

W:This is February 24, 1995. I am interviewing Dr. G.W. Mingo of the Upper Bound Program at the University of Florida. The interviewer is Marna Weston. Dr. Mingo, thank you very much for doing this interview with me today.

M:You are welcome, Marna.

W:Let us start out with some basic background information. G.W. Mingo--what does the G.W. stand for?

M:My name is Gwenuel Wilfred Mingo. Most people call me G.W. because they cannot pronounce my first name, Gwenuel. My first name is a concoction of names. My aunt was named Gwendolyn, and one of the grandfathers' was named Granville. They tried to put the two together to come up with Gwenuel. Wilfred was my grandfather's middle name. Actually, it was Wilfreud, but I changed it and made it Wilfred so people could understand it. So I am called G.W. or just Mingo.

W:What brought you to the University of Florida?

M:In 1971, I was just passing through here on my way to Key West, Florida. Key West is my hometown, and I had been offered a position there as assistant principal at one of the high schools, at the only high school they have as a matter of fact. I stopped in Tallahassee, which is my wife's hometown. One of my friends said, "Man, you should go by Gainesville. They have all kinds of jobs there." I had never been to Gainesville in my life. So I stopped by Gainesville. As a matter of fact, I came right up to the Administration Building, which is Tigert Hall. I got out, and went up there to see whoever I was going to see.

The first person I saw was in Student Services with Jack Kinzer.

I do not know Jack's official title with Student Affairs, but we started talking and he found out that I was a former military person. I found out he was a former military person. As a matter fact, [he was] a retired general. Our experiences had been similar in the military, even through college. He was majoring in agriculture. I was an agriculture major. We ended up in the field artillery in the army. He was field artillery. He had gone to some of the same places in Europe and in the Far East. So we had a nice, little chat. He referred me to the director of housing at the time, whose name was Jim Hennessey. I found out Jim was a retired full colonel, so he had similar experiences as a field artillery officer. They had need for African Americans at that time. This was in 1971 right after the black students had walked out. They were looking for people to fill positions.

W: Now did you know anything about that black student walkout?

M: I did not know anything about that. Somebody told me it was all over the news, but I was not paying any attention to it. So I just came in. They were trying to interview with me for a couple of days. I told them I had to move on to Key West because I had this appointment down there. They asked me to hang on for a while. They told me that they would put me up in the dormitory. They had some apartments in Jennings Hall. They put me up for two days. In the

meantime, my wife went out looking for positions. They told her to check the school board. She went down and checked the school board, and low and behold, she comes up with a job. She come and said, "Hey, they offered me a job."

W:What is your wife's name?

M:My wife's name is Cynthia Killings Mingo. Her maiden name was Killings. She was from Tallahassee.

W:How long have you been married?

M:We have been married thirty-one years. It will be thirty-two in July.

W:Do you have children?

M:We have two kids. One daughter is twenty-one years old. She will be graduating from Florida A&M with a degree in business.

W:What is her name?

M:Her name is Anne Marie. I have a son who is in eleventh grade at Eastside High School.

W:His name?

M:Gerald. So she gets this job, or has this job offer. It really was a definite thing because they had completed all the paperwork. So I am trying to figure out what is going on around here. After some checking, I think they were checking out my background to find out who I really was, they offered me a position here with housing as a counselor to students. They called it a resident life coordinator at that time. I was over in Hume Hall as a counselor. The offer was \$6,000. I told them I could not work for \$6,000.

I had been making twice that much coming out of the military. They put it up to \$6,500. With the apartment they were giving me, which had no costs, expenses for the telephone, utilities, maid service, and all the incidental things, such as toilet tissue (you did not have to buy that stuff--we just had to buy food), added to the \$6,000, it was pretty decent. Plus with the fringes, such as being able to take classes, [it was very good]. That was something I did not think of initially. I had just obtained my masters degree while I was in the military, and now I just needed a job. I was not thinking about the advantages. Since I have been at the University of Florida, I have been able to pick up my doctorate. I got that in counselor education. After being here for a while, and spending almost three years in housing...

W:We are talking about 1974?

M:Yes, 1974. The position with the Upward Bound Program came open. Hennessey again said, "Mingo, are you interested in this position?" I did not even know anything about the position. He said, "Well I think that would be a nice position. Why do you not apply for it?" So I figure out what this guy was trying to do. He was trying to get me out of this position. If I had stayed in housing, I do not think I would have gone too far anyway because there was no upward mobility there. He suggested that I apply for the job as an Upward Bound director. So I did. I got the job. I have been with this program from April 1974 to the

present time.

W:Now what exactly is Upward Bound?

M:Upward Bound is a college preparatory program for high school kids from the low income areas. **[[Interruption in tape]]** that they have. In the areas of math, science, **[[interruption in tape]]** they are prepared than the average student that is coming from the low income families.

W:Your target area is low income students here in Alachua County?

M:We have Alachua, Levy, and Bradford Counties at the present time. Initially, when I took over in 1974, it was only Alachua County with 80 students. We had one or two students come out of Marion County at that time, but it was mainly directed toward Alachua County students.

W:When you say Marion County, I am assuming you mean the close communities like McIntosh.

M:Yes. As a matter of fact, North Marion was a contact school that we got most of our students from.

W:So in your number of years, twenty years, with the Upward Program, what is it that has kept you involved in that program?

M:I really like the Upward Bound Program in that I can see where I am making a difference in the lives of a lot of students. We have had students come here with little or no interest, or motivation in going anywhere. These students have turned out to be engineers, lawyers, doctors, or dentists. It is a really good feeling to know that this is happening and I had something to do with it. I played a little part in there.

I am not going to take all the credit. I know we did something to help move those kids on.

W:How many students do you think that you have served in your twenty-odd years with the program?

M:Initially we had about sixty-four students per year. We are up to eighty per year now. If we do a little quick math, for the past twenty years, it may be a couple thousand.

W:What happened in the first year of the Upward Bound Program? What kind of experiences did you have from 1974 to 1975?

