

Gary L. Love '76
Dartmouth College Oral History Program
Dartmouth Black Lives
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Transcribed by Abraham Kamara

KAMARA: My name is Abraham Kamara, and I am currently in Fahey Hall in Hanover, New Hampshire, and I'm doing a Zoom interview with Gary [Lorain] Love, Dartmouth '76, who is currently in San Francisco, California. Today is October 26, 2023, and this is an interview for the Dartmouth Black Lives Oral History Project.

Hello Mr. Love. First of all, thank you again for joining with me today. First, I'd like to learn a little bit more about your childhood. Can you please state when and where you were born?

LOVE: Absolutely! And first of all, thank you very much for including me in this wonderful project. It sounds like an excellent class. I'm excited to be here! I was born in April 1954 in Chicago, Illinois.

KAMARA: How was growing up in Illinois? Do you have any siblings?

LOVE: I have a younger sister, Karen, who is two years behind me, who still resides in Chicago with our mother.

KAMARA: Okay. And I saw that you went to Kenwood, if I'm correct, right?

LOVE: Yes, I went to Kenwood High School, which is now named Kenwood Academy. I graduated from Kenwood in 1972.

KAMARA: Do you know why there was a name change from Kenwood High School to Academy?

LOVE: They gave the name Academy as a reward for excellence, and Academy was given to the school because of its excellence and also because, frankly, it sounds more classy.

KAMARA: [Laughter] Fair enough. Could you tell me, please, about your experience at Kenwood? What got you interested at Dartmouth?

LOVE: Kenwood was a wonderful experience. I had four successful years at the school. I was vice president of the class. I was a multi-sport athlete, captain of the soccer team, track, basketball, baseball.

Soccer was my best sport. As a matter of fact, I contemplated playing D1 soccer and actually played a little while with the Dartmouth soccer team, but since I was not recruited, I decided that wasn't the best use of my time.

- KAMARA: Okay, you said that you -- did you walk on to the Dartmouth soccer team then?
- LOVE: I was in the process of doing so and had played with some of the other recruited athletes at the school at the time on the soccer team. And they determined I could probably make the team, but since I was not recruited, I would not be very high on the depth chart and that just didn't appeal to me to sit on the bench.
- KAMARA: Fair enough. What got you interested in going to Dartmouth and applying there at the time? I think during that time, that's when it started ramping up in the recruitment of more Black students to the college.
- LOVE: Well, I was very fortunate, Abraham. I had intended to go to an Ivy League School since I was in elementary school, as a matter of fact. I was an excellent math student and had great interest in mathematics and engineering. In fact, in fifth grade, believe it or not, I had an MIT course guide that I used to sit at my desk at home and go through the course guide and pick out classes I would probably like to take. And my intention was to go to MIT.
- KAMARA: Why did that shift?
- LOVE: Well, I was applying there. Basically, I was applying to MIT early decision, and I had a very interesting interview with an MIT alum.
- I knocked on the door. He opened the door and inquired, who was I and why was I there? [Laughter] I said, "Hi, I'm Gary Love. I'm applying to MIT. I'm here for my alumni interview."
- After he was able to close his mouth, we sat down and chatted for 45 minutes. And during that 45-minute interview, Abraham, he spent every opportunity to inquire where else I was applying and encouraged me to go to another school besides MIT.
- I came home [pause] frustrated, unhappy, and decided that MIT was not a school I'd like to go to. Didn't finish my application at MIT. At that point, decided to apply to other Ivy League schools.
- KAMARA: Okay. And you said that you were very obviously gifted at an early age. Did your parents have any influence on that? Did they push you to do these types of rigorous academic activities?
- LOVE: Well, education was always very important in our household. Although my father only had a high school degree, and my

mother obtained a college degree much later in life. They were always focused that I would go to college.

It was a matter of where I would go and what area, academic area, I would be interested in. I won't quite use the word gifted, but I was really, really good at math and mathematics. And I enjoyed the subject matter.

As I said, from an early age, I was supported by what I call the Underground Railroad. And what the Underground Railroad was for me was that teachers took a keen interest in my success and pushed me very hard.

And I'm talking about my years in elementary school. Pushed me very hard to achieve and make sure that I was working at my top level. So, by the time I got to high school, I was already groomed for college. College was something that I was going to absolutely partake of.

KAMARA: Okay. That's very interesting to hear. How was your first experience arriving at the campus then? When you first received your acceptance to the school at Dartmouth or the other Ivies you applied to, how did that feel?

LOVE: That was really a great day. I can recall that day at this very moment, as a matter of fact. I applied to Dartmouth because my best friend in high school, his name was Duane [Jonathan] Gibbs, class of 1976. Duane has left us in a tragic accident many years ago. And when I was a junior at Kenwood, Duane received the Dartmouth Book Award for having the highest SAT scores in my class. And believe it or not, due to a strange circumstance, President [John G.] Kemeny presented him with the Dartmouth Book Award [laughter].

I think he was in Chicago for a conference at the University of Chicago, and they twisted his arm, and he presented the award. And I was able to chat with Professor Kemeny, who, as you know, was a gifted mathematician himself, and told me that he actually taught classes.

And I said to myself, any school who's led by a mathematician who teaches classes and is president of the institution is where I wanted to be. And that's why I ended up choosing Dartmouth, and that's why I eventually matriculated to the school.

KAMARA: I'm sorry to hear about Mr. Gibbs. Could you speak more about your guys' relationship? You said you guys were very close friends in high school.

LOVE: Actually, I knew Duane since 7th grade. I met Duane in 7th grade, and we became close friends. Duane was an excellent student also. And my group were scholars and folks who viewed education as being very important. His mother was a high school teacher at Kenwood, as it turns out. She taught honors English. And as luck would have it, I had Mrs. Watson for my junior honors English class. In my senior year, she moved to the counselors' office, and she wrote several of my high school recommendations for college.

Duane and I were close for all those years. And we were roommates the first year. We figured out that wasn't a good idea [laughter]. We needed our own space. He was a great guy, and we had a lot of fun together. Our interests were similar. We wanted to be successful.

We knew college was the avenue of attack to make that happen. And we both were serious students who enjoyed having a good time, but making sure that work got done.

KAMARA: I'm glad to hear that. Speaking on more about President Kemeny, he was there as President during the time you were there. I just wanted to see if you were ever able to build a relationship with him during your time at the school.

LOVE: No, I was not able to as a matter of fact. He was quite a busy man, and I was just focused on my classes. I didn't have the foresight at that particular time to establish a relationship with him. I was trying to make sure that I was doing my work and that I was getting grades. I did not understand the politics of the institution.

I will say that I was close with my Dean of Freshmen, Dean Ralph Manuel. I spent some time with him, developed a relationship with him.

In the year I graduated, I graduated in three years. I graduated in 1975, a year before my class. Dean Manuel at that time was Dean of the College. And I enjoyed having a quick conversation with him when he handed me my diploma.

We had come full circle, but he was my favorite dean as being Dean of Freshmen. And here we were together when I was able to get my diploma in my hand and shook Dean Manuel's hand. That was a great day.

KAMARA: I'm glad to hear that. It's motivating. Could you please speak more about your day-to-day experience at the college during that time, being a Black student, if you don't mind?

