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## Interview with Colette Drouillard

Colette Drouillard

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**Interviewee:** Colette L Drouillard

**Interviewers:** Evelyn Paez and Eunice Sosa

**Date:** Nov 20, 2020 08:00 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

**Location:** via Zoom

**Collection:** Auntie Sewing Squad Oral History Archive, SBS 112: Women and Social Change, From 1890s to the Present, Fall 2020

**Length:** 00:47:14

**Overseen by:** Dr. Chrissy Yee Lau

**Bio:** Colette L Drouillard grew up in Michigan and later lived in various places, including Boston, Tallahassee, and London. She received her PhD in Library Science and is now an Associate Professor in the state of Georgia. During the pandemic, she moved to Michigan to care for her mother and joined the Auntie Sewing Squad to help others.

**Thematic Summary:** (00:00:21) Colette L Drouillard talks about her childhood, where she grew up and what it was like living in an almost segregated community. (00:11:38) She speaks about her job as a professor and the experiences she's had working in her field. (00:19:34) She speaks on how she found out about the Auntie Sewing Squad and why she decided to join. (00:26:43) She continues to talk about how the sewing squad changed her perspectives and inspired her to start a club on campus. (00:34:58) She discusses how she decided to encourage students to wear masks on campus by creating a giant mask and putting it onto a statue on campus. (00:40:10) She discusses the impact the sewing squad has made on her life.

### **Interview Transcript:**

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EP: Do you want to record, or?

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ES: Um she said both of us should record in case one fails.

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CD: Smart Idea.

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ES: OK. So. The first question that we have for you is: tell us about yourself, where are you from and where did you grow up?

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CD: OK. I grew up in Michigan. My parents moved from the west side of the state. So if you

know Michigan, this is the west side and backwards on your. It doesn't matter. This is Lake Michigan, my parents and their families. We're all currently living in Grand Rapids and Muskegon area on the Chicago side of Michigan and then they moved to Detroit when I was three and the house that my mom lives and now is the house they bought back then. So she's still there and my brothers are both still there, but I grew up in a suburb about 10 miles outside the city center. So typical American, Midwestern, white. Very few minorities other than we had Chaldean. Kids that moved in about the time I was in second or third grade and they were Arab immigrants from the Middle East that were Christian and then very slowly are primarily Jewish neighborhood. We began to get a few black kids move into the neighborhood, but it's still predominantly white in that area. Detroit, unlike the South where I live now, is not segregated formally, but was very segregated informally by choice. And so I spent most of my year in suburban Detroit. And then we had a family cottage on Lake Michigan that we would spend four to six weeks at every summer, which is how I got so close to my cousins and even though our extended family didn't live near each other, I still got to know them pretty, most of them pretty well. My dad was Catholic, so his three sisters all had like nine kids and they were all older than he was by about eleven to fourteen years. So their youngest kids were all my age and my brothers are younger than I was. So, that's kind of the family dynamic. Back and forth across Michigan and a big Catholic family. My mom's side, my grandfather emigrated from the Netherlands twice with his parents in the late thirties, in the mid forties, early forties, I guess, because by the time World War Two occurred he was old enough to be an American fighter in Belgium. So he served in World War Two, but I am second generation from that side. On my dad's side. We finally tracked down an immigrant to the United States in the late 60s, hundreds. So we've been in the Detroit area or Ontario, Canada, for the better part of 400 years. So I'm about as white as it gets. There's teeny tiny, itty bitty percent in there of Native Americans due to a grandmother somewhere on my dad's mom's side, who always, she always talked about her grandmother that was Native American. I'm happy to say genetics bore her out, but not a lot. Not a lot.

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EV: OK. And you mentioned that you grew up segregated from like a little, a lot of other minorities, right?

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CD: Well, I wasn't really aware of that until much later in life. It's looking back.

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EV: Yeah, well, like that experience growing up.

