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Cathy Appleby Interview

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Sharon Knaudt 0:01

This is Sharon Knaudt. It's October 31, 2019. And I'm here with Cathy Appleby. Okay, So, Cathy, tell me more about yourself. What's your family like any siblings or your childhood?

Cathy Appleby 0:17

Well, I grew up with six, well five siblings. It was a family of six in a small town north of by Albany, New York.

Sharon Knaudt 0:29

The state capital!

Cathy Appleby 0:33

Yes. Further away from that. Most of my family are still there. I moved here to go to college in 1971 and kind of like I never left

Sharon Knaudt 0:48

No? You just enjoyed this whole area?

Cathy Appleby 0:53

Brockport for me was big enough So, that it was not like a teensy weensy town feeling but not So, large that it was like city type feeling

Sharon Knaudt 1:09

Right?

Cathy Appleby 1:09

And it was just it was like one of those just right feelings.

Sharon Knaudt 1:12

Yeah, absolutely. Like broaden your horizons a little bit more and get that feeling good.

Cathy Appleby 1:19

But yeah, So, I'm the oldest,

Sharon Knaudt 1:22

The oldest? So, how was that?

Cathy Appleby 1:25

You know, leap out away from you know the home town and come to school and actually the only other sibling that went to college was my one sister who was like third, the middle child.

Sharon Knaudt 1:45

So, did you visit often when you were here on campus? Did you like go home every once in a while?

Cathy Appleby 1:52

Yeah, the first like the first semester I think I didn't go home until Thanksgiving and then I would go home. really just, either whenever there was a holiday. I didn't really like travel back and forth even though it was a travelable distance, but it was still it was far enough away to not necessarily need to go home. I never had that desire to have to travel home but it was nice going home like on the weekend not oh not on the weekends on the holidays, and during the breaks.

Sharon Knaudt 2:29

Yeah. So, how was it growing up in like a pretty big size family?

Cathy Appleby 2:34

It was it was good. It's like really a blur. Because it's like, you know, I just vaguely remember certain things like my, my dad built our house, and he, he ran a sawmill. So, he built the little... It started out with just one little basically room in a bedroom. And then as the family grew, he, they built an addition on to the house, which is a little bit bigger and you know, maybe had a little bit more amenities. But it was, it was good. Yeah.

Sharon Knaudt 3:21

Any distinct memories, you know, like your hometown or?

Cathy Appleby 3:27

Well, truthfully I just remember really the reason I came to Brockport was like to get away from that hometown.

Sharon Knaudt 3:37

Was it more rural or was it?

Cathy Appleby 3:39

Extremely rural. Yeah, extremely rural. Our graduating class was 100 and that was the biggest class that they had ever seen. But that was in the 70s.

Sharon Knaudt 3:52

That was in the 70s?

Cathy Appleby 3:53

Yeah. So, we were like one of the the peaks of the, you know, the baby boom. You know, era.

Sharon Knaudt 4:02

That's interesting. So, tell me about your parent's educational background, like what? What expectation did they have of you?

Cathy Appleby 4:10

Um, I don't necessarily think that they had too much expectations. My mom finished high school, maybe she went to business school maybe for a little while. My dad only finished like, up to I want to say eighth grade, maybe ninth grade. He didn't earn, he did earn a GED in his 70s he was given, it was actually he earned it because he was in the Korean War. And that's one of the reasons So, he had he earned it because of life experiences. You know, not because he sat for a test. So, I mean you know. I think that they were more inclined to think that women should be going to school as opposed to my brothers who did not go to school.

Sharon Knaudt 5:11

So they were kind of like, "yeah, you should go"?

Cathy Appleby 5:14

Yeah, go ahead. You know, I mean, they were disappointed that I, I chose to come this far, because I could have gone to University of Albany, but I would have had a commute and I didn't want to do that.

Sharon Knaudt 5:25

Right. Yeah, that makes sense. So, what type of student were you in high school?

Cathy Appleby 5:36

Shy, diligent. Always, always, you know, doing what I was supposed to be doing. You know?

Sharon Knaudt 5:44

I do understand actually, I was just like that.

Cathy Appleby 5:49

I did manage to be 10th in my class, but then again, there were only 100 people but still.

Sharon Knaudt 5:57

That's a really big accomplishment still!

Cathy Appleby 6:00

I had really no extra activities outside. A couple years, I was part of the Yorkers, which is a New York State, I don't know if they exist anymore, but it was a history type thing.

Sharon Knaudt 6:19

Oh! So, what did you guys do in that program?