LOVE: Not a problem! When I applied to Dartmouth, it was the first year of co-education. But when I applied, it was a single-sex institution. They hadn't quite announced co-education was going to happen. It happened during the application process. So, I was going to Dartmouth whether it was male or co-ed. Period. When I arrived at Hanover, Abraham, was the first time I flew on a plane [laughter]. So it was a pretty exciting trip for me. I remember getting on a plane, a TWA, Trans World Airlines, sitting in the back of the plane, contemplating where Hanover, New Hampshire actually was, and what lay in store for me in the rural part of New England.

And when I got to campus, fortunately I had a friend of the family who lived in the Boston area who picked me up from the airport and drove me to Hanover, New Hampshire, to Dartmouth, which was a very pleasant experience.

When I got there, I said to myself, "What have I gotten myself into?" [Laughter] Born and raised on the south side of Chicago, and I was not an outdoorsman. I played sports but was not one to go hiking or camping or anything of that nature. It was a pretty shocking feeling. To be what I thought was the middle of nowhere.

The first semester at Dartmouth was rigorous. As a matter of fact, it was hard. I took English 5, Math 3, and Russian 1. I was the only kid in the class who hadn't had Russian before. It was a very difficult term. Why did I take Russian? Because I was advised that some advanced work in mathematics was being done in the Russian language, and I wanted to make sure that I could partake of being able to do that.

Confidentially, obviously this is not confidential, but I did not buy a Dartmouth t-shirt or any Dartmouth paraphernalia until my spring term. Because if I wasn't going to make it at Dartmouth, I wasn't going to take anything back with me to remind me of that place. But after having a rigorous fall term, I had a good winter term and an excellent spring term. And during spring term, I started to buy Dartmouth t-shirts and other Dartmouth memorabilia, because I said to myself, if this is the best they got, I'm okay [laughter].

KAMARA: So, you felt that during the spring term is when you felt that you deserved to be there and got the feeling of being at home then?

LOVE: Absolutely! Absolutely! If my classmates were the best and the brightest, and I was competing with them in the classroom, I felt comfortable that I would make my stand at Dartmouth, and I would do well. That was a nice feeling. I fortunately had camaraderie with other students. As I said, my best friend was

there also, so I had people to talk to and people to be supportive.

Dartmouth is not easy. Dartmouth can be a lonely experience. I was fortunate enough, I'm a pretty outgoing guy. I like to make friends. And I was able to do so. I was able to seek out upperclassmen to ask them, "What was the key to success?" And they quickly instilled in me that the key to success was time management. So, I was a stickler for making sure that I was able to complete my studies, have a good time on the weekends, spend Saturday, able to unwind and enjoy the rural setting at that point. Enjoy my friends. But always kept my eye on the ball in terms of the classwork. Some of the professors were hostile. Especially in mathematics. Abraham, I ended up being a mathematics and economics major.

KAMARA: That's grueling!

LOVE: I majored in both of those. Some of the professors in mathematics, as I said, were hostile, not helpful. It was important for me to understand, in the Black community, who were the math savants. Who could give me guidance, and how I was to approach certain professors that were not interested in giving me the benefit of the doubt.

Whereas, on the other hand, in the economics department, they were at least neutral. What I mean by that was that if you showed effort, did the work, came to class, [pause] they were willing to be supportive. That's why I eventually chose to major in economics. Because it was just a much more friendly environment.

Given that there weren't a lot of students of color who were economic majors or mathematic majors, we were a pretty close-knit group, who endeavored to help each other. But to say that Dartmouth was the most welcoming institution is not true. Dartmouth is what I call a place with sharp elbows until you figure out how to navigate. And after my first year, I learned how to navigate and started to perform extremely well in my classes. When I graduated with my major in economics, I graduated with honors.

KAMARA: That's very impressive to hear! As you said earlier, you looked to seniors for advice. Are there any seniors you can remember who were really there for you and assisted you through the process when you first arrived?

LOVE: Well, I tell you that Ben [F.] Wilson ['73], who is now a Trustee Emeritus, was extremely helpful. He was a wise man. He was a young wise man [laughter]. Extremely helpful. Reginald Thomas,

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class of '75, another gregarious, friendly guy. He didn't major in economics or mathematics, but he had a discipline that was impressive and that I tried to copy.

And another alum by the name of Jerry Lovejoy ['75], who was an economics major. Who I spent a lot of time with. And Jerry one day told me what the key to being successful was. The key to being successful was not learning the material. The key to being successful at Dartmouth was mastering the material. He would say to me, "Gary, you ready for that test?" I said, "Absolutely, I'm ready." He says, "Okay, three more hours. Then you'll be ready for real! [Laughter]"

He instilled in me that when I thought that I had studied enough to get the job done and achieve the kind of grades I wanted to have, he told me that wasn't enough. That I needed to go back and learn the material in a fashion where I had mastered the material.

I continue to tell students that today. It's not about learning the material; it's about mastering the material. To the extent that you can actually teach the class. You can actually be a tutor to other students, because you have mastered the material. And that's what became my North Star in terms of being successful. Mastery of the material.

KAMARA:

It's very interesting to hear. Never thought of it that way. I'll probably have to start doing that as well. Were there any activities as well? I know you're a part of many societies and clubs here. Could you speak more on those? And how those bettered your time here?

LOVE:

I spent a lot of time with the Black students and a lot of time in Shabazz [Center for Intellectual Inquiry], which is also called Cutter Hall. I spent a lot of time in camaraderie with my friends. I felt it important to be a part of the community. My high school was majority Black, but we did have a significant number of majority students in the school, so I was used to going to school with folks from all over, from different clans and different races. But my focus was making sure that I was a part of the Black community, and that I would be supportive of other Black students in any way that I could.

Now, what I spent most of my time involved with, Abraham, was that my work study was in the admissions office, where I was after my first year. I was able to go out and recruit students for Dartmouth, and I spent most of my time recruiting students of color. I would write some of the recruitment material. I wrote a couple of pamphlets that the college used for recruitment of students. A significant amount of my time was spent in the

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admissions office. That was my job. As they would say, I would take Dartmouth home. Where I would go to my high school and was able to recruit a couple of students who followed after me. Lance Jones class of '77, matriculated from Kenwood. Steve White, class of '77, matriculated from Kenwood. Cheryl Bascomb class of '77 was a childhood friend who came to Dartmouth.

I was a pied piper early in my Dartmouth life. I was not into the fraternities, that wasn't my stick. I was into making sure that Black students had exposure to the institution, and that I would do everything possible to be successful in the recruitment of [Black] folks. That's how I started my admissions life after Dartmouth, because as an undergrad that was my job.

It became clear to me early on that it was not fair to recruit the best and brightest students from our community, if they didn't come to Dartmouth and have a successful tenure. That they didn't come to Dartmouth and do what they wanted to do in terms of their course selections or what they wanted to be when they grew up. Doctors, lawyers, engineers. It became clear to me early in the process of recruiting students that students needed to have mentors and supporters. And thus, that's why my life's work at Dartmouth has been all about making sure that Dartmouth has an infrastructure to support a diverse group of students.

Infrastructure means administrators, professors, and other staff who look like them. People of color. So that we are not by ourselves in rural New Hampshire.

