

This transcript has been approved by the narrator as of 4/21/22.

SCHEDLER HONORS COLLEGE ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Alicia Landry Oral History Interview Transcription

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Interviewer Name: Ray, Brooklyn

Date of Interview: 03/15/2022

Location of Interview: Remote Interview - Zoom Recording

Acronyms:

UCA = University of Central Arkansas

ACT = American College Test

UALR = University of Arkansas at Little Rock

TAG = Travel Abroad Grant

URGE = Undergraduate Research Grant for Education

Interview Summary

The following oral history is the result of a recorded interview with Alicia Landry conducted by Brooklyn Ray on March 15, 2022. This interview is part of the Schedler Honors College Oral History Project.

Readers are asked to bear in mind that they are reading a transcript of the spoken word, rather than written prose. The following transcript has been reviewed, edited, and approved by the narrator.

Brooklyn Ray [00:00:04] This is Brooklyn Ray with the Schedler Honors College Oral History Project, today is March 15, 2022 and I am interviewing Alicia Landry, who is in her car in Conway, Arkansas. We will be talking about Alicia's experience leading up to, during and after her time in the Honors College. Please state your name and age for the recording.

Alicia Landry [00:00:31] Alicia Landry, thirty nine.

Brooklyn Ray [00:00:34] What year did you enter the Honors College?

Alicia Landry [00:00:37] 2000, so August of 2000.

Brooklyn Ray [00:00:40] When did you graduate from the Honors College?

Alicia Landry [00:00:43] May of 2004.

Brooklyn Ray [00:00:47] OK, so where are you from? Just kind of tell me about your background before you went to college.

Alicia Landry [00:00:55] Yes, I'm from a tiny little— I think we have maybe sixty four people that I graduated with and only three or four of us actually went to college in southwest Arkansas. I didn't really enjoy school all that much [redacted]. So I didn't come to college with a very strong academic background. But I did really good on the ACT, so I got invited to be in the honors college and got a scholarship. My older brother is a genius, it's ridiculous, and he is six years older than me, so he went to an honors college in Mississippi, it was a little bit different way the Honors College is set up from Schedler's.

And so I really preferred the way the Schedler's one was going to be [inaudible] a few other colleges didn't have the same honors program, so that's why I chose UCA.

Brooklyn Ray [00:02:17] OK, how would you describe your high school experience?

Alicia Landry [00:02:28] I really did not enjoy school. My dad was an accounting professor, my mom was a nursing teacher, both at the university, and so I just always knew I would go to college. But high school wasn't something that I had to work at, so I think I graduated maybe fifth or sixth in the class, but it wasn't a big class, so it didn't really matter. [laughter] I had maybe a three point eight or three point nine. [redacted] I still go home and see my mom.

Brooklyn Ray [00:03:13] How was moving to college? How was that? Were you homesick or were you happier away from home and how did that go?

Alicia Landry [00:03:22] Yeah, my parents dropped me off, so I had my own car, so I drove with my car, loaded down full of totes, and I didn't really know what to expect in my brother so much older than me, he didn't really provide any advice. And so my parents came in their car, followed me, it's like a three and a half hour drive, dropped me off at Wingo, signed some papers and were like, "see you at Christmas" and then they took me to Subway to eat. It was the Subway on Harkrider, in a gas station, and they left and that was it. I remember meeting my roommate and then I got in my car and went to the Walmart on Dave Ward Drive and got a bunch of stuff that I needed because I didn't realize what I would need. And I think I went home at Thanksgiving for maybe one or two days and then again at Christmas. It was awesome, immediately, Wingo just felt like family, and I was on the second floor where the provost office is now and I had a roommate who

was never there, which was awesome because we did not get along. But suitemates, and so I'm still really good friends with one of the suitemates, and she actually works at UCA too. And we grew up maybe an hour and a half, she was from Texas and it wasn't that far away, so we had similar family, kind of cultural things. And so the Honors College immediately felt like family.

Brooklyn Ray [00:04:57] So what was the application process like to the honors college? Was there an application process and an interview process? How did that go?

