

Barrett Oral History Project
Interview with Dean Craig Allen
11 January 2019, Downtown Barrett Suite
Primary Interviewer: Emma VandenEinde
Notetaker: Kylie Cochrane

VandenEinde: This is Emma VandenEinde with Kylie Cochrane and Dean Allen on Friday, January 11, 2019. It is 12:46 p.m. and this is for the Barrett Oral History Project. So, can you kind of describe your personal history with Barrett for me, like when you stepped on for Barrett, what that has been like?

Allen: Well I started working for Barrett in June of 2017 so I've been here a little more than a year and a half. But my association with this operation goes back quite a ways earlier than that, actually long before Barrett was even...you know... Before it was even Barrett. So I have been a professor of the Cronkite School, and that was one of the first [schools] that incorporated with the Honors program. That was in 1988, and I started at Cronkite three years later in 1991, so I was one of the, really one of the very first people from the academic side, from the unit side that had an association with what was been just the Honors College. So that kind of describes it during the preceding...I guess that would have been 27 years that I taught at Cronkite. I had Honors students all through that period.

VandenEinde: Yeah. So I guess my biggest question is kind of what prompted the switch, when you became the dean in 2017. Why didn't you stay working at Cronkite? Why did you choose to become a dean now?

Allen: Mainly I was looking for...I guess you could say a new challenge. What I was doing at Cronkite...I was directing this Ph. D. program, and I launched that program in 2011 and I did it for six years, and we turned out some really good scholars over there, some really good doctoral students. But, it kind of was a situation where Cronkite is not really a -- it's more of a professional program, so there were some things that I was kind of looking to move past. And so I was happy with the opportunity to come over here. And, just thinking about that, one of the things that also kind of inspired me to want to change...I'm still actually on the faculty at Cronkite and I still teach an Honors course over there.

VandenEinde: Yeah, you're teaching something about fake news or politics or something?

Allen: It's called Mass Media and Politics and, I mean, I had the first class last night.

Allen: I was in an odd situation where I was teaching Ph. D. classes and recruiting Ph. D. students and going through all of the mechanics of getting them doctoral degrees. Working with the graduate College, while at the same time I still was teaching an undergraduate skills course. And I taught a course in Cronkite called Television News Reporting for 52 straight semesters. I taught that course every semester...

VandenEinde: Oh my goodness.

Allen: ...since I began at the Cronkite school at ASU in 1991. Every single semester. Until the spring of 2017 when I came over here. Prior to coming over that was the last of those reporting classes that I taught and it was nice to have that string, but I was not disappointed in leaving that class. It's a very long run and...

VandenEinde: You wanted something different.

Allen: Right. Wanted something different.

VandenEinde: No, I see that. So I think you kind of touched on this. You said for a dean, you've only been a dean for about a year now, but you said you started working with Barrett and the program back in '88?

Allen: '91.

VandenEinde: '91.

Allen: Yeah, that's true. If you want can go into that a little bit more...

VandenEinde: That would be great.

Allen: ...it's like when the Honors College first started. So again, it started in 1988, and I arrived in 1991, in its third year. And where it was located on the Tempe campus was right across from Cronkite school, right across from what was Stauffer Hall, in a facility called McClintock Hall. And there was ... I don't know it seemed big at the time but all the dorms were in there and it was kind of a courtyard-type area. Probably, I don't know, I think that when I first came there might have been 500 total honor students living there, something like that. And again, like I said, Cronkite school, partially because of proximity of it, was immediately picked to begin the process of starting the Honors program. What that really entail is cooperation from the units. Cooperation from the deans and the directors of the different Colleges and schools who can, in turn, communicate encouragement to their faculty.

And I think one of the challenges, at first, was doing that. Because, if you're familiar with Barrett, you know that we pretty much exist on our good looks. [laughter] There's a budget, but largely my job is to go around to the Colleges downtown and get support from important people, faculty, to get them to volunteer...

VandenEinde: To help with theses.

Allen: Yeah, I mean we don't pay faculty to do students' theses. I mean we don't. We don't pay faculty to do Honors sections. We don't pay faculty to do Honors contracts. So all of that is volunteered by essentially faculty. And if you don't get a buy in on it, a big buy, you don't have an Honors College.

VandenEinde: Exactly.

