP names, there are some, but the number is small.

Bendus: It's staggeringly small. I watch, uh, you know, the recap on the McNeil-Lehrer that are reported every night and you see the pictures and the ages and the hometowns, it's so staggering.

Jones: I know, I know. I think that's one of the reasons. It doesn't hit home for most of these

people but it hits home for me because I have five students over there, five former students over in Iraq. One of them comes back next week. I have five of them who are in Iraq and, uh, I had two students killed in Vietnam. And, uh, you know, they're all within the lines, you could be killed anywhere. All five of mine are officers, uh, two of them got PhD's under me. And they're over there and they could easily be killed. And, uh, so that makes it way more, you know, uh, something — that apathy is hardly the word to describe it. I mean just basically day in day out almost no concern about it.

Bendus: It's very amazing to, watch, uh, uh, campus go on about it's daily business as if nothing is going on over there.

Jones: You can compare '69, 1968, and 19, 2006, and you wouldn't even know, you wouldn't know that war was going on, compared to '68, '70.

Bendus: Right, what about the faculty today, are they uh?

Jones: Well, they're not, certainly not mobilized about much of anything. They're not doing anything much, and that includes me. My own perhaps is to some extent age. But, uh, um, I know of no faculty members who support the war in Iraq. I mean, it's virtually unanimous against the war. But not much as far as activity is concerned.

Bendus: What do you see happening over there. Do you think it's just going to wear us down? The money is going to get to us and uh we'll make a decision militarily to pull out?

Jones: Well, uh, it depends to some extent what happens in '08. Um, whether another Republican you know like, uh Bush wins. And you know, what the feeling is. Uh, the violence, I don't see any [indistinguishable] I don't see any real demonstration on the part of anybody in this country, not only at FSU but across the country, that's going to effect things very much, because there really isn't that much, I mean, Cindy Sheehan is pissing in the wind by herself. Um, so, it Republicans win in '08 again, and uh, you have somebody who follows this thing. I think we dribble along for who knows how long. Um, because even if you read the New York Times everyday, and you know that not only are we taking losses but the situation is abominable. I mean, scandal after scandal, about the corruption and the failure of the United States to deliver on the reconstruction of Iraq. Yesterday, the New York Times said that in Baghdad the average hours of electricity every day is 3.2 out of 24. What kind of life is that? What are we promoting? So, it's a damn disaster. So you know, if they're willing, that being the administration and if they're willing to go ahead and continue that, so, I see, in many ways what happened to Johnson, Nixon. I mean, we're in there, how the hell do we get out? And, politicians are just horrified about losing face. And this damn administration no matter what, won't admit that anything is wrong, that they fucked up anything, and they have, they clearly have. So, you know, I see it going on for years. The other thing is, the other thing is, that the deaths are not like they were in Vietnam. Twenty two hundred is not twenty thousand. As long as it hits people who are on the fringe of our society, and as long as the numbers are not any

larger than that, I can see it going on.

Bendus: Do you think that's why there's not a uh, a broader movement across the country, uh, you know —

Jones: I do, I do, in many ways. I do think, and I do, and maybe again a function of my age, of age. But I just think that the country is more apathetic, politically. Um, but, it's not just that, but day-in day-out issues. I mean there are issues facing this country that are huge issues. Um, Katrina has, you know, mobilized a little bit but —

Bendus: But, it's over already —

Jones: It's over already. And, uh, but you know even more that Katrina, I mean this this damn, this stat has been rocked by hurricane after hurricane and there are people in Punta Gorda who, who've now been dealing with ths for eighteen months and they're still having problems. And, the damn government is not dealing with that. Uh, there's so damn many huge issues that the government isn't facing.

Bendus: It's one thing after another. One scandal after another.

Jones: Right, one scandal after another.

Bendus: It's really incredible and, uh, it seems like it, it gains the attention for a day or two and then it's gone.

Jones: Yep.

Bendus: You know the wire-tapping program has me fascinated because, you know, it's uh, it's just so blatant. And uh, and uh —

Jones: Of course, yeah, the number of people who are willing to sign off on that or just say oh well, you know, they're not wire tapping me I mean I'm not in contact with Al Qaeda. So I have another entree into this to some extent. I have a good friend who is one of the attorneys in Guantanamo. And, I talk to her, she lives in New York, I talk to her a good bit, so again, but for most people it's a long way away.

Bendus: Yeah, it really is.

Jones: I mean consumer, consumerism reflects it, its what's big.

Bendus: It really is, uh, what's in your pocket at the time and uh —

Jones: Another thing that disturbs me, and I have no idea how this figures, and links with it, and

uh what the breadth of it is and its impact on American society is the whole business of reality T.V., reality shows, the fact that you can no publish a uh, a so-called autobiography that's full of lies, you make millions of dollars and then somebody calls you on it and you say, well, what the hell, you know and half the people don't give damn one way or the other. And all this stuff to me, indicates, that we have dropped into some kind of odd, odd mind set in which people do things that are, I don't whether they're despicable, but certainly delusional, and nobody seems to care about it. And, I don't know.

