

SCHEDLER HONORS COLLEGE ORAL HISTORY PROJECT  
Ashley Godwin Oral History Interview Transcription

Narrator Name: Godwin, Ashley

Interviewer Name: Dodson, Reed

Date of Interview: 03/24/2022

Location of Interview: Little Rock, Arkansas (Remote Interview - Zoom Recording)

Acronyms:

RD = Reed Dodson (Interviewer)

UCA = University of Central Arkansas

PA = Pulaski Academy

PR = Public Relations

Interview Summary

[See page 3 of HCRHOH pdf. Example in Columbia Oral History Guide Appendix-2.]

**Reed Dodson** [00:00:02] This is Reed Dodson with the Schedler Honors College Oral History Project. Today is March 24th, 2022, and I am interviewing Ashley Godwin, who is... where you are right now?

**Ashley Godwin** [00:00:15] I'm in Little Rock.

**Reed Dodson** [00:00:17] Perfect. And are you at your house?

**Ashley Godwin** [00:00:19] Yes.

**Reed Dodson** [00:00:20] Perfect. We'll be talking about Ashley's experience leading up to, during, and after her time in the Honors College. Please state your name and age for the recording.

**Ashley Godwin** [00:00:32] My name is Ashley Godwin and I'm 26.

**Reed Dodson** [00:00:36] What year did you enter the Honors College?

**Ashley Godwin** [00:00:39] It was 2013

**Reed Dodson** [00:00:42] And what year did you graduate from the Honors College?

**Ashley Godwin** [00:00:44] 2017.

**Reed Dodson** [00:00:46] Perfect. So we're going to start with your life before honors. So where are you from?

I'm from Little Rock.

Did you enjoy growing up there?

**Ashley Godwin** [00:01:04] Yeah, I went to a college preparatory school. It's I guess medium size. It's Pulaski Academy. And then I got into Honors.

**Reed Dodson** [00:01:21] Heck yeah! So, what are your parents' names, if you don't mind me asking.

**Ashley Godwin** [00:01:29] Yeah, that's OK. My dad is Greg Godwin, and he's a police officer with the Little Rock Police Department. And then my mom is Lisa Glover, and she works for Baptist Health, one of the hospitals here.

**Reed Dodson** [00:01:45] What was it like growing up with your parents' jobs? How did they affect you?

**Ashley Godwin** [00:01:53] It wasn't too bad. Felt like it was pretty normal. My parents are divorced, so my dad would work the night shift when I was younger, so when it was my time to see him on the weekends, there was a lot of sleeping during the day. And my mom, she worked a pretty normal, hourly job, like a nine-to-five kind of thing. So I mean, we made it work. They were very, very good about accommodating me.

**Reed Dodson** [00:02:23] That's good. Did you have any siblings growing up?

**Ashley Godwin** [00:02:26] Yeah, I have one half brother. His name is Christopher.

**Reed Dodson** [00:02:30] Okay, is he your half brother on your dad's side or your mom's?

**Ashley Godwin** [00:02:34] Yeah, my dad's side.

**Reed Dodson** [00:02:37] Alright. I'm not too sure on the half brother, step brother, all of those variations. I just wanted to make sure.

**Ashley Godwin** [00:02:42] Oh yeah. He has a different mom and we have the same dad and he's very smart.

**Reed Dodson** [00:02:50] Did your parents encourage you to go to college after high school?

**Ashley Godwin** [00:02:55] Oh yeah. I didn't really want to go to college because I knew what I wanted to do and they [Ashley's parents] were like, "you're going to go to college." And because of Honors giving me a full ride, it was kind of like, *you're doing this*.

**Reed Dodson** [00:03:10] So you said you knew what you wanted to do. What did you want to do before?

**Ashley Godwin** [00:03:14] So I really didn't. I was into theater and art and all of the fun, you know, right-brained kind of stuff. I was very creative and I came into college like, I don't know about you, but being in Honors there are a lot of people who seem to be on track of knowing what they want, and they're very ambitious. And I felt so like, *I'm in the wrong place*, because I had no idea! And they made me, not Honors, but my advisor at the end of freshman year was like, "you have to choose a major". And I was like, "I don't know." So literally, my mom told me, "go on Google and type in highest paying jobs in America, find something you like, and figure out what degrees you need." And that's literally what I did. I was like, *OK, well, this advertising director looks— well I could do that*.

