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The Silenced Generation - Growing up after massive
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Earnest Allen, Jr.

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Interviewers: Apryl Crowley, Alizaih Suarez, Brooklyn Thompson, Olivia Mehalko

Interviewees: E.J Allen

Transcription + Interview

Additional notes: I removed crutched words and false starts from this transcript. (Alizaih)
The first nine minutes of the Interview was just of E.J Allen signing forms and us getting to know E.J. This transcription starts at the beginning of the official interview. (Apryl)

Brooklyn Thompson: What's your full name?

Ernest Allen: My full name is Earnest Allen Junior, I go by EJ.

BT: What is your main occupation? Or is it coaching?

EJ: Actually, yes coaching, as of now. I work a full time job and I go to school full time, but I also coach at Fuqua School while completing my degree here at Longwood as a Sociology major and a minor is Health Education. I actually started off as a Health and PE major, got a lot of Health and PE credits, but I switched to Sociology and I am graduating in two weeks. This is my last week of class coming up.

[We congratulate him]

[He thanks us]

BT: Are you married?

EJ: No, I'm not married.

BT: So, how was your family life?

EJ: Family life was great. I grew up in the country, I'm pretty sure you can understand. I actually live about 5 miles from here. I live right across the Farmville, Cumberland line in Cumberland County. I went to Cumberland High School just probably about twenty-five minutes from here, but I grew up here in this area, so really I grew up here in Farmville, but went to Cumberland County, so I guess I got best of both worlds.

BT: How many people are in your household?

EJ: Three of us, myself, my mom and my dad. I have an older sister, she lives in Richmond, she is a nurse and she has been gone for 10 years now since she went off to Nursing school got an RN license and moved straight to Richmond.

BT: Does she like it there?

EJ: Yeah, I think she loves it. She actually, ever heard of Henrico doctors?

Olivia Mehalko: Yeah, my mom works for them

EJ: Oh really? [Olivia confirms] Yeah, she is actually the assistant manager under her Women's Health Pavilion floor now at Henrico doctors.

OM: That's really cool.

BT: Can you describe like your daily routine like an average day for you?

EJ: Alright, an average day for me, I kind of have a routine Monday thru Thursday's are kind of lazy because now this semester has been very lazy because I am only taking one class, so and then that's on Tuesdays and Thursdays and then my internship was Football Season. During Football season you know, it was very structured, everyday practice at three o'clock be done by six thirty and that's pretty much it and do homework. I mean I try to stick to the books in class at twelve thirty, so I don't have that much going on; then Friday, Saturday, and Sunday are very structured because that's when I work. I work a full schedule for Walmart. Walmart Distribution in Gordonsville, ever heard of Gordonsville, Virginia? [We nod our heads no]. Zions crossroads? I know you heard of Zions crossroads. [We nod our heads no again][We all laugh]. That's where the grocery distribution center is for Walmart, so I work there Friday, Saturday and Sunday. I get up at four o'clock am every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday and I work about twelve hour shifts on the weekends.

BT: That's crazy, wow

EJ: [Laughs]

BT: It's a struggle to get up for eight am [everyone laughs]

EJ: So, that's kind of how my life goes right now until I graduate.

BT: Busy.

EJ: Busy, very busy.

BT: Have you always been interested in football?

EJ: Always, since I've been playing football since probably the age of six or seven I started out on youth league and I've been playing football and baseball ever since, but I've always had a passion and a love for football for some reason and when I got to High School of course I did the very best that I could and I went off to play college football at Hampden Sydney, played there for two years and my dream in High School was always to go play college football. I did it and enjoyed it wanted to be a teacher; Hampden Sydney was the wrong place to be, wanted to be a teacher, so I came here [Longwood]. And I had to leave you know, my passion of playing football, so I wanted to be a coach. I turned it into coaching.

BT: That's awesome.

EJ: Awesome?

BT: Yeah [laughs along with EJ]

EJ: This will be my fourth year of coaching football in total.

BT: Do you like coaching?

EJ: I love coaching. It's everything to me and for some reason and teaching. I really want to be in the classroom and teach. Being a teacher and coaching it's what I want to do.

BT: Do you like coaching better than playing?

EJ: I'd say 50/50 I mean if I could go back and play like right now I would, but I love coaching as well, I like to see that light bulb go off I like to help the young man try to point him in the right direction. It's a very exciting sport like... I can't really explain it it's like really my coach is always telling me. "Football is the game of life, like you have to prepare you have to go through struggles it, it's hard." Sometimes you're good sometimes you're not same thing with life even with school. I mean I'm sure we all know, school has always been a struggle for me it's been a fight since day one I mean it's just life. Same thing with football, you have to come together you have to work with people, you have to unite as a team. I mean it's really a team thing. It's really a game of life and it represents life in the fullest.

BT: How is your team doing?

EJ: Last year, we went to the State Championship we lost a championship to a team out of Roanoke called Roanoke Catholic they're a private catholic school in Roanoke and then this year we won the first four games of our season and we lost the last five, so we went four and five on the season and missed the playoff's so we didn't have the best season.

BT: Not a bad one.

EJ: Yeah, we had like about six key injuries of starters including our quarterback, so we had a rough season.