Cathy Appleby 6:23

The main thing that I remember is making a field trip to Buffalo. So, that was what I remember the most about that but it was mainly just learning about different history things, which I wasn't really a history kind of focus person anyway, but I think because of where I lived, and the fact that I did not drive, it was kind of limiting especially I think that because of a big family. You know, we didn't really do too much outside of going to school via the bus and coming back home via the bus. So, it was, I almost feel like it was sheltered, in a way, because I didn't really have too many like outside activity things.

Sharon Knaudt 7:18

Well, I can, I can relate to that. Like I said, my parents, you know, we're really close-knit as well. So, what did you want to be initially like when you were finishing high school? Did you have any set plans?

Cathy Appleby 7:30

Interestingly enough, when I was in ninth grade, in my algebra class, I said I was going to be a math teacher. But then as I went through, up to senior I was like, I want to be a psychology major. I wanted to find what makes my family tick.

(Laughter)

Well, just because!

Sharon Knaudt 7:51

Just in general

Cathy Appleby 7:52

Yeah, just in general. Oh, it's like just you know, what, why these things occur and this like, nothing really crazy ways. When I came to college, I decided to major in psychology. So, that's what I did. And I stuck with it because that's what I said I was going to do. But then I said well, I guess I better do elementary education, you know, just in case. So, that's kind of like what I did. Did I do it? You know, like, as far as a career with psychology? No, there was nothing that came with that. As far as education no, I decided I didn't like teaching. So, it was I didn't have the passion for the teaching.

Sharon Knaudt 8:41

Is there like a certain reason why like, was it like maybe like certain grade levels?

Cathy Appleby 8:45

Um, well, I was doing for elementary education. And unfortunately, I did not really come to this conclusion until I got to student teaching. When you have a class of your own, I just distinctly remembering doing a project on mountains with the students. It was like, I think it was third graders, it was either the third or fourth grade. And I felt really bored with the topic. Afterwards I was like, "You know, if I was bored, they had to be bored."

So, I was like, "is this really for me?" You know, and I did, you know do feelers as far as like, all right, you know, after I graduated, looking for jobs here and there, mostly around this area. And at that time, when I graduated, there were no teaching positions open because of the big influx of students at that time. And then as the years passed, and I didn't have one I was like, "you know, I think that this was the reason, why?" Because I really, I have no regrets, about not going into teaching.

Sharon

Especially if you're not passionate about it.

Cathy Appleby 10:07

But I do tutor. And I do have passion with that. That's because those students, in theory they want to learn, as opposed to a whole class full of students that maybe one or two want to learn. You know, that's the feeling I was getting.

Sharon Knautt 10:27

So, when you do tutor is it like one on one?

Cathy Appleby 10:29

Yes, I did do some adult GED now called TASC, you know, for their higher, their secondary degree. It's for their high school degree, but it's called teaching assessment for secondary. I can't remember what it stands for. In other words, it's no longer GED. They call it TASC now. TASC.

Sharon Knautt 11:05

And then you said you go to Rochester for that?

Cathy Appleby 11:09

Yeah. I happen to see a bulletin notice, this was right after I retired, that they needed, math tutors, and I was like, "Oh, I could probably do that." So, I've been doing that ever since I retired.

Sharon Knaudt 11:29

So, what did you do before you retired?

Cathy Appleby 11:31

I was a supervisor for mailing services on campus.

Sharon Knaudt 11:35

How was that like?

Cathy Appleby 11:36

It was great! I loved it. On some of the, like the math, I put a lot of lot of my education to work in that particular job. With the psychology I had to work with professors that maybe sometimes weren't all that receptive to what you're trying to say to them. Just, you know, things like, but I really enjoyed it. And like one of the classes that I had to take was a statistics class. And it was probability and statistics, and we were dealing with all sorts of like formulas where you figured out, like, what's the probability of this or what's this statistic that comes out of this? And it just So, happened at about the same time, I was given the task of figuring out how much mail we processed and So, I used those formulas to generate the material, the amount of material.

Sharon Knaudt 12:50

You used those experiences. Okay, So, then did you have any minors besides psychology or?

Cathy Appleby 12:58

No, they just had when you were in education, I think it's still the same here, you can't you don't actually major in education. So, education was I guess you could kind of call it a "minor," but I don't know what they really call it.

Sharon Knaudt 13:16

Because it goes hand in hand. Right?

Cathy Appleby 13:17

Yeah. Because you have to, well, you can go into the education program, but you have to have an academic major. So, my academic major was psychology with elementary education. It was the-whatever.

Sharon Knaudt 13:33

I'm not sure. Like, I really stick to the one major that I have.

Cathy Appleby 13:42

You have a particular major in order to do the education.

Sharon Knaudt 13:48

So, tell me about your college experience? What was that first freshman year? What was that first like getting out of your home town?

