

Guide to the UNLV Remembers: an Oral History of the 6 December 2023 Shooting interviews

This finding aid was created by UNLV Special Collections and Archives staff. This copy was published on September 12, 2024. Please contact special.collections@unlv.edu for questions regarding this collection.

Persistent URL for this finding aid: <http://n2t.net/ark:/62930/f1g798>

© 2024 The Regents of the University of Nevada. All rights reserved.

**University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special
Collections and Archives.**

Box 457010

4505 S. Maryland Parkway

Las Vegas, Nevada 89154-7010

special.collections@unlv.edu

Table of Contents

Summary Information	3
Scope and Contents Note	3
Arrangement	4
Administrative Information	4
Names and Subjects	5
Collection Inventory	5

Summary Information

Repository:	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
Contributor:	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Oral History Research Center
Title:	UNLV Remembers: an Oral History of the 6 December 2023 Shooting interviews
ID:	OH-03923
Date:	2024
Physical Description:	79 Digital Files (3.214 GB) MP3, PDF/A
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	The UNLV Remembers: an Oral History of the 6 December 2023 Shooting interviews (2024-) contain all oral history interviews conducted by UNLV University Libraries Oral History Research Center. This project aims to enhance the historical record about the events of December 6, 2023 shooting with first-hand accounts of the tragedy, campus and community response, and recovery efforts. Interviews are with students, staff, faculty, and others. Digital audio available for all interviews; check collection inventory for individual narrators and more detailed information on specific interviews.

Preferred Citation

UNLV Remembers: an Oral History of the 6 December 2023 Shooting interviews, 2024. OH-03923. [Cite format consulted: Audio recording or Transcript.] Oral History Research Center, Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Scope and Contents Note

The UNLV Remembers: an Oral History of the 6 December 2023 Shooting interviews (2024-) contain all oral history interviews conducted by UNLV University Libraries Oral History Research Center. This project aims to enhance the historical record about the events of December 6, 2023 shooting with first-hand accounts of the tragedy, campus and community response, and recovery efforts. Interviews are with students, staff, faculty, and others. Digital audio available for all

interviews; check collection inventory for individual narrators and more detailed information on specific interviews.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Arrangement

Interviews are arranged in the order they were transferred to UNLV Special Collections and Archives Technical Services.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Administrative Information

Access Note

Collection is open for research.

Publication Rights

This material is made available to facilitate private study, scholarship, or research. Copyright is owned by the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Please see the UNLV Libraries Special Collections policies on reproduction and use or contact us at special.collections@unlv.edu. Some transcripts do not exist in final form, therefore any editing marks in a transcript (deletions, additions, corrections) are to be quoted as marked.

Acquisition Note

These interviews were conducted and transcribed by the Oral History Research Center (OHRC) which is part of the UNLV University Libraries Special Collections and Archives Division. In June 2024, Sarah Jones created the first accession of 6 interviews; accession number 2024-075.

Processing Note

Interview materials were processed by UNLV Libraries Special Collections and Archives beginning in June 2024. Sarah Jones wrote the initial collection description. Access copies were created for born-digital audio files. The audio has been minimally reviewed and all readily available information has been included in the description. This project is ongoing, and individual interviews are added to this collection periodically.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Names and Subjects

- Oral histories (document genres)
- Mass shootings
- University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Containers
<p>Connor Young oral history interview, 2024 May 03 (OH_03923_001)</p> <p>Creator: Young, Connor</p> <p>Physical Description: 1 Digital Files (MP3)</p> <p>Scope and Contents Note: Oral history interview with Connor Young conducted by Claytee D. White and Stefani Evans on May 3, 2024 for the UNLV Remembers: an Oral History of the 6 December 2023 Shootings project. In this interview, Young shares his recollections from December 6, 2023. He describes teaching a class in the Carol C. Harter Building Complex, receiving an alert about the shooting, and his subsequent thoughts and actions. Young led students to safety, walked one to MGM Grand, and was later picked up by his wife. He left all his belongings in the building, which he could not retrieve until after the semester ended. Young also describes growing up Oglala among Lakota people in South Dakota. He shares about enlisting in the U. S. Air Force after high school, and drawing on that training as a medic during the shooting. Digital audio available.</p> <p>Names and Subjects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Racism • Identity (Philosophical concept) • United States. Air Force 	<p>digital file 00</p>
<p>Aerin Agbilay oral history interview, 2024 May 13 (OH_03923_002)</p> <p>Creator: Agbilay, Aerin</p> <p>Physical Description: 1 Digital Files (MP3)</p> <p>Scope and Contents Note: Oral history interview with Aerin Agbilay conducted by Claytee D. White and Stefani Evans on May 13, 2024 for the UNLV Remembers: an Oral History of the 6 December 2023 Shootings project. In this interview, Agbilay shares her recollections from December 6, 2023. She recalls working at Rebel Grounds and sheltering in place until the police evacuated the group. She recalls the fear she felt for her girlfriend and sister, who were both on campus, and the kindness of coworkers who were there with her that day. Finally, she discusses the way she was able to manage her trauma from the event by writing it out and then throwing it away--a technique recommended by her sister, now a licensed clinical social worker. Digital audio available.</p> <p>Names and Subjects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental health 	<p>digital file 00</p>

- Mass shootings
- Las Vegas Shooting, Las Vegas, Nev., 2017

Ingrid Ruffin oral history interview, 2024 May 16 (OH_03923_003)

digital
file 00

Creator: Ruffin, Ingrid J.

