

Kara Snyder 0:00

Hello and welcome to the podcast, a podcast produced by the College of Applied Science and Technology at Illinois State University. I'm your host Kara Snyder and I serve as the assistant dean of marketing communications and constituent relations for the College. Each episode we sit down with an alum of the College and today we have a chance to talk to Diane Dolman, an alumna of the School of Kinesiology and Recreation. Diane has retired from her position as executive director of Mizzou rec services and facilities at the University of Missouri. Welcome and thank you for being here.

Diane Dahlmann 0:33

It's my pleasure.

Kara Snyder 0:34

Well, I'm so excited. Let's start at the beginning of your journey with ISU, why did you choose Illinois State for your graduate work?

Diane Dahlmann 0:42

Well, I went to school up in Park Ridge right outside of Chicago, and my high school was main south. In preparation for this I happened to take a look at my high school yearbooks, just about every faculty member in high school had some connection to Illinois State. And I had an outstanding High School and well, literally K through 12 education. So for me, it was institutional reputation. I had a few friends that were attending down there. And so that reputation during my time as it is today, it was is the pre eminent teaching and learning institution in the state of Illinois. It's got a great location. It's got a beautiful campus quintessential college town, you know, and so what's there to not love and like about becoming a red bird. So the endorsement of some fabulous K through 12 teachers, by virtue of their alumni status, as well as the reputation of the institution certainly played a strong role in that. And the graduate program in recreation was just starting had a very, very strong kidneys component, especially for teaching but the recreation component was just coming into its own. So it was an exciting time in 1976 to be on campus.

Kara Snyder 1:56

Yeah, it sounds like your timing was perfect. And what's not to like about becoming a Redbird? I love. So when you think back about your time on campus, what stands out most clearly about your experience?

Diane Dahlmann 2:10

You know, that's a great question. Because to think about it, it's like a great big ball hit, you have memories, and I tried to parse it out. And the thing that sticks with me the thing that impressed me the most the faculty, I wasn't expecting it. You know, I had good faculty and my undergrad I had great faculty K through 12. But, boy, the caliber of the faculty and in particular, the graduate faculty that I worked with, was outstanding. They were all legends in their field. They were all proud to be at Illinois State. And yet they were extraordinarily approachable. They were very, very helpful. And it was always always so clear that your success as a student was first and

foremost on their agenda. As a matter of fact, sometimes I think they wanted me to succeed more than I did. Although I did very well as a grad student. It was my greatest academic success. But if you needed help in any way, if you're trying to navigate the campus and trying to make sense of something, they were right there, Dr. Virginia crafts, who had quite the reputation as being quite firm, Dr. Phoebe Scott, who was just coming off of a long chairpersons ship for women's physical education, Bob Koehler, who has just taken over the grad school, Dr. Bob Koehler was a wonderful, wonderful individual to work with Dr. Russell Gorman. He was a department chair, and he taught some of our classes and in the higher ed leadership curriculum, Dr. Denton Rhodes, so those individuals made the difference for me. And prior to coming to grad school, I had not been that great of a student. So it really brought out my best. And that's what that's what stands out the most.

Kara Snyder 3:51

I love that I think that people truly make the place when it comes to a college experience. And I'm glad to hear that was the case for you. So you've got the degree in hand, tell us what was that initial job search like for you? And then where did you land? Oh, Cara,