KAMARA: That's very inspiring. Would you say that your success in the admissions office during your time here motivated you later in life to start the "Gary's Kids" program that you created?

LOVE: Oh! Without question! Without question. When I graduated from Dartmouth, as I said, I did some pied piper work doing some recruiting for the college but not on an official basis. When I was at the college and I was working in the office, I would travel to cities New Orleans [LA], Philadelphia [PA], New York [NY], Boston [MA], Chicago [IL] and some other little towns for the college.

After I graduated from Dartmouth, I got my master's degree from Northwestern in economics as an MBA. And was fortunate enough to start a successful career on Wall Street when I moved to New York City. Being on the East Coast allowed me to continue to have a relationship with the admissions office, because New York is not that far away – much closer than Chicago. And I continued to be an alumni interviewer and do the

normal things that Dartmouth alums do. In terms of trying to promote the college. So, I was an alumni interviewer, active in the Dartmouth club in New York for BADA [Black Alumni of Dartmouth Association].

That was all part of what drove me towards trying to recruit students from Chicago and eventually other locales. Abraham, what actually happened was that we had a particularly difficult year recruiting Black students. Our numbers were abysmal. We failed! Let's put it that way, we failed.

KAMARA: Why do you say that? What do you think was the cause?

LOVE: The cause was the institution was not being aggressive enough. I think we rested on our laurels. We were not selling Dartmouth the way that we should have. We were lazy. We just kept making excuses for our failures. We would say, "Oh! We're in rural New Hampshire, and most of these kids come from cities, come from urban environments. And we just can't recruit them." I said, "That's not right! Dartmouth is part of the pantheon of great institutions, and we should be able to attract just on that alone the best and brightest from all communities."

I challenged them, and I was friends with the folks at admissions. We were all very comfortable with each other. Karl Furstenberg was the Director of Admissions at the time. And Karl and I sat down and talked about what we were and what we were not doing. Karl was a little hesitant saying, "Well Gary, it's always been hard to recruit students of color to Dartmouth. We're at a disadvantage." I said, "Well this is a great place. This place deserves to have students who can excel from our neighborhood and our communities. And that's not good enough."

I've chatted with Lorna [J] Hunter, who was the Director of Minority Admissions and I said, "Lorna, it's interesting to me that once folks get here, they enjoy Dartmouth." By and large, it's not worked for everyone, and I recognize that. It's always been my job, when I recruit folks that I give them as many opportunities to see how they can be successful.

Because sometimes Hanover is tough. Professors are not necessarily supportive in all situations. You have to make sure that you're doing your part of the job. It's a two-way street. Professors are attracted to bright students. You have to make sure that you demonstrate to your professors that you're a bright student, and that you are here because you deserve to be there. The expectation from both sides of the table is success.

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So, I told Lorna, I said, "Lorna, if we could figure out a way to introduce Dartmouth to more students of color – to Black kids – before they apply, I think we would do a better job." Lorna in a half-hearted way said, "Well, Gary, if you bring some up here, we'll take care of them!" I said, "Boom!" I said, "Lorna, you have a deal."

Abraham, I was still very close with my high school, Kenwood High School, at the time. I was very close with the Principal and very close with the Senior Guidance Counselor. Her name is Joyce Brown. Joyce was the Senior Guidance Counselor at Kenwood for many years.

One of my trips from New York to Chicago to visit my family, I went by Kenwood and sat down with Joyce and said, "Joyce, I have an idea, and I need your help. I will fly a group of kids from Chicago to Hanover, New Hampshire to see Dartmouth in their junior year, and I think that would be a great recruiting tool. If you could produce a list of your ten to fifteen brightest students, I'll fly them up."

Joyce said, "You got a deal." So, I communicated back to Lorna Hunter at the College. I said "Lorna, Kenwood High School is ready to go forward with this concept and idea. I will fly a group of students to Dartmouth. And you take care of them. You create a program, and we'll see where we go from there." That's how I started, Abraham.

I flew up twelve students. Everybody who applied was accepted, and four matriculated. The [admissions] office was stunned! Simply stunned! By the success of that project.

KAMARA: That's fascinating! I also relate to that. Prior to coming here [Dartmouth] I didn't see the campus. I went to public high school in Colorado Springs. There wasn't really any Dartmouth news or people coming to visit my high school. So, that's very interesting to hear. I appreciate your giving back to the community.

LOVE: Well, as I said, Dartmouth is a great institution. And we deserve to have great students from all communities. That's why it's important for me to figure out a way how to make it more accessible. I had no idea that we'd have four kids from Kenwood High School particularly at Dartmouth in one year, from a public school in the South Side of Chicago.

I was hoping that we would get one or two, and I was hoping that they would like the place, and we would move forward. And have some success that would encourage us to figure out how to do more.

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But in fact, the four students who matriculated were great students. Dr. Tom Fisher '98, a White House Fellow. He runs the ER at Chicago Hospitals. [Dr. Fisher is] Published, phenomenal, and gifted alum. [He] was in the first class of "Dartmouth Bound," or as they called it back in the day, Gary's Kids. This program started off with a bang. And the office said to me, "Would you do it again?" [laughter]

Absolutely! And then a third year rolled around, and they said, I went to Hanover [inaudible], and they said, "Gary, what about [we] expand the program beyond Kenwood." And, we did. We added Whitney [M.] Young, the school that Michelle Obama went to. Whitney Young was a great school in its own right. And the next thing I knew, they were asking me to fly kids from Atlanta [GA] and Boston and New York and Philadelphia. It grew from twelve to fifty kids very quickly. This last year the program had over one hundred students in it.

KAMARA: Wow!

LOVE: So, 30 years of success for Dartmouth Bound. I'm very, very proud of it. I started Dartmouth Bound over 35 years ago, and that was really a profound success story.

KAMARA: You should be proud! Would you say that's one of your biggest accomplishments after leaving school?

LOVE: Without question! To have a program that's over 30 years old is phenomenal. And as we face challenges going forward, given the recent ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court on diversity, Dartmouth Bound will continue to be a very important player in ensuring that Dartmouth recruits students of color, students of diversity from all over the country.

I started Dartmouth Bound in 1990, but I was actively involved with the college on many other different fronts. I was the President of BADA, I was the President of the Black Alumni Association in 1985 and was President for 4 years. So that's well before Dartmouth Bound.

I was a member of Alumni Council. I also was the elected first vice president of the Dartmouth Alumni Association. In 1993, I was recognized for my work at the College and received the Young Alumni Award. In 1997, I was recognized by the Black Alumni Association and was given the Granite Award for my work. In 2005, I was awarded the Alumni Award for my service to the college, service to my community, and for my career success.

KAMARA: Congratulations on all those accomplishments. It seems like the line keeps going on and on. I wanted to speak more about your time after leaving. I know you said you were in the financial industry after you left Dartmouth. What drew you towards that industry? Did you always have that in mind when you first got to the school, or when you shifted from mathematics to economics was that something that came up?

LOVE: [Laughter] As crazy as it sounds that I had a MIT college course guide in elementary school, I had an interest in Wall Street before I reached high school. I was an avid news watcher, and I was always watching what the markets did [laughter]. Even though I'm not sure I knew what that meant. But I was going to watch the news and read the financial sections in the newspaper.