And my advisor was like, “Great, you need a PR [Public Relations] degree and a marketing degree, so we'll set you up,” and that's how I chose my majors.

**Reed Dodson** [00:04:15] You mentioned when you first came to the Honors, everyone knew what they wanted to do. I know we talked a lot about Imposter Syndrome, so they were still talking about that when you were there?

**Ashley Godwin** [00:04:33] Oh yeah, that was a big thing. And more towards when I got to junior and senior year, I think we all became more comfortable in saying, like, “I didn't know what I was doing and I'm changing my major so late in the game and like, I still don't know”, and it became more comfortable. We were all kind of more honest with each other. Yeah, we're just getting through it, but that doesn't mean we're not qualified, and that doesn't mean we didn't earn this spot, you know?

**Reed Dodson** [00:05:00] I get that for sure. How was your high school experience? Did you enjoy it or was it something you just hated every morning?

**Ashley Godwin** [00:05:16] Yeah, I really enjoyed my high school experience. We were smaller, being a private school. I went to the same school from the 1st grade to the 12th grade. So most of us kind of grew up together per say. But I'm so thankful because I know that there are some people who have a really difficult time, and I kind of experienced that when I got out of high school. Not knowing people, having to change and trying to find new friends. I didn't have to do that at my high school and elementary school. But otherwise, yeah, it's really good. I had lots of friends. I still am really close to some of my friends from high school. It was really good.

**Reed Dodson** [00:06:01] Did any of your friends end up going to UCA with you?

**Ashley Godwin** [00:06:05] Yeah, there were a couple of people I knew and some that I'm still friends with from UCA, for sure. But yeah, there were a few PA grads that ended up going to UCA. None in Honors, though, but I ended up thankfully, right when I got into Honors, with a roommate who had friends that she graduated from high school with, and we all became really close with each other and that that was really helpful because then right off the bat, I had friends that I could go to.

**Reed Dodson** [00:06:35] Mm-Hmm. So you said none of your friends from high school got into Honors. Did any of them apply to honors or were you the only one that you knew of?

**Ashley Godwin** [00:06:43] I'm the only one that I know of. I'm not sure exactly. I know I'm the only one who went through the I-squared day. And so that's as far as I know.

**Reed Dodson** [00:06:53] How was I-squared for you?

**Ashley Godwin** [00:06:56] It was good. The professor I had, he doesn't work there anymore. I think his name was Phil. He was really awesome. I wish I got to learn from him because he made our interview process really fun. But it was definitely something, like— I mean, you know how the process was very overwhelming at first, but like, very informative.

**Reed Dodson** [00:07:19] Yeah. Let's see, I-squared day. Were you confident when you finished it? Were you confident, like, “I'm getting into the Honors College” or was it more of like “I don't know.” I know I was nervous

**Ashley Godwin** [00:07:38] So I don't know if you know anything about PA, but it's a college prep school, so they prep you with the essays and the conversations and discussions. I even had a teacher at PA who graduated from UCA Honors, so I was lucky that I had a little heads up in what to expect. I knew my test scores weren't the best and my grades weren't the best, but I knew that the interview process and that written part were going to be heavily weighted. So I knew I was prepared for that and I was like, "as long as I speak." And the whole discussion part, our group was really good. We all were speaking up and I feel like we had a great discussion. I still remember part of it we were talking about, like in the future light and something about books like Could you imagine, like books being on like one system or one computer, you know, you could just go and find all the information. I brought it, really. I was being devil's advocate and I felt so fancy because I was like, "Oh, I'm opposing ideas here like that. Points for me." I felt like I did what I had to do, and if I don't get in, I did everything I could. But I ended up getting a letter saying that I'd made it. My parents were super excited.

**Reed Dodson** [00:09:05] Me, I am, I'm working to write.

**Ashley Godwin** [00:09:09] They were like, "You don't have to pay!"

**Reed Dodson** [00:09:11] That free ride, right? They love that. So do you remember what your summer reading was when you came into honors?

**Ashley Godwin** [00:09:20] Oh gosh, I honestly don't. There were a couple books that we read throughout honors. I only remember a few, but I don't think they were the summer reading. I think we read, like, "Things Fall Apart," and "My Best Friend," something like that. I still have the books, though. But yeah, no, I that was so long ago, Reed, I really don't.