M:I did not have any major problems with coming right into the Upward Bound Program. I had the ability to pick up stuff quickly, especially anything that is dealing with supervising, motivating, or managing people or things. This was part of my military experience. I came here with experiences that were much greater than anything I have ever had at the University of Florida. To this present day, the experiences I had have not even come close to what I had in the military. It is a shame that the University of Florida has not even tapped in to some of this potential and ability that I had to perform. They are playing a game which is a game of just not utilizing their resources. As a result, they are missing out on a lot of opportunities that they can tap out of me and probably some other people that are around here. It was not a difficult task of getting a real quick grasp on Upward Bound and moving it. Most people when they came to Upward Bound within that year or two that really did not know that I was a part of that thought, "This guy has

been around for a long time." That is just the way I was able to pick up on it, and just move with it. As a matter of fact, the first month that I was in office, we had what we call a sight visit. They came in to sight. Prior to me getting the position, the sight visit was going on.

W:Now when you say they, who was doing the sight visit?

M:The Department of Education. So they were checking out this place. I found out later that we were about to lose this program because of some things that were not going on. I came in during the middle of this thing. The guy that was doing the sight visit looked at me and said, "I know this guy is just getting on board, but he knows a lot about what is happening." That is just how fast I was able to pick up on what was going on. I read the regulations and I knew basically what was going on. From my ability to command units, have operations, and all this kind of stuff, this was a piece of cake for me.

W:So the military experience helped?

M:The military experience was a big help. I was able to come in in a short period of time and get the thing running. I cleared up a whole lot of mess that was taking place in here. I just cut out the crap and got down to the business of running a good, solid program. I think in the years that I have been here, this program can stand up against any in the nation. I do not have any doubt or any ifs, ands, or buts about our ability to perform and prepare these kids for success in life.

W: Now when you say that the University of Florida has underutilized the potential model not only of yourself, but also of others, can you point out some specific examples where you feel that the administration [overlooked things]?

First, who are you speaking of when you say the administration? Are there particular individuals?

M: I can give you specific names of individuals. I have had a continuous run-in with several people around this place. They are no longer in the chain of command right now. They have subsequently gone on. We are talking about people like Charles Sidman, from my own college. This guy never utilized me to the full potential because he was always a put down. There is something about some people around here. They either do not like the individual, or they do not like the program.

W: What was his position?

M: He was the dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. A person like this undoubtedly does not like me as a person, or he does not like the program. There is no way that anybody with any kind of sense would not value this program. Here was a program that could give the University of Florida a lot of publicity in serving minority students. [It is] a federally funded program that is functioning very well. They did not even recognize the program. They did not even say, "Hey, let us put this in our bulletin. Let us say something about it every now and then. Also, let us pat this guy on the back who is in charge of it to recognize him

for it." I asked for money also because I wanted to be compensated for what I was doing. I think I was doing an excellent job. They were receiving all of this grant money, almost a quarter of a million dollars that I am bringing in here, and they do not even appreciate that. They were using the indirect cost money to their benefit. None of that was coming back to the project. They did in fact, after convincing for a long time, assume part of the responsibility for paying my salary.

W:When you say they, who do you mean?

M:The college. This is something they should have done. They should have assumed 100 percent of the salary of the director and made that director feel a part of the college, as opposed to alienating the director, which was me.

W:What kind of actions took place that made you feel alienated?

M:Specifically when I requested salary increases for what I was doing. That is when the part really came out. I did a study comparing what I do with directors at similar colleges here in the state of Florida as well as outside the state. I picked selected colleges in North Carolina, the state of Michigan, south Florida, Miami, Florida A&M, Florida State, and all these places. It was comparing what I do to what they do.

W:Upward Bound Programs just like this one?

M:Yes. Here I find I have more responsibilities. I have the Ph.D that most of them did not have. I have experiences on the job. I was making less money than they were making. So

I am just showing them this with a comparative chart and studies I have done to try to get some satisfaction. I get none. The thing that I get from them is now that you have reached a pinnacle in your career, you need to move on, look for greener pastures, look for different venues, and contact your people around the state to see if they can assist you in getting another job. They are telling me to get my butt out of here.

W:You mentioned you have some letters.

M:I do have some letters to that effect. It is a letter coming from Charles Sidman. That is why I had that problem with him, and not only Sidman operated that way. There are some other people operating that way too. I mentioned a couple of those. This is one of the things Sidman said, "You must be willing to change venue to accept new challenges."

W:Pardon me, this is a letter?

M:From Charles Sidman dated June 22, 1984.

W:And this is on the stationary of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Office of the Dean.

M:Yes. Telling me, "You must be willing to change venue and accept new challenges. You must move into somewhat different kinds of positions. These observations are made for your ultimate benefit in terms of your sense of reward that will come from the life that you live. Give serious thought in the next month to make contacts outside of this University." You know, this is something that I really objected to. I would have rathered him try to help me move

up in the University rather than out of the University.

This is clearly an attempt to just discredit, throw out, alienate, or whatever he was trying to do here.

W:It appears that some of those phrases are highlighted as well.

M:Yes, they are highlighted.

W:The ones about leaving the University, for example.

M:So here I am. I know I have been a positive influence to the University of Florida. They have not found anything that has been a liability here. I have been an asset. I have brought in money. I have run a top-notch, first rate program. I have made a name for myself nationally in terms of our project and our parental involvement. It would seem like they would want to keep someone around like me. Here they are pushing me out. I know if they attempted to push me out, they probably pushed a whole lot of others out of here, and they have left. I was not planning to go anywhere. My basic thing is that you are just going to have to fire me for doing a good job. I will not be moving because someone decides that he thinks I should move on, or look for a new venue somewhere else. I had a face to face conference with him. I did not even respond to the letter. I had a direct meeting with him. I asked him about the letter. I was sincerely concerned about the fact that I am being pushed out of here. He said, "Well you need to find greener pastures." I said to him, "Where are the greenest pastures in the state of Florida? I think it is at the University of Florida. If there are any green pastures in

the state of Florida's educational system, it is right here at the University of Florida. I would rather you help me move up in here? Do you have a job for me in the college to move up, rather than booting me out?" He had nothing to say about this.

W: So your impetus was to stay at the University of Florida?

M: Exactly. Why would I leave here because someone else wants me to move out. See, this man has had a history of not really supporting African Americans at this university or in this college. It is documented. You can look at the number of African Americans that have come in under his administration. You look at the number who were here and how many he brought in. It is very low. Then you are going to start to push out other people. This is why we have not had good minority programs because there is no continuity of effort. You find somebody who comes in and does the job, then you push them out. You bring somebody brand new. You are starting over from ground zero again. You have no continuity of effort. I was not about to move. I am not the kind of person that you can push around, scare, or intimidate. You cannot intimidate me. I said, "If you want to fire me, just fire me. You are going to fire me because I have done a good job. You are not going to fire me because I have messed up." They have also tried to do that type of thing, to try to find something so they can trump up some charges on you. If I did not know better, if I did not have the stamina or the kind of insight that I had, they

would have run me away from here a long time ago.