Diane Dahlmann 4:06

the job search. Then compared to today, I have a 25 year old nephew. You know, he's indeed.com All the way. And I've got to tell you the job search then was this is how it worked. You'd go over to the placement center, which was located in a building on Main Street next to the Baskin Robbins 31 flavors in what was formerly a furniture store. That was the placement office was on Main Street and they had some parking, and I had a car that was all that's an important combination. You'd go in and you would take out a three ring binder with laminated sheets and you would start to thumb through this three ring binder that was updated every so often the updating process was a little mysterious, and you would look for jobs and then you would on paper with your paper resume and you'd craft on your typewriter. Have a letter of application and so on. That's how you would start. So I would present myself over there. And of course, in 1977, when I finished the job market was terrible. I mean, it was tighter than tight. You'd go in and you'd look and there wouldn't even be a job to apply for. I mean, how disheartening is that? So one day, somebody kind of clued me into this thing about the Chronicle of Higher Ed. And I was very interested in working in higher education. I thought I was going to become a faculty member with my newly minted master's degree that was sort of delusional. And so I remembered what someone that I used to work for whose opinion counted greatly to me. She said, You should think about collegiate recreation. So okay, so I went through this chronicle of higher ed. Well, there weren't any jobs. But there were some jobs that I could see were going to kind of lead us there. So I went back the next week, and I was no longer living on campus because I had completed my coursework, when in the Chronicle had just come in, there was one copy. So I shoved it into my folder, and I snuck off with it. I went over to the library. And I found one job and it was not a great job. But it was a job in collegiate recreation. As an assistant director for informal recreation and the university ice rink. It was at the State University of New York system College at Brockport, little Teacher's College, just outside of Rochester in Western New York. And I applied the next day, I went back to the placement center on my way out of town, took my folder back in snuck that Chronicle of Higher Ed back into the

placement center. Nobody was any of the wiser. And that was that was it. It wasn't a great opportunity. But it was a start. And I received an invitation to interview. They didn't pay any expenses. So I drove out to Western New York, I interviewed probably not all that well, but well enough. And about five days later, I got a phone call. And they offered me the job. I said yes, immediately. And what a brilliant opportunity. It was a 10 month position, and it paid \$9,000 And that was even low for then a little low, but 2000 low. But I said Yes, I got the particulars. I hung up the phone. My mother walked into the kitchen where I was taking the phone call, I burst into tears. And I said I got a job. And she said, but that's great. Why are you crying? And I said, it's in Western New York. Oh, my. That was the start. And it was really a crummy job. It was a it was a bits and pieces job. When I got there, they weren't quite sure if I was the ice rink manager or not. They weren't quite sure if I was going to do some facility reservation work. Then they said, Oh, you're going to work with our user fee system kind of a new thing. I had a gentleman by the name of Patrick Smith, he was the Vice President for Student Affairs. And I had to go over and meet with him. And it was just kind of a bread and butter conversation, meet the new person. And when I left he said if anybody asks why you're here, you tell him I hired him, and they can talk to me. And I thought that's odd. So I'm like, okay, because you know, you're young and you're dumb and gullible and you think, Okay, I got the job because I was best qualified. In my office, there was a gentleman who was the manager of intramural sports, great guy by the name of Bob whiner. And he really took me under his wing, the director of the department that was a different story. He was rather distant and aloof. But Bob Weiner was terrific. He would tell me how things worked and kind of coached me. Well, after two months, he got a job offer down in Florida. So he left so my champion was gone. And that's when the story came up. Kara. I was an affirmative action hire. There weren't too many women in Higher Education, Recreation in those days. Oh, wow. And there had been a search. It was my search. There were four candidates, three men, one woman, I was the only woman to have applied, I met all of the qualifications. And a friend of Bob's had applied for the position, and he technically got it. But at the last minute, the Vice President said, Ah, you're hiring the woman. Oh, wow. Because they were doing a lot of things in terms of affirmative action to balance and to open up opportunities. So rather than running another search, they called the guy that I did out by being a woman. They invited him to take Bob's job. So now I'm working right next door cheek to jowl with a guy that felt kind of done out. Hey, isn't that a great way to be 12 hours away from home by car? Oh, gosh, yeah. Yeah. It was tough. It was tough. His name was Bob as well. And he turned out to be pretty good. But he told me the story. He said I got a call. I got an offer, and they offered him \$2,000 A year more of course. And he would have been good at the job. Don't take anything away from him. But that was the environment that I came into the director of the department immediately said, Bob called me Jim. I was still calling him Mr. And so I, you know, I did what I could, and my, my mom and dad would say, think of it as a well paid two year apprenticeship, and two years, and then you can, you know, you can go so I did that. And in the middle of all of this, Brockport was going to be hosting the International Special Olympics Summer Games. And so that was a really interesting opportunity. And I got involved with that, and had some very interesting experiences some impactful experiences. And when those games were over those games were in summer of 79, I had applied at the last minute for a position to be a director, because by this time, I had figured, oh, good to be king or queen, you need to be a director of a department. Because this being a junior, something isn't so hot. So I