Alicia Landry [00:05:06] Oh, honestly, I don't really remember. Well, yeah, so my dad retired super early, and so he was the one that kind of shoved me around to colleges to look at where I would go. I came up here with him. It must have been in the spring of 2000 or maybe the fall of ninety nine, I don't know, it was my senior year and they had written a letter to the house that was like, we saw your ACT score, we'd love for you to come to UCA, meet with Norb, and you could talk about if you want to join the Honors College. And so he scheduled an appointment and we came and did like a tour of campus and then the three, like my dad and me and Norb sat around in Norb's office and chit-chatted. And I was like, "I know this is where I want to go." We walked out of his office and it was like a car dealership or something like you shook his hand and you just knew that you were going to be there. And I am pretty sure there was an application, but my senior year, I was too involved in my friends to really care about it. I'm sure my dad filled it out for me.

Brooklyn Ray [00:06:28] So you pretty much knew after that that the Schedler Honors College was the place for you to be.

Alicia Landry [00:06:34] Oh, absolutely, there was no question in my mind I had interviewed at two other schools that had honors colleges and it was not personable. You didn't get to meet with the director, and at that time, I was still such a kid. I didn't understand how important it was. I didn't understand that Norb was Norb. I had no clue what I was getting into. I just felt like, oh, I'm going to talk to this guy like, man, if he likes me, that's OK. And he asked me questions about what kind of— I had gone to like leadership summer camps at the university that my brother was at, like my 9th, 10th and 11th grade summers. And I had done like a business camp at UALR for a week or so and so he just wanted to know about what I was interested in and what I thought about current events, and it was just a very chill conversation.

Brooklyn Ray [00:07:33] So were you pretty close with Norb? Like, did you take any of his classes and what was your relationship like with Norb?

Alicia Landry [00:07:43] Yeah, Norb, I don't know how old he was when I was there, but he was kind of phasing out. But he was still definitely there every day before anybody else was there and stayed until after we had all left, and he was the glue that held everything together. In forum, we had class in 102, McAllister 102, and it was just a full room of us. And he taught the class. And I remember every once in a while Donna would come in, Rick would kind of cameo appearance. But Norb was definitely the one that led all of the discussions. He was always there to just chat with, and he was kind of like a dad, you just didn't want to disappoint him, like the other teachers, I was like, "Eh," but if Norb was involved, it was going to be the best work possible.

Brooklyn Ray [00:08:45] Do you remember your core one and core two classes?

Alicia Landry Yeah.

Brooklyn Ray I guess you can just talk about those, did those change you as a person or were they interesting, but didn't really change you? What was that like for your kind of like—[crosstalk]

Alicia Landry [00:09:03] Yeah, it fundamentally changed me as a human. I was from a small town, my parents were very educated, both of them. And so the expectation— we had encyclopedias that I would read. I was in a gifted and talented program, so I was forced to do some things, but I had never had the freedom to think. I grew up in a very conservative family, and so I had just never been challenged to think for myself. And I remember the very first book we got was the *Aims of Argument*, and they were like teaching us how to argue. I have the book with me right now. And it was like, you have the option to argue, like it never had ever crossed my mind that you could have your own opinion, or you could learn, you could read facts and read Socrates and Aristotle and form your own opinion about morality or humanity. And again, I was pretty self-absorbed as a 18 year old and didn't really understand what we were doing or the value of it until I was like 30 and I was like, “Oh, that's why they did that.” I never did homework, I didn't in high school. I never carried books home, I just didn't have to work. And so I remember I started out as a biology major, and I was studying for a biology exam—I did not come from a very strong science background, so it was a real struggle— and I didn't get my journals written and I remember just the look of disappointment on Norb's face and I was like, “OK, well, that will never happen again.” That was like the second week of school, and so from that moment on, my priority was honors over the other classes.

Brooklyn Ray [00:11:02] Do you still use what you've learned and honors today, in your daily life?

Alicia Landry [00:11:12] Yes, so I am a registered dietitian, and I direct our graduate program for students who want to be registered dietitians. I've developed several classes at a previous university about morals and ethics in health care. And part of what I do is teach research methods and statistics. A huge part of that intro class to research methods is the morality and ethics of how you do research, and I really look back to the *Aims of Argument*, and you can't have a system of morality unless you believe that there's a judge or a higher being, I never would have ever thought about that or even learned that in any other capacity except for honors.

Brooklyn Ray [00:12:06] It's really cool that you were able to build classes for other students that aren't necessarily like honors students, but kind of built it on the foundation of honors. I think that's really cool. So do you have your artifacts that you wanted to bring? Do you have those with you?