Allen: I think this facet is often overlooked by the Barrett mucky mucks. I think they...they tend to take for granted the fact that faculty, deans and directors, staff at the different departments and schools and Colleges, are going to come rushing to help Barrett sponsorships. [quotes dialogue] "Yeah, let me give up 20 hours so I can do an Honors thesis." I mean, it doesn't work like that. Anyway, at the beginning there were all sorts of problems with that. The dean at the time was Ted Humphrey. He was the founding dean of Barrett and I think he quickly developed the sense that there was a big need for public relations, that there was a big need for him to get out and gladhand all of the different people, even down to the lowest lecture level. Or he wasn't going to have support to do the Honors College. So over time he got really good at that; we would have lunches, receptions, and numerous times I saw him at...at Stauffer Hall just hanging out so people would know him. And that was really a crucial thing. And eventually the Honors College expanded to all of the other units. I mean they were big...they were big in the Humanities and eventually got really big in the Science which -- at Tempe, the Humanities are kind of in the middle of the campus and the Sciences are up around the university. But those were kind of strange times because at Cronkite, and I'm sure at the other units, there was a lot of hand wringing about what you get out of it. If you're a faculty, if you volunteer your time, what's the reward? And, eventually, those discussions got to the right people and they were able to communicate the importance of having this.

VandenEinde: So how would you answer that? When people ask you that question of, "what is the importance of Barrett?" How would you answer that question?

Allen: Well, it's an Honors program and it singles out the most promising students at ASU. The thing that I try to sell with here is the chance to teach inspired students. You're not going to get that in run of the mill ASU student body. And, for the most part, faculty respond to that. Faculty

don't want to be in a class that's a drag. That's, you know, a dishrag. I mean, you don't want that. You want to go into a class that's lively, that's hopping, and...

VandenEinde: And kids want to learn.

Allen: Right, and kids want to learn. In my experience in teaching, especially 52 semesters of that TV Reporting class, I would say -- probably there were 20 students in the class -- I would say maybe three out of the 20 were really into it. So that's the thing you can sell, that's what Ted Humphrey was able to convey a lot. And there would be demonstrations of students where there would be an equivalent of the Honors symposiums you know that we do. And another big thing that happened in those early days....the president of ASU was a person named Lattie Coor. He was very well, extremely well --

VandenEinde: Is that what that [*Lattie Coor Hall, on Tempe Campus – ed*] is named after?

Allen: Oh yeah.

VandenEinde: I just made that connection!

Allen: -- extremely well respected...and interestingly enough I got to know him really briefly because starting in the late 1990s I was in the University Center Senate, I eventually served in the University Senate for 15 years and became the president of the Downtown Senate ... But during the first meeting, the first meeting I went to, they had your names on tent cards, big tent cards, and they were all set up in alphabetical order, that was the way they did it. So I was the first one since my name was "A", and next to me was Lattie Coor at the very back. And so I occasionally got to talk to him. He didn't come to every meeting. He was extremely well respected and I think deserves a lot of credit for getting the Honors College going.

VandenEinde: Just with his inspiration and with connecting with people?

Allen: Yeah, yeah.

VandenEinde: And so I guess I assume you moved down here with Barrett and with Cronkite when Cronkite moved from Tempe to Downtown?

Allen: Right. We remained at Tempe at Stauffer Hall till 2008, and it was actually about two years of buildup to that. While we were still at Stauffer Hall, everybody was getting ready to move. And the point where that happened, the relationship with my unit, Cronkite, and what was actually then the Barrett Honors College was in high gear. The location of the Barrett Honors

College...they had moved it from McClintock Hall just south down...I guess that would be Forest Mall, whatever that mall is

VandenEinde: ...to its current location now?

Allen: No, no. It was moved to, I think it was Best Hall.

VandenEinde: By the arts dorms...

Allen: By the Gammage in the Southwest corner of campus. And that location was, again, very close to Cronkite. We had a lot of our Honors students at Cronkite. And that was a really good location, really an upgrade from McClintock. And so that was in 2008; we moved down here at the same time when Barrett moved from that location at Best to where it is now, [to the] southeast. And with all that going on, there was kind of a drop off, and there was not, initially, a Downtown Barrett Office. I can't really recall where they had Barrett...a small office where they were doing some contact with Nursing and known as now the Watts College. They were doing that, but it was VERY --

VandenEinde: -- very minimal.

Allen: Very, it was a pimple [*laughter*] And at Cronkite, we had just moved -- this was a brand new building in 2008 and questions were asked about that. You know, we had this great relationship in Tempe and now they've scattered to one place and we've scattered here...so I think it took a little while to build that back up. And I think Mark Jacobs deserves tremendous credit for putting the money and the resources together to campaign to have this Downtown office.

VandenEinde: When would you say it kind of kicked into high gear, when you were like "Yes, Downtown Barrett is now strong?"

Allen: Well, there's still a feeling here that it is not completely kicked into high gear, I mean even now. I think it is -- we have 700 Barrett students Downtown just which is not bad but ... I think probably when this facility built, when the Barrett Suite opened -- and that was I think in 2011-- and we had a home, I think that was kind of the hope that it was coming --

VandenEinde: That the roots were planted and now the tree can start growing.