My dream job was to work on Wall Street, and I was fortunate enough, as I would say, "I was born in the business." I was an entry person at Solomon Brothers. I worked at Solomon Brothers on the fixed income side of the house. When I retired from Wall Street, I was a partner at Kidder Peabody in fixed income.

I was always on the money side, always dealing with financial institutions, financial instruments. Being successful afforded me the opportunity to be kind to Dartmouth. I was able to contribute to the institution financially. But, Abraham, I was always focused on making sure that the College understood that – I believe in institutions, I believe in working within the institution. I believe in pushing institutions forward. It was always important for me to be a player, not just financially, but a player in the alumni association. Because I wanted to be able to call somebody and for them to take my phone call. So, just because I was giving a couple dollars to the school was not enough.

As I said, I was President of the Black Alumni Association in 1985. My dear friend Duane Gibbs ['76] was tragically killed in a car accident in 1989. Me and two other classmates, William ["Billy"] Rice class of '76 and Reginald Thomas class of '75, we donated funds to the college to establish a book fund in his memory. And the sole purpose of that fund was to acquire titles and resources from Black authors. Publications of Black authors. We did that in 1989, just the three of us. That fund has grown tremendously. At this point it has acquired over a thousand titles. It's the largest fund at the College for the acquisition of publications from authors of color. I am very proud of that.

KAMARA: You should be. Could you speak more about the fund? Does it target Black students to acquire these books at the school?

LOVE: The library acquires the books, and the library [Baker-Berry Library] acquires, at this point, given how dramatically the fund has grown, acquires some rare books or books that have interest from the AAAS department, the African American Studies Department. It supports the department's ability to have important works by Black authors at the library. At the College, in the library. It's been dramatically successful. I'm very proud of it. It's done well.

KAMARA: I'm glad!

LOVE: In 1987, I had become very close to, at the time, the Dean of the College became a very good friend of mine. Professor Jim [James] Wright, and I was asked to join a committee, a board, called the Dean's Council. I joined the Dean's Council in 1987. I became a person of interest by the institution in 1987. At that point I started to get involved at a high level in the College.

What I mean by that, Abraham, was that I had always had a wonderful relationship with the admissions office, but now I was doing business with the President of the College. As President of BADA from 1985 to 1989, I developed a very close relationship with President David [T.] McLaughlin [D '54, T '55]. David and I did business together, and it was fun. Once again, I believe in institutions. I was able to push President McLaughlin to do things that I thought would be helpful and supportive to the Black community.

I was one of the first people to start "beating the drum" that, if you're going to bring kids up here, we want them to be successful. We need to have an infrastructure to support a diverse community. David and I talked about that, and we pushed things forward. After president McLaughlin retired, I had a wonderful relationship with Professor Jim [James O. Freedman] Freedman. Jim and I, once again, did business together. Because, once again, I'm an institutionalist. I'm an inside guy. You can have an inside guy, and you can have outside players. You have folks pushing from the inside and folks pushing from the outside. My personality is that I am an inside player. I welcome outside forces, but I'm not one to throw rocks and break windows, I'm one to sit down in the office with the powers to be and agitate and push and make things happen.

Since I was financial with the college, being on the Dean's Council, I funded a Dean's office program that supports the Dean's Office. That they use every year for programs across the board. As an undergraduate I participated in the Tucker Foundation program. I spent a term off campus doing the Tucker Foundation off campus program. So I funded a program in the

Tucker Foundation, and I never took never took my eye off the ball.

KAMARA: Can you speak more about that foundation experience?

LOVE: Yes sure, absolutely! My winter term, sophomore year, I was an intern in Jersey City. I taught a math class [laughter] at Lincoln High School in Jersey City. It was a rude awakening! It was a hard job! [Laughter] I taught an algebra class. Well, first, to be perfectly honest with you, I was a teacher assistant, and I would help the teacher. I would tutor students from the class and go over the course work and what not. Towards the end of the term, they actually gave me a class. We broke the class in two. I took half the students, she took half the students. I had my own [laughter] classroom, teaching mathematics, teaching algebra. It was an interesting experience. It was helpful to me, because it gave me additional skills for me to learn how to learn. Because I learned about different learning styles. I was able to focus in on what I didn't get particularly well, and it helped me going forward at Dartmouth, as a matter of fact.

So, I thought that the Tucker Foundation was a worthy program. So, when I started giving money to the College, I gave money to the Tucker Foundation to support their activities. As I said also, I never took my eye off the ball. I gave money, a good amount of money, to the African American Studies Program to fund an award. It was actually named after me, the Gary Love Award, which goes to the outstanding senior. And that was the first time that they had received a gift of importance from an alum, and that was in 1988.

So, President McLaughlin and doing business with President Freedman, I was able to talk to them about things and make some things happen. Now, as I said, Abraham, I'm proud of Dartmouth Bound. But I'm also particularly proud of the E.E. Just Program. In 1991, there was a clamor on campus that there was not a Black professor endowed chair, and we were unhappy. Once again, members of the Black community thought that Dartmouth behind the ball and that other institutions of note and worthy had Black endowed chairs for professors.

This is all part of my drive towards making sure that students of color had professors of color. And it was important to me that we have a chair named and funded for a Black professor. As you probably know, E.E. [Ernest Everett 1907] Just was a magnificent student at Dartmouth College! Valedictorian of his class. Had he not been a Black man, he would have received a Nobel Prize in biology.

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His work at Woods Hole was just top shelf, breakthrough. And it's very fitting that the chair was named after E.E. Just. The first professor to hold that chair was George [George Michael Langford] Langford, a gifted scholar. A biology professor who came to us from the University of North Carolina. I can tell you, I'm still friends with the Langford's, even though I got them to come up to New England from a much warmer North Carolina [laughter].

That was in 1991. And we were able to with my hard work [inaudible]. Samuel [Samuel Wells Smith '58] Smith, who worked at the College and worked in advancement – back in those days, they didn't call it advancement, they called it fundraising. But he and I worked together very hard. We were able to get the College to contribute over a million dollars to endow the chair.

We spent a couple of years after the chair was endowed attracting a professor of significance, and George Langford was the first professor to hold the position of E.E. Just Professor. Out of that one endowed professorship, that one chair, grew the E.E. Just Program. The E.E. Just Program is supportive – its mission is to be supportive of students of color who are interested in STEM. Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

The program is run by [mathematics] Professor Craig [Craig J. Sutton] Sutton, who I'm very good friends with. And it's a tremendous program, extremely successful. Because what we want students to do, Abraham, is to come to Dartmouth and fulfill their dreams. If they want to be a doctor, we want them to be a doctor. If they want to be a lawyer, we want them to be lawyers. We don't want them to feel like they're settling, we want them to take on the disciplines they're interested in, and be supported by the institution to make sure they achieve their goals. There's nothing worse than a kid coming to Hanover, New Hampshire and leaving disappointed because they weren't able to do what they wanted to do, in terms of fulfilling their own goals and aspirations. Now sometimes when you want to be a doctor that's not really your suit [laughter].

KAMARA: Yeah, that's not easy.

LOVE: Maybe science is really not your thing. But we want to make sure that, when it's all said and done, that you're successful in the discipline that's going to move you forward in your life and in your career. I'm very proud of Dartmouth Bound. I'm ecstatic and proud of the E.E. Just Program, because of my hard work along with others to get the funding to fund a chair for a Black professor. And out of that was the catalyst for the E.E. Just Program.