**Reed Dodson** [00:09:46] I get you 100 percent! I don't know if I remember either. Let's see, how was the retreat experience for you?

**Ashley Godwin** [00:09:55] It was good. I enjoyed it. And like I said, I had built bonds with people in honors already, so I had people to go to and hang out with. I know it was hard to kind of get to know everyone, but I got to know people a little bit better. I would say it's the effort you put into it to, you know, enjoy it. I pretty much stuck to the people I already knew, but it was nice getting to be with everyone.

**Reed Dodson** [00:10:38] So back then, the retreat was after classes already started, right?

**Ashley Godwin** [00:10:44] I think so, yeah.

**Reed Dodson** [00:10:45] I just wanted to make sure. I know now it's before classes even start, so it was probably a decent experience to go there and actually know people.

**Ashley Godwin** [00:10:57] Oh yeah, for sure. If I didn't know people, I probably would not have gone because I'm kind of an extrovert, so I like getting out and meeting new people, but when it comes to being overnight away and having to be pushed into it, I get pretty nervous.

**Reed Dodson** [00:11:16] Did you meet your roommates at I-squared day, or were you just randomly thrown into a room of people?

**Ashley Godwin** [00:11:26] I had a random room. I don't know if they still do this, but we filled out a little questionnaire about how we like our rooms, then they paired you based on your answers. My first room was fine. I had one roommate who I was really good friends with. She was on the track team, so she kind of had her room of sports stuff. We got along really well. I had a couple other roommates, though, and we didn't hit it off very well. One ended up leaving within a month out of our room and the other one we had some trouble with. But otherwise it was fine.

**Reed Dodson** [00:12:10] Well that's good! Did you stay on campus for all the years that you say?

**Ashley Godwin** [00:12:16] I did.

**Reed Dodson** [00:12:18] And you stayed in Farris the whole time? How was that?

**Ashley Godwin** [00:12:27] I loved it. I like that you don't have to pay. That's pretty much why I wanted to stay. My junior and senior year we had one of our friends who wasn't in Honors pay to live in Farris because we all had like a small group of like friends. So she moved in with us and that was really fun. I loved it there, so I thought it was great.

**Reed Dodson** [00:13:02] Let's see how did you feel about the cafeteria food?

**Ashley Godwin** [00:13:09] Not great, to be honest. I liked the selection we had, but my roommates ate more of the cafeteria than I did. But I had the meal plan where you could go to the student center or whatever where you have the Fast food options? When I get stressed, I typically don't eat a lot, so I typically went over there and got maybe a salad or something for my meals, and that was pretty much it. The cafeteria was fine if you needed it, but I was indifferent.

**Reed Dodson** [00:13:48] Let's see, in your room in Farris, especially with your room of your friends, did you guys have any pets or any secret pets? Did anyone smuggle a fish in?

**Ashley Godwin** [00:13:58] I had a beta fish when I was a freshman, and I love; that little fish. But then, my mom ended up adopting him and taking him in. After freshman year, I did bring my fish back with me. But no, we didn't really have any pets. I know of other people who had maybe emotional support animals, and I think one of our RA's ended up smuggling in ferrets or something. I don't even know if she had permission, but we could smell the ferrets from our room. It was kind of gross.

**Reed Dodson** [00:14:38] All right, I'm going to ask some overall Honors questions now. How did the program as a whole change your perspective on the world?

**Ashley Godwin** [00:14:56] I definitely remember it was a learning experience. In college, you just start growing into who you are anyway. I think Honor's definitely helped because you're learning from these philosophers, people who've already gone through certain issues that you're going through and things that you're questioning, like religion and sexuality, stuff like that. So you're constantly reading on topics that you may be struggling with yourself. Did it change my world? I wouldn't go that far, but it definitely helped. When you're kind of on your own for the first time and you're like, "Oh my gosh, like, I'm having

this existential crisis” and you have teachers there who are well-educated on certain subjects that can help you. That was really awesome.

**Reed Dodson** [00:15:52] Do you remember who your core one professor was?

**Ashley Godwin** [00:15:58] I do. My first semester was Cindy Lee, and after that semester I knew I wanted to have her every other semester. I love her. She's amazing. And then my second semester was Ellen. She's great.