Allen: Right. Exactly. But I think there's, you know, still a lot of challenges to getting it to where it needs to be. Largely we have the challenge here of having six very different Colleges that as far as Honors programs go, they're all different, they all have different needs. What we've been

trying to do is address some of those differences and spread our wings further. But it's very different. I was at a leadership meeting at Tempe just today. For two hours all we did is sit there and talk about...talk about Tempe. They're building a Student Success Center, where's the money coming from, it's Tempe, Tempe, Tempe. And it's kind of hard I think that Tempe, which is more of a traditional setting with humanities and science and things, for them to understand how unique the downtown campus is. It's...they do understand it but there are things that need to be addressed locally that we're doing.

VandenEinde: Yeah. I guess that kind of bleeds into one of my questions I was going to ask: what do you think is unique about the Downtown campus, having a Barrett campus here that is very different from Tempe? This could be something good, [or] something that you wish would change.

Allen: Well ... the Downtown campus is unique because it's the only component of ASU so in the midst ... at the very center of a big city with all the things that go on, good and bad, and if you go around and talk to the deans of the Colleges here, they will all speak to that point, that it's unique, there's tall buildings, and there's restaurants and the street people --

VandenEinde: And a very different culture than that of Tempe.

Allen: Right. An unsheltered, urban area, urban culture. All of the games downtown relate to that, greatly relate to that. And so what we've tried to do is adhere our programs down here to expose the students in Nursing and Public Affairs and --

VandenEinde: Journalism.

Allen: -- Criminology, all of the units we serve to love the Downtown area. Get out and experience it. That we're not second class Tempe, that we may not have a Vista Del Sol here but we have other things that make it better, so we extensively work on that to bring awareness to the Barrett students. You know, I'm sure you've seen our facility at Taylor Place and so we try to sell the feel of the downtown area from those windows on there on the South, and build that up. It's a big thing, I mean, you don't need to be at Tempe to be in College. And that's a...that's a big part of what we do here.

VandenEinde: Yeah, I completely agree with that. I know for me the cultural awareness of being in a city for me was a huge part of why I chose to be Downtown and inside of Barrett too. I think that you kind of touched on this a little bit, saying that you came to being a part of the move from Tempe to Downtown, but did you create or were you a part of any special Barrett programs or initiatives that we should know of?

Allen: Well as a faculty person, all you really do is share Honors theses, do Honors sections or Honors courses and do Honors contracts. Those are about the only things as a faculty member – the one part of that was I have done a lot of those, quite a few of those. I was invited to a lot of the Barrett thank you lunches that we have, and I can remember the symposium that Barrett did at the Post Office before they remodeled it and so I was involved in that initiative. But I really didn't get into Barrett initiatives until I actually got on....

VandenEinde:....stepped in as the Dean.

Allen: Yeah.

Cochrane: Can you tell us about your favorite Honors thesis project that you worked on? As a chair?

Allen: Oh wow, there was so many. One of the things that we have tried to do Downtown as well is to get away from the mold of the traditional Shakespeare Beowulf Honors Thesis, and let people be more creative in what they're doing. So that naturally lends itself to Cronkite. I supervised a few documentaries and one of the ones I remembered -- what it was about -- it was a documentary look at food deserts at Downtown, and the idea was that Downtown has no grocery stores around here and people are really suffering. And so you know this student really brought that home and I reacted to that not because the topic was sensational – it was great -- but it was done with high production values; they took time to do it. It could have been on PBS! And so I remembered that. And there's another one, a documentary I remember, where the student did a tour of pollution at the National Parks. And so part of it was at the Grand Canyon, another part of it, I think they went to Zion, I mean, it was really interesting to see that.

VandenEinde: I bet. It must be really cool to still oversee Honors theses but also get your love of Cronkite and overseeing that through Barrett too.

Allen: Yeah, yeah. That's definitely true, and we encourage that. One of the things we actually did last year when I started, we were able to get a poster board thing installed at Cronkite. If you're ever over there on the second floor --

VandenEinde: Yeah, over by the PR lab, is that true?

Allen: Yeah!

VandenEinde: I've seen it!

Allen: But we worked hard on it. In fact, here's part of it [shows mockup of it in office]. Right. I was --

VandenEinde: Talking about what Barrett is like with Cronkite and showing the different projects.

Allen: Right, yeah.

VandenEinde: I've taken a look.

Allen: The purpose of that was to show the Cronkite school that they don't have to do a traditional research honor thesis and [we] tried to illustrate that with pictures of the students. Another thing [was to show] how they can use their Honors experience to get jobs. One of the panels showed about 6 Barrett graduates that had gone on and got good jobs.

