

Project 2020
A Collaborative Oral History

Dr. O. Jennifer Dixon-McKnight
Department of History
Winthrop University

Project 2020 began as an Oral History Project conducted in Fall 2020 by Winthrop University graduate students in the Department of History. The goal was to conduct interviews that explored the various ways in which Americans experienced and have been impacted by the various watershed moments that emerged during the year 2020 (the global pandemic, social unrest, financial challenges, issues with healthcare, education, etc.).

The students in my graduate class in the fall understood that they were living history and that it was important for us to capture it. Most often, we are unaware of those moments that will be historically noteworthy until they have already made history. The year 2020 is unique in that we were and are able to recognize its historic significance in the moment. Students interviewed a wide range of individuals exploring themes such as education, healthcare, essential workers, and Americans and their international experience in the midst of a worldwide pandemic).

It is important to record as much of this history as we can while it is still fresh on the minds and in the hearts of those of us who have lived it. Oral histories can offer important insights into 2020 and the subsequent years as the reverberations of this moment continue to unfold across the nation.

The goal is to collect as many interviews as we possibly can from as many communities as we can reach to ensure that this history is not lost. These stories are important and historically noteworthy. Something as seemingly simple as trips to the grocery store or making a doctor's appointment have become key in helping future generations understand this moment in history.

All interviews will be deposited at the Louise Pettus Archives and Special Collections here at Winthrop University.

Please contact the Project 2020 director or intern with any questions and/or to setup an interview.

Dr. O. Jennifer Dixon-McKnight, Director
Isa Long, Intern
Bancroft 370
803-323-3701
project2020oh@winthrop.edu