[0:00]

Francesca: To come and interview with us; it's a great pleasure.

Hud: It's my pleasure. I'm happy to be here.

Francesca: Thank you. Thank you. Well, for — to begin, could you state your name and your current occupation?

Hud: Right. I'm Hud Andrews, and I work in development here at Rhodes College. I'm the — I have a wonderful title. I am the Assistant Director of Development for Annual Giving, which basically means I'm in charge of the Annual Fund.

Francesca: Could you talk a little bit about where you were born and raised?

Hud: Sure. I was born at St. — the old St. Joseph Hospital, downtown Memphis, November 30, 1948. I grew up; my first home that I don't remember was in the Memphis State area 'cause my dad was in school over off — in Orange Mound off Park Ave., but by the time I was aware, by the time I was two or three, we had moved — built a new house and moved to White Haven out on Twinkletown Rd. That's where I grew up; that's where I stayed through my Southwestern Rhodes College experience.

[1:01]

Francesca: Okay. What was — what were your parents' names and what did they do for a living?

Hud: Well, my dad was familiarly known as Sonny; he's actually the senior and I'm the junior. He and his father, my grandfather, sold cars down on Union Ave., right across from Sun Studio, so you can — as you can imagine, they sold cars to Elvis and Johnny Cash and people like that who were buying Cadillacs and stuff for their families and friends, and that was always kind of fun to be down there when there was some of that hoopla going on.

My mother was a stay-at-home mom until I was about in the ninth grade — I was just in junior high, high school — and mother sort of reinvented herself and became a realtor and was very successful, had about a 25-year career selling houses, largely in the White Haven area where she lived and went to church and all.

[2:01]

Francesca: Okay. Do you have any brothers or sisters?

Hud: I have a very famous brother. My brother David owns City Auto Sales here in town, and he is the largest independent used car dealer in the United States. So he's — we've — I think we're both very successful. We're both very — we both strive to be excellent in what we do; it's just that his is — the way he does it is just a little bit more commercial than the way I do it.

Francesca: Okay. So what was it like growing up in the White Haven area?

Hud: Well, it was really a very nice place to live. We lived in walking distance of the elementary school, which was — I think was built was the year before I started in the first grade. I went to Graves Elementary School on Graves Rd., and I started first grade when I was five, and that would have been before my sixth birthday in 1954. I believe it was built in '53. I believe that there was actually a class there before my class started. It was really, really, very nice, and as you can imagine back then, very white.

[3:18]

Francesca: Was your brother older or younger?

Hud: He's younger.

Francesca: He's younger then.

Hud: He's three years younger than I am.

Francesca: Okay.

Hud: But he looks older.

Francesca: He looks older. Okay. *[laughs]*

Hud: I'm better preserved than him. I don't eat quite as much stress for breakfast as he does.

Francesca: So you mentioned you went to Grades Elementary School?

Hud: I did.

Francesca: Where did you go for middle school?

Hud: Well, we didn't really have middle schools back in those days. Back in those days, especially out in the county 'cause you're — WhiteHaven had yet to be annexed as part of Memphis until probably about 1960 would be my guess. We went to grade one through eighth, and then we went nine through twelfth.

[4:01]

So back in those days, we grew up with the expectation that we would go to WhiteHaven High School, which was something that really all my life had looked forward to doing, and then of course they built Hillcrest to handle the overflow population. So I went to Hillcrest my freshman and sophomore year in high school, and then I transferred to Christian Brothers because Mom wanted me to get a little bit better education, and my best friend had gone to Christian Brothers from Hillcrest one semester earlier than I did. So I think I spent a lot of time lobbying Mom to let me go to Christian Brothers.

Francesca: Okay. Did you like school when you were growing up?

Hud: I loved school.

Francesca: You loved school?

Hud: I loved school.

Francesca: Did you participate —

Hud: I'd still be in school if I had my druthers.

Francesca: Okay. Did you participate in a lot of activities outside of school, say in your church or anything like that?

[4:54]

Hud: Well, we went to church. We went to WhiteHaven Presbyterian Church and went to church — went to the youth group on Sunday evenings and that sort of thing, but we were sort of Sunday Christians. I mean we'd sort of get dressed up and go to church on Sunday and then we'd go to church next Sunday. We didn't like — weren't church activists or really evangelical. Mom has taken to that as she has gotten older. I think Bill Cosby says that when people get — the older people get, the more and more religious they get, and they're getting closer and closer to Jesus because they're getting closer and closer to Jesus.