It goes back to my military experience too. I am a Vietnam veteran. Really, they are going to have to do a whole lot more than what they are doing to shake me. Nobody is shooting any bullets at me. Nobody mortaring me. Nobody is really causing me to really run for my life here. This is a lot of talk and a lot of other kind of pressures. They are going to have to do more than that. Mingo is not going to run and hide because somebody is talking about something. They have not utilized me. Right now I am in a box. I am in a box. I would call this economic segregation. They have me in an economic mine right now. They are not paying me what I am worth. They are not going to allow me to move out of this position into other positions. So I am really stuck right here now. I am not satisfied. I am going to play the game for a while. I think I have a few more years to play the game, and then I will move on to something else. But the idea of forcing me out, I am just not going to hear that at all.

W:What is it that makes you stay?

M:What I am doing for these kids here. That is what I making me stay. It is not so much what I am doing for the University of Florida or what they are paying me to do. I see that I have helped a whole lot of kids. Within a two year period, there are some things that I could personally benefit from. I could benefit from it right now if I just leave. I can

retire right now with almost twenty-eight years of service with the state. That is only because I have done something to boost up the time, like purchase my military time to up my time for retirement. You have to be looking at those kinds of things when you are around a place like this. What are they going to do for you? They are not going to do anything for you, so you have to do something for yourself.

In the meantime, I am staying around just to increase my salary. If I can increase it a little more, so that I can retire in the next two years, at least I will get out of here with a decent retirement benefit. But it is mainly the kids.

That is mainly what I am here for. I really love Upward Bound.

I love what is happening. To bring these low income kids [is great]. Most of them have no skills. Some of these guys are out there making more money than I am making. That is good too. They are really contributing to society. It really makes me feel good to know that I have been a part of that.

W:What is the most positive experience that you have had or your best memory from working with the Upward Bound Program here at the University of Florida?

M:All of my memories are very good when working with Upward Bound. The bad part comes when I have to work with the administration. When I have to work with the part of the administration that tells me **[[please finish thought]]**. I

wrote them a letter telling them that these programs might be cut by the federal government, especially when Reagan was in. Reagan was going to cut all of these programs out. I sent a letter saying, "There is a possibility that these programs will be cut. What are your contingencies? What are your plans if they are cut?"

W:You have kept meticulous notes over the years. Do you have a copy of that letter?

M:Yes, I have copies. I have a chronology of letters that I have tried to make people very aware of what was going on.

W:This is a very impressive chronology. What year does this start in--these notes?

M:We start back here in 1980.

W:Is that the first letter, December 17, 1980?

M:No. May 21, 1980.

W:And this is a letter from you.

M:From me to Dr. Sidman. [It says], "I would like to inform you that the special services grant has not been funded for the year 1980-1981. Even though I am highly optimistic, there is a possibility that they may not be funded." I needed to meet with them to discuss any contingency plans that they might have in the event we do not get funded. So Sidman does not even respond back to my letter.

W:This letter was cc'd to President Marston [Robert Q. Marston, president, University of Florida, 1974-1984].

M:To Vice President Bryan [Robert Armistead Bryan, interim president, 1989-1990], and Dean Shaw [Harry Shaw, associate

dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences].

W:Dean Shaw, Vice President Bryan, and Dean Shaw. Could you describe them? Who is President Marston?

M:I do not know what number president he was. Back in the 1980s, he was the man in charge here. Under him, he had Vice President Bryan. Harry Shaw was the dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. [He] was my immediate supervisor. That is why I carbon copied him. I got a response back from Robert A. Bryan.

W:February 11, 1983.

M:Yes. I have a copy of Mingo's memorandum. He goes on to say, "The special services summer program has to end some time. It cannot go on forever. There was a philosophical and moral justification for the programs initiation and its continuance through the 1970s, but it cannot continue forever to be justified on the original philosophical and moral grounds. Time moves on. Society changes. Social illness can and are being cured. What was needed in the 1960s may be irrelevant in the 1980s." Therefore, he is arguing against the University assuming any fiscal responsibilities for the program if not funded by the federal government. He goes on to say, "Let me know if you think my logic is faulty or my vision is limited." I did not even respond to this. He definitely had faulty logic and his vision was definitely limited.

W:How did you feel on February 11, 1983 when you have the vice president of the University of Florida tell you that Upward

Bound is irrelevant?

M:Mainly what he was talking about was the Student Support Services Program. This is the part that deal with the college students.

W:This is not Upward Bound. It was separate?

M:It was separate.

W:Could you explain the difference between Student Support Services and Upward Bound?

M:The student support part was dealing with the college students here on campus. We were helping them make that transition from high school to the University of Florida so that they could be successful and just move on through the system. The University of Florida had a mix up about what Upward Bound was and what student support services was. The student support services was dealing with the students who were actually enrolled at the University of Florida. Here we had the possibility of us losing that program, helping these kids to make that adjustment here. This letter was saying we cannot do this. During the 1960s and 1970s it was okay, but in the 1980s we need to drop this thing. They were confused. The limited vision and logic was really messed up. They had no idea what they were talking about. That letter told me that the University of Florida, coming from the top shed, says they are not going to support any kind of black anything here. That is what they were telling me. If they are not going to support those students, they are definitely not going to support me. So I just felt that

what I needed to do was make some arrangements in the event that they do not support it, and I would do something else.

I was prepared to actually leave here and do whatever I had to do to support my family. We were fortunate in that we did get the grant. I always kept that in the back of my mind--the University of Florida is not serious about black issues or black people. I think that is why they have a problem right now with blacks at the University of Florida.

How can you get them involved until you really start being sincere, and you start training the faculty and other black support people here who are supposed to be helping these kids. You make them feel good and treat them right, and then they can help you with the students. The environment is not right for black faculty and staff. Maybe it is right for some black faculty and staff. I think some black faculty and staff probably are satisfied. They are comfortable in their situations. If they would really just take a good look at some of the stuff that they are doing, they would see that some of us are really getting screwed around here while they are sitting back comfortable. That is part of the strategy too. You take care of a few of them. You make them feel good, and they are going to be the gatekeepers for the rest of you. They are going to be the spokesman for all the black folk here. You know these kinds of games.

