

Interviewee: Phyllis Barton Harris (PBH)

THEME ANALYSIS

<p>Construction engagement with otherness</p> <p><i>Developing a sense of 'otherness' or being the 'other'... such as when you are in the outgroup or when as a person of privilege you begin to see how others are the 'other'</i></p>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ I was very much interested in what he was doing in terms of working with blacks at the point in Mississippi▪ Perception of socioeconomic differences: under privilege▪ Mississippi in the 60s was not the place you would want to send your daughter.▪ I had very mixed signals from my parents▪ I thought that I was going to teach them all how to read music... how to work together as an ensemble. I didn't quite expect to learn as much as I did about hand jiving and the correct way to do 'Were You There When They Crucified My Lord' I think it was an eye opening experience to find out that people that who didn't always read music were probably much more innately musical than I was.▪ Part of it was just the interpersonal relationships. I had never lived with black people on a one to one basis, daily basis, other than college a little bit. So watching them straighten their hair and deal with their makeup, finding out they had the same boyfriend/girlfriend problems that we had and the same parental problems that we had was kind of an insight.▪ We lived in the dormitories with the students on campus. There wasn't a whole lot in way of electrical plugs in the room; we learned to take salt tablets to keep from getting dehydrated. I had never had grits before for breakfast and I can't say that I am particularly fond of them even to this day. But the atmosphere of also living on a small plot of land surrounded by people who would sometimes drive by in their pickup trucks with their rifles in the back window. Across the quarter on one street was the Snick House and apparently the people there had run, had some local run ins with the law. I found it rather intimidating to walk with my students to a local store to try to buy some feminine supplies and realize that we weren't going to get waited on. One time we went to a restaurant and got seated, finally,

<p><i>Reflection on service as an 'inner journey' or contributing to 'spirituality'</i></p>	<p>in the back room and discovered we'd been passed two different kinds of menus one with higher prices and the other with lower prices and were told by the waitress that the lower prices were the old ones and we were expected to pay the higher prices.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ I found out they did not indeed read music the way I had been taught to read music, notation ally. Most of them learned it by rote, and they were very adept orally, they could hear something once perhaps twice and they'd have it captured. Whereas I think a lot of my training at that point had been visual whereas if I saw it I could figure it out and make and eventually make music out of it. I remember sitting around on the steps one night watching one of the boys do hand jive and smiling in remembrance when Bobby Darin suddenly came on big in terms of popular music that this was something that had existed long before he'd ever recorded but he was doing a wonderful job of carrying on the tradition. We had I think a choir class where they'd have a music theory class of sorts but most of the music happened I think extracurricularly and extemporaneously when we had time we'd find a piano and make music. ▪ I began looking past color of skin. I became firmly convinced that education is a vital key in whatever endeavor you intend to do. ▪ I was a member of People's Church and got to know John Duley partly through some other campus work ▪ My father was a minister so I ... as a preacher's kid you make a decision early on that you're either going to fight that or you're going to accept it. And somewhere along the way I had enough grace to embrace it ▪ I learned or maybe relearned that what's on the outside doesn't count what's on the inside counts.
<p><i>Impact</i></p> <p><i>Commitment to service or social justice; change agent, leadership, career path</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Prior experience: have always been probably aware; But my dad I think probably supported me more than my mother did because he was also a vent for human rights and very interested in what was happening in the general community at that point in terms of civil

	<p>rights.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lifelong learning: I probably learned much more than I ever taught. But it was definitely a part of not only my formal education but a lifelong learning experience. ▪ Continued service: I went my sophomore, my junior year, at the end of my senior year I did not go. And then again my first year of teaching I went. Probably because it was the most interesting, fulfilling thing I had done at that point and I became thoroughly convinced that education was the key to getting out of whatever situation that you happen to be in. ▪ It made me pretty angry; and I thought there had to be a better way to treat people because these were suddenly people that I'd come to know as friends. ▪ We were expected to raise enough money to pay our own way. My father at one point in later years, told me that he was surprised that I did as well I did because I came back pretty radical and he thought that I was probably insulting some of the people who were doing a pretty good job at making sure I was there. ▪ The focus of the STEP Program was to build their study skills, so they would learn how to study, how to spend their time wisely, how to write. I suspect they thought that the music was going to be kind of an extracurricular thing for socializing so we'd all get to know each other. The music was... incredible. I went down with things like Elijah Rock and things I thought would appeal to them and some other classical things. I discovered a whole world of popular music most of it based I think in either in Nashville or in Detroit was big at that point.... ▪ I learned to not to be quite so shy and timid as I had been; I probably learned not so much to worry about what other people thought about me but to go ahead and stand by my conscience and what I thought was right. ▪ I probably lost a couple of friends because I was more willing to associate with black people but I also gained an incredible number

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ of new friends by being willing to look past the color.▪ And I find myself to be somewhat upset and concerned by people who are afraid to do things because somebody might not like it or somebody might sue them or somebody might not think properly of that whereas if this is a need that needs to be addressed and something needs to be done then I might just step up and go ahead and do it.▪ And I hope somebody somewhere repeats this kind of project.
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** Indicates divergent themes*