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CD: Well, it's interesting because. I was raised Catholic in a Jewish neighborhood. So in many ways, I was the minority. I was very confused. I thought everybody got Hanukkah Galton their Christmas sock. My best friend is Jewish. We've been best friends since we were seven. She is

the one that is still digging in on my computer. And oddly enough, we had one black boy that went to high school with us and he shared our locker because he came in late and didn't have a locker. So we made space for him. We were fairly oblivious to it and I think part of the reason was because we not only had grown up in a communal area where people weren't of the same. Many of her family and many of our friends' families had emigrated from Germany or from Western Europe, Eastern Europe, sorry. Prior to World War Two and so when we started having the Arab immigration, when those wars began and we had Chaldean friends coming in. It wasn't as unexpected for us because we had grown up that way. Looking at my yearbook as an adult, it was a real shock. To see Tony really was the only Black kid I went to school with because we had joked for years about the fact that we shared our locker with literally the only kid of color in the school and as it turns out, I think there was one other student that came in when we were seniors. That was a freshman. We had no idea how segregated we really were because we didn't it didn't feel like I grew up in a homogenous neighborhood since all of these other cultures were in there even if we were all white. And now the area is actually one of the largest Muslim areas outside of the Middle East, because following the Chaldeans, we later had in an area of the state, the cities named Dearborn that's predominantly Arab and Muslim and that immigrated there later. So Detroit is kind of a latter day melting pot and always has been, from what I understand. Did I answer the question?

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ES: Yes.

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EP: Yes.

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CD: Awesome.

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ES: So our next question is, what is one of the most challenging things you have experienced in regards to being a woman in the U.S.?

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CD: You know, I was really glad you sent me these questions, because that one was really hard. I could think of lots of little experiences. When I was a little older than you, where I was working in occupational safety in Michigan. And I had guys make propositions or to try to touch me inappropriately, any of those things are irritating and humiliating and frustrating, but probably the, the one experience that I had wasn't specific to being a woman. It was, it was when I got laid off from a job in, having been in an occupational safety career for a number of years. But then I was at that point had moved from Michigan to Idaho where I worked for a Department of Energy

and then went to the state of Florida. And Jeb Bush followed his brother's footsteps in Texas and eliminated the entire occupational safety division for the state of Florida, which not only meant that all of us, men and women lost our jobs, it also meant that no longer was there any occupational safety protection for city, county and state government workers. And so we were not only losing our jobs, but we knew that the work that we'd been doing. Not only to create and enforce the laws of occupational safety also meant that people like firemen and policemen that need respiratory protection for fighting fires no longer had any laws to protect them. They were dependent upon whatever their city felt was appropriate. And during times when budgets are tight, if there's not somebody there saying they have to have this protection. They often get the short end of the stick and get told to use old equipment for one more year and so it was. That was really the most challenging point of losing part of work I've ever been in was just knowing that not only did we all lose our jobs, but we also were leaving all of these men and women that, I mean, they do everything in the community. They work for the city, county or state. In Georgia, their only protection now is, is workers comp insurance, with the logic being that it should be up to the employer to decide what is safest based on what it will cost them if somebody gets hurt. And of course, the employer's perspective is always, well, nobody will get hurt. So anyway, I know that probably not exactly what you were looking for, but in regards to work experiences and lifetime experiences, that really was the most challenging one I ever went through. When it comes down to being just specific as a woman, even though I. I faced a lot of things that I hope you guys never. Oh i'm going to kill her. I hope you guys never have to, because being in the late 80s, early 90s, a lot of it changed, but a lot hadn't changed yet. The fact that I was working with the men wasn't the surprising thing at that point. Like it was when my grandma started working in the 40s or even when my mom was working in the 60s. But the way they treated you was certainly inappropriate on occasion and you didn't have the ability to file a complaint and not be the one that was blamed for it happening. So if you wore a big bulky T-shirt or sweatshirt instead of a cute pink t-shirt. This wouldn't have happened to you. And you know nonsense like that. But um I was always in a position at that point where I was young and I didn't have a family and I could tell them to stuff it and leave. That's fine. You do you I'm out of here, but that's a luxury that a lot of women just don't have when it happens.

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EP: Right and what about for your position right now as a Professor, has there ever been anything that has affected you because of your gender?