That's something else I'm very proud of. My fingerprints are all over that, and I'm very proud of that. Because I have relationships at the highest level of the institution. Working with President McLaughlin, working with President Freedman, working with President Wright, working with President Hanlon. All wonderful relationships in the Wheelock Succession that I've been fortunate to be a part of.

KAMARA: Could you speak more about those personal relationships with those presidents, either during or after leaving the school?

LOVE: Sure, so let's go chronologically. Professor, well, President David McLaughlin, who was seen by many as being a little on the cold side. He was a businessman. He wasn't a professor. He was the president of a manufacturing company. And he was Chairman of the Board, and when President Kemeny retired, the Board chose him to be President. Which was kind of odd, because most professors, most college presidents normally come from the world of academia. And he didn't.

So, David was not very well received by the faculty. They thought that that was kind of odd, that the president of Dartmouth College was not an academic. A successful businessman in his own right, absolutely. Chairman of the Board of Trustees, absolutely. But there were some ill feelings about David becoming President of the College. But from my perspective, he was the President, and I was the President of the Black Alumni Association. And my whole thing was to do business with President McLaughlin.

When my daughter was born in 1987, one of the first people to reach out to me was President David McLaughlin. In fact, he wrote me a personal note saying that Dartmouth had the good fortune of being wise enough to become a co-education institution, and we look forward to welcoming your daughter to Hanover sometime in the future. Well, in fact, my daughter did matriculate at Dartmouth, class of 2010. But that was just a wonderful note to receive from David.

About three weeks later, we were living in New York at the time, I received a package. It was a crocheted sweater, Dartmouth green and white, from David McLaughlin. That's the type of relationship I had with President McLaughlin. True and personal, professional. Because we had tough conversations. But David viewed me as, I won't say a peer, but he viewed me as a successful alum who had the best interest of the institution. So, I was able to push him on things, because he thought that I was coming from a place of respect of the institution. We had some particularly tough conversations about South Africa, about

divestment. Because at that time, many colleges and universities –

KAMARA: You said South Africa?

LOVE: South Africa, right.

KAMARA: That was during the apartheid, right?

LOVE: During apartheid. There was great indigestion in the Black community that Dartmouth continued to invest in companies that did business in South Africa. David and I would talk about it, and he says, "Gary, we can't just divest! That'll hurt our portfolio. That'll hurt our returns of the College." And I said, "Well, David, we have to look at the big picture here. We have to be sympathetic and understanding to all our constituents. You have to understand your stakeholders." The institution, Dartmouth College, did not understand and respect all of the stakeholders. With a growing diverse population, it was time for Dartmouth to understand that opinions from all fronts should be respected and heard.

David and I had conversations about divestment. I had conversations with George [George B. Munroe '43] Munroe, who was the Chairman of the Trustee Board at the time. I tell George and David and private leaders that, "We have to move. To make this happen. And with all deliberate speed, quickly, as prudently possible, not to hurt the performance of the endowment." And we talked about it. And at the same time, I talked about making sure that we continue to work hard on attracting professors of color. The only way you can attract professors of color – and for me, that meant Black folks – was to see that the institution was sympathetic to our needs and our concerns. And that if you wanted folks of prominence and import in academia to come to Dartmouth College, who had a reputation of being conservative and only conservative, we had to move. We had to make a statement.

After some hard work behind the doors, as I say I'm an inside guy, I'm not one for making public pronouncements. I'd get phone calls from my constituents, the Black alumni of Dartmouth and say, "Gary, what y'all doing up there? Why aren't you moving? You need to say something." And I would say, "I'm saying things behind closed doors quietly." Guess what, Abraham?

KAMARA: What?

LOVE: Out of what people believed, out of nowhere, Dartmouth announced that it was divesting of South African business

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interests from its endowment. Trust me, it was not out of nowhere! [Laughter] It was out of agitation from inside. To move the President of the College and to move the Chairman of the Trustee Board, George Munroe, to understanding all sides of the equation.

They would tell me, "We can't look as though we're responding to pressure." I would say, "No, you got to look as though you're responding to the times. And understanding your stakeholders and understanding your alumni body and understanding the world."

So, that was my relationship with President McLaughlin, the guy who sent me a personal note and presents for my daughter, encouraged me to keep Dartmouth in my heart as close as I possibly could. I received a phone call one day from the alumni magazine. They wanted to do a story on me and my significant other at the time, Pamela [J.] Joyner class of '79. I said, "Well, I'm not one to make loud noise." And they said, "No Gary, we want you to be in the alumni magazine. We want to show folks that Black alumni are doing things and making things happen, and we're proud of you being a part of this institution. We want to showcase you." So, I said, "Okay!" And they did. They wrote a wonderful story about us in the alumni magazine, and that was a lot of fun.

That carried on to President Jim Freedman, who unlike David [McLaughlin], did come from academia [laughter]. Jim was the president of Iowa [1982-1987], and he came to us as a true academic. So, you go from one end of the spectrum to the other. And President Freedman and I had a wonderful relationship. President Freedman was the person I convinced to fund the E.E. Just Chair for 1.3 million dollars, and he made it happen. We talked about it, and the Trustee Board was reluctant to fund it originally, because their view of the world was that Black alumni had not been as financially supportive of the college as they should be. My retort to that was, "If you want us to be, show us! Show us! Show us that you understand us. Show us that you understand that we're doing our best. Show us that they understand that we're mostly first-generation alums and first-generation students." We weren't called that back in the day, but our fathers and grandfathers and great-great grandfathers did not come from Dartmouth or graduate from Dartmouth. They weren't captains of the industry; we were trying to make it happen, and if you want us to be supportive of this institution you need to embrace us!

And that was the beginning of that, so that was great. Then we had Professor Jim Wright. And I knew Jim, as I said earlier Abraham, when he was just Dean of the College. Well not just

Dean, but he was Dean of the College, he was not President [laughter]. Jim and I had a wonderful relationship. I joined the Dean's Council. I was invited to do so. I was financially supportive of the institution. And the Dean's Council was made up of folks who were significant financial players at the college. President Freedman did not like raising money [laughter].

He loved the academic part of the equation, but he did not like raising money. He was not a good person to make the ask [laughter]. He didn't do a good job of that. But Jim Wright did a wonderful job of that. Jim Wright was much more personable and outgoing and gregarious. And was comfortable moving around the alumni body. As a professor he knew a lot of the students – at that point they had become alums – in his class. He taught a famous class. The nickname of the class was “Cowboys and Indians,” which is not à propos these days, but that's what it was called. It was the study of the American West, extremely popular class, great professor, and as Dean of the College he was doing good things.

So, when Jim [Wright] became President of the College – Jim Freedman became sick. He had cancer, and Jim Wright became President on an interim basis and eventually took the position full time. I had already known Jim for many years during my time on the Dean's Council. We hit it right off. He respected my work. He was very impressed with Dartmouth Bound and thought it was a remarkable program. And he respected the other things I was participating in. As a matter of fact, Jim and I became such good friends that when Jim retired from Dartmouth, he asked me to give one of – I believe there were two speeches given on his behalf. For going away programs. And I gave one of the speeches. It was quite an honor to be able to say goodbye to a man who had done great things for Dartmouth and respected me enough to ask me to give his valedictory – to ask me to give his going away speech.