W:Is Upward Bound primarily a program that deals with African Americans?

M:It is right now only because those are the only students who are really applying for them. It is for all students. Student Support Services is for all students. There is nothing in there that says this is an African American thing. Those are the students who have taken advantage of it. We have a diverse staff. They do not come and see all black folk. They find Hispanics in there teaching. They find African Americans. They find your caucasian groups. We try to keep a balance of staff in there, so that when they come in they just do not see one group. For some reason, most of the African American students have taken advantage of it. **[[end of side a]]**.

W:...a long conference table approximately ten feet long. Just the two of us in the room which has a large window overlooking the College of Fine Arts. This is basically a library repository of old University of Florida newspapers and articles. We have a somewhat adequately stocked library with the works of Shakespeare, Plato, and books on philosophy, chemistry, and psychology. Thank you again Dr. Mingo for participating in the interview. I would like to talk to you a little bit about what happened in terms of your experiences at the University of Florida after 1974 and 1975. What were the highlights that occurred on campus? How did you interact with the environment? We had the bicentennial in 1976. In 1980, we had a change from the Democratic administration of Jimmy Carter to Ronald Reagan.

Start anywhere.

M:I do not really get too hyped up about any of the Democrats or Republicans that come into office because there are certain basic things that they will have to do for the country. There are going to be some moves or attempts to make some radical, bold movements such as Reagan tried to do. There are also going to be people out there to fight them. One of the things that I was involved in was a fight for Ronald Reagan--to fight him to keep these programs in existence. We did an excellent job. When Reagan first came into office, the Trio Program were definitely on his cut list.

W:Now what are the Trio Programs?

M:The Trio Programs are Upward Bound, Student Support Services, and the talent search. They have some other ones that have been added. Trio is a misnomer right now. The Ron McNare Program. The Educational Opportunity Incentive. There are about five of them now instead of three.

W:And Upward Bound is one of them?

M:Upward Bound is one of those programs. He was out to cut them all. We had to do a job of convincing the community grass roots that there was definitely a need for it. We had letter writing campaigns, a telephone blitz, and visits to Congress--the whole works. It was part of the effort to fight Ronald Reagan.

W:Were you organized in local churches?

M:We did the whole community. We had this whole community organized with a letter writing campaign. When I am talking

about the whole community, I am not talking about totally, but there are some grass root people and people that are really closely connected with the Upward Bound Program.

[It] was mainly the parents of the students and all those other people associated with them.

W:Any particular personalities that you would like to note?

M:There are none from the University of Florida persay that really stood out. They are mainly local parents and students. That is where the grass roots are. We went down to that level. These people really appealed to them. The number of phone calls going into Congress, and the number of letters **[[please finish thought]]**. It was a constant battle. Initially we had a twelve day way with Reagan. This thing was coordinated on a nationwide basis, not only the project here at the University of Florida. It was all of the projects throughout the state of Florida, Georgia, and all over the nation. We were bombarding and fighting this guy to convince him and show him that this program has really made a difference. There are former students who had gone through this program and are now prominent people. They are paying taxes now. They were able to get up and speak before their congressional people telling them the benefits of this program.

W:So you actually went to Congress?

M:Yes. As a matter of fact, I had the opportunity to actually testify before the appropriations committee in Washington. Senator Chiles [Lawton Chiles, governor, Florida, 1991-

present] was a chairperson for the appropriation committee.

I spoke in behalf of all Trio Programs nationwide about the need to continue funding of these programs.

W:Was this is 1980 or 1981?

M:I have forgotten. I will probably come back to that.

W:Early in the Reagan era?

M:Yes, early in the Reagan era. It was more than likely around 1983 or 1984. I did get to talk with Chiles on two occasions. That really helped to turn the tide because coming from Florida and actually knowing Senator Chiles was a plus. Senator Chiles at that time had one of my classmates as his aide. We headed into his office. As you know most of the congressional people depend on their aides to provide them with information to make decisions on whether they are going to vote yea or nay on things. I knew Bob Harris from Florida A&M. We ran track together. I was able to help all these programs nationwide by convincing Chiles of a need to support these programs, which he did.

W:What is Mr. Harris doing now?

M:I think he is working for Senator Glenn out of Ohio now.

W:John Glenn?

M:Yes.

W:So back in the 1980s, I was real active in the lobbying effort, which I am somewhat today too. I still go to Washington. I talk to the congressional delegation here. I know Cliff Stearns real well. I know Karen Thurman. I know Corrinne Brown very well. As a matter of fact Corrinne Brown used to

work in the Student Support Services Program. She was a counselor here at the University of Florida. When I came in, she was one of my counselors. Knowing these people in Washington is a big help. I know Alcee Hastings [D-FL] real well. I know Carrie Meek real well. Those are some of the people. Others I know real well too. Dante Fascell [D-19th District] is from my district in Key West. I can go into their offices and I can say something. I am not saying I can influence them to the point that they are going to vote for everything I requests or give me what I am asking for all the time. It is a good feeling to know that you can go in an office and they say, "Hey Mingo, how are you doing?"

W:Now in your lobbying capacity, you are affiliated with two organizations?

M:I am really not a lobbyist. The University has their own lobbyist. I am just a citizen. That is my right to go there and ask my congressional delegation for certain things.

W:So an ex officio lobbyist or a de facto lobbyist.

M:Whatever.

W:You are involved in two organizations--FAEOP and SAEOP. What do those stand for?

M:FAEOP is the Florida Association of Educational Opportunity Personnel. I am just stepping down from the office of president. I was president for the last four years for this organization. I was really the leader for all the state of Florida programs, Upward Bound, Student Support Services,

talent search, and Educational Opportunity Incentives. Whenever we had a meeting in Washington or anywhere in the southeast region, I would be the representative. Now we have SAEOP, which is the Southeastern Association of Educational Opportunity Personnel for the eight state regions. It includes Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, and Tennessee. I think I listed all of them. I was on the board for SAEOP. As the president of Florida, I would attend meetings twice a year with these other eight presidents of the state. We would strategize and make plans for our regional meetings for anyway that we could support the national organization, which is the National Council of Educational Opportunity Associations. The National Council of Educational Opportunity Associations is sort of like our watchdog in Washington. They will let us know what is happening, when we need to be vigilant, when we need to strike, when we need to put the pressure on, and this type of thing. We have a national meeting once a year. It is usually going to be in Washington or some other place throughout the nation. These people are very, very effective. They were the ones that were responsible for organizing and arranging the meeting that I had with Chiles before the appropriations committee. As I said, they are based in Washington and very effective. They are the lobbyist.

