

*MONOLOGUE #4 (CATHERINE COLLONEY)*

My understanding when I first came here is that I was the first “out” lesbian or gay faculty member on campus. And that was in 1992. So, that wasn’t that long ago. Um, I was asked at my interview what my husband did, um, and so I came out then...Do you want a funny story? When you first get here as a new faculty member, there’s all these things you have to do. And so, I was in my office and I noticed that this woman called...I was expecting, you know, it was a health-insurance phone call, something like that, and so I called her back. And I could hear her. She’s working on her keyboard, clicking away—I said, you know, “This is Catherine Connolly returning your phone call.” And she said, “Oh, it’s you.” And I thought, “This is bizarre.” And she said, “I hear—I hear—I hear you’re gay. I hear you are.” I was like, “Uh huh.” And she said, “I hear you came as a couple. I’m one too. Not a couple, just a person.” And so—she was—a kind of lesbian who knew I was coming and she wanted to come over and meet me immediately. And later she told me that there were other lesbians that she knew who wouldn’t be seen with me. That I would irreparably taint them, that just to be seen with me could be a problem.