Cathy Appleby 13:59

Wow. Let me tell you that when I, when I first came to the, you come and check out the college, one thing I remember is sitting in the Union, which does not look like it does now, but that space is still there, I just remember sitting there and feeling like this is where I was supposed to be. I lived on campus for two years for the first two years. The first year, the first semester, I should say, since I was 17, this dorm that I lived in, you had to like sign in and out and be back by certain time every night because we were under age, of course of age at that time was 18. But, but it was fun. I enjoyed living on campus. We lived on campus. I lived on campus for the first two years. I worked on campus doing work study,

Sharon Knaudt 14:59

What did you do in your work study?

Cathy Appleby 15:01

Well, the first year I worked in the dorm that I lived in, in their mailroom, and then that's basically what I did was I, I worked. And then I worked in the actual mailroom, mailing services of the college, when it was located in Hartwell, and then just, just kind of like, progressed from there, you know, went from work study to being the supervisor.

Sharon Knaudt 15:31

So, how was that dorming experience like?

Cathy Appleby 15:33

I enjoyed it. I liked, just being around people that were like my age and being able to interact with everyone, but you Also, had places where you could have your own quiet time too.

Sharon Knaudt 15:51

So, how was that like different from now? Like from your dorm like setting to now?

Cathy Appleby 15:58

Different from now?

Sharon Knaudt 16:00

Yeah,

Cathy Appleby 16:00

What I think that's different? Okay, well back then there were no, oh, well, there was one co-ed that was Mortimer Hall. Everything was either a woman's dorm or men's dorm. And there were the freshman dorms and I think that there are kind of sorta that now. Yeah, they still have the you you can't like just blindly go into a, you can't just go into a dorm even now, but back then it was just feel it was more controlled in some ways. But then there's Eagle hall where it's even more controlled. People had to sign in, sign out you couldn't have overnight guests.

Sharon Knaudt 16:15

I was going to ask how controlled was it, like besides the signing in.

Cathy Appleby 17:00

Yeah, I did get in trouble once, because I was late for curfew. I mean it wasn't like in the big picture.

Sharon Knaudt 17:07

What time was curfew?

Cathy Appleby 17:08

On the week nights, I think it was 10. So, I think it was a little bit past 10 when I came back. I just kind of sort of vaguely remember that, but I just I know that it was once that that happened. (laughs)

Sharon Knaudt 17:27

And then never again? (laughs)

Cathy Appleby 17:31

Actually, the curfew was only like I said the first semester. Because of being 17. So, the next semester there wasn't a curfew. It was just that first semester.

Sharon Knaudt 17:46

So, then because you did mention that you did your psychology, then you came back for your liberal arts, your masters of liberal studies and mathematics. What was it?

Cathy Appleby 17:57

It wasn't like I actually like came back It's more like I never left. Because I was working in mailing services So, it was on campus. So, I just kept taking classes and eventually like I said the one professor I think that he knew that I was taking classes that he would just you know finally just said you know, why don't you do this? Do this program.

Sharon Knaudt 18:25

How was that program like?

Cathy Appleby 18:26

The MALS ?

Sharon Knaudt 18:27

Yeah,

Cathy Appleby 18:28

I really liked the MALS, and I know that it's changed since the beginning of it. But I think that it's, it's really good for people, especially if they're in education. Because it does force you to take at least one class in each of the topics like that. I did take a science, you had to take a history, I think that maybe English, maybe an art I can't remember all the classes that I took in that, but I think it's a very nice well rounded. The actual liberal arts, you know, definition of liberal arts, it's definitely liberal arts because it's, you're doing everything, and I did learn, you know a lot that I, would never have experienced if I hadn't done that program. One of the classes I had to take was a history class. And this was another fortunate professor that came and said, "Oh, you should take my class." So, I was like, okay, So, and it was 19th century, readings in 19th century American history or something like that. It was a very small class and I was like, - "doo doo doo" because everybody else was a history major. And I was not a history major. I remember, the topic was what did you think of this one president, you know, based on the readings, So, I gave my opinion. And the professor was like, "Okay." Then afterwards, the other students were like, "I can't believe he let you get away with saying that." Because it wasn't it didn't match up with his opinion. I said, "Well" I said "that's the impression that I got." That was my opinion. It was, that was interesting, and I think I wound up with a B in that class too.

Sharon Knaut 18:57

I remember you were mentioning you weren't really a big history person.

Cathy Appleby 20:41

So, yeah, but it was good. I think that that that was good. Good experience.

Sharon Knaut 20:47

It was a good experience just continuing on your education. Even with a psychology major. You were just you know, continue.