Alicia Landry [00:12:25] I think it's in storage, I couldn't find my leather pouch, but I do have my *Aims of Argument* book. [Shows book] It is messy and bent and coffee laden, but there's that. I'm in McAlister, my office is in McAlister, so if you want me to drop it off somewhere or put it out so you can look at it.

Brooklyn Ray [00:12:55] Oh no, you don't have to give us the artifacts. You can if you want to, but you can keep it.

Alicia Landry [00:13:06] Yeah, I still use that. [Laughter]

Brooklyn Ray [00:13:08] Yeah, we don't want to take something that you still use.

[Laughter] Was there anybody in the honors college that was a role model for you or was there a professor that you were really close to?

Alicia Landry [00:13:26] I would say I was still kind of on the fringe. I loved– [audio cuts out] –got along really well. I think it was like her first years, though, she was still really new, and I feel like we didn't really give her the credit that she deserved because we saw her kind of as an interloper, maybe at that point because she was so new. But I loved her and she was awesome. Allison didn't come until like my second or third year and then we had Conrad, I loved Conrad Shoemaker. Terry Wright would help. So I guess probably the one that identified the most closely with would have been Norb.

Brooklyn Ray [00:14:18] Your audio kind of cut out a little bit for the first part, did you say Phil?

Alicia Landry [00:14:24] Yeah, Phillip.

Brooklyn Ray [00:14:29] So do you remember your thesis project, do you remember anything about that?

Alicia Landry [00:14:36] [Laughter] Oh! I loved– So again, it's one of those things that you don't understand what you have until you're older. I worked with a faculty member in nutrition and she worked part time at the Arkansas Children's Nutrition Research Center. And so I spent time with her at the research center and she was working on her dissertation at Texas Women's University. And so she was like, “Yeah, sure, you can help

me.” So I would go and measure— it was all about failure to thrive in children. And so babies that were born, failure to thrive, they were looking at them nine years after their birth to see if the catch up growth affected their behavior, mental performance and they were obese. Research was just not even anything that had ever crossed my mind until I went to that research center, and I spent time with Thomas Badger, he actually is still there, I'm sure, he is a leading researcher in children's, pediatric research. So that thesis forced me to learn how to do a lit review, and I know Dr Crook is who was the instructor. I know she probably just wanted to kill me because I was a lot of trouble. But, I helped her with her dissertation. And so part of my thesis, she actually was able to publish and the thesis process was amazing and just writing it and I was actually looking through some papers yesterday in my office and I still have the data set, because back then it was like printed out and you would do stuff by hand for stats and stuff. I still have the data set and the growth charts for a lot of kids, and I was thinking, “OK, that was like 2004 and they were nine. So how old would they be now?” I think that was really cool. When I reached out because I wanted to move back to Arkansas after I got my Ph.D., I reached out to Dr. Crook and she remembered me, and remembered the thesis and everything so it was a really nice professional connection because she knew that even as a 21 year old, I was able to function in that capacity and I knew how to write, and so it was very helpful for my later career, too.

Brooklyn Ray [00:17:12] Oh, yeah, that's really cool! I think it's cool that your thesis was part of a publication. I don't think a lot of people get that, so that's really cool. So was there any reading or any class that particularly stuck out to you?

Alicia Landry [00:17:36] So Philip and Rick taught, and I think, Terry Wright, I think it was the three of them taught Sex, Drugs and Rock and Roll. And that was so much fun. It was

a great class and they were in a band together. And so then we got to go to Rick's house in Maumelle and it was like a party and they played music. And so that was the fun part of it. One of the classes, I cannot for the life of me, remember the woman's name. She was an instructor and she was only there for maybe two or three years. And I actually kind of nannied for her kid for a while because she was a single mom. But she taught Sex and Gender class. Again, I'm from a small town, and even in 2000s, we didn't talk about sex and gender like we do now. And so there was stuff I never heard of. she was talking about transgender, and explaining what lesbians were, and it was just like, "Wow!" So that class still really sticks out to me because I think it's one of the ones that made me a better person because I wasn't scared of a transgender person, I knew how to use pronouns. I just feel like that was one of those classes that challenged me a lot because I did come from a conservative family and never had heard this stuff before, but we had to journal about it and read about it and talk about what it means to be a man transitioning to a woman or whatever. And it had a big impact on me.