Bendus: I agree, it's uh, it's really amazing how, uh, no one cares. Let's um, let's just backtrack a little bit more, um. Um, what kind of music was on campus? Specifically anti-war music, back uh —

Jones: A good bit, uh, a good bit, um the you know, the music of the time um was pretty much a part of you know, I can't even, I can't remember right now who you know, who um name me some people —

Bendus: Well, uh what about Seeger, Dylan, Baez, uh —

Jones: Oh yeah, them yeah, sorry, oh yeah all of the above, yeah yeah

Bendus: Pretty popular on campus at the time?

Jones: Oh yeah yeah, very popular. Um yeah, all of them, um yeah, I still have a whole damn living room full of, full of records from that period, yeah oh yeah, wow.

Bendus: And, but you don't see that today, you don't see a lot of uh, protest music coming out, uh

Jones: No, no virtually none. You know, I mean Michael Moore stands almost alone.

Bendus: Yeah. Did you uh, did you attend the Michael Moore uh, show, when he was here?

Jones: No, no I didn't, I had something, class or something or other so, yeah I couldn't.

Bendus: I was amazed at the uh, the the protest out in front uh of supporters of Michael Moore, uh it was hard to get into the auditorium. I was, I was really uh, amazed by that.

Jones: Remember the student body is three times larger than it was, if not three times, two times at least, almost double the size of the student body then. Um, so, surely out of the people we have you can get some.

Bendus: Yeah well, the auditorium was full and uh, uh, clearly supportive, but the uh, the rows outside just, it really took me by surprise, it was staggering. Well, um any last thoughts on those

times?

Jones: Nope.

Bendus: Uh, anything you regret? Anything you would do over?

Jones: I regret not, I regret not being more active. I mean that's you know one thing I mean I, I feel good about being, the one thing, in many ways I feel better about really is being as active as I was in integration. Integration, to me, was more important than the Vietnam War. Uh, I don't that by much, but I just was. IT's something, having grown up in the south, it's something I've lived with a long time and was really active in that and that I really am proud of. But, uh, Vietnam, I probably should've been there earlier and uh you know been even more active uh it was a horrible fucking disaster. Worse than Iraq, to me.

Bendus: Oh, absolutely.

Jones: I mean we're not through Iraq yet, but way worse than Iraq.

Bendus: Absolutely, uh, you know it's uh, it's interesting that uh I see these incredible parallels that we just don't understand, u, the, the country that we're in. You know, we made the mistake in Vietnam, we didn't understand the people, we didn't understand what they were fighting for. We thought it was, uh, a struggle for Communism and it was really a struggle for independence and uh, uh you know, I see the same kind of issues today with, uh, us not understanding, culturally, the country we're in.

Jones: No, and the odd thing is, to me, that uh, this is, I think, a reflection of the attention span of the American people and this is nothing new in the 20th century, but it's the fact that we, we just don't remember stuff. I mean, it will be there for a while and then, and then just disappear and we learned nothing form Vietnam, virtually nothing, this is, in so many ways a repeat. IT is Vietnam in, in the desert instead of being in the swamp but its still a, you know —

Bendus: Still a quagmire.

Jones: It is a quagmire. It is. And over and over things come up that are um, what is the difference between the domino theory fo that time and Bush's domino theory now if you don't stop them, well they're gonna be in Omaha next week, well.

Bendus: It's gotta be hard for you, as a historian, you know to watch this, uh —

Jones: Well of course. Yeah, you know it makes me think we're just pissing in the wind because people don't pay any attention. One of my former students is Mel Martinez who is a US Senator from florida, who of course, you know would, would uh go on this forever, you know, he didn't learn anything.

Bendus: Well it uh, it really makes you wonder uh, you know, why we're involved in history and teaching it, but uh —

Jones: You're right, it does, yeah

Bendus: Uh, we gotta, gotta carry on somehow here.

Jones: Yeah, I guess.

Bendus: Well, I appreciate your time Dr. Jones.

Jones: Sure.

Bendus: You know, I learned a lot and hopefully this will, uh become some research, uh that uh will get passed on.

Jones: Okay, if you want to follow up anytime, give me a ring.

Bendus: I sure will.

Jones: Turn that off and let me ask you some questions.

Bendus: Sure.

Legendary professor of history Jim Jones has been teaching at FSU since 1957. This interview is about the changes on campus that occurred during the 1960s and 1970s, specifically integration and Vietnam. Dr. Jones talks about anti-war protests on campus, including the SDS seizing the student union, and the atmosphere of a relatively liberal southern university during such a tumultuous time. The interview ends with commentary on the war in Iraq and the unfortunate reality of American life and politics in the 21st century.