Cathy Appleby 20:52

I was just taking classes here and there long after. Another thing with because of where I worked in because of the union that I was in, I could take an undergraduate class for free, "free". So, I was taking some undergraduate classes, it didn't count toward anything except for my experience, because it wasn't going to affect my GPA or, or anything like that. One class that I took was a communication it was, I think it was speech, and I'm not sure what the exact title. Well, what you had to do is you had to

do like a speech on, you're going to convince somebody of doing something and you had to do all different types of speech.

Sharon Knaudt 21:26

Was there a speech that stood out to you most?

Cathy Appleby 21:54

Well, yes, one. One I did was, convincing people to not litter on campus, and you got feedback from people about it. And the feedback that I got showed me that I did affect, you know, I got through to them. They were like, "boy, you were like too forceful about it" I was like "well, that's exactly what I'm supposed to be doing."

Sharon Knaudt 22:25

How is like the recycling and like, compared to now like back then?

Cathy Appleby 22:31

How is it? Well, I think that people seem to be more aware of not like just throwing things on the ground.

Sharon Knaudt 22:42

Yeah, because I know like a lot like the trash cans, they have waste, you know, like, recyclable, plastics.

Cathy Appleby 22:48

Yeah, well, this was just plain old people would not even put it into the garbage can even though the garbage can was right there. And at either at that time, or prior to that I had taken a class in environmental. It was man in his environment, that was it. That's what it was called. So, So, it was learning about like recycling and you know, using your paper on two sides, which has stuck with me, actually I took that as an undergraduate. So, that was that, stuck with me when I was taking this speech class,

Sharon Knaudt 23:36

So, besides getting out of your hometown, was there like any other motivating factors?

Cathy Appleby

To come to Brockport.

Sharon Knaudt

Like any like friends that were joining in as well?

Cathy Appleby 23:47

No, I was just impressed when I went to a college night, near my hometown, I was impressed by what it offered.

Sharon Knaudt 23:59

So, like to was like a representative that came and like spoke about it

Cathy Appleby 24:02

Yep.

Sharon Knaudt 24:04

And then I believe sometimes they do like the college visits, did you do a college visit?

Cathy Appleby 24:10

I did do the visit and that's why I said I sat in the union and felt that, yes this is where I needed to be.

Sharon Knaudt 24:26

So, would you say that Brockport did like meet your expectations and your goals for like that higher learning?

Cathy Appleby 24:33

I think so. Yeah. Because there's always this thing about success, success, success and you know, for me success is that you're doing what you are happy doing. So, it doesn't have to its not tied with money, or anything like that. And I, I feel that I am very successful. And I've, one of the things that is really, really important to me is learning and, and that's actually, when, I was going for my masters in math, you know, you had to say, why do you want to do this? And it's like, well, I want to do it because I want to learn, you know, I don't have this any of this, you know, other, like, goals of getting a job doing this or

that and, and I got into the program because I was there for the intellectual stimulation not for anything else. And that's what I think that for me education is all about.

Sharon Knautd 25:33

Like that desire to learn?

Cathy Appleby 25:34

Yes. And I still, still have that.

Sharon Knautd 25:38

Because you do some auditing.

Cathy Appleby 25:39

Yes.

Sharon Knautd 25:39

So, what classes have you audited?

Cathy Appleby 25:42

Well, interestingly enough, my former neighbor was a reading teacher. So, the first class that we audited together was children's literature, which is not my **vape** you know, not my usual, like, okay, we'll do it. And it was in that particular professor that teaches it every semester that she does teach it, she has a different theme So, the first time we did it, it was dystopian literature. So, okay, that was that was pretty good one. So, then the next time, same person, it was celebration of Harry Potter. You know, because it was Harry Potter's, I don't know, some anniversary of his and I'm a Harry Potter fan. So, it's like, oh, yeah, that sounds good. So, I audited her class, probably four or five times now. And I've Also, audited nutrition. Before the lifelong learning program. I've audited a couple of computer classes. I sat it in a Java class. That was that the professor invited me to come sit on it. So, I did that.

Sharon Knautd 27:05

So, this lifelong learning program like did Brockport like how did you like learn about it besides like your friend who was auditing classes like did they reach out to you?

Cathy Appleby 27:15

The lifelong learning. There's a program that they have on campus called mornings with professors. Okay, that's on Tuesday mornings where they have people come in every Tuesday, and they do like an hour-long lecture on some topic. And I think that that's one place where they get the names where they did the invitations, but it's basically the lifelong learning is open to anybody. I think, just within the last several years, it's something that they've been like pushing to try to get people to come and audit classes.