BT: I think you already answered this one, but do you still live in Cumberland County?

EJ: I do, I still live in Cumberland County.

BT: Is it a friendly area around the schools?

EJ: Yeah it actually is, it's different we're talking about Fuqua right? Or Cumberland which one? Fuqua?

BT: Yeah, just where you live.

EJ: Alright, well where I live it's very friendly of course small town everybody knows everybody it's pretty much separated for the most part, black and white, you have white people in certain areas and you have black people in certain areas and those people pretty much mingle among themselves and that's it. But on the Fuqua it's been very different of course when I went I left my old High School [Cumberland] I got a lot of grief from the people that I worked with at Cumberland I don't think they were very excited about me going to Fuqua and working with Fuqua, but I went anyway you know because I'm all about being different for some reason, I could care less as long as I am doing what I am supposed to and I went there and they operated differently, they do things much differently I don't even know how to explain it it's just a way of

life that's different from the black culture from the culture that I came from at Cumberland not saying even at the private school they do things much differently than at the public schools. It's the way they operate the way they do things how they handle business it's totally different and as I've been there in Fuqua the last past two years you kind of have to learn how to adapt to the situation at hand like the culture and area for the most part, but it's different to give you an example of what I'm talking about and this is real talk of course the school is predominately white for the most part I mean we all know the history of Fuqua and everybody's kids went there the same tradition it's still going on traditional white, so here I am the black guy coming in to coach and I'm the only black guy on the coaching staff like period. I think last year we had a total of three black kids on the football team in total and now this year we have two, so I kind of have to change the way I do things to adapt to the white kids because it's different I mean they live a totally different life than we do as black people and that's just the way it is that's just life. This year of course now everybody is more familiar with me I'm in with the kids I love my kids and the kids love me I mean color doesn't matter, but still when you get there it's different you have to adapt to that situation I mean now it's just normal, but an example of what I'm talking about of course I'm at Fuqua everybody knows me and I know them, so we are all comfortable around each other right, so we played ever heard of Kenston Forest-

OM: Sounds familiar.

EJ: Alright, Kenston Forest is a private school in Blackstone, Virginia right up the road Nottoway County it's probably about twenty-five minutes away from here. We'll get there, play there of course private school versus private school everybody's predominately white...everyone's predominately white right, so I get to the game and there's no black people inside. I'm the only one, I'm the only black person I walk in and everybody turns and looks at me like I'm a ghost. It's like an awe like "What are you doing here?" It's just that's just stuff that I have to deal with on a regular basis I mean although they do look at me like that I just keep moving I mean it's just normal to me now I mean I'm different to that kind of community which is nothing wrong with that it's the way things are...which is sad...very sad, but when I walk in and everybody kind of turns and stops and looks at me like "Wow, what is he doing here?" and I guess I'm like "Ah, I coach at Fuqua" and keep moving I mean that's just the way it is.

BT: Just like I was the only white girl on my basketball team, so it was like kind of different but like not really but I mean it's just different-

EJ: Yeah, they all know you, you know them

BT: Yeah, like we're all best friends, but it was different

EJ: Right.

BT: Because I mean it was obviously me and my sister were the only ones

EJ: Oh really, Martinsville is like predominately black for the most part right?

BT: Yeah, it just depends it's kind of-

EJ: Just depends I mean really like all those southern counties down there are for the most part, so yeah I can understand what you are saying I can guarantee you when you go to different places and they look at you it's like "Wow, what is she doing on that team?" like it's not normal because of the color of your skin which is the stupid's thing I've ever heard come across but you know, but anyway.

BT: Do you have any faculty friends there?

EJ: I would say yes. I would say definitely the coaching staff, I'm very close to each member of the coaching staff we all communicate by telephone and we all do things away from football. How I got there it's kind of an interesting story. His name was Marcus Gregory, he's a black guy, came from Prince Edward County, he went to Hampden Sydney and he became one of the first black administrators at Fuqua he became an Athletic Director and that was like really big around here when that happened he was on the front page of newspapers big deal. Black guy going to Fuqua to be Athletic Director he actually hired me as football coach at Fuqua and he left so it's kind of like I'm one of only black people there at Fuqua, so I mean that's different.

BT: Do you know anyone from your childhood years?

OM: Did I make a typo?

BT: I think so.

EJ: Okay, make it into a question. From my childhood years what? That maybe went to Fuqua?

BT: Yeah

EJ: Actually no, I do not I actually...actually let me take that back. I started out playing Youth League football with actually the JV head coach this year he used to live in Cumberland I mean he still lives in Cumberland. He went to Cumberland and he played Youth League football with me and then after we got older as we headed into our middle school years he actually went to Fuqua. He went to Fuqua I think from his sixth grade year to his senior year so actually yes and I coached with him this year as a matter of fact, but he's white.

BT: How was your childhood life in Cumberland County?