Physical Description: 1 Digital Files (MP3)

Scope and Contents Note: Oral history interview with Ingrid Ruffin conducted by Claytee D. White and Stefani Evans on May 16, 2024 for the UNLV Remembers: an Oral History of the 6 December 2023 Shootings project. In this interview, Ruffin shares her recollections from December 6, 2023. She begins the interview discussing her childhood, attending college, and enlisting in the U.S. Air Force from 1999-2005. Ruffin then describes her journey to her current role as Associate Dean at UNLV Libraries, where she was working the day of the shooting. She remembers more than 1,000 people sheltering in the library and walking to Thomas & Mack to debrief before returning to campus and driving home. She recalls how her military training helped her remain calm through the events of that day and the next, but how the trauma broke through on Friday, manifesting as pain. Digital audio available.

Names and Subjects:

- Post-traumatic stress disorder
- Mental health
- University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Libraries
- United States. Air Force

Allyson Adamsen oral history interview, 2024 May 20 (OH_03923_004)

digital
file 00

Creator: Adamsen, Allyson

Physical Description: 1 Digital Files (MP3)

Scope and Contents Note: Oral history interview with Allyson Adamsen conducted by Claytee D. White and Stefani Evans on May 20, 2024 for the UNLV Remembers: an Oral History of the 6 December 2023 Shootings project. In this interview, Adamsen shares her recollections from December 6, 2023. Adamsen recalls being inside a Beam Hall restroom when she heard gunshots, and locking herself in a stall. She remained there until police arrived and escorted her out of the building. Adamsen recalls how Honors College Assistant Dean Jeneric called her and arranged for her to go to CAPS (Student Counseling and Psychological Services) and after that, she utilized a private therapist through her father's insurance. She also discusses the #UNLVStrong t-shirt she could not bring herself to wear until recently. Digital audio available.

Names and Subjects:

- Mental health services
- Police
- Health insurance

Megan Neri oral history interview, 2024 May 20 (OH_03923_005)

digital
file 00

Creator: Neri, Megan

Physical Description: 1 Digital Files (MP3)

Scope and Contents Note: Oral history interview with Megan Neri conducted by Claytee D. White and Stefani Evans on May 20, 2024 for the UNLV Remembers: an Oral History of the 6 December 2023 Shootings project. In this interview, Neri shares her recollections from December 6, 2023. She was working as the Communications Director for Lee Business

School and was in Beam Hall when she heard gunshots and screaming. She went to the 5th floor of the building and barricaded in an office with colleagues and students. Neri describes planning events for the Business School and assisting with campuswide commemorations to honor UNLV staff who were murdered that day. Finally, Neri shares how she is slowly recovering from the trauma of the day, and how grateful she is for fellow UNLV colleagues. Digital audio available.

Names and Subjects:

- Memorialization

Johnathan Terry oral history interview, 2024 May 21 (OH_03923_006)

digital
file 00

Creator: Terry, Johnathan

Physical Description: 1 Digital Files (MP3)

Scope and Contents: Oral history interview with Johnathan Terry conducted by Claytee D. White and Stefani Evans on May 21, 2024 for the UNLV Remembers: an Oral History of the 6 December 2023 Shootings project. In this interview, Terry shares his recollections from December 6, 2023. Terry, a Residential Life Coordinator with UNLV's Housing and Residence Life, recalls attending a meeting in the Tonopah Hall conference room when he noticed students running outside and offered them shelter inside the building. Police entered and confiscated his keys and told him to exit the building, leaving him without keys to his apartment and nowhere to go. Terry recalls walking to a nearby supermarket on Tropicana to wait until his spouse could pick him up, and getting sick the following day making him unable to take part in the many campus healing events. He shares advice to students to "find your community and don't isolate yourself." Digital audio available.