Sharon Knaudt 27:58

Right. Yeah, because that's really interesting.

Cathy Appleby 28:01

It's in existence, like in all the state schools, if you're, I think it's 55, it might be 65, I'm not sure. But if you're of a certain age, you can audit a class, if you get the professor's permission, and what the lifelong learning program does for us as the group, they do the legwork, and they'll go to the professor and say, Would you be willing to have an auditor in your class? And, you know, So, they, So, then they offer this whole slew of classes you can pick from, but if there's a class like the nutrition class that I wanted to take, It wasn't on the list. So, I went to the head of the lifelong learning I said, "Well, do you think that I could get into this class?" and he did the legwork for me, contacted the professor and the professor said "sure"

Sharon Knaudt 29:03

Would you say you like enjoy the auditing?

Cathy Appleby 29:05

Oh yeah the best part is not having to do the tests.

Sharon Knaudt 29:08

(Laughter) I was about to ask that!

Cathy Appleby 29:11

I mean you can choose to do them if you prefer and there are some auditors I know that they "you gotta do the work or you know, otherwise. "I said, "No, you don't."

Sharon Knautd 29:23

You can just soak up everything!

Cathy Appleby 29:25

Yeah that's basically although, you know, the class, the English class that we're doing now my friend and I, it's getting to identify your top five of and then it's your, your responsibility to fill in the of and like some of the students are doing top five books that are that have single parents or top five books that are about Anger Management or top five books about you know, and there but their children's books. So, my top five. So, I was like, Well, I can do that. So, but you know what, what if I had a top five of the books that I would read 100 times or more, you know, over and over again to like my grandchild or my child to begin with. So, that's what I'm doing but I'm not doing the paper, paper part of it. I'm just, you know, coming up with what my list is. So, it's kind of neat.

Sharon Knautd 30:35

Okay, I know that you did mention that you were in the stylus.

Cathy Appleby 30:40

Yeah, just for a semester.

Sharon Knautd 30:42

What was that experience like?

Cathy Appleby 30:44

Eh it was okay. You know, it was like, Maybe, maybe not, again, probably not something that I obviously was thrilled about. But it was like my, I think my roommate at the time also did it and I think she stuck with it more than I did. But it just wasn't my my thing I wasn't a communications person or, or anything like that. So

Sharon Knautd 31:13

Were you involved in anything like in the Brockport area? or was there as many college offerings? I know there's like a lot of extracurricular activities.

Cathy Appleby 31:23

Yeah, now there are. well, I mean there were back then too but I've just I think I was almost the same kind of student as I was at home that I was kind of like just focused on doing my work but Also, like, in with the group, you know, doing group activities like just with my suitemates and my roommates and

Sharon Knaudt 31:45

Right yeah, So, What was the like friends like what was your friend group like?

Cathy Appleby 31:50

I had mostly the friends were from my dorm. I lived on the second floor of Benedict Hall and I wound up making friends with some people that lived on the third floor. Who knows how? Back then it was like Benedict was the women's, Dobson was the men, the inner quad, the part that is connected, the two of them are connected. There were things that you would do together as, you know, the dorms together. So, you know, I just kind of like, hung out there sometimes. And I remember I can't remember exactly what night it was, but there was one night that there was this called. It was night shadows or something at it was a Twilight Zone type show that and I never liked to watch host Rod Stuart. Stuart. Isn't that right? Sterling? Whoever did Twilight Zone Yeah. Rod somebody or other. And he did this particular show Also. And So, we would all go down. Of course, there wasn't TVs in everybody's room in those 70s there as there are now with everybody moving in their screen, big screen TVs and now So, So, that was a nice, you know, way to, like meet people and congregate together. And even though I was not like a, I don't like those kinds of shows. But this one wasn't as bad as Twilight Zone. So, that was one way that you know, I learned and, and through classes, you know, you kind of met people because I remember one person that I'm still, kind of sort of friends, we still have contact. She wasn't in my dorm, but I think I met her through like one of my classes. And So, and we're still like in contact with each other

Sharon Knaudt 34:00

So, would you say like we did make like some, like lifelong friends?

Cathy Appleby 34:03

Yeah, I think so. Yeah.

Sharon Knaudt 34:06

Which like everyone kind of wants that in their college experience. So, you lived in dorms and then you Also, said that you were Also, a commuter at one point. Where did you know, how far was your commute? How was that different?