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CD: I don't think so, but some of that is because of the field I'm in. Most faculty teaching in education or in library science are female. So, we did have a dean here for a while that his focus was solely on K-12 and library wasn't very important. And some of that, I think, was the fact that. Even if education is primarily female, his perspective was librerie was entirely female. And so we were. I can turn that off. We were definitely the black sheep in the flock at that point. However, he has since left and the woman that's in charge now understands wholeheartedly the importance of the work we do and how it connects and intersects with education, as well as many other facets of life and business. So. But I think a lot of, a lot of the reason why we don't

typically run into that is because it's predominantly women in my field. If I were in a field like biology, I think my experience would be very different because you still have most of those programs run by old white men and. Being a woman of color in one of those environments is, is very challenging. It's very hard to find mentorship and find people to collaborate with that aren't collaborating with you because they're told to. And that's never a wonderful experience. So I'm really I'm really fortunate here we have, predominantly women of color, although we do have a Korean faculty member who is male. With African-American, we have Chinese, we have Korean. We have Latina. And then we have a couple of white chicks.

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EP: So it's pretty diverse.

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CD: We're very lucky we're a small program and we are focused on educating working paraprofessionals and already working in libraries. So our goal is always to try to bring in the most diverse student body possible, because more than anything else, what we need to get into libraries now are librarians and materials that reflect the user's world. And so it's equally important if you're going to do that, to have faculty that reflect the students so that when they come in and you're talking about how to provide library services, that you've got somebody that looks like you, that has experience doing that. It's really hard to get that trickle up factor to work. It's something that our field has worked in for a long time and we are very fortunate because we predominantly are a teaching university instead of a research university that we are able to attract people that really want to work with students, and those have tended to be women and minorities, people of color.

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ES: Did this experience change anything for you? And if it did, how so?

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CD: Well, you're talking about the traumatic experience of getting laid off, and I'll and I will tell you some of that is probably coming because my niece, who is probably about your age, she's 21. She graduated from college this past spring, had been working for a company called Stock X for almost two years, bought her first house three weeks ago and got laid off on Tuesday. So, some of my responses are very much being triggered by her own experiences right now, which again, had nothing to do with her sex or her ethnicity. But bear in mind, when I was trying to jot down ideas, when I was when I jotted down my idea for you guys, it was the same thing that it took me two days to realize and only after chatting with a number of women in the Auntie Sewing Squad that my my own personal traumatic experience wound up leading to one of the most phenomenal experiences I ever had. Because after I lost my job, I had to go in and explain to the dean why I was withdrawing from college with one semester to go and a masters degree. And she said, Did you sell your house? And I'm like, Oh, I did. I was so lucky. And she's like, You don't have kids,

do you? I'm like no. She's like, I desperately need somebody to go to London for a year. Would you be willing to work in our library in London for a year? Twist my arm harder. You're not only going to send me, you're going to pay me to go? And then pay me while I'm there anyway? So I was very fortunate because out of the worst experience I've ever had in the workplace came one of the most amazing experiences, because you don't often walk into, as a newly graduated librarian, which I was able to do as a result of that. I stayed with the faculty member for a semester, finished my degree, and then went to London for two years to run the library for our exchange, not exchange program. But our study abroad students, not just for FSU, but for a whole group of universities that have their students based in the Bloomsbury area anyway. That that again came up after chatting with the aunts.

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EP: It created a good experience for your future, basically.

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CD: Well, it really did, because it was because I was working there that I got tickets to go to Greece for like a hundred dollars. And I wound up chatting in a taverna with a little boy who spoke no English, but his mom did. And he and I chatted for hours about Harry Potter. And when I came back from, from there, I somehow wound up in the PhD program that has a way of happening in academia. And when we were talking about prep, do what I wanted to do for my research, I had all these practical ideas based on my work history and occupational safety and helping employers provide better support and education for their workers to protect them. And then I said and oh, by the way, I have this crazy idea about Harry Potter because I spent this time in Greece talking to a kid and I that's where my dissertation wound up going, which is why I'm in a room full of children's books instead of talking to you from a corporate office somewhere, probably. And probably not sewing.