W: Within the context of working within these different lobbying

agencies that you subscribe to as a private citizen, have you had any instances of running into official Florida lobbyist or Florida administrative personnel?

M:Yes, as a matter of fact, the last year I was in Washington (1994), I ran into President Lombardi [John Lombardi, president, University of Florida, 1990-present]. As a matter of fact, I had a meeting with Karen Thurman. When I was just about finished, she said, "You know President Lombardi will be here next. He is scheduled to come in next." I said, "Do you mind if I just wait here? I will just welcome him to your office." As he came in the office, I said, "President Lombardi, it is a pleasure to have you here. Welcome to Karen Thurmond's office." We had a big chat about that one. As a matter of fact, that turned out to be a good meeting or occasion to meet with the president at Karen Thurmond's office. That same night they had Gator night. All of the alumni from the D.C. area were meeting at one of the buildings in the capital area. I was invited out there, and I got a chance to meet some of the people working in the federal government. They were surprised to see me there. They thought I was traveling with President Lombardi because I was doing my thing, just being the official Florida host. It was an interesting experience.

Every now and then I will run across people from Florida who are making the same type of visits. There are a lot of people that are lobbying for various types of causes there. You

have got the dairy industry. The teachers are there. As a matter of fact, whenever the educational organization is there, if we find out what is on their agenda, we say we are really supporting the effort there because it is about education. Another one like Head Start. Most people would think that Head Start, Upward Bound, and Student Support Services are separated, but the money comes from the same department. So when we are talking about Upward Bound, we can also mention Head Start. What we have found out is that a lot of these kids who are former Head Start kids are coming into the Upward Bound Program. The reason Head Start is successful is that they had somebody at the end of this thing to really push them through to get them into college. It has been the Upward Bound Program. What we have found from just cursory studies is that there is a definite connection between Upward Bound and Head Start.

The government should recognize that you just cannot serve them on the front end during those initial years because they are not going to get through. You need to get them initially during the elementary, pick them up somewhere in the middle, and push them through at the end. We have been part of that conduit that has been set up. This year we are celebrating our thirtieth year of the Upward Bound Program in the nation. [It is] one of the most successful programs that the government has ever come up with. I do not think that they realize that. At least some people have not realized

that. It is so successful we now have a congressman from Louisiana who is a former Upward Bound student, Cleo Fields.

W:Cleo Fields?

M:Cleo Fields is an Upward Bound student. Albert Winn out of Maryland was a former Student Support Services student. Henry **Bonea** from Texas. There are probably some others in there too. If they would just look back and say, "Hey, I was associated with that program, they will find out they are the beneficiaries of governmental programs. Now they are in the top rungs of our government. So we know the program works.

W:When you mentioned your work on behalf of these programs, you talked about members of the United States House of Representatives. You mentioned Governor Chiles. What type of relationship have you been able to develop with the senators of the state of Florida over the years, for example former Governor Graham, now Senator Graham [Robert (Bob) Graham, senator, 1987-present], and Senator Connie Mack [1989-present]?

M:When I go to Washington, whether I am scheduled to go to their offices or not, I go by there. I sign in on their books anyway. If I do not even see them, I sign in and let them know I was there. If I get the opportunity to say something to them, I go in and say something to them. I always try to maintain a relationship with the senators and any representatives coming out of our district. I make sure I get into their office. With Senator Graham, I have been in

his office he really should know me real well, but they have got so many other people that I do not know him that well to make that impact on him. I have been in that office a whole bunch of times. Connie Mack has also been helpful to us when we were fighting for our grant. His aides have been very helpful to me. If anybody knows me, Congressman Stearns really knows me. I have a real good relationship with him. If I am going to support any Republicans (I am definitely a Democrat), Stearns does not have any problem. I support him and I tell the parents to support him. When we were down and out, we could count on this guy. I think he is more concerned about the kind of stuff that we do, in spite of some other things you hear on radio and t.v. When it comes down to supporting programs like Upward Bound, he has been very supportive.

W:Where do you see the Upward Bound Program going over the next thirty years?

M:If we can get the schools or the states to do what they are supposed to be doing, we probably will not have a need for it. I do not think they want to take on the challenge of doing what they are supposed to be doing. The state legislature is going to have to start putting money into education instead of building jails. Just put the money into education, and you would cut down on so many people going into the jails. It is kind of hard to say where this thing is going to go. I believe the federal government is going to have to be involved with this process for some time

to come now.

W:As of yesterday, or a couple of days ago I believe, President Clinton announced a review of the affirmative action programs with the federal government. As we watched the news with the Republican Contract With American, they seemed to have identified Affirmative Action as something that might have passed its time. They see cutbacks in those areas as necessary to balance the federal budget. What types of pressures do you think that these types of policies will bring toward educating today's children?

M:There is always a need for Affirmative Action because I just do not believe that people are going to do what is right. You are going to have some kind of program to make sure that you treat people fairly, you give everybody an opportunity to get a piece of the American pie. There is a great need for Affirmative Action. If it were not for Affirmative Action, I do not believe I would be at the University of Florida right now. You might as well recognize that it has been a good thing. I think the University of Florida has benefitted from me being here, from you being here, and others who have come here. It could not have been a one person type show here with one ethnic group here. That is not good for the country. I think there is a need for Affirmative Action. I do not think Affirmative Action means something for black folk. It should be something positive that is something that is self directed, structured, organized, moving in a direction that is going to benefit

the whole nation. That is what we are talking about. We are going to affirm that we are doing what we are supposed to be doing so that we can realize the full potential of all the people. That is what Affirmative Action should be about. Affirmative Action, as I know it right now, without it, we will still be back in the 1960s just trying to get those colored signs off the water fountains.

W:What are your hopes and dreams for the kids in the Upward Bound Program?

M:I hope that they do not have to go through the crap that I have gone through just to be a citizen of this United States, and just to realize your full potential to be a full blown citizen of this United States so that people will not be judging you by the color of your skin but as Martin said, by the content of your character. That is what I hope--that the Upward Bound students will not go through what I have gone through. I hope that they can realize their full potential and have a better life and greater opportunities.