Cathy Appleby 34:25

Five minutes walking? (Laughter) Okay, So, when I was a sophomore, there was bunch of apartments that opened up that were in what is now I think called X Lot. Called stage 16. And we, my roommates and suite mates and I thought we were going to try to get into there So, that would have been still on campus but they were apartments. But something was going on and our dean made it So, that it was late signing up. So, we weren't able to get in there. And that's why we moved off campus. But the where we moved off campus was we lived first on Holley Street, which is just really where I think there's some apartments that are where now they have an actual crosswalk from Mortimer not from Mortimer, like what's near Mortimer that goes, they used to call it the chase. I don't know what they call it now and the house that we had was like on the street, like just before you get to those, So, it's not that far. It's not that far down from where Mortimer is. So, it's not that that big of walk. And then we lived on Union Street, which is on the other side of Main Street in Brockport itself. So, we didn't really move that far away. So, we can each, like bike or walk very easily to campus.

Sharon Knaudt 35:08

So, what was that experience? Like? Did you feel like more grown up? Or?

Cathy Appleby 36:17

It was, I guess maybe in a way I didn't, you know, I never really thought of it that way. It was just another step of like going from here to there, you know, but I guess maybe.

Sharon Knaudt 36:35

So, Was there anyone in your college experience that like motivated or impacted you more than others or like any professors? That you remember?

Cathy Appleby 36:45

I would say, Yes, Dr. Sheda, he was in the psychology department. I actually only took one class with him.

Sharon Knaudt 36:54

But he made a big impact?

Cathy Appleby 36:56

He was a very big impact. I liked his way of grading, because he graded on whether you improved. So, you could start out with a D on his first test and an A on his last test, and you would get that A. So, I liked that! Then there was Dr. McConnell, who was in the math department. She's the one that encouraged me to matriculate into the math program. And, you know, just really all the professors that I had contact with from my position where I worked, and Dr. Simmons, he was the, he was the one that encouraged me to go into the MALS. So, I guess, you know, So, some of them were. Dr. Sheda was like both undergraduate and graduate influence, I think, and because my son wound up taking Judo from his daughter, and he was he was there Also, as like a consultant So, that was kind of inspiring even though it wasn't like, you know, college although they did teach Judo at, I think a class in judo but I never took that. **It was dr. D Agostino Jeanette D' Agostino. But Jeanette D'Agostino Baker now.** Now she was my, what they called sponsor teacher when I was a student teacher, and she actually has influenced me, like, from there through now.

Sharon Knaudt 38:39

What did you learn from her? Is there anything specific?

Cathy Appleby 38:44

Yes, I guess basically, just to, you know, really, from all of these all of them was to just do what you're happy doing. I guess, yeah, there was another, another math professor that he specifically said that to me, Dr. Michaels was his name. Make sure that whatever you're doing that you're happy doing it, you know don't do it just because you're expected that that's what you're expected to do.

Sharon Knaudt 39:20

I like that philosophy. I know you mentioned that you met your husband, your senior year at Brockport, Tell me about that experience?

Cathy Appleby 39:35

Okay. Well, (laughter) it was before the semester started. I was just out with my friends. We were at the Roxbury which was used to be a bar, you know, it's no longer bar. I think it's a frat house now. I'm not sure it's, it's right on Main street, it's a big white house there. I don't even know if it has a name in front of it that says Roxbury, you know, name in front of it. But anyway, I met him there and we started going out. Turns out he was a twin. So, like, the second time I saw him I thought it was him, but it was his twin.

So, it was like, it was good. So, my senior year, I was full time going into a relationship, I was full time working, and I was full time college. So, that was, that was a very big semester.

Sharon Knaudt 40:33

So, yeah, how what that juggling all those?

Cathy Appleby 40:36

It was good. Where I worked on campus, well, I had been working temp service, in the mailing services area over the summer, and somebody quit, and went on to someplace else. And they were like, "oh, why don't you take the job" and I'm like, I don't know. Then I was like, okay, well, I have an eight o'clock class and I've got a night class. And I've got this class on Tuesday, Thursday. So, if we if we juggle the time that I could work, then sure. Okay, why not? So, it was it was a lot of work but it was okay. Still ended up with 3.7. I don't know it was, it was like mostly A's. I did get one C, but that was because I deserved it!

Sharon Knaudt 41:30

Why do you say that!

Cathy Appleby 41:32

Because. It was a psychology class, I had a hard time getting to that class. We had to do a paper. I hate papers and wrote the paper handed it in, hand it back. "This is skimpy. You can redo it." I said, Okay, I'll redo it. Well, I never redid it So, I got a C in the class. So, it's like well I deserve that. I'm absolutely certain I would never be able to do that again. But at the time, I was motivated to, like do this, this and this I because when I took the full time position at the mailing services, I said, "Well, okay, I can take it but I said, I'm going to be student teaching next semester, so." "Well, that's okay. That's okay." Just know, I was like all right, then I'll just do it. And what it Also, resulted in was that I was able to pay off my student loans, which wasn't really that much at what if you looked at it now doesn't it look like is that much, but I was able to pay them off. It's like, if you look at what my yearly salary was like, it was under \$6,000. And I felt like I had a lot of money compared to what that \$6,000 will do now, you know it's really funny how inflation you know comes into play here. But yeah, I think I think I think I did well.