VandenEinde: Yeah, no, I've looked at that I think it's super cool; I remember seeing, "Oh, this person did this one project and now they're working in LA" and I'm like...That's so incredible!

Allen: We're going to probably have to update that. You wouldn't believe how much that costs, that's around \$1500 [laughter] to upkeep that.

VandenEinde: Yeah, gosh, but I think that's really cool because like 1 in 4 kids in Cronkite are Barrett, right? I remember reading that and I was like, "That's insane." To just be a part of a school that is so enriched already with Honors kids and that energy is just infectious being around other Honors kids who want to try really hard that it just bleeds into other kids whether they're an Honors student or not. Especially for something as necessary as Journalism today is a great place to have Honors students. So now I'm kind of more moving into questions that are more focused in on your job necessarily than history, so I guess maybe moving down could be the answer to this but can you describe a monumental memory or achievement that you've witnessed so far that you're really proud of in terms of Downtown?

Allen: Of Barrett? I would have to say the thing that I've found thus far that I've been most pleased about was last year at our awards, our spring awards, and the Dean's Scholar -- and I didn't pick 'em. it's just named the Dean's Scholar for Downtown -- was an older student who was actually I think probably the oldest of all Barrett students from the school of Public Affairs up at the Watts College. This was a big thing for us because one of the main things we need to Downtown is to tap into the non-traditional students that are not the 18-22 year-old students. The College [*the Watts College of Public Service*] has 7,000 students in it and about ... from what I've been told 40% of them are non-traditional students, either older students who have come back to College or transfer students that started in the community Colleges and they're here.

Anyway this guy John Field, I got to know him, I sort of reached out to him, because, we needed to do something to get into the non-traditional students -- I mean it was all 18-22 year-olds -- so he gave me some ideas. Then it turns out that he was a super student and lo and behold at the end of the year he gets this Dean's Award and the people at Public Service were really happy to see that. The Dean of the College of Public Service congratulated him, it was in their social media, I think they did a video on him, and it was obvious that -- no offense to you guys if you are in the traditional category that, you know *[laughter]* -- every one of those awards has gone to a traditional student, and this was a first and it was sort of a small thing; it was just one award but it stands out, it shows that if we communicate, we communicate to Downtown that we're open, that we're on the bus and we want non-traditional students, we want the single parent, you know, struggling through programs [to come to] Downtown, you know the person that came from a community College just up from the bootstraps, usually they will come Downtown. They're usually in the College of Public Service. The military -- a huge military role in some of the units, upstairs in Public Service. So we are happy to be able to signal that we're open for business for them, that the things they're doing can be honorable, as honorable as anything anyone else is doing.

Cochrane: Do you know how many current non-traditional students are in the Barrett program?

Allen: It's hard to count. Tempe actually has a person involved in that that could give you that information. I think we have in the Watts College probably 30-40 non-traditional students, which, is actually not bad. That's a bit compared to their total 7,000 student enrollment, but at least we're trying to get them in, and as a result of that student winning that award and getting the publicity for it I think that has helped.

VandenEinde: Yeah, no, I think that's a really cool story to share. I'm going to switch gears a little bit, maybe you don't oversee this as much as I may have thought, but I know something unique to the Downtown campus, at least, I believe, is Camp B-Town *[an overnight trip to a camp in Prescott, AZ, open to incoming freshman at Barrett downtown]* that we do in the summer, do you oversee that or is that more --?

Allen: I don't oversee that. Kira Gatewood oversees that.

VandenEinde: Yep. But I know you've attended. *[laughs]*

Allen: Yeah, well I always go to it.

VandenEinde: So what have you enjoyed, what do you like seeing there, why do you think it's important that we keep doing it?

Allen: Well, I mean it's the most unusual thing to start off the school year by getting on a bus and going out to some --

VandenEinde: -- camp --

Allen: -- just a location with all of the fellow Barrett students, and I don't know if you've been to these, but it's kind of amazing to me how much cohesiveness is developed. If I was an incoming Barrett student getting on a bus going to a retreat location and then being asked to do skits, dances and things, I would be very self-conscious of that. I would probably push back on that a little bit. But if you've been to these you know that the students all come together, I mean, nobody's sitting off side by themselves at all, they're all doing group stuff and it's credit to Kira and Kelsey Dean, her assistant; I mean, getting that together and coming up with events and games and different things that brings all the people together...

VandenEinde: I know I think back to that in August and then I found out that you were watching all of our lip sync battles and I was like "Oh gosh this is embarrassing."

Allen: Were you at the one this last...

VandenEinde: Yep!

Cochrane: Yeah, we both were.

Allen: Yeah, I took videos. *[laughter]*

VandenEinde: That's good to know.

Allen: I posted them on Facebook. *[laughter]*

VandenEinde: Oh gosh.