want it to be making changes at a more aggressive rate. And so I applied for a director position of sort of a one woman show at St. Cloud State University smack dab in the I had to look up where St. Cloud was smack dab in the middle of the state of Minnesota, I applied, I got a rejection letter. But then I got a phone call that said, you're gonna get a rejection, you got a rejection letter. I said, Yeah. And they said, your materials got lost in the mail room, they were properly dated, we've reopened the search in order to include you as a candidate, we'd like you to come. And so they paid for me to come. And on the way back to the airport, they said, We're offering you the job. And by this time, I knew to be a little smarter about negotiations. And they gave me how much it was going to be it was a 10 month position. And I asked for \$2,000 more. And they said, We think we can do that we really want you to be here. The second opportunity was much, much, much better, wonderful environment, probably one of the one of the best startups to a position I've ever had. And so St. Cloud State was my first directorship. And it was definitely an expansion of opportunities and growth. And I brought Special Olympics, Minnesota Summer Games. We did that for two years in a row. And we opened up a new building, and we did a number of remodeling projects. So I really got my feet wet in a good way. After six years there, the opportunity at Illinois State opened and there was nothing I wanted more than to go back to ISU. And so I applied, and right before I should have been notified, I ran into Dr. Ginny crafts at a conference. And she said you know that director job is open. And I said I do I'm an applicant. And she said how do you think you'll do? And I just don't know why it happened. We were on an escalator and I said, Doc, perhaps that's my job. And that's certain. And I said, Yes, I am. Yep, that's my job. And so I got the invitation to apply. I hit the ground running, and I got the position. And it was a challenge because it was a mess. And they knew it was a mess. But St constipated bent a little bit of a mess too and so had Brockport. So I sort of developed this sense of you know, I run better on a muddy crummy track. It makes me work harder shirts. Oh, so I did that. I was at Illinois State for 12 and a half years. And when the position came open at Mizzou, I thought well, there were three positions out there at one time, and Mizzou was the one that was the messiest and I could get home I could get to Chicago under my own power without having to be on a on a jet somewhere waiting in an airport. And so I selected the opportunity at at Mizzou and of course, you've never seen a worse operation. I'm terrible to be asked what is the best what is the absolute best collegiate recreation operation in the nation? And what's the worst? And I said it's the same answer Mizzou Oh, my, you've never my mother and dad and my brother came to visit me. And I took them through the facilities and they said what did you do? I mean, by state was great, you know,

the pretty little rec building out of beach and Willow we had access to larger facilities. And they're just like, what were you thinking? This is like, bombed out Beirut than I? Yeah, yeah, it is. They promised that they were going to be building a facility. We were going to go right into facility conversations. And that appealed to me because it had been very, very difficult to get LMI state to move in that particular direction. So yeah, I took the opportunity at at Mizzou, and it turned out great. We turned it into the best in the nation. And one of the best internationally. We had people visiting us from all over and it was certainly a magnificent challenge. I was asked one time do you think you can turn that thing around and I was an assistant vice chancellor and I said we have a 60 to 70% chance of failure. And she goes into that bad I said every element of the operation was broken and needed to be fixed and not just fixed cleaned out cleared out.

fixed and rebuilt. And we did that my associate director that by then Dan ship and I teamed up together and we scrubbed the decks and made it right. So, but each of the experiences, it's interesting. Malcolm Gladwell, in outliers talks about the magic of 10,000 hours to master something. And every increment in my career, it seems like the change happened as I would reach that 10,000 hour point, so that I was statistically ready for the next challenge.

Kara Snyder 15:29  
Isn't that interesting?

Diane Dahlmann 15:31  
Yeah, I just I went back and I did a tally. You're not counting right? And I said, Do you know how many hours in a week I worked? Super telling somebody how often you work 13 hours a day and seven days a week? Because when something is that deteriorated, it's not nine to five, and it's not five days a week. And it's not when you feel like putting forth the effort is all the time every day. And so yeah, I put a lot of hours in.