Sharon Knaudt 43:11

Especially for your last year for your senior year, and you're managing all that. So, did you just prioritize?

Cathy Appleby 43:18

Yeah I guess So, I think I fell asleep in my night classes just about every Wednesday but that's the class that was drug use and abuse that was that was the name of it and you had to take it for being in education So, but I was like it was like one of those classes where either you know the stuff or you don't know the stuff.

Sharon Knaudt 43:20

So, you could have like studied it before. How was your life like after Brockport? In that little space amount time with your family or what's your family like now?

Cathy Appleby 43:57

After Brockport? I don't think it's ever been after Brockport. But apart from the college I my husband and I bought a house in Brockport. We both worked in Brockport because I worked on campus. We had children here, my children are townies, as I like to say. I still don't consider myself a townie even though I've lived in Brockport for you know, 40 some odd years now. I still consider myself being from, down by Albany. Especially where we got the soda versus pop thing. The first year when my daughter was maybe four or five, and asked the question about some carbonated beverage saying "where did daddy get the pop?" and I was like, " Nooooo (laughter) no, no, no." So, I think it's been good because I'm retired now I've been retired. I'm almost entering my, the beginning of my 11th year of being retired. At the end of November I will have reached 10 years of being retired. And I you know, still do what I want to do. I do the tutoring, I've been doing the tutoring actually since probably for about 30 years, off and on. I was doing private tutoring at my home for a while. I'm loving what I do.

Sharon Knaudt 45:47

What about your children? How many do you have?

Cathy Appleby 45:49

I have two children; one lives across the street from me. She's Also, a Brockport alum, and looking to go into possibly going back and getting her master's.

Sharon Knaudt 46:01

What did she major in?

Cathy Appleby 46:03

She actually majored in African and American Studies and sociology. And that was going from biology to environmental science to, to that topic. She wound up going to Ghana for one of the, like the January semester, which was a real eye opener for her, that was good. My son wound up; he was going to come here. When he was a sophomore, yeah, when he was a sophomore in high school, he decided that the next year was going to be his last year of going to high school. So, he doubled up all his stuff and he wound up graduating at 16. But because his high school average wasn't that high, he needed to go to MCC first to be able to transfer to Brockport. His first semester at MCC, he needed 3.5 to get into Brockport, and he got 3.49 or sorry 3.45. So, he felt that he wasn't going to be able to get in well then I found out later that he could have, he could have gotten in under special, but that's another story. He wound up going into the Marines, and he now lives in Illinois. Doing a job that he learned while in the Marines. My daughter bought the house across the street from us. I think I might have said that already. I have two grandchildren. One is going to be three in a couple weeks and the other one just turned one. We watch them. I did not envision me watching babies at this age. But it's one of those catch 22s. I wouldn't give it up because I get to see all the little minor changes that I did not see when my children were growing up. And I have you know, grand daughter and a grandson So, it's almost like I had a daughter and a son. Except for my children were four years apart. These are like 22 months, they're just too close together. But at the same time, I would like to have a little bit more extra time for me.

Sharon Knautd 48:57

You keep busy.

Cathy Appleby 48:58

Yeah. I serve on the food shelf board in Brockport in town. I was on the Alumni Board for a lot of years up until the babies. I was through the first baby, and then when the second baby was coming, I was like, I don't know if I'm going to have time to be doing too much with the Alumni Board.

Sharon Knautd 49:25

What were your responsibilities on the Alumni Board?

Cathy Appleby 49:28

I was on a couple of committees. I was on the executive board. I still am, I do still serve on the scholarship committee. We had different changes over the years. So, there was all sorts of different things that they did I never had office other than being a member at large on the executive board.

Sharon Knautd 49:59

So, do they get your opinions? Or?

Cathy Appleby 50:02

Well, yeah, and just set policies for like the scholarships, the alumni scholarships and stuff like that. We used to, there was a committee that was called I think was the liaison committee. That's what they called it. But it was supposed to be doing like, events or whatever to go between, like the students and the alums. So, we used to have tailgate parties before the football games, and we would hand out free hot dogs and soda and snacks. We did that for many, many years until BASC said no, you can't do that. Because of health issues. My husband is a certified, was a certified food handler. We were able to do it OK for a while because of that because he was a certified Food Handler. But that was like, many, many, many years ago.