Video Clip 5:43

Francesca: That's funny. So to go back to your high school career, what was the transition like going from Hillcrest to Christian Brothers?

Hud: Well, it was a lot more academically rigorous, and I mean the first — the first semester I was there was really quite a shock. I mean you've gone from a coed school to an all boys' school. You've gone from being taught by men and women to being taught by men, and largely men of the cloth who don't hesitate to straighten you out if you get out of line.

[6:21]

So it was — and not that I — I mean I'm the older child; I'm the better behaved one anyway. That's typically the way things work in family I think is that the older child, the parents are really into the whole child raising experience and they have all these baby pictures taken. Then the second comes along, and it's a little less, and if they have four or five, they're lucky to photograph the child before he goes to school. But I was — I definitely toed the line, and I tried to make good grades. I thought I was trying to do it to please my parents, but in retrospect, I think I was just doing it because that was kind of the way I was raised.

[7:04]

Francesca: To be hardworking?

Hud: Mm hmm.

Francesca: You mentioned that White Haven wasn't annexed then into the City of Memphis?

Hud: Mm hmm.

Francesca: I didn't know that. So what type of people were — was it just predominantly a white neighborhood at this time?

Hud: Yeah, I think it was — I think it predominantly was — well, there were certainly — there were certainly ethnic minority neighborhoods, because I had a paper route. Back then, I imagine that if you look at was 38116, basic White Haven west of what we used to call the Highway, which is Elvis Presley Blvd., and that little — that whole block that's between say Graves Rd. and Elvis

Presley and goes all the way down to Shelby Drives Homes right through the middle of White Haven was probably all white.

[8:09]

Francesca: Okay, and on your paper route, did you —?

Hud: I had the Wilbert Vault neighborhood. Now, I don't know whether you even know where Wilbert Vault is, or even *what* Wilbert Vault. Well, here's your education for today. Wilbert Vault is a casket company, and they have — I guess they're still there. They made burial vaults, the things that you put a casket inside of to lower it down into the ground. They had a big plant — if you went down — if you started at the — at Graceland, the mansion, and you went down Craft Rd. until you ran into Lakeview, there was a little na — little street that went across that little — it's hard to describe, but that's kind of where it was.

[9:05]

It was almost like a — it's — we're not talking about a mile, mile and a half from Graves School, but it just was — and they were just little smaller houses and poorer people, and that was a part of my paper route. So I — I liked the people; they were nice to me.

Marrissa: How long did you do a paper route?

Hud: Probably — it seemed like an eternity — it was probably just really a couple of years, and it was the — you know we don't have the *Press Scimitar* anymore, but the *Press Scimitar* was the afternoon paper. I was a perfectly logical thing to do to get through school at Graves, so obviously I had it when I was like in the maybe seventh and eighth grade, and I'd get through with my day at school, and I'd go pick up my papers, and I think I had all of about 50 of them. On a bicycle, you could go deliver 50 papers in an hour and a half or something like that, but I had some geography to cover.

[10:06]

I had the — some — around my house, and around Graves School, but then I also rode over to Wilbert Vault and went in that neighborhood over there. Used to have to collect; people didn't just put it on their credit card back in those days. You had to go around once a month, and you had to collect, and it was a good experience.

Marrissa: So after high school you went to Rhodes College, and what years were you at Rhodes?

Hud: I was here from the fall of '66 'til the spring of '70; I graduated in '70.

Video Clip 10:40

Marrissa: What kind of activities were you involved in at Rhodes College?

Hud: Well, my freshman year I pledged the ATO fraternity, and I played on the golf team, and I went to school. That was really about what I did.

Marrissa: Do you have any significant memories of what was going on around Rhodes at the time?