Allen: I thought that most of them...those lip syncs were very well done and there was one that I thought was kind of sad but *[laughter]* all the other ones were very entertaining. I mean, they were excellent.

VandenEinde: Well that's good to hear. I'm glad that you enjoyed it. I know that we both enjoyed Camp B-Town.

Cochrane: Yeah, we had a lot of fun.

Allen: The one that I rolled on completely was when they did it to the music of Jingle Bell Rock.

VandenEinde: Oh gosh yes.

Allen: Then at the end one of the students tried to do the splits and she fell backwards and I got it perfectly on video [*laughter*] and I was right there at the front table. And I put that on social media. And they censored out the music because there was a copyright thing... but the rest of it was on there. I got a lot of comments from people seeing that. [*laughter*]

VandenEinde: Guess I will need to be looking at some social media soon or in the near future.

Allen: Yeah.

VandenEinde: Ok, so now moving back to a couple other serious questions -- oh! There's one question that I did want to ask before some other questions. I heard that Barrett is getting a new location Downtown, that the Barrett suite is moving. Do you mind elaborating on that?

Allen: Well, I mean, for a historical interview this is futuristic. I don't know how this is going to be looked back upon but --

VandenEinde: Well it's still interesting! It's showing how Barrett is evolving and changing.

Allen: Well sure, I mean [*laughter*] I'm well versed in this and so, as you may know, this suite is not big enough for our total operation and we suffer, I think, from not the most beautiful location and, well, we're happy to be here. I actually really like it here. At Cronkite I have my office at and it overlooks Taylor Place...It's the most beautiful thing, I have windows and I can open the door for the whole panorama, and here I don't have anything like that and yet, I find it more comfortable here. I don't know why, what it is. But nevertheless, it's not big enough and so last year after I started, it seemed to me that we needed a discussion on how we were going to expand. And so all of the staff and faculty here took part in meetings in which we talked about what we would need to make this a really good place with complete facilities and I got a floor plan and we worked a floor plan of the suite, and you could see how much square footage was there, each one said, "Well, if the current lunchroom or break room has 100 square feet," it doesn't even have that much actually, but "we really need one that's 200 square feet." So we were coming up with figures and compiled all that and the idea was -- we had heard reports that Congressman Gallg --

VandenEinde: Ruben Gallego? Yep.

Allen: He was going to move to a different office and was going to vacate that office area. And we had our report in there to claim it because we had the floor plan of his office too. Anyway, that never happened. We were waiting and waiting and so we went into last summer with no --

VandenEinde: -- no changes.

Allen: Nothing. Okay then during the summer, as it ended, actually, there was -- we've had problems finding classrooms here, I mean, there's a huge space shortage, so a couple of our classes didn't have classrooms, so we went to the space coordinators in Tempe to begin to explain this to them and give us some classrooms. And in the process of that we communicated that we needed office space too. To make a long story short, the head space person at Tempe floated the idea that we might be able to take over the area on the 3rd floor on the North end of the Arizona Center. And so our business manager Erica Ladd, and I don't know if you know her but, so she and I sort of teamed up -- she being in Tempe had access to the space people. And so finally I got the floor plan and this is it [shows physical floor plan] I mean this, and so we started to talk and then and then it was going back and forth. "No you can't." "Yes, you might." "Yeah, we'll think about it." I mean it was going back and forth all fall about this Arizona Center. Then, right as the semester ended, we made a tentative commitment to allowing us to have basically it's what we're getting are offices up here [shows on floor plan] and there's a kitchen over here. We've never had a kitchen and some --

VandenEinde: Event spaces?

Allen: Yeah, event-type spaces and then there's a big area here on the South that fronts windows. For the first time we will have windows, we'll actually have light coming in here and so we're getting that. We tried to get these classrooms [shows on floor plan] but they wouldn't give them to us but we're getting plenty of space.

Cochrane: So you'll have everything but those two classrooms?

Allen: At first, we were not first -- all we were going to get was the classrooms and the conjoining space because they wanted to resolve this issue less constantly needing classroom space. They basically --the whole emphasis for this was don't darken our door, we don't want to talk about this anymore, we have this classroom, and we won't worry about it. But then in a discussion last week this actually kind of broke when Erica and I met with the architect, it was actually last Friday. And then there was some switching around and the idea was we would not get these classrooms, but we would get the area around the classrooms, so we would still try to teach our classes in various rooms at UCent, but as a result of that we got all of this other space. It's about 2700 square feet. We're not going to be able to get all of it permanently, but it's about 4000 square feet. The issue right now is, who's going to go down there? And I think all of the

staff here wants to move down there. And I'm not sure that's going to work, because we still need to have this location here. I'm going to remain here, our four faculty are going to remain here -- how we're going to divide, I don't know. This is sort of a sticky issue.