Sharon Knaudt 51:13

Did you like doing the alumni board?

Cathy Appleby 51:15

Oh, yeah, I think so. I was in it in the early 80s. Before my kids, and then a little bit during when I had my kids. I just didn't have time with that. So, I went off of it, and then I came back on again. And then I had grandchildren, So, I went back off of it again.

Sharon Knaudt 51:39

But it's nice to know that it's there if you wanted to go back to it.

Cathy Appleby 51:41

Oh, yeah. And I did get a little, they did a little, citation thing for me. It was thanking me for this and that and she's done her service. and then it says ...for now. (laughter) So, I still stay in contact with the office somewhat and still give back monetarily and I'm still I'm on the scholarship committee.

Sharon Knaudt 52:17

How's that scholarship committee?

Cathy Appleby 52:19

It's good. What we do is it has changed from it was opened to just anybody. Now because it's an alumni scholarship, they've made it so, that it's for what they call "legacy students." So, like, if your parents went to Brockport, you would be eligible or if your grandparents went to Brockport, you would be eligible for the scholarship. So, we just kind of like review the applications and then say, "Okay, this this is our top four picks." That's the committee.

Sharon Knaut 52:54

So, tell me about your daughter. She went to Brockport as well, did you pressure her in any way? Did she freely choose?

Cathy Appleby 53:01

Not really, she freely chose Brockport, she did go to MCC, I think for a semester or at least one semester before coming to Brockport. She was also, a non-traditional high schooler and kind of skipped her senior year but still wound up in the top like 30% of her class. She's a uniquely, she's got a unique learning style. When she was four, she was reading. When she was in second grade she was reading Nancy Drew's mystery stories during class, but her teacher knew that she was yeah so, but but yeah, she she freely chose it. Her first semester she didn't do too well. But who knows what the glitch was, she did not get kicked out. So, I don't know. It's like that just it's just something that happened. I, I don't know, I can't remember if she was put on probation, I just know that that particular semester, she did not do well. But she was somewhere, somebody was watching over her and she got the opportunity to redo that part of her educational career. And she then she went on, besides changing her major or three times. I think that she enjoyed the experience also, and there's at least one professor that every time he sees me, and she didn't even stay in his you know, major, he says tell Quentin I say hi.

Sharon Knaut 53:08

So, did Brockport leave any impression, well it did leave an impression on you!

Cathy Appleby 55:08

I would say so! Yeah!

Sharon Knaut 55:11

But is there like anything that you would tell like your past self like, when you were in college? During your majors or work?

Cathy Appleby 55:21

I don't know, because I don't really have any regrets about anything. Everything that I've done, has brought me to where I am right now. So, I guess you know, keep doing what you're doing, it's a, it's a hard thing. It's like, what, what would you tell you, tell you don't go here? No, I definitely wouldn't say that. Would you say change your major? No, I wouldn't say that because if I made any kinds of changes, then it wouldn't be where I am now. So, maybe I would have said, "Well take Calc 2 right away!" (laughter)

Because I, I took Calc 1 when I was a freshman, my first semester and it was just So, easy for me. And the professor was So, boring. I couldn't even tell you who his name is. So, I was like, "Well, I'm not going to be a math major anyway, So, nah I won't take it." So, then after I graduated, and I said, "Well, maybe I could do the math again." So, then I took Calc 2. I was like, "Why am I getting all these things wrong?" I understand what's going on. It was because all of this little teeny details, because math is one of those where you have to build, you build on it what you learned in this year. It's just like in school, like you learn your addition facts and then you learn this and then you learn that. Everything builds and if don't learn those addition facts first then you're not gonna learn anything, and that's what happened with the gap between Calc 1 and 2. So, yeah, that's that's what I would tell myself.

Sharon Knautd 57:12

Take that Calc!

Cathy Appleby 57:14

Take Calc 2 right away!

Sharon Knautd 57:17

Yeah, that's a good one. Thank you So, much for meeting with me. Is there anything else you want to add or any questions for me?

Cathy Appleby 57:28

Are you going to stay with history or are you doing communication?

Sharon Knautd 57:32

Yeah, I'm a communication major. But yeah, like I really did like this. I'm enjoying this class so, far. You know, we get to meet so, many new people.

Cathy Appleby 57:43

So, how many people do you have to interview for your project?

Sharon Knaudt 57:46

We have to interview like five people in total, the coil program did count as one of our interviews

Cathy Appleby 57:53

Oh okay.

Sharon Knaudt 57:54

Yeah, they'll be people looking for alumnis. Thank you again for meeting up to me. I learned a lot. I really liked your philosophy in life. So, thank you.

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