**Reed Dodson** [00:16:17] So you wanted to take Cindy's classes. Did you?

**Ashley Godwin** [00:16:23] Yeah. Any time I saw Cindy's name, I was like “Cindy!,” but mainly because I love Cindy. I like LGBTQ issues, love to learn about them. It wasn't like a passion for me or anything, but Cindy was the teacher. She was genuine, real, forgiving. And I love that because there was one time I remember we were all so stressed towards the end of the semester. We all had tests and stuff, and she was like, “OK, you know, we have this paper still,” and we're all like, “Oh my gosh.” We were overwhelmed and someone was just like, “I'm going to be honest with you, I can't handle something else on my plate.” And she was like, “OK, well, how about we do oral presentations? Come in prepared. We're going to discuss your topics and you'll be graded on that.” And that's when I knew Cindy is my forever favorite. Like, how could you not like that?

**Reed Dodson** [00:17:24] I love that! I have taken so many of her classes.

**Ashley Godwin** [00:17:29] We are on the same page.

**Reed Dodson** [00:17:32] 100 percent. I love her. I have to say, speaking of Core 1, where did you say that the soul was located?

**Ashley Godwin** [00:17:46] Oh, God. Honestly, I was like, “I'm right here.” I'm the person that's like, “it's either wrong or it's right,” so literally they ask that question and then I'm looking over at everyone other pages because I'm like, “Fuck.” Sorry for my language. And then then we have this whole discussion about like, “is it in your brain? Is it in your heart? I was like, “I'm sitting in my seat. That's what I'm going with.”

**Reed Dodson** [00:18:19] Were you one of the ones who answered out loud? Or did you kind of sit back?

**Ashley Godwin** [00:18:23] Oh, I sat back and listened. I don't want to be wrong and I don't want to, like, feel stupid. And so like some of those questions, there is no right or wrong answer. But still, I would get so self-conscious.

**Reed Dodson** [00:18:46] Do you remember any of the readings from Core 1? I know that they usually don't change the syllabus too much in between years.

**Ashley Godwin** [00:18:53] I don't know if y'all still read this, but it was about this science experiment and they took the brain out of the body and it was still able to be a person or something. And so then it was like, OK, well, is your being in your brain? It's like if you're out of your body, is that who you are? But other than that, I don't really remember.

**Reed Dodson** [00:19:35] Now, that was definitely one of my favorites. Daniel Dennit or something.

**Ashley Godwin** [00:19:44] Definitely interesting.

**Reed Dodson** [00:19:47] Do you remember much about the sophomore matriculation process? Do you remember what your speech was about?

**Ashley Godwin** [00:19:54] So our class was unique in that we didn't have a matriculation. I think it started back when Honors started. And it stopped at some point and then it started again, like soon after I graduated. I remember being a senior and sophomores were talking about having to do that. I'm like, "Thank God we didn't have to do that," because I didn't want anything else on my plate. But yeah, after sophomore year, we just kind of talked about like, are you continuing? Like, you're about to start your thesis and your capstone, but we didn't really have a speech or we didn't have to really present anything.

**Reed Dodson** [00:20:42] Did they ever explain why they stopped doing it for that time?

**Ashley Godwin** [00:20:49] I can't really remember. That'd be a good question for Patricia. I think it was when Patricia came in when things were changing again. They were like, "We should bring that back in. Like, that was a really good addition." And I think that's when they brought it back. But double check with Patricia if you're really curious. It's been so long now.

**Reed Dodson** [00:21:27] I'm going to have check in with her because I'm curious about that. I'll touch on the Capstone Project. I think yours was rebranding the Honors College. How was that?

**Ashley Godwin** [00:21:43] It was definitely up my alley. I'm glad that I happened upon that. It's actually a funny story because I was going to do something with mental health. I'm a planner. I like to plan ahead. And so the summer before I started, I had a notes folder on my phone and I would just write down like, "Oh, this would be interesting to look into. This would be interesting!" I had this list of all these ideas that I might like to research, and all of them were so out of my education zone. One was in art. One was in science. I'm not even a science person. Like, I almost failed my gen ed astronomy class. I did. It was ridiculous. So anyway, I was about to stick with something to do with mental health. I was also an ambassador that year, and I was out with Patricia one night talking to students and staff, and she was just like saying, like, "Oh my gosh, these old brochures we have were from like the 90s and they are so lame. They don't tell you anything. No one's looking at these. You know why people come is for the full ride. We should just have a banner that says *we give you money* and people will want to come. And I was like, "I would love to help you with that. That's my major." And she was like, "that would be so great. We'll think of a way to give you credit or coursework," and then that's how it came about.