Kara Snyder 16:00  
Well, I'm what I love about your story is that it's very clear, you didn't shy away from a challenge. And if anything, you chase them. So tell us about these leadership positions? And do you feel like you found them? Or did they kind of find you in a sense,

Diane Dahlmann 16:16  
you know, it's possible that I took positions that nobody else wanted. So let's not lean too hard on my strategic mind here. These were in many cases, really, really challenging, difficult, unattractive, no hope, in some cases, situations, even Illinois State situation, that operation had been left alone for four years without leadership, and even then the associate vice president and the vice president both knew, as a matter of fact, I remember neogames case saying, yeah, that operation has been in a state of malaise for years. And they had just moved it from one aspect of the university into Student Affairs. So it was the newest member of Student Affairs. And so they clearly clearly acknowledged that, Oh, ouch, you know, and we need to get our sewing kit out and turn that sow's ear into a silk purse. So I've always looked for an opportunity to make a difference to make a contribution to do what I could to enhance the experience for students. If you're in higher education, I don't care if you're clipping bushes, or if you're working in technology, if you're faculty, or if you're not, you're a teacher, I mean, that's your environment, you're in an educational environment. And so for me, that means I get to learn and grow and be taught, I get to teach others I get to learn. And so if you look for those opportunities, and for me, looking for opportunities to grow, to teach, to contribute to make better, and make a lasting contribution to improve the lives of students, and maybe the campus, then that's certainly very, very appealing. And that's how I made my choices. I like something to repair, you know, something to fix something to make better.

Kara Snyder 18:06  
And you have that in spades.

Diane Dahlmann 18:07

I did. Who was it that I think it was the vice chancellor here at Mizzou said, you have a wealth of opportunities here? Well, at least you acknowledge that. There it is.

Kara Snyder 18:22

So in these leadership roles, one of your initiatives would be to hire people and build these teams, what would stand out to you in an interview setting? What were you looking for in the individuals that you were adding to your team?

Diane Dahlmann 18:34

Well, I was not looking for hard skills. And people always thought that if they came to the interview, they had the hard skills that then you know, and the best skill and the best experience and that and it never really called to me, because I always believed that you can teach those skills if somebody has the aptitude, and you can certainly determine if they have the aptitude or not. So for me, it's spirit, heart and intellect. Are you willing to learn? Do you want to learn? How do you learn? Do you have a champion spirit in your heart? Do you have compassion for people? Can you get along with others? Those are the things I always question. Are you serious about this opportunity? What will you sacrifice to be excellent? And how long will you make that sacrifice? Not only will you work hard, but how long will you work hard? And will you see it through? Or will it get too hard? And will you leave before you know before we've we've reached that end, you've indicated that you used to work for Dawn Santa Pope, you know, Don was selected like that she literally walked in off the street into our offices. And after about 1520 minutes of talking with her I thought who she's a keeper. I think we might need to talk to her about a graduate assistantship here.

Kara Snyder 19:46

She certainly is a keeper and I think we agree on campus too. Yeah. So tell us did mentorship play a role in your career?

Diane Dahlmann 19:56

Yes and no. In the 70s we didn't talk about mentors, it seems to be a term that's almost overused. Well, that's my mentor, my mentor told me I had an, it's just like, Okay, that wasn't happening in the 70s. And it certainly wasn't happening very much for women and non traditional roles in the workforce. Because many times women can be another woman's worst enemy in the workforce, because your competition, men don't play the game the same way. So my Yes, and my know is that those people that extended themselves to you in the workplace, they were not called mentors, they weren't labeled that. There were teachers, people, supervisors, that would take a little more than average interest, help you over a rough part. But for me, in particular, when I was an undergrad, actually getting into my first full time job right after my undergrad, I worked in municipal recreation, and I worked for Dr. Sandy little gross before she was Dr. Sandy little grubs. And she took me under her wing. She literally taught me a masterclass. And what it was to be a recreation professional, literally introduced me to the field and to the professional aspects of it in professional preparation, and is the one who said, you know, Diane, when you get done with municipal recreation, you might consider collegiate