I talked about the college on the hill. I talked about sailing through tough waters in the middle of many – I call the alumni wars – where conservative alumni were not comfortable with the institution in terms of our changing and becoming more diverse. I told the folks that that tradition is a great thing! Dartmouth is great on tradition, but Dartmouth's most important tradition is excellence! And diverse cultures produce more excellence than homogeneous cultures. And that the more Dartmouth became diverse, with gifted students from all persuasions, the better we would be. Jim and I posed for a picture that day I gave that speech. And unbeknownst to me, for many years, that picture of me and him from that day hung in his office. Once again, Jim Wright and I did business. I was able to push him on issues, make things happen. It didn't have to be in a very public way. I

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didn't have to have my name in *The Dartmouth*, or in *The New York Times*, or the *Wall Street Journal*. But when I had an issue, he would answer my call. As I said, sometimes Dartmouth can be a lonely place. And I made phone calls to Jim Wright on occasion. And he would listen to me, sometimes he would agree, sometimes he didn't. But he always knew it came from a place of respect and in the best interest of the institution.

Phil Hanlon and I – once again, at that point, Abraham, I had a relationship with all the presidents so why not Phil! [Laughter]

KAMARA: Might as well!

LOVE: Phil and I – once again, we did business. What I pushed Phil on more than anything else was institutional equity, institutional inclusion. And making sure that professors of color were being hired. And that's what I spent most of my time with President Hanlon on. But I am always about my people, as much as I love the College. It's always been about the people. I just believe that institutions should work. And I'm an institutionalist in that regard.

KAMARA: I am glad to hear that. When you spoke about being about the people earlier, as well as the program you were able to start, Dartmouth Bound. I just wanted to speak more about how you keep the personal relationships with the students who currently are there or after they're accepted?

LOVE: I have many Gary's Kids [laughter].

KAMARA: Yeah, you got a lot of kids, Gary!

LOVE: Who are now grown! That we stay in correspondence with. Abraham, frankly, sometimes students want to have continual relationships, and sometimes they don't. I have no problem with that. If you want to keep room for me, I'm as welcoming as I possibly can be. And sometimes they want to go off on their own, and I'm fine with that too.

My number one concern is to make sure that Dartmouth serves them. That it was a success story. That it worked. I don't want kids coming to Dartmouth who were big fish in a small bowl and coming to Hanover and being swallowed up like a minnow. I want them to be successful. I want them to do what they want to do. I want them to achieve their life's goals and dreams.

Fortunately, I'm still very close with many of my recruits. That I was personally involved with. I had the pleasure of – at one of my kids' weddings, giving the toast [laughter]. The father was no longer around, and I had the pleasure of speaking – her name is Femi [Femi Wasserman (Allen) '99], Femi Allen, Wasserman

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now. I had the pleasure of giving one of the toasts for Femi. And that was wonderful. Email and, although I'm not a great social media person, I am friends on Facebook [with some of the participants]. I try to be helpful. They know they can call me, email me, on practically anything. And I'm here for them all along the road. So, I keep up with folks like that. I'm proud to say I have dozens of Gary's kids. Who are – literally, dozens – who are comfortable with reaching out to me and comfortable having conversations. They know that I have their best interest at heart. That's fun. That's rewarding. To see folks like Dr. Tom Fisher, White House fellow, who I'm still in touch with. I'm proud of the fact that Femi Allen, a major player in the private equity world, significant financial supporter of the college, is a friend of mine. My goddaughter, Johanna [R.] Thomas class of '06 ['04], who is a successful lawyer in Washington D.C. I am happy that Dartmouth worked for her. I have many more names that I can give you, but I keep in with my people.

KAMARA: I'm glad to hear that. I wanted to ask, have you had an experience where a student who went through the program ended up feeling, I guess more confined and not enjoying it? Or not getting what they wanted out of the program as you intended it?

LOVE: I've had a couple, I'll be candid, where Dartmouth did not work for them. It was interesting that – it's rarely about the academics, it's almost always about the social environment. And the support they received and did not receive from the professors in Hanover. So, I've had some who say, "Mr. Love, I am never coming back here again." And that's so sad to me. I've worked very hard – especially in the early days when I knew professors, and I could lean on folks, or I could call the Dean of the College, or I could call the President's office, or I could call a professor and say to them, "One of my kids is struggling, I need your help." I don't know professors in that way anymore because the clan that I had are long since gone.

But I'll tell you one interesting story. I had a student, one of my early kids. Her name is Dorsia Tucker, brilliant, brilliant student. Not sure she ever liked Dartmouth from the day she arrived. It was just too rural for her. She went to Kenwood High School, she went to my high school, and I was always so sad that... She did well in class. I mean her grades were solid! She was an excellent student, so it wasn't about not being able to do the work. I just never felt as though she was comfortable. Then, last year I saw Dorsia at BADA'S 50th anniversary. And I was stunned to see her, because I didn't think she – as I would say Abraham, I didn't think that she did Dartmouth. I thought Dartmouth had long since been in her past. And I said, "Dorsia so great to see you! How have you been doing?" [She said,] "Oh

Mr. Love!" Then I said, "Please call me Gary at this point [laughter], you're older than my daughter."

She said, "No! No! I enjoyed Dartmouth. I just wasn't that outgoing, but Dartmouth served me well." That was thrilling! Absolutely thrilling, because I thought I had lost her. That is always good to hear. I've had a couple of kids who academically couldn't get their act together. Specifically, one – I won't give you her name – but when she left Dartmouth, she went someplace else, and she did extremely well. She just wasn't mature enough to handle the Hanover plate. I work very hard, though I recruit kids now that I have an eye on in terms of: are they Dartmouth people. Because Dartmouth is not for everybody, not at all. And I try to have insight – at this point I have insight into what works and what doesn't work. When a student tells you that they really don't like the rural environment, believe them. Don't try to force it [laughter].

KAMARA: Yeah.

LOVE: When a student tells you that they're not comfortable being in a community where there are so few people of color, believe them. I'm inclined to make sure I have empathy in that regard. I think Dartmouth is a wonderful place. I work very hard for the institution. But Dartmouth ain't for everybody. I always keep that in mind. It ain't for everybody. There's an academic part of the world, there's a social part of the world, and there's a maturity component. It's also about being far away from home for most of these students, so you have to be cognizant of that. You have to make sure that you understand the students.

I had a couple students two years ago. I was absolutely positive that one of them was going to go to Dartmouth. She went to the University of Miami instead. Well, that's what worked for her. She didn't think she could be comfortable in the cold, and she was an athlete. And she didn't think that the athletic department was going to be supportive enough for her, so she didn't do Dartmouth. So, I understand that, and I'm comfortable with that, because my number one goal is not just to get the kids in, but for them to be successful. I want them to not just learn the material. I want them to master the material. I want them to master being at Dartmouth.

KAMARA: You said the biggest part for those students is also the social aspect. Could you speak more about your social time at the school, with non-Black students or people you resonated with the most?