I can see some of them right now. They are having some great opportunities. Some of them are not taking advantage of them, but the opportunities are there. There are much more opportunities than I had coming out of high school. As a matter of fact, I just accidentally got into college. There were no plans for me to go to college in the first place.

W:Where did you go to college?

M:I went to college at Florida A&M. If it were not for Mr. J.B.

Green, my agricultural instructor in Tampa, Florida, I would not have been anywhere. There were no plans for me to go to the army, and no plans for me to work anywhere. I was just going to hang out. I was not thinking about it. I did not make any plans to take any classes that would prepare me for college. My mother had said if this boy can just complete high school. I will be glad if he can just get out of high school. She had never completed high school, so that would have been an accomplishment for her son. Someone else said, "Boy you have potential. You should go to college." So here I am thinking, "Yeah, I should go to college, but how am I going to go to college?" I did not have any money, so I thought I would get me a catalog from Florida A&M and see what it was about. It was \$190. That was all I needed. That was all I thought I needed. That was all I could read in the book. They had the tuition costs, the housing, etc. There were other costs in there. There were books, fees, and other stuff. I did not know nothing about that. So I just had about \$250 I earned during the summer shining shoes and cleaning yards.

So I go up to Tallahassee. I get up there and for one thing, it is cold in Tallahassee. I go up there not prepared for the weather with no topcoat and one little cheap gray suit that I had. My shoes had holes in them. It was cold. I said, "Boy, I have got to do something quick." They made us get in the ROTC. I used to have on ROTC stuff all the time.

They thought I was gung ho. I did not like the ROTC. At least they had a topcoat, hat, and decent shoes. I was wearing that for the most part. I will back up a little bit.

I did not have enough money to start out at Florida A&M. What I did was pay the basic \$90 tuition. You could take as many courses as you want. I was able to pay for the dormitory. I paid for that first semester, or whatever we were on. I did not have any money for books, and I did not have any money for food. The housing and the food were tied together. You had to pay the two of them. I convinced them that I did not have it, and if they would just let me in the dormitory, I would try to pay them up next time. Just let me pay the next time around next term. They did let me in there. I arranged for meals from students who did not like to get up to eat breakfast. I found out who they were, so I would use their meal card. I found somebody who did not want to eat lunch. Everybody wanted to eat the last meal. So that is how I ate during that first term. I also used peoples' books during the first time around. As I said, I was wearing the ROTC stuff all the time. They thought I was gung ho. I was a military man.

I got through that first term, and I missed the honor roll by two-tenths of a point. I said, "Man, I can do college work." In spite of all the difficulty I had, I said, "I can

do college work." Then it turned on. I had a job in agriculture at the dairy. This was a good experience. I have never been around cows in my life, coming from Key West, even though I graduated from high school in Middleton and through the agriculture thing. All we did was deal with chickens. We had the chicken and the egg, stuff like that.

But a big 'ol cow? Here I am working in the dairy. Talking about somebody scared then. I could not put on like I was so scared. Every now and then, I would get a little close to this cow, but I was scared to death. I worked there during the first year getting up at 5:00 a.m. going down to milk these cows, and at 5:00 p.m. So you had to milk these cows twice a day.

W:How much did it pay?

M:\$50 a month.

W:\$50 a month for milking cows at 5:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

M:This was work study. This is how much I knew about what was going on. They said, "You got a work study. You can get \$50 a month." I thought I was going to get that \$50 when I got to A&M. They said, "No, you have got to work first." I had to work that first month. Then I started getting my \$50. Then I started buying stuff that I needed. I bought a book, and some of the basic essential things. As I said, I was able to make it that first term. I just missed the honor roll. I said, "Hey, I can do this work."

W:You said you lived in the dorms. What dorm did you live in?

M:When I first got there, I was in Gibbs Hall.

W:Who was that named after?

M:It was named after Jonathan Gibbs, one of the vice presidents of FAMU. Also, he was the attorney general way back there (I think). After that first term, the next term I made the honor roll.

W:At that time, Florida A&M was an all black university.

M:An all black university. We had a law school there, which they subsequently took away. They should put it back. They took a lot of things away, like agriculture. They cut that down. They sent a lot of that stuff to the University of Florida. They sent stuff over to FSU. I think what they were trying to do was dismantle the school.

W:When you say they took the law school away, and they shipped the agricultural programs away, what do you mean?

M:Well, they just disbanded the law school. It was no longer at FAMU. They just took it. This was part of the dismantling process.

W:Did they dismantle the building?

M:No, it was located in the library. So the building was still there where it was located.

W:But the accreditation was taken?

M:All of that yes. It was gone.

W:So where did black students go to law school?

M:Well, you know this is probably how this thing with Virgil Hawkins happened. Here they are. They take that away. I believe this was during the time that Virgil was trying to get into law school somewhere. So he was going to try to

get into the University of Florida. I can see the fight that they had. They did not want him to get in here. I do not even know if FSU had a law school at that time. That is where this law school actually went--into FSU.

W: So the FAMU Law School became the FSU Law School?

M: I think that is the way it goes. I am not sure on that. I do not know whether FSU had a school at that time. If they had one, there were two in Tallahassee, one for blacks and one for whites.

W: Approximately what year was this?

M: This was in 1958. 1958, 1959, or 1960--somewhere in that range. I went to A&M in 1958. The law school was there. Jesse **McCrary**, a prominent lawyer and judge today, is one of the products of that school. Alcee Hastings and all these people. I think **Leanda Shaw**. Some of those people. There are some prominent people. Althena Joiner out of Tampa, and several people became lawyers.

We were talking about my first year at A&M. After that, things turned good. I started feeling real good about myself. I started saving some of my \$50. I started picking up little odd jobs, and finding ways to make ends meet. Eventually, I graduated from Florida A&M with a B.S. in agriculture and a commission in the United States Army. I was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the field artillery. I went to Fort Sill [Lawton, Oklahoma]. I participated in the artillery officers advanced school.

W:Following a brief interruption, we will continue our interview.

We were at Fort Sill.

M:After I left Fort Sill, Oklahoma, my next duty station was in _____, Germany. I spent three years with a one, five, five millimeter **Howitzer** unit.

W:What unit was that?

M:It is the second of the thirty-second, seventh artillery.