**Reed Dodson** [00:23:38] That is really cool. I love that.

**Ashley Godwin** [00:23:41] I loved it.

**Reed Dodson** [00:23:45] So how was it working that closely with Tricia on that project?

**Ashley Godwin** [00:23:51] Amazing. I couldn't have asked for better. Working with Tricia when she was interim Dean was nice. Rick Scott was still there, but on his way out, so she was available almost any time I needed her, Cindy as well. They had everything I needed,

and I don't think the project would not have been what it was without them. We had focus groups where I would talk to students, staff, and alumni, asking questions like "Why did you choose Honors?" It was the best experience because it was real world experience. In PRat the time was the interim. What do you call it? Interim Dean? Yes, interim dea. And so working alongside her because Rick Scott was he was still kind of there, but on his way out. And so she like, like any time I needed her, she was available Cindy as well. And I'm the person that I usually just like to handle it on my own. Like, I'll check in with you. I'm fine. And so they and they had everything I needed like, I don't think it would have been what it was if they weren't like here. Here's that we already do these sheets of papers that like, tell you what people are looking at, like brochures or website, you know, you can go off that. And we have like focus groups where like students, I would talk to like students, alumni, faculty. And it was just like small groups talking about like, why did you choose honors? Like, what do you think? It was kind of like this, but with a couple of our people and it was like the best experience because that was real world experience, I was in PR. That's exactly what I would be doing. And it was a really awesome experience. And I'm thankful for honor students that participated, because trying to get students to come to this like focus group, was a struggle. And like so many people showed up and I was like, Oh, it's like, y'all are awesome. It was great.

**Reed Dodson** [00:25:22] That's a nice project. YYou mentioned Rick Scott, did you get many interactions with him

**Ashley Godwin** [00:25:34] You know, he did a Beatles course. As much as I would have liked to take that before he left, Cindy was offered. So obviously I was going with Cindy. But he was there for big events and stuff, and I talked to him afterwards. I did another history project for honors after I graduated, and I was able to sit down with him for two hours, just asking questions. He's a really great guy.

**Reed Dodson** [00:26:16] Did you also did you get to meet Norb?

**Ashley Godwin** [00:26:24] Norb was in an out at the time, so we weren't super close. Older alumni would tell me about him and his antics, but while I qas there his health started declining and more medical issues started arriving. Even then, he would come to events and talk to just about anyone who would talk to him, even if he didn't know you from Adam. It was like a conversation with someone you've known your whole life.

**Reed Dodson** [00:27:21] I really like that. He passed right when we were coming into Honors, so I didn't get to know him, but I've heard really great things about him.

**Ashley Godwin** [00:27:33] . He and Rick Scott would put on a theatrical performance, oh my gosh. If you ever get a chance, it was a little blurb I made when I was doing a little history project that you should check out. I don't know if you've heard about this. It was some Greek comedy routine and there are a couple of videos of them together and it's hilarious, but there was one that was just amazingly funny. If you want to see it I have it. You could tell he was just like such a fun person to be around.

**Reed Dodson** [00:28:18] So great. I'm glad that I get to be in the Honors college, learn from who he was.

**Ashley Godwin** [00:28:25] Oh yeah.



**Reed Dodson** [00:28:27] See, Did you end up as close with any other faculty members as you are with Cindy and Tricia?

**Ashley Godwin** [00:28:40] I loved Adam's class. He did a folklore class that was really interesting. And then I took Alison's class, the animal class. I don't even remember what it was called. That one wasn't my favorite, but Allison is also the teacher that's going to really push you. And like, at that point in my life, I had enough pushing. Like, just let me sit here. But she really wanted everyone to give 100 percent and I admired her for that. I remember Alison gave me a B and I almost lost it. But yeah, those are the only other two. They were great and I learned a lot. I have no regrets.