Brooklyn Ray [00:19:20] Yeah, that's really cool. You started in 2000 and then graduated in 2004, and so during 2001 in the fall there was 9/11. How did that affect you personally, if it even did? In a lot of your core classes and honors, you talk about a lot of current events, so was that like a really big topic for a while or just like how was that?

Alicia Landry [00:19:56] So I was on my way to Nutrition 1300 in McAlister and got to class and everybody was just in shock. The Pentagon had just been hit, and we didn't even know about the other things that were going on yet. There was no social media, our phones didn't have alerts and things like that, and I didn't even take my cellphone with me to class because I didn't need to. It was still like, you pay by the minute for cell phone minutes. [Laughter] So the only thing it was used for was like to talk to my parents if

something was drastically horrible. And so they dismissed class. And I called my dad and I was like, "What do I do? I don't know what to do." And he was like, "Just make sure your car's full gas." And so I went to get gas because I probably had three quarters of a tank, half a tank or something. And I waited in line for three and a half hours just to top off the gas tank because that's what everybody else was doing. And then it was probably a week before we actually met again. I just think people were so shocked and kind of numb, and it was definitely a reawakening of what it means to be a patriot, I guess. But we didn't really spend a lot of time talking about it in forum or in core. I think what they were trying to do is to help us cope with it by talking about, this is how you make sense of things, this is what the ancient philosophers did, that kind of stuff. But we did journal about it.

Brooklyn Ray [00:21:51] Well, did you ever travel abroad or anything?

Alicia Landry [00:21:57] I got a TAG grant to go to Guatemala for a mission trip. So my mom has been to Guatemala every year for two weeks in the summer since 1996. And so I went in '98 and 2000 and then I got a TAG grant to go in 2003 and it was awesome. And I did like a photo journal of the experience.

Brooklyn Ray [00:22:33] Did you have a job or any kind of internship while you were in college?

Alicia Landry [00:22:38] Yes, I worked at a pharmacy as a pharmacy tech for four years.

Brooklyn Ray [00:22:47] OK, sorry, I'm trying to find some more questions for you.

Alicia Landry [00:22:54] Well, and so I'll expand on that. It was really great to have a job because I got to meet people and talk to them, and then it gave me things to reflect on because I saw a lot of poverty that I hadn't been exposed to before. People who couldn't afford drugs or people who abused drugs. And so that was also one of the things that Honors really helped me sort through was like, "Why are these people like this?" We got to really talk about it in small groups.

Brooklyn Ray [00:23:23] Yeah, that's cool. So the Honors College, it's a really different community from anything else, really. So when you went on, like after you graduated, I'm assuming you went to grad school. I guess I should have asked, but how was the change from going from being in the Honors College to a grad school setting? Was it a lot different? And how did that go?

Alicia Landry [00:23:55] I felt like it was a super easy transition, because in graduate school, you're responsible for your own learning, and you show up having read all of these articles and all of the research and you tell your teacher what you think. And then they help you sort through it. That's what honors was. So for me, graduate school was a breeze. I mean it wasn't a breeze, starting off, it was easier for me than others. I went to Louisiana Tech and so I was the only one from Arkansas. I feel like my other classmates kind of struggled with that, like, how do you go from undergrad, you get lectured to you, you regurgitate information on a test. We never did that in honors, it made my life a lot, a lot easier actually to already have been trained to think.

Brooklyn Ray [00:24:53] OK. So I'm trying to think of what to ask you now, but I already kind of asked you, is there anything that you learned that you still apply to your current

life? I kind of already asked that. Are there any kind of stories you want to tell about, any funny stories or any stories about Norb, or just anything you want to talk about.