[11:00]

Hud: Well, yeah. I mean it was — there was a — this was the 60's, even the late '60s were probably the most turbulent time in America for protesting civil rights, protesting the war in Vietnam. I couldn't have been here more than a month; it had to be the fall of '66, and there was a little steakhouse down on Summer Ave. that it's — obviously it's past where Trezevant meets East Parkway and where Summer becomes — where North Parkway becomes Summer. I forget what it is now, but it's just before you get to Hollywood on the right-hand side of the street, there was a steakhouse, and they had refused service to some students. We had a few students of color in 1966. We didn't have a lot; we probably had 10 or 12, but they had refused service. So we all got our back up, we went down there and we — and that's the first time I'd ever done anything like that. We picketed against the restaurant.

[12:13]

Marrissa: What were your feelings about what was going on in the city during that time?

Hud: Well, I was — from a college boy's perspective, I mean I was concerned. It — I wanted to — I felt like it was the right thing to do; I felt like it was time for things to change. My own particular convictions pretty much came out of my relationship with people of color that worked for my family. I'm sure you've heard this before, because I'm sure you've interviewed old southerners before,

but it's sort of a funny southern custom, like my parents would say, "Vera who worked in our house, and James and Frank and Bobby who worked at the car lot, were like family, but they were different because they were like *family*, but there was all the rest of these people that were not to be trusted because they *weren't* family." You know, the rest of these people of color that we're talking about.

[13:30]

I don't think — that — I think that that sales pitch probably worked pretty well on my mother's generation, but it didn't — I don't know how well it worked on mine. I know it didn't work with me because I knew that — I knew these people loved me. They didn't just work for the family, but I knew that — at the car lot, I knew that James Harvey loved me. When he went to deliver a car, he'd hook up the cars together, and he'd say, "Baby, you want to go for a ride?" Yeah! Shoot yeah. It's like having an extra grandfather.

[14:08]

So this was my — this was where I came from, and this was the reason why I cared. It was more of a personal thing. It was more — it's probably — well, I can't make that big a jump. I was gonna say it — I'm sure for your parents, it was a personal thing, too, but it was a lot more personal because it was happening to you. In this case, it was only happening to people that I cared about, but it was still a personal thing.

So I just felt like that I've always been the kind of person that I don't like people because they're white; I don't dislike people because they're black. I take everybody on a case-by-case basis. It's kind of like the American system of justice where you're innocent until proven guilty. When you walk into my phone-a-thon room, far as I'm concerned you're a good person until you prove me wrong. That's just the way I look at things. So I know that's a very wordy answer, but I want to let you know how things were as best I can.

[15:33]

Marrissa: Okay, so besides this steakhouse, what other ways did you get involved?

Video Clip 15:39

Hud: Well, I belonged to the ATO fraternity, and some of my brothers were very close to Larry Woodard. Larry Woodard was in the same — he graduated in my class in '70, and he — my first memory of Larry — Larry of course was a young black man — probably still is. Probably an old black man now. But he worked with our group just for an All Sing. I think they have All Sing here, don't they? I remember my freshman year he wasn't — we hadn't pledged him or anything, but he taught us, and I think he was a music major. So he worked with us and helped us sing the song and that sort of thing, and a lot of us really came to embrace him, and so we wanted to pledge him in the fraternity.

[16:40]

So we did; we had some problems. The National Fraternity went — they said that we couldn't do that because we had one brother who didn't want him in the fraternity, so we had some problems., and the fraternity kind of burst apart at the seams; I'm glad it's still here. It was a very difficult time because you feel like when you're in a local group like that that you've got local autonomy and you — that you ought to be able to do things the way you want to do them as long as it works for the greater good of the school and the community. But we were not allowed to do that. My sophomore year was the year that we pledged him, and I didn't — I don't — I may have still belonged, but I didn't pay dues. I didn't — after that it wasn't quite the same.

[17:42]

Marrissa: Okay, so what other ways did you notice students and faculty and staff around you getting involved in what was happening in Memphis?

Hud: Well, it's — as you can imagine in a situation where there were just a few students of color, the Black Student Association was kind of like their own little fraternity. They — even though they were small in numbers, they were close to each other and they seemed to look out for each other. We had a couple of guys on the football team, and I thought that was a very, very good start. It seemed to me from the beginning that this little college really encouraged diversity. I mean it's — I think it's probably doing a lot better job now, but I think it's easier to do a better job now than it was 40 years ago. We are talking about 40 years ago.

Marrissa: So how were they reacting, the people that were not getting involved or the people that were getting involved; just what were

that general reactions of the faculty and students here at Rhodes College.