EJ: I say great, very rural area I mean there's nothing much really to get into for the most part. My closest friends of course are from Cumberland. I have one of my best friends is from Buckingham, but I met him in college. Really, it's really nothing much going on in Cumberland. I'd say it's great for the most part great family everything always worked out for me for the most part. No really hardships, crime or anything like that I've been involved with so childhood in Cumberland has been great. I love the country as a matter of fact I mean when I move away from home I'd like to live in the country near the city kind of like the way I live now. I want to live in the country I want to have like my own secluded area be away from everything but I want to be of access to civilization when I want to not be stuck an hour away from getting something to eat like if I want to eat McDonald's or Wendy's I want to jump and go.

[Laughter]

BT: That's why I like being here I can walk to McDonald's

EJ: You can walk right [giggles]

BT: Yeah, like at home I have to drive

EJ: At least how far?

BT: Good fifteen to twenty minutes

EJ: Twenty minutes?

BT: Yeah

EJ: Y'all have somewhere to like...like somewhere like Farmville in that area?

BT: We have uptown Martinsville

EJ: Martinsville. Okay, okay. How far are you from Dansville?

BT: Well, I live more in the ridgeway area, so I'm like on the North Carolina line

EJ: Oh okay...that's country

BT: [laughs] Yeah I live on horse pastures

EJ: There's nothing wrong with that nothing at all

BT: What were your favorite activities and hobbies growing up?

EJ: Favorite activities and hobbies of course I liked sports. I was a big hunter haven't been able to do much hunting since I started working for Walmart so that's the past two years because I'm always busy on the weekends I mean that's when everybody hunts for the most part and fishing country stuff and I love shopping like I will shop until I drop [we laugh] yeah so shopping, hunting, fishing, and playing sports are my favorite activities and hobbies to do.

OM: Did you go on Black Friday shopping?

EJ: I did not I had to work

[More laughter]

BT: I can't do that I feel like I'd be fighting people and it's just like too much

EJ: Cyber Monday though.

BT: Yeah

OM: I know I bought stuff

BT: I slept through Black Friday

EJ: Yeah, that's ridiculous but one day I will go...one day.

BT: What schools did you go to growing up like elementary school...?

EJ: Cumberland Elementary, Cumberland Middle, and Cumberland High School and right after Cumberland High School I attended Hampden Sydney College and from Hampden Sydney College to here [Longwood]

Apryl Crowley: It's very local

EJ: Very local. Actually Hampden Sydney was the only college I applied to in High School

AC: Really?

EJ: I did early acceptance well I did early acceptance application and got accepted on the spot, so I was pretty excited about that.

AC: Were you okay with being an all guy's school?

EJ: Mmhm yeah well really going to Hampden Sydney is more about the prestige and the connections and all that great stuff I was real on board with that and then the coaches from Hampden Sydney was coming to recruit me to play football there so it was like...I just applied and was told I was accepted and I was just there, so I've never had the desire to go away to school and like what I see everybody else do move in all that great...but I did live on campus I'd lived on campus on here and I did live on campus on Hampden Sydney what I always found myself doing is going back and staying at home, so I wasted a good ten thousand dollars staying on campus when I could've easily lived at home easily but I wanted the school life at the end of the day it's not a big deal but anyways yeah I've always loved it here in Farmville between Farmville and Cumberland.

BT: What are your favorite/least favorite classes?

EJ: Least favorite classes...favorite class I really enjoyed Dr. Ryan's Gender and Society class for some reason that class was like crazy...what else? For the most part I took marriage and family course sociology of course I was pretty interested and then my least favorite is math I had accounting and stats and they were both brutal it's just ridiculous but anything doing with people and studying people and the way people operate and all that great stuff I love it although I like Health and PE personally I like both sides

BT: Can you describe your school life growing up and now?

EJ: School life and now of course High School was very close nit I was always around friends and people and now as you get older and you know everybody goes their separate ways you kind of start meeting new people and meet different people just life changes from High School to college. High School for the most part I mean I think I still conduct myself in the same way and go about life the same way versus High School and now, but just people change so have different friends now some of my friends have fell aside far way side they not doing much with their life, but of course when you're in High School everybody's tight everybody's pretty much on the same level but as you move on in life you kind of stay away from certain people and you meet different people and life changes so that's pretty much that.

BT: Was your school diverse growing up?

EJ: Yes, I would say Cumberland was 50/50 black white and we didn't really have we had a few Hispanic people, but other than that it was 50/50 I think to be like exact it was 55/45 something like that split between the two so it was very diverse.

BT: Was it always like that elementary school to high school?

EJ: Yeah, all of us for the most part except for those who dropped out in High School we were together from elementary until we graduated so everybody's always been together.

BT: What was your earliest memory here in dealing with the topic of racism?

EJ: Here as in Longwood or here in Farmville?

BT: Just in life in general

EJ: Okay, ask me that one more time

BT: What was your earliest memory here in dealing with the topic of racism?