LOVE: I have one Dartmouth failure, and my Dartmouth failure is that I didn't know any of my white classmates. I mean one, two,

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maybe three. I didn't do that. I didn't do Dartmouth the right way. I didn't understand it until I left. But I was comfortable in my environment. I didn't feel like I needed to reach out, so I didn't. I failed that test. My experience with white alums, i.e., my classmates has all come since I've left. I knew so few of my classmates that I probably couldn't have named ten of them.

They didn't want to have anything to do with us either. They weren't the most welcoming of folks either [laughter]. It's a two-way street. But I didn't study with them. I didn't socialize with them. I found my own network. That's how I got that done. But I will tell you, Abraham, I was embarrassed. I won the Young Alumni Award in 1993. After I received the award, I was asked to sit on the award committee to choose future alumni award winners. And I sat on the committee one day with a prominent member of a Dartmouth family. Her name is on some of the buildings up there. And one day we were reviewing the profiles of alums who we thought might be eligible to win the Young Alumni Award. She was reviewing her class, and she went through her class with such detail that at the end of her five-minute review, I said to her, "How many of your classmates do you know?"

She said, "Oh, Gary, I probably know about 500." I said, "You know 500 of your classmates?" She said, "Yeah, 500. Probably another 100 or so that I have some idea who they are." And I said to myself, "Boy! I did Dartmouth wrong [laughter]." How is it possible that I know 10 and you know 500? Now I know many more of my [White] classmates. Now they have time for me. Now that we have a mutual respect. I'm one of the class leaders now. I sit on my class's executive committee that they asked me to participate in, and I'm happy to do so. They make sure they understand my point of view. They make sure they reach out to me on issues, that I'm heard. But as an undergraduate, I did it wrong. I did not know anybody. Why I said I did it wrong, Abraham, is that part of the beauty of Dartmouth College is the alumni network. The alumni network is supposed to help you along your career path, and if they don't know who you are, how are they going to help you?

I did not do a good job on that, but I've done a better job as I've moved on. But I will tell you a story about a Dartmouth alum that's important to me. When I graduated from Dartmouth in 1975 and was applying to business school, Northwestern had an interview session. Being from Chicago I had great interest in Northwestern and the University of Chicago. The gentleman came to Hanover. We chatted and spoke, his name was Henderson. We talked, and we had a great conversation, and he says "Mr. Love, Northwestern would have interest in you." I said, "Well, good to hear, thank you. Good to hear [laughter]" It was a

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great interview. As I said earlier, I was an honors graduate in economics with a strong math background, so business schools would be interested in me. Even though I was going straight to business school and going to have a job before. When I was accepted to Northwestern, I also received a fellowship at Arthur Anderson. Who at the time was one of the top three or four accounting firms in the country. The Arthur Anderson fellowship was a scholarship that paid almost all the tuition, and a job! When I graduated, I had a job that summer at Arthur Anderson. I had a job all through business school at Arthur Anderson, and that was because of a Dartmouth alum. I'm forever grateful to him, and we have communicated with each other over the years. I tell that story about that Dartmouth alum who made it happen for me. So even though I didn't do my job, Abraham, as an undergrad, a Dartmouth alum reached out to me and helped me along my path. So, that's a good story.

KAMARA:

Yeah, the alumni connections here after school is just fascinating. For me as well, I'll be doing fixed income at Citi next year. It was an alum who helped me get exposure to analysts at the bank who are currently there to get practice interviews. They also assisted me in those types of ways, so something to be very grateful for I'd say.

I'd like to learn more about your personal life after school. I know you went to business school and after that you worked in finance. But more of your family life after graduating and receiving your MBA?

LOVE:

After my MBA I quickly went to Wall Street and worked for Solomon Brothers as I said earlier, on the fixed income side of the house. I became an early vice president at the firm, and I had an opportunity to take on another position at a different firm. At the time it was called Dean Witter. The partner who was in charge of my unit changed firms and asked me to come join him, and I did. I had an extremely successful career. Then I moved to Kidder Peabody as a Partner and once again was able to have some success. But then something happened along the way. I had a daughter, Morgan Love, who was born in 1987. We were having terrible nanny problems. Morgan's mother, who is also Dartmouth, was moving along with her career. Since I already achieved some level of significance, and we were in a financial position where I actually stayed home to take care of my daughter. To allow Pamela to pursue her career goals.

So, I actually retired for a while, because we could just not find a nanny of adequateness in New York City at the time. We had some total disasters! After Morgan moved along to be old enough to go to school, then I re-entered the financial world. And moved along from there, and I owned my own

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manufacturing company, a firm by the name of Morgan's Confections. A chocolate company obviously named after my daughter. My private equity partners bought me out. We produced fine chocolates and private label products on the West Coast. Then I was a Senior Vice President at Auburn Meritor, where I ran strategy for Auburn Meritor. They are a Fortune 500 auto supplier. Not wanting to stay in the Midwest at the time, I moved back to San Francisco. And for the last 10 years, I've been a senior person in strategy for the city and county of San Francisco.

I really did not enjoy being retired. I really enjoy working. I will probably work for another two years. As I tell folks nowadays, I work for health insurance [laughter]. I think I'm going to do this for one or two more years. Running strategy for the city and county of San Francisco. That's interesting to move from the private sector to the public sector. The public sector is a worthy endeavor, but it's different. So that's kind of my financial resume.

KAMARA: What part of San Francisco are you in? Because I worked there during my freshman summer for an internship, and I often go back. I was there last summer as well to visit my friend, and I was in the Sunset [district].

LOVE: I live in the Marina.

KAMARA: The Marina? Okay, I love the Marina! I go to San Francisco often.

LOVE: I live literally two blocks away from the bay, and I walk five miles, four to five times a week. I literally walk to the Golden Gate Bridge and back. I enjoy San Francisco. I wanted to live in a place where you didn't live in the snow, so that's why I'm here. I enjoy San Francisco a lot.

KAMARA: I'm glad to hear it. I love that city as well, very nice.

LOVE: Let me tell you one other story that I probably should have told you. Going back to President David McLaughlin. As I said David and I had a wonderful relationship. He listened to me most of the time and took my phone call all the time. We worked together to get things done. There was a particularly sad event that happened at the college. At the time the college did not really take note of Martin Luther King Day. President McLaughlin was off campus during one Martin Luther King holiday, and it was during the time of apartheid. There were shanties on the Green, that was in protest of our divestment policies at the time. That some students were watching over. Folks, elements from the *Dartmouth Review* one night went out and took sledgehammers and destroyed shanties. Which caused a major kerfuffle on

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campus. As a matter of fact, the campus was in turmoil. And Black students had had enough. So, the next day there were protests, and those protests led to a takeover of Parkhurst [Hall] by over 50, probably close to 100, Black students and other students. Who were supportive of divestment. And it was a very tough and difficult time at the College. I received phone calls from Hanover asking for my advice and insight and how I could be helpful. I got a call from the president's office that said, "Gary, we need your help." I said, "I'm always here to be helpful, David." He said, "Well we're trying to figure out how to defuse this situation. We don't want to have the students arrested. We don't think that would be productive. Probably would cause more insurrection. What are your thoughts?" I said, "David, let me think about it. Let me understand what the students' demands are. And let me understand who the students leaders are."