**Reed Dodson** [00:29:36] Did Allison's class help improve your grammar any?

**Ashley Godwin** [00:29:45] I still remember the difference between disinformation and misinformation from Alison. Maybe effect and assets, but other than that, my mom was an English major in college, so I was pretty well prepared for that anyway.

**Reed Dodson** [00:30:17] And how was that class overall?

**Ashley Godwin** [00:30:22] I have PTSD still thinking about it. Just kidding. I am a perfectionist. I just have to be good at everything. So that way, no one can tell me no, you know. I had to come to terms with the fact that I can be accomplished in this class and still not have any idea what I could have done better. Like, I have the qualifications, and that's kind of what the mindset was and like, you want to go into a class thinking like, OK, like, I can be accomplished in this class, and I still don't know what I could have done better. Have you taken that class?

**Reed Dodson** [00:30:55] I had Allison for my core one and I got my first B in her class, and I'll say that I completely understand what you mean.

**Ashley Godwin** [00:31:05] Yeah, I just felt like I didn't even know what I could have done differently. Even if a teacher gave me a B and I didn't think it was right grade, I would go up to them and ask about it. With Allison's class, so much of it is based on discussion and what you bring individually to each class. But she's the professor, and as much as it, what she says goes. Like it just felt like I didn't know what I like and

**Reed Dodson** [00:32:16] Understandable. Did you end up applying for the URGE or the TAG grants?

**Ashley Godwin** [00:32:28] I didn't have a wish to study abroad or anything, but my roommate did, and she got it and went to Spain. But no, I didn't do any of that.

**Reed Dodson** [00:32:40] Did you consider taking a gap year at any time?

**Ashley Godwin** [00:32:45] I thought about it before I went to college, But my parents were like, "statistics show that you are less likely to go to college after that." And so that was not an option for me at that point. So it was like, you take the full ride and you get it done and you just get a degree.

**Reed Dodson** [00:33:14] Let's see, how big were your honors classes?

**Ashley Godwin** [00:33:23] Unless it was like the big presentations where everyone joins it was usually like 10 to 15 students, maybe 20 at most if it was a really popular class, so not too big.

**Reed Dodson** [00:33:40] And do you remember about how many people were in the whole cohort?

**Ashley Godwin** [00:33:45] In our whole class? I want to say it was probably around 200 students, give or take.

**Reed Dodson** [00:34:51] What was the big social media when you were in college?

**Ashley Godwin** [00:35:04] In terms of the Honors community?

**Reed Dodson** [00:35:07] I know most of the Honors communication happened on GroupMe, but I guess that was more of a general college question.

**Ashley Godwin** [00:35:19] It's funny you mentioned that because like some of my coworkers and I recently talked about Yik Yak, do you remember that? I do,

**Reed Dodson** [00:35:27] Yes!

**Ashley Godwin** [00:35:28] So that was the big thing. It was anonymous, seeing what everyone was saying. Twitter was really big, and I think it's still pretty big for college students.

**Reed Dodson** [00:36:08] And was there any drama that you remember from these apps?

**Ashley Godwin** [00:36:15] We had a bomb threat one day on Yik Yak. There was someone threatening. I think it happened twice in one night that there was messages saying that they were going to bomb UCA or bring gun.. So there was one day even the school was concerned about. They were like, "we'll find who did it". I remember walking to class that day and I wasn't really scared or anything, but some teachers did cancel class because they were worried. But yeah, the bomb threat was the biggest thing.

**Reed Dodson** [00:37:32] That sounds like it was memorable.

**Ashley Godwin** [00:37:36] Oh, crazy.

**Reed Dodson** [00:37:39] So what buildings were most of your classes in?

**Ashley Godwin** [00:37:44] Winn Thompson, I think, is the building, it's like the PR. There's the writing center inside of it. And then I also was in Stanley Ross a lot. That's where the news station is. I was the news director for News Six for a semester. So yeah, that's where I spent my time. There and the deli.

**Reed Dodson** [00:38:12] The Burdick deli?

**Ashley Godwin** [00:38:15] Yeah, me and my roommates loved that place. If I wasn't in class, I was in the deli eating.

**Reed Dodson** [00:39:08] So how did you access different honors readings?

**Ashley Godwin** [00:39:18] We used the portal, I can't remember what it was exactly called. It's been a while, but they had this portal and the readings would be uploaded there.