Alicia Landry [00:25:20] I feel like honors college kids get a bad rap on campus because we're known as kind of snooty or like a secret society. I don't think that that's true by any means, but we did sit together at the cafeteria, we had our own little table and we would meet Sunday morning for breakfast or brunch or whatever, and we would eat every day at lunch in the same spot. And all of my friends were Honors friends, and they might have been a couple of years older or younger, but it was just that community. [Pause] Let's see, I think one of my favorite stories is Ralph Nader had come to campus, it was during a presidential campaign and he was up against like Ross Perot and Bill Clinton. I can't even remember who it was again. But Ross Perot and Ralph Nader were definitely in the running. And so Ross Perot is actually from the area that I'm from. So I knew him and our families knew each other. So it wasn't a big deal. But Ralph Nader was a huge deal, and he had written a lot of books and he was really involved in agriculture and sustainability before that was even a thing. And so Rick had extra seats at a dinner with Ralph Nader. And so my friend and I were like, "Yeah, sure, we'll go!" And so we got a Ralph Nader reader that was autographed by him and got to sit right beside him at dinner. And so I tell people, I met Ralph Nader and they're like, "Who?" [Laughter] But it was awesome. It was really cool and it was really neat. And again, you don't really know what you have until you're older. Like, I spent last week in Washington, D.C., talking to legislators about some issues and funding and stuff, and then I'm reflecting thinking about, he came to us! He was in the McCastlain fireplace room, like we had dinner with him, And it's crazy to think about what the Honors College brings to Conway.

Brooklyn Ray [00:27:35] Yeah, what other kind of opportunities did you have in Honors?

Alicia Landry [00:27:41] I think our year was one of the first years that we did Heifer project and we had like a retreat out there and we did the zip line and all that stuff and we did an arc. I'm trying to think what else, there was definitely the TAG grant. [pause] And just the thesis, I am pretty sure I got URGE money to do the thesis too, because it was a lot of back and forth to Little Rock and just time that I would have to take off work to go there.

Brooklyn Ray [00:28:23] What other things were you involved in on campus?

Alicia Landry [00:28:30] Not much, because I worked, I worked probably thirty, thirty five hours a week. So I lived in Wingo, and then my junior year Short and Denney, and I had a suitemate and we became instant best friends, we were in each other's weddings and we still are best friends. And so then in our junior year, we moved to Baridon, and Baridon was like brand-new and only the fancy people lived in Baridon, and it was amazing. And then our senior year, we moved off campus. And so she was a math major and I was a biology major, and then I switched to nutrition, and so we just didn't do other stuff.

Brooklyn Ray [00:29:23] And you said she was in honors, too?

Alicia Landry [00:29:25] Yeah, she was from Missouri.

Brooklyn Ray [00:29:28] Did you become close with any other people in the honors college that you still talk to today?

Alicia Landry [00:29:35] So the other one that works at UCA and there was one, we were pretty good friends. And then she did study abroad in Netherlands for the full academic year. And so we kind of grew apart, but I got to be best friends with her friend. And so we still keep in touch. And then, Facebook, I follow a lot of them still and it's really cool because you can see, they're the ones that are living in Colorado, like off the grid. And it's just fun to see the different personalities.

Brooklyn Ray [00:30:20] So how did social media impact your experience? Did Facebook come out while you were in—

Alicia Landry [00:30:30] No girl! [Laughter]

Brooklyn Ray [00:30:32] I talked to somebody yesterday, and she was from 2002 to 2006, I think, and she talked about Facebook coming out. So I guess it may have been after that.

Alicia Landry [00:30:44] And it may have, and we were just behind. MySpace, like MySpace was the thing. And I remember we would get in so much trouble because we would use Kazaa to download illegal music and videos and stuff like that. We didn't know it was illegal, we didn't know that there was supposed to be things like copyrights or whatever, but we had like slideshows and stuff that we would make for classes and use that unlicensed music. And so we would always get in trouble for that.

Brooklyn Ray [00:31:24] Oh, that's funny. Yeah, I just looked it up, it said Facebook came out in February of 2004 so it probably wasn't big or anything yet.

Alicia Landry [00:31:40] And the internet was so slow, I can't even— when I was in high school, we had Dial-Up and even the internet on campus, I'd say ninety five percent of the stuff I turned in was handwritten. I took a keyboarding class in college, and they really showed us how to save stuff on a floppy drive, it's just such a different world.

Brooklyn Ray [00:32:17] So you've kind of said throughout us talking that you didn't really realize how great the Honors College was until after, so I guess this could kind of be a time to kind of reflect on the Honors College. I'm trying to think of what I want to say. I guess, looking back on it, how do you think the Honor College has impacted your success today?