Well, I got a phone call from one of the student leaders [laughter]. Who called me and said, "Mr. Love, we understand that you're connected with the College and that you have a relationship with the President of the College. We want to understand how to move this situation forward." The student's name was Joseph. Joseph called me, and we had a conversation. Believe it or not, I was the conduit in the President's office. And what occurred was the students would tell me what their demands were, what were negotiable, and what were must-haves. I was able to communicate to the President's office what the students' position was. I was able to also tell the students what was negotiable and what the administrations must-have. Through some diplomacy between both parties, I can truly say I was one of the folks that helped deescalate the situation. I was able to have the College meet some of the students' demands and have them peacefully leave Parkhurst. That is one of the instances as to how I got the College to seriously consider divesting from South Africa. I haven't told that story many times, but that is what occurred.

KAMARA: I've never even heard of that. I didn't know that occurred on campus. Were there any protests during your time at the school? Because, currently now, there's a protest happening now about the Israeli and Palestine situation that's happening, I think it's in front of the admissions office.

LOVE: Our biggest protest at the time, Abraham, was the fact that there were few professors of color and none in the administration. And frankly, as an undergraduate, the administration – although, I think that President Kemeny, how should I say it, he wasn't hostile but he would at least listen to you – but there were other folks in the administration who were just downright hostile. Our protest were about – we were just trying to get more folks of color into the school, period. There were protests on that. We

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were trying to get more folks admitted to the College. There was lots of noise around that. The Vietnam War was winding down, so that was behind us. The issues of the day for us were about the institution. We didn't have the Middle East, or as I said, the Vietnam War behind us. So most of our concerns were about the unwelcoming nature of Dartmouth College and whether the College respected all of their stakeholders, which frankly, they didn't. There were professors who said we didn't belong there. There was a math professor of note that frankly said that Black folks didn't deserve to be at Dartmouth College. Hostile! He taught some important math classes, so if you wanted to be a math major you had to come pass him. I had him as a professor, and I did alright, because I was pretty good at math, but hostile! There was a dean, hostile! At that time the deans had important roles with helping you get into law school. This dean was not helpful, hostile! So, those were our issues. We didn't call it a "cocoon" back in the day, Abraham. We didn't call it "the bubble." We just called it, "Black folks being supportive of Black folks." We all supported each other and tried to be mentees or mentors along the way for each other. So that was our game. Most of our protests were about the institution as a whole. About how to make Dartmouth College a more welcoming place.

What made Dartmouth so wonderful for me were the brothers and sisters who had your back. Mostly brothers because there were not many sisters on campus. There were no upperclassmen who were sisters. It was just brothers, and most of them were looking to be helpful. You had to find your place, pick up your role, understand who you were. Making sure that you could find your niche at Dartmouth. Dartmouth was no panacea. As much as I love the place, yes, I used the word love, I understand what that means. It was hard. It was hard. Remember, as I told you, I didn't know any of my [white] classmates! And I didn't care if they knew me, and that was just fine with me. I didn't belong to a study group as they were on campus to help folks through class. I had no white students who would tell me how to study. I was on my own aside from the support from my kin men. The place has improved, but people ask me, "Why would you love an institution that did not love you back?" In its early days. And I tell them, I do it because it's critically important that people of color be able to go Dartmouth and be successful. Dartmouth is a prominent, important institution. That we should be a part of and play a role to help push it forward. The place needs both inside players, like I consider myself, and outside agitators. [Inaudible] To make things happen for the betterment of all of us. [Inaudible] Incoming classes, about Dartmouth. It didn't work for everybody, but it should have worked for more. But it didn't. It works for more now, but it wasn't what it should have been. So we're all striving I believe towards one goal, an important goal, to make

Dartmouth a diverse and inclusive institution with equity for a diverse community.

KAMARA: Would you say that the hostile environment motivated you and your peers to prove wrong those hostile faculty members? Going on and succeeding and getting through school, and even after making sure that continues. And you flow what you learned, and your experience, back to people that are incoming as well?

LOVE: Absolutely! No question about it. I think there was some of that, "I'm going to show you" stuff going on. But that "I'm going to show you" stuff worked two ways. I'm going to go out and be successful in this world. Take my role, my place in society at a high level, and I will never give you a nickel. Then there's the folks who went out and proved points, successful in the world, giving back. Who are not just financial players at the College but show up, have insight, and help push the school forward in a positive way. Abraham, I used to tell the folks that we only accepted a thousand kids, and at that time we had applicants of ten thousand people. Now we have applicant numbers of twenty-five thousand for one thousand spots. Each spot is precious and important. It is a tragedy for you to recruit a kid who has the capacity to excel and do well, and do not support them. Because, let me tell you something. One of these days, you are going to have a Black alum or many Black alums, who are going to go out in the world and be extraordinarily successful. And if they have an attitude that Dartmouth wasn't interested in their success, I got out of here, and I'm never going to give you a dime. That's the institution's loss. That's our loss, because that person has gone out into the world and done well and been successful. I say that now in retrospect, because now we have alums by the name Shonda [Shonda Lynn Rhimes, '91] Rhimes, who has done extremely well. And oh, my goodness, she actually does Dartmouth! Now trust me, if she had not had a pleasant experience at the college, she would not be on the Trustee Board. I have no idea what she does, but I would suggest that she is somewhat financially supportive of the institution. But if she walked out of there with the belief that, "I'm going to show you, and I'm never coming back to this joint." That would not be helpful for us. So we ought to treat each and every student as diamonds. Some need to be polished, some don't. But it's in our own best interest that we make it as feasibly possible for every student to excel and achieve their life goals and dreams. Because that's what the institution is about. As I said, our greatest tradition is excellence. And the folks who walk through the halls of Dartmouth, from all communities, are excellent students. Who achieved well, leaders in their class, scholars, people who are going to make a difference in the world. It is imperative for us folks with responsibility, that we

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make every effort to ensure success of each and every one of us. I am happy to hear that you are enjoying your Dartmouth experience. But that's important to me. And that should be even more important to the institution.

KAMARA: Thank you very much for your wise words! The school has obviously done so much better with the resources, and just understanding the needs and priorities of students of color. Also, when you're speaking about being a financial supporter, I feel like your ability to come to the college and show yourself and speak of your time there, and being a participant in something like this that will always be in the archives, in Rauner [Rauner Special Collections Library], is something I respect. I appreciate your time today, Mr. Love. And thank you again.

LOVE: I appreciate the opportunity. Thank you for spending time with me. This has been a lovely journey. As I tell folks, "Dartmouth is a lifelong journey." We always should remember that. Dartmouth is a lifelong journey. I will forever be a supporter of the college on the hill. I have had the sad, but important responsibility to actually give remarks at significant alums' funerals, because of my relationship with them via the College. I have had the luck of being asked to speak at weddings, had the luck of being asked to participate in important programs. And, as I always say when I sign anything related to Dartmouth, Abraham, "Dartmouth Undying!"

KAMARA: Dartmouth Undying! Thank you again for your time. I really do appreciate it. I hope we continue our conversations even after this interview.

LOVE: Ok! Good luck to you! See you soon!

KAMARA: Very soon! I appreciate it. We will definitely stay in contact. Thank you. And I will send you the exhibit and everything when I'm all finished with it, so you can see it yourself.

LOVE: Ok, thanks a lot!

KAMARA: Thank you. Bye.

LOVE: Bye.