[18:51]

Hud: Well, I think the faculty was very supportive. I mean like I do remember — I remember — high school was a little different, but I remember that the faculty — I never heard a discouraging disparaging word from any of my professors. I don't ever remember them picking on a person of color; I don't ever remember anything like that that made me feel ill at ease or that would have — that I think would have made the person feel ill at ease. I think the discovery integration a little southern college like this is because probably more than several of my classmates and the people that were here at the same time that I was here probably had racial attitudes that were more akin to my mother's and less akin to mine. They were probably still basically fighting the Civil War in 1966.

[20:04]

Marrissa: Okay, well since Memphis was pretty much colorized during that time and everything seemed I guess black-and-white, what were the reactions of I guess — would you feel that the whites played a key role in the movement at Rhodes, or even in the City of Memphis, other white communities?

Hud: I think some people did. I think — I did not — I was certainly not a leader. I've always tried to express my opinion, but I've never really — I didn't take up the — I didn't take up the cross, so to speak, but I think some people did. I know my fraternity brother Harmon Wray was very active, and I've seen a little bit of the interview that y'all did with him, and everything that he says is certainly the way I remember it, that for example, I wish to this day that I had gone to hear Dr. King preach the night before he was killed. But I didn't, and I don't know why. I don't know that I even knew — I certainly knew that there was a garbage strike, and I certainly was in support of the garbage workers that were striking, but I don't remember — some of it unfortunately, some of it's just a little fuzzy when you get this far down the road.

[21:37]
Video Clip 21:37

Francesca: How do you — do you recall feeling a certain way, or how did you hear about the assassination of Dr. King, and how did you feel

about, again, him coming to Memphis to help the sanitation workers?

Hud: Well you know, we had just lost president Kennedy just five years before that. Of course, in 1963 I was like in the ninth grade. Both of them just hit me the — hit me real hard, hit me the same kind of way was that — it just seemed — it just seemed so unfair that both these guys were so young, and they — not only did they mean a lot to their families, but they meant a lot to the country. It just — it made me — I know it made me a big advocate of gun control, because you shouldn't be able to — I shouldn't be able to just pull a gun out of my pocket and kill her just because, for whatever reason, just because I don't like women or I don't like her. It just — it was — it just, it was a terrible tragedy.

Marrissa: Were you afraid that if you got involved, you would be perceived a certain way, either by blacks or whites that were around you?

[23:03]

Hud: I have — now, I don't know where I got this, but I've never really — it's not that I don't care what you think about me, but I don't care enough what you think about me to let that affect how I behave. If you — you're gonna think — if you're gonna think ill of me, you're gonna think ill of me anyway. So even as a 20 year-old back in the time that we're talking about, I wouldn't have been concerned about what my fraternity brothers thought or what my roommate thought of what — I might have been a little bit more concerned about what my professors thought, but that wasn't an issue. I think that they were — I think they were very supportive of these things.

Marrissa: You mentioned your parents and their role on the community, your family with the auto business and your mom with real estate. What were their thoughts during this time of what was happing around Memphis?

[24:04]

Hud: I remember Daddy taking me aside after we pledged Larry to the fraternity, and he expressed in no uncertain terms his displeasure with what I had done and what we had done. I said, "Dad, you just don't understand." I said, "It's just — it's not your world; it's not the way it was." I said, "You brought me up, you let me know these people on a personal basis, and I just don't — I don't feel about it the way you and Mom do, and I gotta do what I gotta do."

So far at that point, I belonged to a fraternity that felt the same way, so I'm always — I guess I've always been the person that would rather get forgiveness than seek permission, but I wasn't — I certainly didn't go ask my parents' opinion about how I should vote when it came to accepting somebody into the fraternity. That just didn't.

[25:08]

Marrissa: Okay. Did the movement with the sanitation strike or the happenings in Memphis, did it spark any other conversations of the civil rights movement here at Rhodes? There other noticeable changes or efforts other than the sanitation strike that were being discussed?

Hud: That's a good question. I'm — would you ask me that again?