Alicia Landry [00:32:54] A thousand percent, my dad would be so angry with me because he would always tell me you can't have more than 100 percent, it doesn't exist. [laughter] It's very important to me to give back to the honors college because they gave to me when I didn't know that I needed it. They invested money, they invested time, resources, scholarships, housing, I was spoiled because I didn't understand that people lived in Carmichael, like why would you live in Carmichael if you can live in Wingo? We had wooden floors, I mean— It's so incredibly important to me to give back to the honors college my resources because I wouldn't have a lot of these resources if it wasn't for the Honors College. And a lot of my academic drive, my publication history, a lot of that was sparked by the competition in the Honors College because I wasn't the smartest anymore. I had to work hard. I had to read and I had to show up. And that made me a better person and a better student. And I think my transition to graduate school was a lot easier, like we talked about because of it. And I had more recognition on my vita and my resume. I remember starting teaching at Southern Miss. I had gone through the interview process and everything, and their director of the Honors College reached out to me and wanted to know about my experience here because it was the leading honors college in the nation.

Just to have that in my brain all this time, I was a part of something special. I was a part of something huge. And not everybody recognizes that.

Brooklyn Ray [00:34:48] Yeah, I agree. You were in the honors college when it was kind of different from what it's like today because I think it's gotten a little bit bigger. Do you remember how many students were in your class?

Alicia Landry [00:35:06] Maybe sixty? I don't know, that may be freshman and sophomore combined. We were tight, but yeah, I don't really remember, sorry.

Brooklyn Ray [00:35:20] OK, that's fine. Yeah. So since you work at UCA now, is there anything that you've noticed is really different about the Honors College than it was when you were there?

Alicia Landry [00:35:32] Just Norb's presence. When I first came back to UCA, he was still coming in, maybe a little bit every month. And I went up and met with Rick and he was still working full time and we chit-chatted and reminisced and talked about things. A lot of just the inner workings of the politics and the academics about how things work are different. But I didn't know the way that it was to begin with because I felt like the students were really shielded from all that. My perspective now is that it's had to become more modern to compete, and the feel is just different. I don't think it's worse or better or anything like that. It's just different.

Brooklyn Ray [00:36:21] Do you think that the Honors College still strives to live up to the standard that Norb kind of put in place?

Alicia Landry [00:36:29] Yeah. I love Tricia and I think that she does an amazing job putting the faculty where their strengths are. And I think that's what Norb, that's what his leadership was all about was he knew people and he knew how to make them better. And I feel like Tricia learned a lot of that.

Brooklyn Ray [00:36:52] Yeah. Is there anything else that you want to talk about that I haven't asked you a question about, is there anything that sticks out to you that you just want to speak on?

Alicia Landry [00:37:03] I was trying to think of other funny stories and things like that, and just some of it's a blur. My two suitemates and I basically lived at Denny's for freshman and sophomore year because they would also have to come and study, and we wouldn't even get there until like 9:30 at night and we would order coffee and like an omelet and sit there until 3:00 a.m. and we got to be good friends with the waitress and the cooks and all that. And a lot of what we did there was reading and talking and like, "Well, what did you think about this or what did you think about that?" The Denny's was where—there's an old hotel and it's where the Panda Express is now. And it was so ghetto. It was scary and gross, and if my mom ever knew that we spent nights there, she would throw a fit. But those were where all of our philosophical discussions happened. And so then people found out that we were just always there and so they would come and pop in. It became kind of a social event at the Denny's at midnight to talk about Socrates.

Brooklyn Ray [00:38:21] Are there any other places on campus like in McAlister, like the forum, that the honors students like to gather and have those discussions?

Alicia Landry [00:38:31] Yeah, but I worked so much. I was out of a lot of those and I know Jenny, who was my roommate and friend, she would go to those sometimes. And I think it was always interesting because she was very much a live wire. And so people would say stuff that she didn't agree with, she would argue. And so there would be some serious arguments.

Brooklyn Ray [00:39:00] It's just so much different. It's really interesting hearing your story just because, it's changed, like it hasn't changed that much in the fact that the curriculum is pretty much the same, with the exception of not having Norb, but everything else is just so different because, like you said, you lived in Wingo and then some other different places and now all the honors students stay Farris. And so it's just kind of cool getting to hear your experience with it. We kind of already talked about going into core one and core two, how it did kind of change you as a person, did it change your perspective on, did it totally 180 flip your perspective on anything else? Or your perspective on the world or anything like that.