**Reed Dodson** [00:40:04] Did you ever use the HCOL forums?

**Ashley Godwin** [00:40:09] Yes. I think that's what it was called.

**Reed Dodson** [00:40:16] As I know, there's a HSIS, which is what the general reading portal is and where you submit papers, and then HCOL was different. It was a forum where you could post blog posts and be able to reply and you can have your own account.

**Ashley Godwin** [00:40:35] We exclusively used HCOL I believe.

**Reed Dodson** [00:40:43] I was curious about that because I think they just shut it down last year.

**Ashley Godwin** [00:40:54] I wouldn't be surprised, that shows how old it was. I think they were using that right when the internet started, so it was time that they upgraded, for sure.

**Reed Dodson** [00:41:06] Let's see, was the Honors College still a pretty diverse, accepting place?

**Ashley Godwin** [00:41:16] Very much so. I think for the most part, we had a pretty similar way of thinking, but there were some hardcore conservatives and some on the complete opposite of the spectrum. But even if we disagreed, the conversations would remain civil. That's what Honors is. You lay your idea out there and defend it when someone challenges it, but it's all for the sake of knowledge..

**Reed Dodson** [00:42:46] Do you think that there are more steps that you could think of that the Honors College should or could take to embrace diversity more?

**Ashley Godwin** [00:43:00] That's a good question. My class was mostly white people, so maybe looking at who's applying, you know. When they do ambassador stuff like going into schools, they could start by going places that they wouldn't normally go into. You know, maybe reaching out further in certain areas they aren't reaching out to at all. I don't know. But that's a good question.

**Reed Dodson** [00:44:09] So after honors, do you think just the fact of being in the Honors College and having done the capstone project improved your resume or your opportunities at getting a job?

**Ashley Godwin** [00:44:23] Oh, yeah, for sure. I mean, granted, the work that I did with honors was for my public relations background, but my first job was in news. When I came back to Little Rock after working in Missouri, I didn't have a job lined up. It only took a little bit of searching before my capstone project and my PR background landed me a job. So, yeah, if you find a thesis or a capstone that you're able to work into your degree, it really helps.

**Reed Dodson** [00:45:55] Oh, perfect. You said you went to Missouri after Honors?

**Ashley Godwin** [00:46:01] I did internships during my summers, which is where I found out that I wanted to get into the news. I don't know if you know this, but in new, you start in smaller markets and move up to bigger markets. Little Rock is a mid-sized market, so I had to start in a smaller.

**Reed Dodson** [00:46:58] Are you still in contact with anyone from UCA? Any of your classmates from honors or any faculty members?

**Ashley Godwin** [00:47:16] Yeah. Me, Cindy and Tricia will have lunch occasionally, or if I'm in Conway, I'll stop by and say hi. So I still love to meet up with them and catch up. My best friend Diana, she was in Honors and we met the first day, we became best friends, we still are best friends. She lives in Chicago now. So yeah, I still keep up with people on Facebook, just seeing what they're doing and liking their stuff. But I don't necessarily talk to anyone else. But like if they like, reached out and said hi or something, I'd respond.

**Reed Dodson** [00:48:08] So did you have have any of your meetings with Cindy and Tricia with Diana? Or was that a separate life for you?

**Ashley Godwin** [00:48:22] It wasn't separate, it was just that she was in a math degree. We are like polar opposites. I'm the creative person and she is the numbers person. Her first language was Spanish. Any time I needed help with Spanish, Diana was right there for me. Any time she needed help with creative stuff. I was there for her. Anyway, Diana and I were the same person in that we love Cindy. And so we usually, if Cindy had classes, would take them together. But in terms of my capstone project, Diana wasn't really involved because she had her capstone. She is the freaking smartest person I know. She came up with an equation with her math professor to detect some disease found in Third World countries. She is amazing.

**Reed Dodson** [00:49:36] I think like most of the science and math capstones are all so impressive. They're all solving diseases or finding new species.

**Ashley Godwin** [00:49:50] What's your project

**Reed Dodson** [00:49:52] I haven't gotten much done on it, but I'm planning on doing some sort of analysis on Taylor Swift's music. I'm an English major, so I love the storytelling she does.