recreation, I think you'd be good at it. And so Sandy continued to be a trusted friend, a mentor, and advisor throughout my career. And then when I came to Illinois State, I worked for one of the most professional, exacting, excellent individuals you could have ever found Dr. Judy Boyer, and she was the Associate Vice President for Student Affairs, I reported directly to her. And I always refer to Judy as the person who parented me through my finishing school of becoming a professional and running a large organization with a number of full time staff. And truth be told, I continue to prosper from their words of wisdom and their guidance every day, even today, by you know, things will happen in my life. And I'll hear Sandy with whom I'm still in touch, I'll hear something that Judy Boyer would have said years ago, and it resonates. And so those two individuals certainly played a important contributing role to my development and my success. So matter of fact, when we passed the referendum to build the \$50 million rec expansion and renovation at Mizzou, it was 10 o'clock at night, we just come back from the announcement I called Judy Boyer at home. And I said, Judy, it's Diane. And she said, Well, it's a little late. But Diane, how are you? I'm fine. And I said, Judy, I'm making the phone call I could ever make to you when I was at Illinois State. We just passed a \$50 million referendum. And she was thrilled and follow that success as did Sandy. That continuing connection really well. It really meant a lot to me. It was wonderful. And it continues in Sandy's case to be wonderful as well.

Kara Snyder 23:01

And thinking about those relationships. Do you have any advice for our students that might be looking for a mentor? How can how can they set themselves up to be a successful mentee in those relationships?

Diane Dahlmann 23:14

I don't know. I didn't present myself in the workplace as a person who needed help or guidance. These were people who recognize that I needed help and guidance. And so I would say that Sandy selected me and Judy selected me. And then they would offer advice. And because there were people I respected and roles that I respected, I certainly paid very close attention. I probably paid even closer attention to Judy than I did to Sandy. Because well, you couldn't avoid paying attention to what Judy was telling you. What my advice would be, I suppose, be more self aware than I was. Recognize when you do need help when you do need someone to support you and to listen to you. And to give you a perspective. And through that you develop a relationship. And before you know it, you probably have a good mentor.

Kara Snyder 24:13

I think that's a great point. I think being coachable is so important and so important for our students to remember as they graduate and move to this next phase of their career. And I think it's probably clear to our listeners at this point that you are known as an innovator and a visionary in collegiate recreation. Tell us what inspired you What motivated you to take the risks that you did?

Diane Dahlmann 24:35

Fear of failure. That's a good one. Yeah, the high odds of failure and but then the enormous payoff if you did succeed and performing the impossible, that appealed to me. And then there

was the thing that always kind of ticked in the back of my mind. The question of why not? In other words, if nobody's ever done this before, nobody's tried serve. This is an idea that seems too large. We'll then why don't we try that? Why don't why don't we give that a go. So the opportunity to make a contribution by doing something that's just off the charts, to invent the future of what a recreation experience on a campus should be, or in a community, those are the things that I looked to and that inspired and motivated me would you like, like an example.

Kara Snyder 25:25

Of course, I would in our listeners would as well, was probably

Diane Dahlmann 25:29

2015, which meant that the new beautiful recreation space at Mizzou had been open 10 years, we were functioning very well. And we had some spaces that I thought were a little underutilized. And so we had a chance with a partner, we unveiled a for partner \$1 million initiative to raise scholarship dollars for students that worked at Mazurek. And when we had this, this chance to partner with them, and it each package was a quarter of a million dollars. And I had six potential partners that I was going to approach I was only going to select four. And then that was it. And they were either in for the 250 or not. And I won't tell you the names of those that I turned down, but they were very large names and equipment. And they were absolutely gobsmacked when I said, No, you're either in or you're out because this is the number one recreation operation in the nation, the best in the world. So there are only going to be four opportunities and you're not coming strong to the table. This is the proposal. So bye bye. Well, one of the partners that we did accept and invited on board happened to have a product called Box master. And he saw a martial arts room, which was a 20 by 40 foot space. And he said boy, box Master would be just great in this room. Just wonderful. And I said you think and he said Well, yeah. And that was part of closing the deal with them. Because each of these partners I mean, they were going to be testing equipment with us. They were going to be providing uniforms for students staff, and they were going to be gifting us with \$50,000 which we would match internally for student scholarships, which was a big deal. My last year at Mizzou, we distributed \$100,000 in student staff scholarships to Mizzou Rec. That's amazing. Yeah, yeah, it was great. It was fun. That was kind of impossible, too. But anyway, so we converted this space with the box master. And I was really troubled by it at first because I felt Oh, am I being leveraged. And I went home and I thought that you know what? What did you do as a kid? Now Kara? Do you have brothers and sisters?