VandenEinde: I was just curious about it.

Allen: Yeah, yeah. It looks obvious that it's going to happen but at least some of our people will move beyond there. Students will come into this area [*shows on floor plan*] this is actually an open area for all students. But we will have our people that's where they will go for advising. Kira's going to move there and do student service stuff out of there. At first I wasn't sure people really wanted to do this. There was a chance we could have bailed but we had a meeting and another meeting last week. Kira really swayed the people to want to do this. She's really pumped about this. And she sees this as our chance to have something really nice Downtown that Barrett right now doesn't really have, and --

VandenEinde: Well no, that's great news.

Allen: I agree with that.

Cochrane: Yeah, having a bigger space is just going to encourage more people to come and visit the suite.

Allen: Yeah, yeah. But right now, the thing is we don't have the thing here that we can show off. I mean we remodeled our entryway out there the year before last and it looks nice, but we don't have a Vista Del Sol type thing that says, "this is really cool." And that's what we're hoping this can evolve into.

Cochrane: What time frame do you suspect?

Allen: I think we're going to be in there in the Fall, in fact some --

VandenEinde: That's soon.

Allen: -- of our people may be moving over there before that, but we'll probably do the launch and it will ramp up in the Fall.

Cochrane: What side is it on in the Arizona Center? Is it --

Allen: Well I don't know if you're familiar with --

Cochrane: Yeah.

VandenEinde: It looks like you walk in and then it's on this side [*points to floor plan*].

Cochrane: Is it the one with the elevator that you walk in and then it's on that side? Ok.

Allen: Yeah, do you know where the Brazilian Mindfulness Resilience Center is? That's, that's it. And then we're right next to it.

Cochrane: I think I had a class in here last semester [*points to floor plan*].

Allen: Yeah, yeah.

VandenEinde: So now, sorry, that's a little bit of a tangent...I was just curious about it. So now I'm just going to move into some opinion, kind of reflection-based questions so, this is very vague, but more like: why is Barrett important to you? What do you enjoy about this job? Why are you excited to work for Barrett on a day-to-day basis?

Allen: I think the thing that...that really makes this rewarding is the people are very close, meaning, the managers, the administrators, I think the students and staff here is close. I don't have a total hands-on grip of all the activities that go on here among the staff, but when I go to Tempe for an event, a lecture, all those kind of things, for the commencement, it's really a family sort of thing. It's very, very cohesive. And you feel good about it. I think throughout ASU there's a feeling, probably a feeling that you're kind of on your own. I know at Cronkite they've never had close faculty, they've never had camaraderie. During all the time I was at Cronkite for 27 years I think I went to three parties. Four parties in my whole time. People just went their separate ways. And I think that's what is typical of ASU in a lot of ways. In fact, Barrett might be the only place that's not like that. Yep. Counting the events, I mean I probably went to 20 different party-type social things last year alone. And, so that's really a motivating, motivating thing. And then I think working with the students it's just still a big thrill. I had my first class ever, first Honors class, last night and it's in politics and media and you never know what's going to happen on the first night of class and they were getting into --

VandenEinde: -- Especially with the government shutdown.

Allen: Right, right. They were getting into the subject matter immediately whereas teaching a skills course over there is like you're maybe six weeks into it before --

VandenEinde: -- kids start to pick up.

Allen: Yeah. Right. So those social part of it, the students, and I really like the people too. The staff and the faculty, they're doing their own thing in a lot of ways but I think that there's a lot of respect among each other. One of the things that happened at the end of last year during the Barrett faculty staff awards, Kira got the employee of the year award. Big huge, big huge thing. And this was at an event over in Tempe by the Lakes area and I don't know if you know where that is, it's kind of south of the Tempe campus. And so we're out there, there's like a boat that they're giving boat rides and things on, and then it was like a deck on top of the yacht. After Mark Jacobs announced that Kira got the award, everybody from Downtown went over to this deck and took pictures with her.

VandenEinde: That's incredible.

Allen: I mean you never see that, yeah. I mean you never see anything like that at ASU.

VandenEinde: And, do you think it's even a closer knit at Downtown specifically just because Downtown is smaller than Tempe?

Allen: I think it is. I really can't judge but I would guess that it is. Because we have, altogether, altogether we have six staff and four faculty so we have ten people.

VandenEinde: Yeah, I think I think the Downtown campus for Barrett is very special. Another questions I have: what, in your mind, makes Barrett different than any other Honors Colleges? I know there are lots of Honors Colleges at different places around the nation, and I know lots of Honors Colleges around the nation look to Barrett to model theirs, so what do you have to say about that?