Marrissa: Other than the sanitation strike, there were noticeable efforts going on here at Rhodes; I guess students and faculty getting involved. Were there any other discussions of other civil rights, like the Civil Rights Movement, other efforts that could be done or just —

[25:58]

Hud: We talked — we were college students; we talked about everything, as much as I'm sure that y'all do now. I mean we — everything was fair game for conversation. We had conversations about race, we had conversations about gender, we had conversations — we had a lot of conversations about the war and who was dying in the war. They were largely, the volunteers were largely black, and they were largely uneducated whites, and it wasn't fair. Here we are, all these little privileged white boys, going to this nice little college in the middle of Memphis, and so yeah. I mean I can't answer your question really specifically because like I didn't belong to — like I wasn't a Black Panther, but I did have my own perspective, and —

[27:01]
Video Clip 27:03

Francesca: After your time here at Rhodes, what did you go on to do after that?

Hud: I went to graduate school in psychology in Halifax, NS. I went to Dalhousie University for two reasons: I was looking for a school — I was — here I worked under Dr. Cloar primarily and was

trained to be an experimental or really more of a skinnerian type psychologist, positive reinforcements with rats and pigeons, and I did honors work, and I think I had a nice career. I was looking for a place where I could study under somebody like that. I was also looking for a place where I could go sit out the — my draft number was pretty low; I think I had an 81 for a draft number. I had a wife and a child, and I didn't want to get drafted, so I was looking for a place both to go to graduate school and a place where I couldn't be drafted.

[28:04]

Francesca: What was it like leaving Memphis behind?

Hud: It was really, really hard. It was — I was — even though my family and I came from different planets, so to speak, we were — I was very close particularly to my mother, and it was hard. It was hard taking my wife and my child, taking her away from her parents up in Franklin, TN, and it was really one of those rites of passage kind of things where you know at this point that you're not anybody's little boy anymore, that you're out there on your own and you've got to sink or swim. It was good. It was real good. I'm glad that I have children that are almost as old as I am.

Marrissa: So how was it different in Nova Scotia as far as racial tension? How was it different then?

[29:03]

Hud: They only had one race in Canada. It was one of those things where if you were walking down the streets of Halifax in 1970 and you saw a person of color, they were probably an African. They were probably a real African; they were probably a Nigerian or Ugandan or somebody that was a businessman or something. They didn't — it just, it was — that was very, very different because I'd grown up and spent all my life in this city that was about 50/50 as far as the two races were concerned. So that was the — that was one of the first things I noticed that wasn't — it certainly wasn't the reason why I went there. I'm not a white flight. But it was very, very different. Cold, too.

Marrissa: So after grad school, what was it like when you came back to the United States? What was it like making the transition from Nova Scotia?

[30.07]

Hud: Well, I as only in — I got my master's degree in one year, so I was only there for like nine or ten months, so it was really kind of like I was a stranger in a strange land for a while and then I came back home. It's really the way it was. I came back home, and I taught in the Memphis City School System for three years. I started out in special education; I had worked in the computer room at the board of education when I was here, when I was going to school, and so it was kind of natural to go back. I thought I wanted to be a teacher. They didn't have Teach for America back in those days; this was as close as you could get was — you know. I didn't go to — come here to be a teacher. I just — actually I really thought I'd be a psychology professor. Part of me wishes that I had stayed the course and done that, and part of me is very, very happy with the photography career that I had and the way my life has taken me in full circle and brought me back to Rhodes College at the end of it all.

[31:16]

Francesca: What school did you teach at when you came back to —?

Hud: Well, the first — I started out in special edu — and to set the stage, I don't know what it's like now, but back 40 years ago almost, they were really looking for men to teach in school. They — it was one — it was a really female dominated profession, and I had — I'm not exactly sure how I got the job, but the first thing — the first place they put me was basically with teaching disturbed children, and I taught at Maury. Maury no longer exists, but Maury Elementary School was over on the other side of Moore Tech down Poplar Ave. before you get to the expressway. There was a little school; it's been razed at this point, completely gone.

[32:17]

So I taught in a classroom with about a dozen kids, just a wide spectrum of kids with various kind of learning disabilities and personality disabilities and behavioral problems. It was a really good lab for a little psychologist to go into and figure out how to stay alive and keep in sanity and see if he couldn't have a positive influence on these kids, and I did.

Video Clip 32:50

Francesca: Now, after teaching in Memphis City Schools, is that when you got into photography?