Kara Snyder 27:39

I do I have one of each. Okay,

Diane Dahlmann 27:41

did you ever play? Let's go to the fights and you'd play fight? "Well, sure." Show. Yeah. Okay, just about every kid with siblings did, right? My brother, my brother, and I did too. We had a double bed and we get on our knees and we'd be at either side corner of the bed and we'd go dig into your corner. Shake hands, ding, ding come on fighting. And we wrestle around. So I thought, you know, I bet we could recreate that in this space. Let's put a boxing gym inside of a collegiate



recreation facility. Who does that? Nobody does that. But let's do that. So I talked to the staff about it. And they thought I'd lost my mind. And we designed a plan. And I mean, it looked like an old school. Rocky was going to come out of the corner. And I mean, we had the bags and we had everything. It was fant we even had an Everlast bell, Ding Ding. And we had the box masters and it was magnificent. And we're getting ready to open and I said you know what? I sure do wish that Mohammed Ali was still available for touring and speaking in that. That'd be the greatest. I mean, what if we could have Mohammed Ali here to see this and interact with students? And my staff went? Yeah, yeah. I mean, they were like, Oh, God, Diane now. Like, oh, wait a minute. Wait a minute. I think he's got a daughter who boxes. It's one of the guys said, Yeah, I think so too. And I said, Laila Ali? Isn't she a women's boxer? So we looked her up? Sure enough, yes. She's an undefeated women's boxer. Fantastic. She's got a cookbook. She does the Clean Eating thing. She's retired from boxing now but undefeated, undefeated. I said, Well, how about this? Why don't we invite Laila Ali to come to campus? And check this out? And I said, you know, years ago, I read a story in jet magazine about Muhammad Ali, and the Deer Park branch, where he trained for in Pennsylvania, and they did a training table and we'll do this event. So the staff are looking at like, Oh, God, there she goes. There she goes. She's launching into the atmosphere back and I'm like, yeah, and we're gonna call it Mizzou training table. We'll get a cool logo, we'll get aprons and we're going to work with the people on campus dining services, and students can sign up and they can use a dining ticket. And we'll do the special meal and we'll use food from her cookbook. And then we'll invite students, and we're going to focus our African American students, because we don't do enough on this campus for them. And I'm going to have the Gospel Choir come and sing, Lift Every Voice where this is going to be great. And they're just like, Oh, my goodness, you lost your mind. And I said, all that to just get Laila Ali. So they calm down, and I made a few phone calls. And I found out that Laila Ali was going to be \$50,000. And I knew that if I pulled this off on my own, that my vice chancellor was going to have a stroke. Like, like, you just you can't you won't you don't, let's not do that. So I did a little conversing with the agent, we got down to 25,000. And I talked to my colleague and campus dining services, who was lovely woman, very conservative, but I got her on board. And then I went to talk to the Vice Chancellor, and I said, say, I know about this little fun you have where you call money from all the fee areas, and you have this sort of slush fund. She goes, No, no, it's a special fund. I go, right, right. Nobody knows how to get money out of it. I said, here's a proposal, I said, I need \$25,000 I want to bring Laila Ali to campus. And what she was resistant. And then I said, Well, what have you done for our students of color lately? I mean, I was a pretty tough negotiator. And she said, Well, and I said, stop. You don't have anything tangible, you can say. But you can say this, and think about how great this is going to be. She's well, does anybody know who this is? So I said, I'm gonna prove it to you. So after one of our staff meetings, our director meetings, went down into the student center, sort of like the bone. All the African American kids sit at one table and all the white kids in another table. And I had our business manager, and the Associate Vice Chancellor with me, and I said, Just come with me. And randomly I walked up to a table of white kids. And I said, say, Well, how would you feel if I told you that you can have dinner with Laila Ali? What do you think the response was? There? She was no, who I go, nevermind. Moving on, to a big table, big table of students, all black. And I said, Listen, I'm sorry to intrude. But what would you say if I told you that you have a chance to have dinner with Laila Ali? Away? Shut up? I did that two more times. The white student