After leaving Germany, I went directly to Vietnam. I spent one year with the second of the thirty-second artillery, which is an eight inch, one-seven-five unit. My main responsibility of duty there was as a S-3. I was in charge of the intelligence operation of the unit, and the air observers, and gathering information for the unit.

W:Where were you deployed at Vietnam?

M:Two places. I was mainly in the **Cuchi**. **Cuchi** is down around the third corp area, and west of Saigon. It is between the Cambodian border. I was with the twenty-fifth infantry division, which is Tropic Lightning out of Hawaii. That was the main base. We were supporting them with the field artillery. Anytime the infantry went out and they needed heavy artillery, it was our job to support them.

W:What was the second place besides **Cuchi**?

M:**Tainan**. **Tainan** is right on the border of Cambodia. My job as S-3 was gathering intelligence and keeping those kinds of operations going. I am not a pilot, but I knew how to fly the L-19 Bird dog. It was a two-seater. It is like the Cessnas that you have up here.

W:I saw the movie Bat 21 with Danny Glover. He was a bird dog, that is what they called the plane that he was in. What exactly are the operations of bird dog?

M:We were air observers. Our job was to spot enemy actions or support our units on the ground from the air. We would call in this artillery. We knew where our guns were, and we would call in artillery to support guys on the ground.

W:How long were you there?

M:One year. **[[end of tape]]**.

W:I am with G.W. Mingo. We were talking about his experiences in Vietnam.

M:Everyone in Vietnam was in some type of action. There were no lines set up where this was the front line or this was the rear action. You were always into something. As a field artillery officer, our job was not to go out and beat the bush down. We were always out there prowling on a search and destroy type mission. We were stationed in an area with these guns. We could hit anything within the range of that operation that might be being conducted by the infantry. Even though we were not on the line or out there doing that search and destroy thing, we were in the battle area. They would rather knock out our guns, so that we could not support those guys out in the fields. So you would get mortared. In the case of me with the aircraft, we were always being shot at. Just imagine any aircraft and somebody on the ground. Now I have got a gun. They can shoot up there at any time they wanted to. I guess we were

lucky in that they did not have missiles that were shooting at [us]. I think they had the capability of doing it.

W:When you say they, do you mean the North Vietnamese?

M:The North Vietnamese, Vietcong, or whatever you want to call it. It was not too uncommon for us to have bullet holes in the aircraft. Most people familiar with aircraft will know that your gas tanks are in your wings. You have self sealing type gas tanks. **[[interruption in tape]]**. You did not get a bullet in there unless they shot a phosphorous type round or something at you. That would knock you out. Getting shot at was just something that one gets accustomed to. If you are fighting in Vietnam, you are in the battlefield unless you are back at a post-op or somewhere off on a ship. There were some secure areas. I think most of the field artillery units that I knew were out close to or in a position where you could get mortared.

W:So you were constantly in jeopardy.

M:Oh yes. I did not take anything for granted. Even though we could go for days and days and nothing would happen. All of a sudden, boom. You got mortar incoming, and you got to be on your p's and q's. If you have intelligence that has a unit in the area you better be watching out for certain types of things. You would be on your p's and q's.

W:Do you stay in contact today with many of the men and women that you met in Vietnam?

M:Not really.

W:Is it just that you fell out with each other?

M:When I left Vietnam, that was not something that I was proud of that I had done. I do not have any fond memories or all this kind of stuff. I just never tried to find anybody. I had an experience, and I think that is why I got out of the military. A friend of mine and I were ROTC instructors at Lincoln University in Missouri. That was after I got out of Vietnam. His name was Captain James Russ. The military assigned us as instructors at Lincoln University in Missouri. He was planning on getting out of the military and going to work on his masters and this type of thing. He decided that he would stay in the military and do that. So he get orders for Vietnam. Then he is really deciding whether he should stay or go. He had already been over once. So he goes back again. They promote him to major. They were not going to promote him to major until he got to Vietnam. So he goes and gets promoted to major. He does not come back. He gets shot down a month or so before he was supposed to come back. He was shot down in a helicopter.

His wife called me and asked me if I would go pick up the body out of California and escort it back to Florida. So I go and escort the body back to Florida, and stay with the family for a week to make sure that all the arrangements are taken care of, the whole works. I was thinking, "That could be me there. Russ was saying I should get out of this thing now. I do not know whether I want to go back over there."

They held up his promotion until he got over there. So here they were doing the same thing to me. I had orders to back to Vietnam. I am thinking, "Maybe I can wait until December when I finish my masters." I was working on my masters. I wanted to know where I was going to go in Vietnam. Then I wanted to know about my promotion. I was due for major too. I did not get any of that. I did not get any answers. I went to Washington and the whole works. Here I am now escorting this guys body back to Florida. I said, "Man we were following the same kind of path. They did the same thing to this guy." I decided that after I settled everything with the family, I would give this thing one more try. I would go back to Washington and see what I could find out. I go back there and nobody could do anything. So I decided I was done. I gave them my commission. I resigned from the military.

W:When did you resign your commission?

M:I resigned in 1970. I just gave up in 1970.

W:Any regrets?

M:No. I have no regrets. The only regret I have is that I do not have the pension. I wish I could have stayed there for twenty and gotten that military pension. Then again, I might have been like my buddy Russ. Whenever I go to the Vietnam Memorial, I find Russ' name. Somebody could be finding my name on the wall. The same kinds of things that were happening to him were happening to me. I said, "Boy, I do not want to come back in this box." You could not open

the casket. He was shot down, and burnt beyond recognition.

I just decided I would get out of the military. Since I was working on my masters at the same time, I just got out and told them I would leave because I wanted to work on my masters. After I leave my masters, I would probably come back. Those were my intentions. I left the military with the intention of completing my masters and then coming back in. After I completed my masters, I got a job. Things were not bad. I was not making the kind of money I was making in the military, but it still was not bad. I figured I would make it.

I ended up coming back to Florida and started getting involved in little things. [I was] doing just as well as I probably could have done in the military. I would have made more money in the military. I definitely would have made more money. I probably would have gotten pretty high in the ranking too, but that is a chance kind of thing. I might not have come back. I do not really regret it because some of the guys that stayed in, got out, retired, and got their little pension going do not have things that I have. I have connections with people in the community. I have the doctorate. I am making a little bit of money. I have properties. I have certain things. I have all most as much as they have. I wish I had that cash flow. If I had that cash flow, I would be doing a whole lot better than what I am doing now. That is the only thing that I really miss.