EJ: I would say that the biggest memory it's really going to the Moton Museum and seeing what my ancestors and those of Farmville went through in Prince Edward County that's when it really hit me how things are I don't really have a memory of anything like specific because it's just the way of life it's just the way it has always been black people always hang out with black people white people are just always hanging out with white people those of different race always hang out with those people it's very...people of a different race hang out with one another here in Farmville like now have you ever took go to Cookout at night time? I know you know what I'm talking about and looked at the parking lot and I've seen this like last week and it blew my mind there were a group of white people hanging out on left side of the parking lot and there were a group of black people hanging out on the right side of the parking lot like everybody's just hanging out but divided like it's just the way it is I don't think we really think about it it's just the way it happened like you go to a different state and then it's like completely different biracial couples are like more...but here you just don't do that for some reason I mean it happens but those people are different they're not the norm so it's just I don't think I've had like a real racism thought or something happened or anything like that it's just the way it's always been but actually going to the Moton Museum seeing what my people went through that's when it really started hit me and I started to realize like "Wow, this is really what's going on—on Farmville."

BT: Was it very evident that in your community and family of the closing of the schools like in the past and stuff?

EJ: Nope, was it evident? [Brooklyn nods her head yes] about what happened? No. because you know they just we don't talk about it it's just kind of something that is sweep under the rug but those actually who went there the grandparents of the kids now they don't like talking about it either I guess it was such a horrible time it was a grieving time back then I know some older adults now that didn't pass the first or second grade education and they were never able to go back to school they just couldn't and they just had to make a way basically make a way for the most part they had to work and had to continue to live and take care of the family without education so that's it.

BT: Did your parents talk much about racism in school to you?

EJ: Nope, being that we are from Cumberland and also my family lives in Cumberland County it was the same thing in Cumberland the black people went to a school called JR all the white people went to Cumberland County High School and the black people went to Luther P Jackson High School was the name of the high school the black people went to it was separated back then in Cumberland County as well but of course in history it doesn't really go to Cumberland or every county had their own separated schools between black people and white people but it's just that Prince Edward was involved with Brown versus Board it got the attention that it did but I don't believe Cumberland shut down they just integrated and I believe my mother missed that my mother was about seven years no probably more than that my mom was fifteen years behind that but you can note that the black people in Cumberland County went to Luther P Jackson High School and the white people went to Cumberland Country High School it happened but no one talks about it

BT: Was there any evident or implied bias in the community or school that you noticed?

EJ: I would say not everyone just went about their day

BT: Was anyone in your family involved in the school closings?

EJ: No, I would say some cousins distant cousins went to Prince Edward but none of my close relatives because Cumberland did not shut down from what I understand they did not shut down they just integrated Prince Edward didn't

BT: What is your opinion of the book Kristen Green?

EJ: So far from what I've read I see that she did not understand or really didn't know what happened basically just like most people in the area really don't know but when she found out about what was going on she was heartbroken of course you know and she found out that her grandparents her grandfather was on the board that started Fuqua and was on board that shut down in decision to shut down Prince Edward Academy and she is trying to tell her story about what's going on but I feel like her story isn't valid of what's going on because she really doesn't know cold heartily what the people of Prince Edward County went through black and white because of what a lot of people don't know it's that a lot of white people didn't get a high school education neither because they simply couldn't afford to go to Fuqua those people missed out on education too but no one talks about that either so and then she is trying to tell her story about being with a guy of a different race and try to relate it to this and it's really not relevant so really I feel so far from what I'm reading that her story doesn't really matter but she's getting the public publicity of it I'm going to have to continue reading and see what I come up with.

OM: That's kind of how we felt

EJ: But from what I see what she is trying to tell like it's good that she is telling the history part of it but her personal story doesn't matter because she has no idea of what this people went through she just went to Fuqua or Prince Edward Academy back then so but we do know that Fuqua was Prince Edward Academy. Prince Edward Academy was on the verge of shutting

down [laughing] now Fuqua, the school that I coach at, right now used to be Prince Edward Academy. Let me start from the beginning Prince Edward Academy was started up by those white families that wealthy white families that could afford to put their kids' through school after Prince Edward Academy shut down so Prince Edward Academy went through as a private school I don't know how they do their funding or whatever but anyway they got to the point that they were getting to shut down because they couldn't afford to keep the school on but this guy names such and such Fuqua who also donated the money to keep Prince Edward Academy rolling and going and they changed the name to Fuqua school. He is also the same guy who donated a lot of money to Duke's law school university ever heard of Fuqua Law School or whatever? He is the same guy research it you'll find out about it. They were about to shut down but yeah probably I'm pretty sure the people that started up Prince Edward Academy are rolling around on their graves now that a black man is coaching that team I'm mostly certain of it. I'm all about being different so hey whatever so far I've enjoyed my ride at Fuqua just different learning experience learn how to adapt. Any other questions?

EJ: Oh, you got questions too

AC: Earlier on you were explaining how Cumberland county, when you went to the high school, there was some negativity towards Fuqua, was it the same when you were at Fuqua? If you mentioned to people that you went to Cumberland was there that same kind of...

EJ: No, like, if I mentioned anything about Cumberland to people at Fuqua? Actually no, because Fuqua is all about trying to change that image and they could, I don't, for the most believe that the administrators at Fuqua could care less about a person's race. I really do, but those from the outside have a different perspective. All they think is, "Those people stopped us from getting an education back in the day; we weren't aloud to go" so all of the older black people in this area, they have a really bad, bad feeling about Fuqua, like they hate Fuqua for the most part. But those at Fuqua don't think like that. They will accept people of a different color, but its just the difference with those in the situation, its like come on in you're welcome. But those on the outside, most black folk in Farmville, they're like no, Fuqua is bad. They stopped us from getting an education, and they're part of why our grandparents and uncles and people like that don't have an education. So, its just a bad situation.