response was, huh. The black student response was, Oh, come on, bring it up. When I'm going, I'm going. So I looked at my colleagues, and I said, You better go tell the Vice Chancellor, she's writing me a check for \$25,000 to support this, because we're doing it. And so we did it. It was incredible. It was incredible. Laila Ali was magnificent. And that woman stood for probably 150 selfies with students after the program. And so she saw the gym, she loved it. I talked to her about the inspiration from her father, and had actually met her father at one point at one of our Special Olympics events. And so we had a little visit about that. And then she came for the dinner. And then she did a back and forth talk with one of our sports casters up on the podium. And it was really great. And the Legion of Black Collegians Gospel Choir came, and they sang two or three songs. And it was wonderful. And that was it. We did another one after that. But that's like, okay, let's put a boxing gym in a collegiate recreation facility. Let's do something that nobody has been doing your before. Let's make a little magic. And so those those are the kinds of experiences that I think, you know, enrich a campus. Those are the kinds of things that excite me and motivate me, and I think they certainly made the Mizzou rec experience different for our students.

Kara Snyder 0:00

Oh, I bet. Absolutely. Well, Diane, we're going to wrap up our fantastic conversation here with a speed round. So I want you to go with your first instinct on these questions.

Diane Dahlmann 0:10

Okay. All right.

Kara Snyder 0:13

What is your favorite pastime? Reading? What are you currently reading?

Diane Dahlmann 0:19

Oh, I am reading to how to tell a story is one and life worth living? Oh, very good. Yeah, those just came in.

Kara Snyder 0:30

What was your favorite place on campus?

Diane Dahlmann 0:33

Well, I didn't have one. I mean, I love the quad. But I have to say that now my favorite place is Redbird Plaza. Meet me at the bird. I was sharing. It's beautiful out there. And Judy's estate helped fund that which is wonderful.

Kara Snyder 0:44

Yes, it's very special. What is your favorite electronic device?

Diane Dahlmann 0:49

Oh, my iPhone.

Kara Snyder 0:51

Gotta have it right. Yeah. favorite breakfast food.

Diane Dahlmann 0:55

cold pizza. Really? cold pizza. Yeah, we have pizza. Night. Oh, yeah. called cold pizza is mine the next morning?

Kara Snyder 1:03

I love It's first time I've heard that answer.

Diane Dahlmann 1:05

So I love that. Yeah, always, always have.

Kara Snyder 1:09

What's your favorite vacation destination?

Diane Dahlmann 1:12

Cape Cod, Massachusetts, and in particular, the Outer Cape. I'm a great fan of North Turo. Oh, nice.

Kara Snyder 1:19

Nice. And I ask everybody that comes on the podcast. Avantis are pub to

Diane Dahlmann 1:25

Avantis. Does anybody go to pub to? varieties come on pizza burgers and a loaf of bread go?

Kara Snyder 1:34

It's a pretty polarizing question. So I love that you're committed to your answer.

Diane Dahlmann 1:39

Yes, I am. I have

Kara Snyder 1:42

one last question for you. If you could give one piece of advice to a college student what would you say?

Diane Dahlmann 1:47

Show up.

Kara Snyder 1:48

That's a great answer.

Diane Dahlmann 1:51

You got to show up intellectually, spiritually, emotionally, and physically show up.

Kara Snyder 1:58

Great answer. Thank you. And thanks again for being here.

Diane Dahlmann 2:01

Then my pleasure Kara. Show Redbirds that was Diane

Kara Snyder 2:05

Dolman alum of the School of Kinesiology and Recreation. Join us next time on the podcast for more stories from our cast alumni