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EP: Speaking of sewing, when did you find out about the sewing squad and why did you decide to join?

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CD: Well, I was. I was in a hard position this past summer. I had gone home. My dad passed away last summer. And my mom wound up in the hospital this past spring because of a health condition that we were unaware of. It had been hidden by my dad being sick. And so I threw everything in my car. Thankfully, my courses are all fully online so I can teach from anywhere. And I went tearing up to Michigan at the beginning of the Corona virus scare to help my mom. And so at the end of summer. In about. Gosh. It's very dry in here today. Sorry. In about July. The reality was I had to get back to Georgia because they kind of want you on campus if they're going to pay you to be a faculty member, even if your students aren't. And I had been working with a cousin who's an OR nurse manager. And making masks for my cousins and friends and, I

happened to see Kristina Wong, who is our Auntie overlord. You may have heard about this. I happened to catch her in an article on a Michigan mask web site that I helped my cousin manage to provide masks to nurses and health professionals around the state of Michigan and somebody shared an article that had been published about the anti sowing squad. And I was getting ready to go back to Georgia. I didn't want to go back. And so I talked to Christine and said, this is really cool. I can't believe what you have turned this into, because what she had developed was as much a community of people as it was a collaboration of sewers. And I said, are you taking new sewers? And they're like, well, not really. But if you want to send us some information about you we're mostly women of color, though. And I'm like, oh, well, there's color somewhere. I know they put color on my hair all the time. Anyway, I sent her this long note justifying why I really was an auntie and it had to do with my niece and nephew as much as sewing masks. And they let me in there are, there are now more than a few of us. But at the time. It was very kind of her to let me in because I was looking for a community to keep working with the virtual community that I could keep working with. Because the physical community I was leaving behind and it was really difficult to leave my mom and my brother and my, my brothers and my family and my friends all behind to come back to my job where I have friends. But I don't know if you guys know what Georgia does in regards to protecting people against covid, but it's not much. So if you're smart, you are not spending a lot of time where people congregate here because we have had some pretty bad outbreaks and we do not have any regulations or orders requiring masks or any other type of personal protective equipment. And so I. Got into the Facebook group and then they added me to the East Coast group, where my closest, unlike the aunties in California that are all kind of based in several hugs and then more dispersed. My closest aunties are Jacksonville, which is two hours away, Orlando, which is five hours away. And to the north, I think North Carolina. So you are our East Coast. Auntie Chat isn't a huge group, but they are phenomenal women and they've been there for me every step of the way and. I. It has given me a community online that I don't necessarily have here because as an academic and as a rather liberal person, I live in a very rural southern Georgia neighborhood. I live in a community of about thirty thousand people. And I think there are. Well, the university has about 600 faculty, so let's go with six hundred Democrats. The fact that Georgia voted Democrat this year has nothing to do with anybody. That is not of color. It's just like the Auntie Sewing Squad. It is women of color that are pushing it here. And those of us that are there supporting them as best we can in any way we can.

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EP: Allies.

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CD: As much as we can be, as much as they want, because we're not there to try to control them or tell them what to do.

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EP: Right. That's very important.



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CD: Mhm. It really is. And again, that's something I've learned as a result of working with women of color and students of color. I might want to do the best thing I can to teach them the most about literature. Coming from a range of cultures, but the minute I start telling you that this is an awesome book for you because you're from this culture, that's not my place. It's my place to say I would really like it if you'd read this and tell me what you think. So I can share it with other people. That didn't happen overnight. I had to learn that one, too. And. That, that's happened. Not necessarily because of the aunties, but it has certainly become enhanced because of the work I do with aunties.

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So they definitely influenced, like more change, would you say?

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CD: I think so, I would certainly think so. They're just such a wonderful group of people. I've never been part of a volunteer group where one of the primary tenants was caring for each other. An essential element of the Auntie Sewing Squad is not only self care, but caring for the others. And I don't know where that came from, but I know that does not happen when I've worked in volunteer groups that were primarily white. There we give awards.

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EP: So it's a different experience.