Allen: It's kind of hard. I represented Barrett at the Arizona Honors Council last fall at a meeting at NAU [*Northern Arizona University*]. And NAU had just put up their Honors College, they had just built one. We had a meeting there I got to know the Honors people from the other universities as well as the community Colleges. Just relating to that -- it just seems like Barrett has a stronger leadership force, it has, you know, better numbers. Really good, good enrollment. But it just seems to me that the problems they were talking about, these other people were talking about, just seemed irrelevant to me. I mean, one of the issues that the U of A person kept talking about was trying to get faculty to volunteer to do Honors contracts like we were talking about before. And just a huge exchange of ideas of how you could do that, problems and all that. I don't think Barrett really has that problem and we need to keep at it and import faculty. It was like they were from a different planet, they're talking about things that really don't concern me and various people and I think that owes a lot to Mark Jacobs. He's an excellent being. I mean, it is so -- it is so different working for him than compared to working with Chris Callahan [*Dean of Cronkite School and Vice Provost of ASU Downtown*]. It's like two completely different people.

They're both good, but Mark has more of a funny way of humor, a humorous way. And also, the past Vice Dean Peggy Nelson who retired last year. Mark and Peggy were frick and frack. I mean, they were ... you never saw one without the other. I saw some running arguments between them. They were like husband and wife in a way, but it was always productive, I mean, they were both sharp, and she was excellent. She, almost as much as Mark, became the symbol of Barrett. And together, they brought us up above all these problems that NAU was talking about, U of A was talking about. And as for other Honors Colleges in other parts of the country I don't vaguely know. But I think it would probably be the same, just that we're just kind of above some of the problems that come into play in getting an Honors education.

VandenEinde: Yeah I completely agree. Hearing about my friends across the nation attending their Honors Colleges and, at least the way I look at Barrett is seeing it as this one where leadership is already in place that even on different campuses it's stood tall.

Allen: Yeah, yeah. I think that was what I was trying to say.

VandenEinde: Yeah, and so I guess now my last questions would kind of be anchored more toward how you see the future of Barrett, maybe more specifically for Downtown. Where do you think Barrett Downtown is going? Do you think it's going to get bigger? Are there any new programs that you think will be put in place besides obviously the new room?

Allen: Well, yeah. I think there's going to be a lot of new things on the horizon. With regard to our office, I really see this as a temporary thing. What's on my mind, if not radar, is the certainty that they're going to have to build another building Downtown. A residential-type building. Because, largely because of the Thunderbird move [*The Thunderbird School of Global Management, which ASU announced in 2017 would be moved into a new building on the Downtown campus*]. And I'm hoping that we move into a unified office space in that location. This is going to be hell having half of us here and half of us at the Arizona Center. So what we need is one unified, all-under-on-roof office that, at some point, is certain to have -- if they do build another building, our reasoning for being in it can't be denied. Everybody else, all the other Colleges, have their own buildings. We have, I think, been short-shifted. That's one of the reasons why the Tempe people are helping us.

VandenEinde: Because they have their own facility and we don't.

Allen: Yeah. But now the time has come for them to give us a little priority on a unified facility in the new building.

Cochrane: Do West and Poly have their own separate buildings?

Allen: Not really.

VandenEinde: I don't think that Poly has one.

Allen: But the West Barrett office is a Taj Mahal. [laughter] I mean, they have got so much in there. It's because West is a much older campus; it used to almost be independent. But West isn't going to need ... they're not that big. And Poly, they're also not that big. But we need our own unified office. Okay, that is something that I'm certain will unfold at some point. Okay meanwhile, another big change is going to be the building of the Thunderbird building, the move of the Thunderbird Global Management College from the West Valley to here in Downtown. And they do not have undergraduate students, but they have extensive, cooperative programs with undergraduate students that can help them. And so we are going to have an alliance with them, to talk to the Dean --

VandenEinde: Barrett is?

Allen: Yeah, yeah. I've gone to their place and where they're based at right now is at that tall building in the Arizona Center, but I think in the fall they're going to break ground on the new Thunderbird Building which is going to be next to the Law school. That's going to completely change the dynamic of that part of the Downtown campus, because you're going to get extension towards the South. So we're going to be aligning with them and doing stuff with them. And then another thing that I think is going to expand and enlarge is our relationship with the College of Health Solutions. They have a lot of interest in Barrett Downtown; they have a dean [*Deborah Helitzer*] there that started about the same time that I started here and as it turned out I know her late father. He was one of my teachers! And so this dean of Health Solutions is kind of feisty...but we've obviously got a connection and so we talked and she has some really great ideas of how we can get into her program, help her program. And so that is, as you know, a growing area, the Health area Downtown. That's a big hitter. So I'm actually going to be meeting with, I think there is just the Dean next week and we're going to start plowing through some ideas on how we can offer Honors courses over there, how we can build up our enrollment of Barrett students there.