Hud: I got in — yeah, the photography was really, it was — the photography was a way to make a living during the summertime. When you've got a family, your bills go on 12 months, but you only get paid for 10, and the first summer — with my fresh Canadian master's degree, I came back to Memphis, and I got the teaching job, but I had two or three months of trying to figure out a way to scuffle around and make a living. Just a big, grown-up boy, the only thing I could think to do was to go door-to-door and cut people's grass, and I realized that as a teacher, I really didn't want to be cutting people's grass every summer. So I thought, "What can I do? What can I do? Well, I take pretty good pictures." So it didn't occur to me not to do this, so I just went to the Board of Education — I mean the Park Commission — and got a list of baseball coaches. I called them up, and I said, "I want to come out and photograph your little team and take pictures of the kids and sell them to the parents," and they said, "Okay, fine." So that's how I got started.

[34:01]

Francesca: You mentioned coming full circle. How did you come back to Rhodes?

Hud: That's a — this is — this is a great — I think this is a great story. My photography has — photography and photographers have suffered a lot since the digital revolution became a reality. Back in the beginning of my career, photography was still largely a technical, male-dominated profession. It was a lot of — it was a lot of math basically. It was a lot of, "How far is the subject from the light, and what's the F-stop, and what's the shadow ratio"? You had to learn a lot of stuff, and you had to be able to assimilate it and do it.

[34:57]

Over the course of my career, cameras got more automated, focus got to be automated. A lot of the things that were being done by humans were being done by the machine, but anyway it was a good career, and I totally loved what I was doing, and I worked hard and had a nice reputation both here in town and nationally.

As I began to get less and less work, I thought, "Well, what can I do?" So for a while I went, and I helped my little brother, and I sold some cars at City Auto and was basically coming over to the gym here at school to work out. We have a lovely neighbor across the street that sort of in a backhanded way encouraged me to start

working out. She — her husband is in his mid-70's now, and he's got a pacemaker, and he's not all that healthy, and she said, "Well, you know, my husband was in great shape when he turned 60." I thought, "Well, I guess I'd better get in great shape before I turn 60," so at about 56, I started coming over to work out and working out in the gym, and I was working out with this nice young man, and I didn't know who he was; I just liked him. We'd talk in the mornings, and we'd work out, and we'd talk, and come to find out that he's Bob Johnson and he's the vice president of the college. He said — he liked me, and he said, "We really need to get — would you be interested in coming back to work over here?" I said, "Oh, yeah! That'd be great; I would love to." He said, "Well, I'm gonna put out some feelers and see if I can't find something for you to do around here." So at any rate, he got me an interview with the Vice President of Development, and that's how I got the job. So I just — my wife says I'm the luckiest man that ever lived, and it's not just because I married her, but because — I guess because I send out positive energy, and it always seems to come back. So that's how I got here.

[37:09]

Francesca: Well, beginning to wrap things up, do you feel as if, as you grew up in Memphis, but you went away for a little while and you came back and you've been around Rhodes and the neighborhood. Do you feel as if many things have changed in relationships between people or the just college in general?

Hud: I think things are a lot better. I think things are a lot more open. I think more and more people — I think in — I think more and more, it's the case that people are beginning to take each other on a case-by-case basis. I'm not color blind; I don't suspect that my friend Marrissa here is color blind, either, but I think she likes me because I'm a nice person and because I care about her. I don't care about her because she's black; I don't care about her anymore because she's black; I just care about her. She's just a good person, and I really think that this is the way — I *hope* that this is the way things are going.

[38:24]

I see — I really like the way things are going in this little microcosm of Memphis right here. I think that we are looking more and more like the society, and I think that less and less, I think people can say that we're a little snooty, rich white boy college. I think you probably could have made that argument in

the 50's and 60's, but I don't think you can make that argument anymore, and I think that's a really, really nice thing to happen in just 30 or 40 years. It hasn't been easy I'm sure, and I know I missed a lot of it by not being here, but I really like the way things are going.

[39:20]

Francesca: Well, again, thank you, Mr. Andrews. It's been an honor to interview you for both Rissa and myself--

Hud: Well, thank you. Thank you. It's — I have enjoyed it very much, too; you've made me think, and thinking's always a good thing. You've made me think about the way things were, and I hope I've told you something that's somehow helpful. Thanks for having me.

Marrissa: Thank you.

[39:36, End of Audio]