BT: Do you think their perspectives will change, ever?

EJ: Personally? No. I honestly don't. I feel like it's a things that will always be on going here in Prince Edward county. There will always be a division between white people and black people in Prince Edward County, and not just here in Farmville, but in most of the southern states.

Everywhere slavery was, is always going to be a division in black people and white people. I mean, I have no idea what we would do about changing that, or you know, but look at the news there's always bad stuff going on. White police officers killing black people, I mean its just, racism is going to be an ongoing situation for, probably, years and years to come. I don't see it ever changing. And that's on a small scale, and a big scale. I mean, where we were just talking about here in Farmville/Prince Edward County, or we talking about Charleston, South Carolina or Fergusson, Mississori, its always going to be a big deal, always.

BT: What's your greatest memory in football?

EJ: Greatest memory in football, lets see. Probably coaching in my first ever state championship at Fuqua. Which I am very proud of. My senior year, we won five in a row in district, had eight and two regular season, had a great football season, and we hosted the first ever playoff game in Cumberland. So that was a great memory. And that's about it. Just trying to create new ones as we go along. But yeah, hosted the first ever playoff game in Cumberland, going five in a row in district... Oh, Oh and we won Conference Championship at Hampden Sydney. I have a championship ring from my freshman year.

BT: Oh, that's awesome

EJ: Yeah, so that's another good memory.

[All laugh]

EJ: What else guys?

OM: Going back to the negative perspective from the outsiders, do you think, like, didn't Larry get a scholarship for football? Do you think that adds more negativity? Or?

EJ: I know that there is some type of, reduction in tuition for minorities going to Fuqua. I don't know how much, was taken off him. He got some taken off, I'm sure. But I know, I don't know about Larry, but I know Charles definitely got a lot of grief for going to Fuqua verse Prince Edward, like he got a lot of grief for that. There was a write-up that somebody wrote when he went to the barber shop, the one on Griffin blvd, about one of his football games, have y'all ever heard about that?

[All denies]

EJ: We gotta, if I can try to find it, it was a big write-up about how he went to the barber shop, went to this black barber shop here in Farmville and how he said something, or I don't know. I don't know in full details, but he got a lot of grief and it was published in the newspaper.

OM: Was this the Washington Post article or?

EJ: No, I think this was probably in the Farmville Herald, maybe. I'm going to have to go back and do my research, and see if I can find it before Friday. I'll let you know. But, I know he got a lot of grief for going to Fuqua and leaving Prince Edward. Just because of the community we live in. Nobody wanted to see that happen. He was definitely frowned upon for that. And I don't really know about Larry's situation, I really haven't heard too much. I just meet Larry, probably like last year. I didn't realize that he went to Fuqua, but Larry is actually from Buckingham, yeah Larry's from Buckingham, so he wouldn't have get the same amount of grief that someone from Prince Edward would, or even I would. I wouldn't get the same amount of grief that someone would from, a black person from Prince Edward going to Fuqua. I wouldn't even get that type of grief or harshness from anybody. Because I'm not like from here in town, but Charles was. So he got a probably worse experience. But if I being a black person in coaching at Fuqua, and I'm from the area and everyone knows me, you get a little bit of "why would you want to do that,

why would you want to go there? They don't like black people." That's ridiculous. Times have changed, like, let's try to find something else to worry about.

AC: So would you say that the negativity is seen mostly from the older members in the community, or is it kind of a mixture of ages?

EJ: I would say its older. What I've come to see and realize is, all this stuff is taught to us. It's taught to us, like if you were to take a white kid and a black kid at the toddler age and put them in a room together, they would play. They have no idea about color, they could care less. All they care about is playing with whatever toys are on the floor and having a good time together. As we get older, as kids and we grow up, our people are teaching us this stuff. So that's why we grow up to be the way we are. So at the end of the day, it is the older generation from both the white people and the black people teaching us about this. And influencing us to act and be prejudice towards color. So, I would say yes it's the older generation, and as you move on and as you get older, I guess is can be a mixture of both from the question. But it's all coming from the older generation. Yeah, you see what I'm saying? Yeah, like it's trickling down. I guess it can be a mixture, but in the end of the day its coming from those that are older. Because when you're kids, you could care less. It's all about where you come from and your background.

AC: Do you think it's ever going to change in Farmville and in the Prince Edward country area?

EJ: Nope. I don't. Unless, two things, well one major thing would help, I don't know. I think if Fuqua school was actually to be shut down, and everyone was forced to go to the same school, and everyone was forced to do things together, I do see that there could be a possible change, or if more African Americans were hired to do work at Fuqua to help change the image and perception of what's going on there. Those are the two possibilities, the only two things I could see; the closing of Fuqua and doing away with Fuqua and the private school setting and all private schools in general and everyone was forced to go to the same place, and be able to learn together and mingle and do that great stuff or more black people or people of a different race in general. Don't even have to be black, people of a different race, besides being white, work at Fuqua and teach those kids and to be involved. Because it's just divided. You know, it's white people at Fuqua and everybody else at Prince Edward from the community. Its just complete division.