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CD: Absolutely. Absolutely. But they're amazing. I mean, the entire group of them is amazing. You're, you've got faculty in California that have done some phenomenal things with sewing groups, with their students on campus, with projects like this. This is spectacular. I think I am the only faculty member. Not from California. And I. Haven't yet tied it into my curriculum. I have tried. I don't work with undergraduates at all. But I have tried and I am going to try harder if we have the luxury of students back on campus this spring. We do have six sewing machines in our library. And I would like to get a sewing group going for students that live on campus and they are primarily black and from Atlanta. We also have an almost equal size population that is southern and white, but they primarily live at home. And the odds of them wanting to do something like this are slim because, of course, they don't sew.

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EP: So what was your overall experience being part of the Auntie Sewing Squad?

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CD: It's been great. I have, I've learned a lot about sewing. I can now do more than a straight line. Um so the coaching and the support of each other, the sharing of materials, as in, I have four spools of elastic and somebody else has the week off. Yes, send the elastic. I mean, it's crazy, but that's literally how supplies fly around here. It's, it's very much a collaborative collaboration where you support each person in what they can do, not what they should do. I have met some of the most amazing women and men, but in my particular case, it's primarily women. It's been great. I hope you guys get to come with us sometime.

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ES: Sounds like fun. So what are some things that you love about being in the Auntie Sewing Squad?

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CD: About what?

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ES: About being in the Auntie Sewing Squad?

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CD: I think that's that. It's really the people that I've met. More than anything else. I mean, I love the fact that while I can't be there to help my mom. My best friend is there, my brothers are there, others are there to help her. This is something small I can do to help somebody else. In exchange for what others are doing. To help my mom. And, yeah, it's, it's crazy, I was. In a zoom meeting, working from home the other day and cut out materials for one hundred and fifty masks to go to Navajo kids on a reservation where they are not getting any funding or materials from the government, which is obscene. But I'm in the middle of a zoom meet, not a zoom meeting because we're not on zoom. It's collaborate but and somebody finally said, What are you doing? And I'm like, Oh hi, I'm cutting. I have one hundred and fifty masks to sew this weekend to get them off so I can move on to the next thing and they're like. You're making masks and I'm like, I'm making masks. That's what I do. That's the part I can do. I can't go volunteer and go help teach the, you know, Head Start group or help protect the kids and teach them how to put on their mask and wash their hands. But I can't sew masks and send them off and it's a little something I can do because there's a lot of things I can't do for my own family where I am now and that's really what it has allowed me to do, is feel like I'm still contributing something, even though I'm not where my family is. It's not contributing to them, but it's a way of appreciating what others are doing for me when I can't be there. It all comes back.

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ES: OK. So I know that the Auntie Sewing Squad is more like a group that's like collaborating online, but since COVID 19, has happened, has made a difference in how things work and if so how.

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ES: There was no Auntie Sewing Squad before covid 19. Kristina actually had all of her own. She's a performance artist. I don't know if you've seen pieces of her show in class or not. Somewhat political in nature. At least the shows I've seen and I've seen a number of them online now. But she wound up. Good grief. She wound up with a very open schedule and sent out a note on Facebook offering anybody that, that needed a face mask because they had a health problem or were working and needed protection to send her a note letter knowing she had a Hello Kitty sewing machine and she would make them a mask. What's kind of what happened with me and my cousins as I was originally down here in Georgia and Facebook went out and one cousin told another that I sent them a mask and this old decrepit sewing machine that I had. I was just cranking out facemasks as fast as I could for my cousins. In Kristina's case, she went and turned it into a small group online because the demand went crazy with being an artist and in the public eye, a little bit more or a lot more. She wound up with a lot of a lot of requests. Thousands. And so it started out as a friend and a friend of a friend. And then they came up with a name and then it evolved. And because of her background, she's had the ability to promote it a bit. And obtain the resources that are needed to keep a group producing. So covid didn't really change what we do. It caused what we do. Did that all make sense?

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ES: Yeah. I didn't know that. That the Auntie Sewing Squad started because of covid 19.