Alicia Landry [00:40:10] I had never read any of that literature before, and I've been exposed to some medieval literature like Greek mythology, that kind of stuff, but never like ancient philosophy. And so it really, that changed the way I read the Bible, it changed the way I felt about religion. But that takes a lot of growth and a lot of time. And so in the moment, I think sometimes I resented having to read it so much because it was volumes and volumes and volumes. But in the long run, when else would I have ever had the opportunity to do that? I would have never done it on my own. And just the conversations that you have because we didn't really have any international students, we had people from all over the country in our group and just hearing their perspectives. And at that point, I hadn't traveled much in my life. It gave me a lot more empathy for other religions, other

cultures, other colors of people even, and I think that's another thing that's really helped me in my career. There was no judgment. I didn't ever feel like we were being judged, they didn't line you up by your ACT score or your GPA. Everybody was there because we wanted to be there and we were smart. The goal was to make us more productive members of society.

Brooklyn Ray [00:41:58] Okay, [pause] I'm sorry, I'm not doing very good at this.

Alicia Landry [00:42:03] No, you're doing great. I think I'm just distracting. I'm sorry if I am.

Brooklyn Ray [00:42:07] Oh no, your answers have been great. I'm trying to think of more things to ask because you gave great answers. I don't really know what else to ask you because I've touched on a lot. So do you—

Alicia Landry [00:42:26] And I really don't have a lot of specific memories. That's a lot of why I can't tell you a lot, I just don't have a ton of specific memories.

Brooklyn Ray [00:42:38] Yeah, that's okay. I think you've given a really good explanation of how it's shaped you into the person you are today. So do you remember the challenge week each year? There was a challenge week each year, do you remember that at all?

Alicia Landry [00:42:57] Oh yes, mostly because we had t-shirts. One year was sustainability. I would say that was probably like 2003. And then I think 2004 was probably when we bought the Ark.

Brooklyn Ray [00:43:15] Were any of those challenge weeks memorable for you, did anything stick out to you?

Alicia Landry [00:43:25] No, not really. [laughter]

Brooklyn Ray [00:43:28] Okay! [laughter] There's always been challenge weeks ever since I think the Honors College pretty much started, so that's just something we ask. So I guess from core one, do you remember reading about where is the self by Daniel Dennett? Do you remember that?

Alicia Landry [00:43:55] Yeah.

Alicia Landry [00:44:56] Did you ever come up with an answer of what you thought? Where is the self located?

Alicia Landry [00:44:01] No, I struggle. I still struggle with those readings. And like your soul, and when you hear things in your head, is that yourself talking to you? I remember Norb and you would just pontificate in front of class, and I had never seen anybody do that before because he didn't really. He didn't come in with notes or anything. He would just stand up and start talking. And it's like, if you didn't read, you had no clue what he was talking about. And sometimes, even if you did, you didn't know. And he would go so fast. It's like you're changing my whole perspective on life. I don't even know if I'm alive right now. Can you slow down? [laughter] But no, I've never, haven't found where the self is.

Brooklyn Ray [00:44:56] Do you remember what your core two community project was?

Alicia Landry [00:45:01] I don't know that we had that.

Brooklyn Ray [00:45:04] Okay, well, is there anything else that you want to talk about that you can think of? Like any more I guess, reflections or just anything else you want to bring up and talk about, you can tell me.

Alicia Landry [00:45:31] [Pause] Yeah, I don't. I'll keep thinking. I'll have to get into the storage and get that pouch out. No, I don't really think I have anything else. I would say probably the top two things is the sex, drugs and rock and roll class because it's transcribed that way on a transcript and then the Ralph Nader thing. Those are the big things that always stick out to me.

Brooklyn Ray [00:46:11] Yeah, those are really cool stories. I think everybody that goes through honors will have something like this one little thing that was really cool like that. And that's why we're having these interviews so we can hear about all those experiences. [pause] Can you hear me?

Alicia Landry [00:46:33] Mm-hm!

Brooklyn Ray [00:46:38] Oh, okay. You were frozen for a second, I just wanted to make sure that you could hear me.

Alicia Landry [00:46:41] Yeah!

Brooklyn Ray [00:46:38] Okay, well, if you don't have anything else you want to talk about, then we can conclude the interview. Alright, well, thank you for your time, Alicia. This concludes our interview.