**Ashley Godwin** [00:50:03] Oh my gosh, I love that. And like, she is a beautiful songwriter. Plus she's set so many precedents for the music industry.

**Reed Dodson** [00:50:15] I could talk about her all day, I love her.

**Ashley Godwin** [00:50:18] Me too.

**Reed Dodson** [00:50:21] I think I only have a few more questions about the after-Honor's experience. So did you ever visit your former high school and try to convince people to go to UCA?

**Ashley Godwin** [00:50:43] Not officially, but if there was someone that may have reached out, I might have been like, "Yeah, this is what I do. This is how I did it," you know? There's a lot of pressure socially to go towards Ivy League schools, but I'm not one of those people that has a lot of money, so going to UCA worked in my benefit instead of going in debt to

go out of state. I'm definitely a huge advocate for UCA, but I know it's not for everyone. The smaller schools' relationships between professor and students is a benefit that larger schools just don't have.

**Reed Dodson** [00:51:52] Do you feel that the Honors College, from your experience, lives up to the legacy that Norb was trying to build? Did the spirit of Norb stay within your class as he began leaving?

**Ashley Godwin** [00:52:10] I think so. I mean, when he started honors, he wanted a place for talented, gifted students who needed more critical thinking than the typical college class. And you definitely get that in Honors. The things that we discussed always had some sort of weight to them, which made for more interesting conversation. One of our Challenge Weeks centered on abortion. The discussion was heated, but I will never forget that night. I think that's exactly what Norb wanted and I still think that idea is alive in the Honors College.

**Reed Dodson** [00:53:49] I really don't have many questions left. I know we're really closing in on that time. I think the final question I really wanted to ask was: are you glad that you participated in the Honors College?

**Ashley Godwin** [00:54:06] Yeah! Looking back, I am very thankful, and like I said, I will gladly recommend the Honors College and tell people good things. I love Patricia and I love her vision for Honors. I know she will do a good job leading because she has for several years now. I love the teachers. Granted, some of the teachers that I worked with aren't there anymore, but sometimes I think that if I ever wanted to do something besides news, teaching an Honors style class would be up there. I mean, you get to be around students just talking about deep subjects. You don't get that outside of Honors. It's a really unique experience.

**Reed Dodson** [00:55:03] Ashley, I think that's all the questions I have for you, unless you have any yourself or just a random story you wanted to share.

**Ashley Godwin** [00:55:11] Well, I guess I was wondering if you still did soap boxes in Honors.

**Reed Dodson** [00:55:21] We still do soap boxes!

**Ashley Godwin** [00:55:23] How are those going?

**Reed Dodson** [00:55:27] I think they still do them once a week, if they have people willing to sign up for one. Then they let us have that thirty minute time slot. Did you do any soap boxes?

**Ashley Godwin** [00:55:36] I didn't. I remember the idea, and that first weekend of freshman year, the room was packed. As time went on, less people started going and it ended up just being a place for people to get graded on their presentations by professors. I really liked the ones Cindy did, like going over things like female anatomy and love. I just wish that the soap boxes could have been more. It would have been more entertaining to go to if you weren't the only one in the room watching the person present. I remember presenting my Capstone project on Dead Day, and the only people in the room were my parents, advisors, and a friend that came. I feel like switching up the hours could be beneficial.

**Reed Dodson** [00:57:09]. Yeah, I think a lot of it now relies on spoken word advertising. If you don't go out of your way to tell people or invite them, they won't show up. I remember Freshman year, in one of the first few weeks, I presented my soap box on how the Pioneer Woman is evil, and people went crazy for that presentation. Of course, in the coming weeks when less people wanted to do soap boxes and less people were advertising them, the attendance started to drop off.

**Ashley Godwin** [00:57:42] The Pioneer Woman? The woman with the Walmart stuff? Do you have that recorded? Can I watch it?

**Reed Dodson** [00:57:50] You know, I will look for that recording, and if I can't find that recording, I will send you the PowerPoint presentation.

**Ashley Godwin** [00:57:56] Oh my gosh, please do. That's so awesome.

**Reed Dodson** [00:58:00] All right. Before we get into the Pioneer Woman, I'm going to go ahead and wrap up the recording. All right. Well, thank you so much for your time, Ashley. This concludes our interview.