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CD: Yeah, you know. I hope I will keep many of these friends long after we're making masks, maybe doing other things. But that's that's where it came from.

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EP: Do you think it would ever shift into sewing something other than masks, let's say, like a pandemic, like after?

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Well, they were. Kristina is trying to keep trying to keep it focused, but she's not doing such a good job sometimes. And she's the one that says that, not me. Because we have wound up doing drives to get cold weather. Care for some of the reservations that we're providing masks to in the process of providing those She discovered some of these sick, serious, serious lack of cold weather wear and blankets and gloves and coats in particular. So we've kind of taken a tiny bit of a detour and people keep talking, oh, we should all start making blankets, too. And she's like, no,

stop. We're not getting into every business there is and, oh, we need more coats. They need coats desperately. I don't know where it will wind up going. I know she has a whole career. I know that this is not her plan. This is just kind of what happened.

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EP: Right.

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CD: So who knows where it will go. I will, I will show you. Let's see if I can get him to copy and paste. I had seen some stuff online. Copy, please. And being a smart ALEC, we have a big. Is that not going to upload there? You dork. I'm seeing some pictures online. I had found a bunch of statues covered with masks. And we have a problem on campus with getting students to wear masks. So we have this creature in front of our library. That kind of looks like a big dragon and bear with me while I scroll up in the photos to try and get one for you. Um. That I finally broke down and fabric bombed a little while ago. And wound up getting some pretty good attention, not just here on campus, but across the state. It wound up going out to all the deans of the twenty six Georgia universities. OK. Come on. Really? I see the fabric. They're here, I swear they are. I cannot believe it's not letting me do this. Sandras, where did you go? All right, let's try a different way then. And one thing that we have had was just crazy fun in regards to um. All right. Let's save this picture and see if that will work on my desktop to upload. Oh I know how I can do it. Hang on. Here we go. I see the magic button share screen. Hosts, disabled oh it's not going to let me. I will. I will send you an email. And we have a big ten foot tall. Lack of a better term dragon in front of the building, it comes from Norse mythology, I later discovered that I masked up. So I. Took about 10 yards of fabric. Turned it into a facemask and put it, grabbed some of the guys on the basketball team to help me because I'm only about five foot one. And there was no way I was getting it up over his nose. Anyway, that's the best thing in regards to getting kids here on campus enthused about wearing masks. And I'm hoping that. Maybe it will be a way to get them involved in making masks this spring to get them a little bit involved with the community. Potentially, I would like to see some of them working on in the polls and helping voters get to the polls in January because we have this little election coming up for two senators here in Georgia that might and I apologize for the politics. I don't know what your politics are. But in my case, I would really like to see somebody in charge that didn't have his own best interests at heart. And if we can get two Democrats in the Senate from Georgia, we can flip the Senate and actually accomplish something in the next four years that might deal with some of these issues we're finding on reservations and people that really need protection and assistance that aren't getting it unless, you know, they're millionaires and want a tax cut. So I apologize, you can delete the political part if it's inappropriate for what you're doing. But that's one of the reasons why I was trying to share the masks with you all, is that I have managed to engage the imagination of students on campus because they have, this is a miniature version. A giant, huge black pochoda, white poke about some black with red, because our school colors are, our school colors are black and red. And so now we've got kids taking pictures in front of it and doing their graduation pictures in front of it because they can't have graduation. So that's been kind of cool. And I would have never thought to do that if I hadn't had aunties that were sharing photos of

what they'd see in other places. And I was like, well, I can do that. I know I can. I know how to make masks. How hard can it be to make 120 times the size isn't as easy as I thought. But I did it. So, yeah, that's that's probably the closest thing to a local impact I've made with it.

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EP: So the Auntie Sewing Squad has created a big impact in your life, you would say?