One of the things about Health Solutions is that it's one of the things you learn as you work in this job a little bit that Health Solutions used to be part of Nursing and broke away a couple years ago with the idea that it would be the Pre-Med School for ASU. What has happened instead is that they have kept Pre-Med programs at Tempe and Downtown, we're competing with those Tempe Pre-Med students so, the College of Health Solutions and Barrett, we have a common interest in wanting to build up our dealings with the Health Solutions students so they will come downtown and not go to Tempe. So that's going to be an important thing, our bolstering of

relations with Health Relations. We have total graces with the College of Nursing. We're very close with the College of Nursing.

VandenEinde: And then obviously you work with Journalism so.

Allen: Yeah. And so I came from Journalism and again we're going to continue our effort to get into the Watts College. At first they were a major detractor of Barrett. They were really bothered by our concentration on 18-24 year old students and basically ignoring their 40% non-traditional students. And so one of the first things I did was schedule meetings with them and find out about that. So we're continuing to build our relationship with them; they're the biggest – by far -- College on the Downtown campus with 7,000 students. They have four schools each as big as the Cronkite school. It's huge. And so we want to stay on their good side and expand to get more people like John Field to win these awards.

And just that part of what we're going to do in the future is going to be slow. That's not going to be an overnight change. But we were very happy, and we hope maybe we can get a piece of this action when the Watts College [of Public Service and Community Solutions] began last October. It was a big announcement. It was probably the biggest announcement of the year Downtown. And it was held right out here, in the UCent lobby. And I was privileged to have been invited as one of the special guests for that by Jonathan Koppell [*the Dean of Watts*], and the bottom line was that they got a \$30 Million dollar endowment. The third biggest in ASU history! So we're hoping to stay close to them. Part of what they're going to do in the future, part of their direction -- this money came from a husband and wife who grew up in Maryvale -- and they're very interested in using ASU resources to revitalize Maryvale. So Jonathan has talked to Nicola Foote, our Vice Dean. They are going to continue to talk about how Barrett can have an initiative in Maryvale.

VandenEinde: That's very cool.

Allen: That could really get us a lot of Public Service students. So those are kind of the changes I'm seeing. Down the road I'm not sure this --

VandenEinde: Any new classes we should be on the lookout for?

Allen: Well we're working on it. We are having a problem right now with enrollment in Honors courses. And we're trying to figure out why that is. We have some Honors courses taught by our faculty, they've got 3 students this semester and I've had to cancel a bunch last year because of low enrollment. But once we figure out how to get students into Honors classes we'll probably launch a lot. There's actually a lot of interest among the faculty in teaching Honors classes, especially profs of Honors classes.

VandenEinde: Yeah, okay. So that's pretty much the end of my questions, I guess my last overarching question would be, do you have any other last comments that you'd want to say on the record about Barrett? About just your time here?

Allen: The only thing that I would come back to is that I think it's important to the people to understand the history of it. That it grew in stages – it was not a forgone conclusion that ASU was going to have an Honors College. I think you need to talk to old timers like me who can remember back to the beginning of what it was really like. And again, it was not a forgone conclusion, there was a lot of challenge, a lot of stress, people like Ted Humphrey and some others initially had diverged going around to 80 faculty to meet and get involved in Honors theses and that sort of thing...

VandenEinde: Just because he solved the prospect of what the Honors College could offer students.

Allen: And there were some tough days in the beginning, but they stayed the course, they got through, people were rallying around them and another big turning point was when they established 10 years ago the location on the Southeast end of [Tempe] campus, that was a big thing that shot Barrett up to the status that it has. And that was Mark Jacobs and Peggy pretty much --

VandenEinde: Heading that up.

Allen: -- in that control, yeah, yeah. And not to overlook, by any means, but the Barretts, Craig and Barbara Barrett, when they endowed Barrett, I think that was in 2002, now actually before Mark came here, that was also the very big.

VandenEinde: Because now Barrett had a name.

Allen: Yeah. Exactly. Up until then it was just "The Honors College." It was kind of like a generic sort of thing.

VandenEinde: And now that they had funded it, now it was this very notable thing...

Allen: Right.

VandenEinde: It's like, "Oh, that's Barrett." It's not like, JUST an Honors College. It's Barrett.

Allen: Exactly. And so the history is very important. A Barrett student wants to appreciate what they're into, what they're about. The history largely reflects that.

VandenEinde: Well, yeah ,I think that's all my questions. Kylie, do you have anything to add?

Cochrane: I don't have anything.

VandenEinde: Okay, that is all!

Allen: Alright! Well, nice of you folks to come in.