BT: Do you think the same with like the student body was more, mixed too? At Fuqua, if that would help out a lot?

EJ: Yeah, yeah definetly. If everyone was just forced to be together, you would have no choice. I would have to work with that person, or it would be just natural. But by us just having the choice of and opportunity to do things different, we choose to do different, we choose to go other places such as Fuqua or we choose to just stay at Prince Edward instead of going to Fuqua. I know it's a money thing, and that a lot of people can't afford it, but probably the best option to change all that's going on here in Prince Edward would be to do away with Fuqua School. Which is probably bad to say.

[All Laugh]

OM: It won't leave this room.

EJ: That's probably pretty much the only way to solve this issue.

BT: I mean, we gotta change somewhere

EJ: Yeah, as long as the school continues to roll on, and only white people and only white teachers continue to be apart of that nothing is going to change.

BT: Do you think Fuqua is heading that way?

EJ: I do. In some instances, but I can't really say. I would say yes, because number one they hired me as a coach. That was a step in the right direction, or the direction to help change things. But it would take a whole lot more than just me, but I would hope so. And I think they are, but I don't know.

BT: Have you seen any racist attitudes from the students at Fuqua?

EJ: No. I haven't. I would say no, no different.

AC: Have you noticed anything from either Longwood or Hampden Sydney as regarding to race? Any issues with either schools?

EJ: [Snickers] The day of Barack Obama was re-elected for president the MSU House, the Minority Student Union House, was completely trashed.

AC: I can remember that.

EJ: Yeah, by members of different fraternities, in Frat circle. Because MSU House, I use to live there, is in Frat Circle. Members from the Frat Circle, they were shooting firecrackers, and they were throwing bottles. It was a big mess the night of Barack Obama's re-election. So, I have seen it, yes.

OM: I thought Halloween was bad.

[All laugh]

AC: That's crazy. Didn't something happen to MSU recently? Like last year?

EJ: I don't know, I don't know. Not to my knowledge.

AC: Yeah, I just remember hearing about them a lot.

EJ: Hm, and I was told by a teacher last week that a black student, down on High street right here, and a group of white guys walked up on him, or I think they were in a car, whatever they rode up on him and called him a nigger.

BT: Really? That's crazy.

EJ: Well, we don't know about it most of the time. It's going on and its happening, we just don't know about it. But yes, those white guys rode upon the black guy and called him a nigger and to go back to where he came from, I believe. But I know they called him a nigger. According to my

teacher. And I do know at Hampden Sydney, when Barack Obama got re-elected, MSU was completely, I don't know the word, targeted by the frat beside them. That was in the news, and that was in the news paper.

BT: I just think by this point it should be changed.

EJ: It should, but it's not. I mean I think that's just the reality of it. It's just, as much as we fight for this, it'll literally take the majority of the people if not all of the people to be on the same page. Like it would just have to be. It's not going to work unless everyone is on the same page and everyone has the same vision. But that's just so far and few in-between, that it's just, I don't see it happening. Cause everyone has their own opinion about everything. Think about it, I'm pretty sure your opinion is completely different from her opinion. And if you really both disagree on something, like it would take a lot to get y'all on the same page. You know what I'm saying? Like, take this pen, for instance. You think this pen is yellow [points to Alizaih] and she thinks this pen is gold [nods to Olivia], right, like how could you meet in the middle to say it's one color? Same thing with black/white issues, cause people are divided. If you feel so strongly and deeply that this pen is yellow...

BT: You're going to fight for it

EJ: You're going to fight for it, yeah. And she feels so deeply and passionately that this pen is gold, how can you meet in the middle? Like how? What can you do to say that this pen is beige, I don't know. How can you do that? Same thing with being black and being white. It's so stupid right? It's so stupid, but how can you come together on one page and one accord to make a change? It's just not going to happen.

BT: It'll take a lot of...

EJ: It'll take a lot of perspective change, I'm not saying that it's impossible, but at the end of the day when you're dealing with people; people are going to do what they want to do and people are going to believe in what they want to believe. People are going to be passionate about what they want to be passionate about, you just can't stop it. So how are you going to get everybody on the same page?

BT: Especially with being taught

EJ: Yeah, if your being taught that, yes. If a black guy grows up or a black child grows up, throughout his whole life and his parents are teaching him that, you know, that white people are a bad people, growing up what is he going to think? All his life, its getting beat in his head that white people are just terrible, and that they don't like you, and that you're the scum of the earth. So naturally, when he comes around white people or thinks about white people, that's the first thing he's going to believe. It becomes a part of you. Same thing with white people. If a white person grows up their whole life and they're being taught that black people are the grosses people on earth, or their not human or something stupid like that, it becomes a part of them. That's what they believe, like wholeheartedly. I guess you can see that with white supremacy groups, like the KKK, they're going around and lynching black people. I mean, really? [EJ

laughs] I guess they think that black people shouldn't go on living. So how do you take a KKK member [All laughs], and a black person and get them on the same page?

BT: Cause they don't really listen

EJ: How do you do that? I'm not saying that it's impossible, because anything is possible. But, it's like that in Farmville, and in a lot of other places. So how do you get those people on the same page? Any ideas?