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CD: Oh, I would say for sure. I mean, I wouldn't have met any of the women that when I was losing my stuff on Tuesday because I knew my niece was brokenhearted and didn't know where to turn or what to do, they all started sharing their stories of when I lost my job. I didn't have a partner and I had two kids. And this is what happened to me. And every single one of them had a story that I could share back to her. I mean, it was amazing. And that wasn't even my personal problem. It was my niece. The same thing happened yesterday when one of the gals said, I need to leave for a while because I mean my husband's sole caretaker. And within about 20 minutes, it was like, no no no. This is when you stay and we support you however we can. We may not be there, but we can help. So we can send in dinner. We can, we can be there to listen. And we can, you may not be able to. So today you'll sew again. But let's see how we can support you. And that's what it really is turned into, for me anyway. And at least for my Little East Coast group.

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EP: The little community that you guys have created.

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CD: I think so. And we're not physically close. I know many of the auntie groups have the ability to meet in parking lots and wave at each other from cars and, you know, have a little bit of physical, not not virtual, but actual interaction. We don't have that. But that's OK. It's amazing the way we have adapted to having just as close of a relationship, even though we're physically not very close.

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So you guys all created a bond within each other.

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CD: I think so. And you. You feel that across the group, though? It's not our that our group is unique. Our group has followed other groups that have started had started developing that. And again, I don't know if it's Kristina or herself that engaged that some of the original friends that she brought in with her, that that really caused that to happen. But it has been a really magical process across hundreds of women now. There are like eight hundred of us in there. And at any

given time, 400 very engaged, at least half.

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EP: And for our last question, is would you encourage others to join the squad and if so, what advice would you give?

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CD: Um I have. A couple of people. Mostly, I've supported people that I have had contact me because they saw something in the newspaper. When, when Fenris went. A little bit. Not viral. Did not go viral. It went on the university web page. It then wound up in the local paper and up in Atlanta and I had several people contact me and I wholeheartedly encourage them. And they were similar sewers to where I was, which was I knew how to work a machine, but I certainly, you know, if it involved a lot of fitting like a garment and not going to happen, I can make, I can make a heck of a good mask. Now, though, who knew? A couple thousand later, you get really good at it. And that's what I told them. It's nobody's expecting you to be a seamstress from day one. We have some of those and they're awesome at helping us where we're running into problems or helping us improve our skills. But. Yes. So I have encouraged others. But there are, there are others that have come to me and asked if they could become involved or they saw what I was doing and they wanted to do it, too. Um and to a greater extent, others that were newly had joined because they connected with it somewhere. I've been there that really encourage them and help them figure out how to do what we do. So, yeah. Anything else?

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EP: That actually concludes our questions.

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CD: What are you guys majoring in?

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EP: I am majoring in human development and family studies,

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CD: which means what?

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EP: So my goal right now is going through social work and then after social work, I want to go into law and I want to be a family lawyer.

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CD: You go, girl. How about you?

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ES: My major is computer science with a software engineering concentration.

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CD: Oh. That is awesome. Both of you. My best friend's daughter is a social worker and is just getting ready to go for her masters so she can become certified in Michigan. There are categories you have to go up there. But she has no interest in law school. She's there to work with kids. And I wish somebody would come teach me computer science some days. Holy moly. I work online and I'm good, but I am not a programmer.

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ES: Yeah I'm just getting started.

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CD: It's, it's a field that is only going to grow and who knows where next. Well, I wish you both the best of luck. If you have any more questions, let me know. I will send you a picture of Fenner's since I clearly am having no luck with zoom. It hates me.

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00:46:06,720 --> 00:46:11,260

EP: OK, we'll include that into our presentation.

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00:46:11,260 --> 00:46:16,000

CD: Well it's just kind of fun to see this huge.

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EP: Right. Yeah.

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CD: Nordic. Whatever I. I didn't even. I didn't even know what its name was or what its mythological background was until after I made the mask and went in the paper. And apparently the public relations person for the university provided all that info. I'm not gonna help you. I've walked by that guy for ten years. Nobody ever told me. I just thought it was like a dragon or something. Yeah, that was kind of funny but it was really nice to meet you guys. I'm glad that I was able to chat with you.

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EP: Thank you so much for your time.

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Absolutely. And if you need any clarification or want more detail or anything, just send me a note. My students are fully online and fully asynchronous, so I'm on and off the computer seven days a week.

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EP: Ok, well thank you so much.

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You are really welcome bye.