W: You mentioned the Vietnam War Memorial. I think that is interesting. My father is also a Vietnam veteran. He was in the 82nd on the brag. He and I never talk about what happened.

M: I do not like to talk about Vietnam either. I do not go to any Vietnam movies. This is the most I have talked about Vietnam in a long time. I do not really like to talk about it. Your father probably had more hairy experiences than I had. As an 82nd airborne, this guy was out pounding the bushes. That was not my thing. I do not think the experiences I had were worthwhile. I do not enjoy talking about it. It was an unpopular war. In a sense it pisses me off. When I got back from Vietnam, I thought things might be a little different in how they treat people. I do not feel like people respect me for who I am, not that I am supposed to be set up on a pedestal because I have gone to Vietnam and fought a war. The kind of discrimination and attitudes that people have towards blacks, like you have not done anything for your country, really bothers me. It really bothers me. I do not necessarily like to get up here and tell people I have been over there. Some people say, "Oh he has done nothing for his country." Some people have done more than some of these people who are saying what they have done. They have got some frauds up there. They are talking about how they have had the Vietnam experience and they have not had anything.

I do not think I have been to any movie related to the Vietnam War at all. Not one. Every now and then I will watch something on television, especially if I see something in the area that I was serving in. Every now and then **Cuche** and **Tainan** will come up. I remember one time I was telling my son, "Yeah, I was right in that area right there. You see that boy?" I point out stuff to him. I do not have any great joy over that.

W:Would you like to go back one day and see the places they fought?

M:Yes. Vietnam is a pretty place. From what I could tell of the terrain and stuff that I have seen, it is a pretty place. I would not mind going back. I am not going to make any major effort to go back over there though. I have seen it. If I go anywhere, I am going over to Africa. That is where I need to go and see my own country.

W:Do you speak any Vietnamese or did you learn any while you were there?

M:The only thing that I learned was **dau we**. That means captain.

I did not want to learn any Vietnamese. I did not want to be around the Vietnamese. Not that I hated the people.

That was not my war. That really was not something that I was trying to do. I did not want to learn anything. I did not trust them. I was protecting myself. I think a lot of our people got killed because they were too trusting and too naive. I did not take any chances, even though being up in that aircraft was a chancy thing. That was really

dangerous. Some of the things we did in the aircraft were dangerous. I know I did not have any great desire to learn Vietnamese at all. When I was in Germany, I learned German.

I can hold a pretty decent conversation in German.

W:Let us move to a higher note and get away from Vietnam. You mentioned once to me that you had visited Spain. What was your travel in Europe like?

M:When I was stationed in Germany for three years, every weekend my wife and I would travel somewhere in Europe. We were not going to be like the ugly Americans over there and try to make the United States happen in Germany, or trying to look for the stuff. We went out every weekend. We took a train or a bus. When we got our car, we traveled all around in our car every weekend. Austria was one country that was really close to where we were. We would go into Austria. Then we took about a thirty day trip throughout. We went to Switzerland, Italy, and Milan. We hit the Riviera, Nice, Cannes, and the area all around the Pyrénées. We went down into Spain and hit Barcelona, Sevilla, Roda, and Madrid. We went everywhere. We went to Roda and crossed over into North Africa at Morocco. We spent about three days over there. We came back and were going to go into Portugal. I said, "No we better get our tail out of here and get back up into France." We wanted to spend some time in Paris. So we came up the eastern side of Spain along the Portugal border.

W:The western side?

M:The western side going up into France. We came through Marseilles and some other places up in there. We got into Paris and spent about three days there. We had a real good time. We went out through Luxembourg. We just had a good time visiting. That was part of our thing. We wanted to see as much of Europe as we could possibly see while we were over there for three years.

W:What three years were those?

M:There was 1963 through 1966.

W:How did your family get started? You and your wife met where?

M:My wife and I met at Florida A&M. Her family is from Tallahassee. We just happened to meet through a Methodist student organization.

W:What year was that?

M:That was in 1962.

W:What was it that attracted you to her?

M:She was a nice, young lady. This is what was happening. I was running track. I ran cross country track at Florida A&M. We would run our cross country track meets in relation to the football games that they had. So she was a cheerleader. So we were running track. We were traveling with the football teams, and we would run our cross country meets prior to the events. As we would start to run, the end of that meet would come into that stadium. They had this thing running like a marathon. It was really neat. I had the opportunity to run with the football team, the cheerleaders, and the track team. I got a chance to meet with them. We

were part of the Methodist Student Organization too. That is how I got tied up. I also used to play the steel drums. At all the football games, we had the stadium rocking. **[[break in tape]]**.

Back in the 1960s, if anybody can remember, when we had these steel drums going, the stands would really be rocking. A couple of us guys from south Florida who had the Bohemian kind of connections had that rhythm and could play that stuff. That was part of my little thing. My wife got to know me by that thing too. By way of information, I am a Bohemian extraction from Key West. My mother and father's people are from the Bahamas. So that side came out of Nassau, and my father's side came out of **Eleuthera**. That is about it.

W:Would you like to mention any of the members of your family?

M:My great grandfather from Eleuthera was Frank Mingo. One of his sons was Reynold Mingo. That was my grandfather. My father's name is Reynold Mingo Jr. On my mother's side of the family, Justina Hamilton came out of Nassau. Her husband, Wilfred **Strong** was born in St. Sebastian of Cat Island. From that marriage came my grandmother Zerlina.

W:Who was her husband?

M:She actually was married twice. Her first husband was Frank Sawyer. From that marriage came my mother and my Uncle Frank, who is deceased now. She married again to **Namond** Reckley. They had a daughter named Gwendolyn who died of

lock jaw. Gwendolyn is part of where my name came from. My father's mother's name was Irma Curtis. Her mother was Elizabeth Dean out of Nassau.

W:Is there anything else you would like to add to conclude the interview Dr. Mingo?

M:I enjoyed the interview. Hopefully, it will be of some benefit to somebody in the future. I hope that the University of Florida will start doing what they can do to make this a great university. It will never be a great university if they do not utilize the resources that they have. You cannot be wasting stuff.

W:Thank you very much, Dr. Mingo, of the Upward Bound Program at the University of Florida. This concludes our interview. Thank you once again.