BT: A lot of talking

AC: Someone's going to have to compromise

EJ: Yeah, a lot of talking, a lot of tears, a lot of blood.

BT: But arguing won't really help

EJ: Well when a person starts arguing, then there is no point. There showing their real passion about it. I still believe that there will never be a fix, and I think that's bad to say but that's reality.

OM: You know, recently Longwood has been chosen for the Vice Presidential debate, do you think that publicity would help Farmville's image be more positive?

EJ: Not on a racial situation. I think it'll bring...put Farmville on the map as far as a place to be or a place to come, or something like that. But as far as black/white issues and racism or anything like that I say no. What do y'all think?

AC: Yeah, I agree with you

[OM, AZ, BT agrees]

BT: Yeah, it'll bring attention, just not to that.

AC: It sounds like too many people are use to just sweeping it [topic of racism and the civil rights] under the rug, and would rather just ignore it than to really talk about it.

BT: Do you think that the students around here, like in the high schools and stuff, should go to the Moton Museum?

EJ: Yeah! I think it should be mandatory. I mean, I really do. But, just because they're in the area doesn't mean, that doesn't make them obligated to. I feel like everybody should take a trip to the Moton Museum, but its also important for these people to know. It's a fifty fifty thing, I would say I'm half way on it. I do think it's important and that it should be mandatory for them to go but at the same time, what's it going to change?

BT: Do you think it'll make them more open to talk about the past?

EJ: Yes, but when I really think about it. It would really only matter...well, no, I can't say that. I take that back, never mind. [All laughs] I take that back.

OM: [to the group] Anything else?

EJ: [To Alizaih] You haven't asked me one thing

[All laughs]

OM: Speak up Alizaih

EJ: Something, please say something

AC: You got this Alizaih

AS: I know, I'm so nervous [whispers] I can't say anything

BT: She's like the most talkative person...any questions?

AS [whispers] No

[All laughs]

OM: One easy personal question

EJ: I have a student just like you

[All laughs]

AS: I can't

OM: Here, I'll help you. [To EJ] Have you taken any Anthropology classes, that's our majors [points to Alizaih]

EJ: Yeah, oh really?

BT: I'm Psych

EJ: Oh, so y'all are not Sociology majors?

[All say no]

BT: I came in as both, like Sociology and Psych

EJ: Oh, yeah I did take Anthropology and I hated it.

OM: Really?

EJ: Yeah, I made it out by the skin on my teeth. It was ridiculous.

[All laughs]

EJ: Um, who was my teacher? What was his name?

AC: Is it Dalton?

EJ: Yes! [All laughs] that's why...yes, yes. Just awful. That was the only one

BT: I have never heard of Anthropology until I came here

EJ: Really?

BT: Yeah, I had never heard that

OM: You never watched Bones?

BT: I did, but I didn't pay attention to it

EJ: [to Olivia and Alizaih] What do you want to do with it?

OM & AS: Bones

EJ: [To Apryl] And what about you?

AC: Clinical Psychology, that's what I want to do. But I'm double majoring in Psychology and Anthropology.

EJ: Oh

AC: Just for fun

EJ: Just for fun

AS: I want to be a forensic anthropologist, so like Bones. More the biology side, science side of it [OM agrees]

EJ: Oh, okay so like crime scenes investigations? Ah, okay, so I was thinking like dinosaurs.

OM& AS: [laughs] No!

AS: That's archeology, that's archeology stuff.

OM: That's Rachel.

BT: That's the first time I've ever heard it. Have you ever watched Friends? That's where I heard it, you know, like the dude Ross? Like he was the dinosaur guy

[All laughs]

EJ: No more questions?

AC: I don't know, unless Alizaih can think of something.

OM: [To Alizaih] You gotta say one thing, come on.

BT: So do you want to teach and coach?

EJ: I do, I do. Like a total package deal.

BT: Do you want to stay with Fuqua?

EJ: I would, so I'm kind of in the process now of seeing of actually applying for a job there. So that's why I talked to Dr. Pederson about not publishing this, because I don't want to make a bad name for myself. You know what I'm saying? So yes, I would definitely stay there. I mean, it would just be a great change. But, I want to be in the city. That's what I want, I want to teach and coach in the city. In the longrun.

BT: I have no idea what I want to do.

EJ: You don't know? [BT shakes her head no] It's okay, it'll come to you. Trust me. It will.

AC: You still have time

EJ: Everybody's a freshman right?

OM & AS: Yes

AC: No, not really

BT: Technically, I'm a junior.

OM: Our resident overachiever.

BT: I came in with an Associates from High school

EJ: Oh, I wish I had done the same thing. So really, you could really be out in two years if you wanted to?

BT: Yeah, that's my goal.

EJ: Yeah, you can do it

OM: You're going to leave us?

BT: Yup

EJ: It'll save a lot of money.

BT: Yeah, that's the goal.

EJ: I'm in a lot of debt

BT: Yeah, me too. It's crazy, because I came in with my twin sister, so it's a double.

EJ: You have a twin sister?

BT: Yeah! She's my roommate.

[All laughs]

EJ: Y'all get on each other's nerves?

BT: No

EJ: No, y'all are just...

BT: She's my best friend

EJ: That's usually how that works?

BT: Some people say they hate them, I just don't understand it.

EJ: Do y'all look exactly alike?

BT: Yeah, hang on. [BT grabs her phone]

OM: It throws us off so bad

EJ: It throws you off too?

[OM agrees]

BT: They thought I like, lied about how I was first, because we're in the same LSEM. So they thought I was lying.

AS: I thought they switched.

BT: Cause I was more talkative that day

EJ: Oh [laughs]

BT: Just trying to be friendly

EJ: Did she come with an associates too?

BT: Yeah, she's doing Business.

EJ: Oh, okay

BT: I don't like math

EJ: Yeah, scratch that

BT: I like people

EJ: Yeah, forget that math thing

[BT shows her phone to EJ]

BT: She's the one right here [points to her phone]

EJ: You're on the right?

BT: I think

[all laughs]

EJ: Dang, you're over here? [BT agrees] Good lord. Yeah, that's identical. That's pretty dope to have a twin sibling. Has to be.

BT: I love it. It's like, the greatest. I'm never by myself, anywhere. I've had a twin bed my whole life, shared a room my whole life, since like being in a dorm, we've upgrading. [All laughs] its bigger than our room.

EJ: That's crazy. It that it?

BT: You guys have anything?

AS: Um, going back to Fuqua. You know like, some kids, they get scholarships there, but they only like, people say you're only going there because you got a scholarship for sports, not for academics...

EJ: See, I don't think they do scholarships, at all. The only thing that I know that they do is, they reduce the tuition for minority students. So, if you're white you have to pay full price for the most part. They did the reduction in price for minorities because they're trying to attract more minorities in, so there willing to give them a discount to come. It's not bad, it's like eight thousand dollars to go for the year, which is much cheaper than a lot. I know in North Cross in Roanoke, its sixteen thousand a year. So it's literally cut in half.

BT: That's my tuition, that's my college!

EJ: Yeah, yeah, but they do reduce the price for minorities, cause they want to get more minorities in. That's what they do, it's not really an academic thing. But you do have to have your grades together, that's a big deal. Academically, great school. Actively sounds, across the board, I wish I could've gotten a private school education, it would have helped me out so much in college. I struggled so bad when I got to college, cause it's just...public school does not prepare you for college. At all.

BT: Private school doesn't do SOL's right?

AC: No

BT: That's the one thing I did not like about...

OM: No one likes SOLs

EJ: SOLs is a joke.

BT: I feel like I just learned something and then would forget it

EJ: Yeah, they teach you by book, that's public school. That's their job. But private school is different. They teach to their own curriculum. And teach their own way, it's a great education. I wish I could've...

BT: They teach college skills

EJ: It's...let me say this, it's academically challenging, it's very challenging. So when you get to college, it's not a shock. They prepare you for college. So, I wish I would have got that.

BT: Do you feel like college was a shock when you got here?

EJ: Hampden Sydney, yes. Hampden Sydney was the hardest thing I have ever done in my life. Hampden Sydney is really hard. Yeah, a really really hard school. So I had to grind like really hard, like the library from, I had an eight o' clock class till eleven then I would kinda chill out, then I would study for a little while before football practice at seven, and then from seven till library closed every day. I had to grind to stay alive at Hampden Sydney. Because I just wasn't prepared academically. That wasn't saying I couldn't do it, I just had to find new ways, I had to teach myself, I had to do things totally different then those coming from private school. I was

sitting in class beside a dude who went to collegiate, in Richmond, and he had a 4.0. Just like that. We were sitting in Spanish class, and he was spitting out all the stuff that the teacher said, and I'm just trying to learn it. It was review, he told me he said "man, the stuff that we're doing, like right now every class is review." It's crazy to me. He's reviewing stuff, and I'm just learning.

BT: I think all I know how to ask to go to the bathroom in Spanish. That was it.

[All laughs]

OM: Five years of Spanish and nope

BT: I wish I would have learned it

EJ: I only know like one word, well I know a little bit, but I couldn't say a whole sentence if I wanted to.

BT: I wish I could, it would be something cool to have

EJ: It would be

AS: I can teach you

AC: Well yeah, I guess that's everything. Thank you.

EJ: You're welcome

OM & BT: Thank you so much

EJ: You're welcome, you're welcome. Do you have everything for your presentation?

[All said yes]

EJ: Alright, well if you have any questions just give me a call.

BT: Sorry for the countless voicemails and phone calls

EJ: I'm sorry, you called me a couple times while I was at work and while I was at practice. I'm sorry. I called you back when I had time

BT: Oh no, you were fine.

EJ: If you have any other questions, like to make up your powerpoint or anything...

BT: Do you care if we take a picture with you?

EJ: yeah, that's fine.

OM: Do you want to use my camera, I have the best camera

EJ: Hope you don't catch it, but I don't have a haircut, or my face hasn't been shaved.

OM: Who's got the longest arms?

BT: Me I guess, I look like an Orangutan

[EJ laughs]

AS: An orangutan?

AC: Should we stand up?

*End of transcription