Names and Subjects:

- Student housing
- Police
- College students

Piper Baack oral history interview, 2024 June 17 (OH_03923_007)

digital
file 00

Creator: Baack, Piper

Physical Description: 1 Digital Files (MP3)

Scope and Contents Note: Oral history interview with Piper Baack conducted by Claytee D. White and Stefani Evans on June 17, 2024 for the UNLV Remembers: an Oral History of the 6 December 2023 Shootings project. In this interview, Baack shares her recollections from December 6, 2023. Baack, a UNLV senior at the time, was working on the fourth-floor Communications office at Greenspun Hall when the first alert arrived. She remembers trying to make the space look unoccupied, and hiding with about ten people in the office until the police evacuated them, sending them across Maryland Parkway to the Cafe Rio parking lot. Piper eventually met up with her sister and sister's boyfriend, and they went home together. In this interview, Piper discusses her longstanding anxiety over time and public transport, and how her dependency on the latter aggravates the former. She discusses accessing UNLV's CAPS (Student Counseling and Psychological Services) and seeing an outside therapist, and she talks about feeling safe on campus and at her current job at the Nevada State Museum. Digital audio available.

Names and Subjects:

- Mental health services

- Mass shootings
- College students
- Greenspun College of Urban Affairs (University of Nevada, Las Vegas)

Byron J. Schnell-Davis oral history interview, 2024 July 30 (OH_03923_008)

digital
file 00

Creator: Schnell-Davis, Byron J.

Physical Description: 2 Digital Files (MP3, PDF/A)

Scope and Contents: Oral history interview with Byron J. Schnell-Davis conducted by Claytee D. White and Stefani Evans on July 30, 2024 for the UNLV Remembers: an Oral History of the 6 December 2023 Shootings project. In this interview, Schnell-Davis recalls crossing Pida Plaza towards to the Flora Dungan Humanities building (FDH), where about twenty classmates had just begun setting up for an informal end-of-semester final session when a classmate heard from her father, a UNLV professor, that they should leave because there had been a shooting on campus. As their instructor had received no such message yet, he urged the class to remain in place until they knew more. When the University Police Department alerts began a few moments later, Hebbler and his students arranged themselves against the walls of the windowless classroom, and Schnell-Davis pushed his table in front of the door. He describes the sounds they heard and the barricade they erected in front of the door, using his water bottle to jam the door handle. He texted four words to his parents and friends: "I'm safe. More later." After about an hour, the police came to the door and identified themselves. As Hebbler opened it, they pointed their loaded automatic weapons directly at him. Hebbler and his students were evacuated to the parking lot across from campus, and they dispersed. Digital audio and transcript available.

Names and Subjects:

- College students
- Mass shootings

Amelia Davis oral history interview, 2024 July 08 (OH_03923_009)

digital
file 00

Creator: Davis, Amelia

Physical Description: 2 Digital Files (MP3, PDF/A)

Scope and Contents: Oral history interview with Amelia Davis conducted by Claytee D. White and Stefani Evans on July 8, 2024 for the UNLV Remembers: an Oral History of the 6 December 2023 Shootings project. In this interview, Davis, a Graphic Designer and Creative Coordinator for Philanthropy and Alumni Engagement, walks across campus daily from the UNLV Foundation building to the Student Union. On December 6, 2023, Davis took her walk earlier than usual. As she began her return from the Student Union and crossed in front of Beam Hall, she recalls students pouring out of the building, running and purposeful, but not noisy. When she asked a student what was happening, the student responded, "Shooter, shooter, shooter." Davis recalls how she and her colleagues locked the building with employees and students inside once she arrived back from the Student Union. Davis talks about letting go and crying only that evening when her friend picked her up at Target and hugged her. She talks about taking Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and Stop the Bleed courses and going to the shooting range to become comfortable with firearms. She also describes how the shooting began a long stretch of work, family, and health-related stressors. Digital audio and transcript available.

Names and Subjects:

- Mass shootings
- University of Nevada, Las Vegas Foundation

Mana Azizsoltani oral history interview, 2024 July 11 (OH_03923_010)

digital
file 00

Creator: Azizsoltani, Mana

Physical Description: 2 Digital Files (MP3, PDF/A)

Scope and Contents: Oral history interview with Mana Azizsoltani conducted by Claytee D. White and Stefani Evans on July 11, 2024 for the UNLV Remembers: an Oral History of the 6 December 2023 Shootings project. In this interview, Azizsoltani describes "growing up" Beam Hall (BEH) where both his parents worked, even learning to walk in the hallways of the building. He is currently a PhD student working in the Insurance Risk Management Program. On December 6, 2023, he was in his office in BEH with his window open as alarms began to sound throughout campus. He and his mentor, supervisor, and dissertation advisor hunkered down in his office and barricaded the door. They did not respond when someone tried to enter but shortly, the police evacuated them. Azizsoltani checked on colleagues and drove immediately to his mother's location. Azizsoltani describes he is healing through nontraditional, multi-pronged approaches. The weekend following the shooting, he invited friends, family, and colleagues to his home for an open house that lasted through the day: simply people showing love and being grateful; celebrating life. Secondly, he purchased a gun and is learning to use it and care for it in a responsible fashion. Digital audio and transcript available.

Names and Subjects:

- University of Nevada, Las Vegas -- Beam Hall (BEH)
- College students

Kelly Stith oral history interview, 2024 June 27 (OH_03923_011)

digital
file 00

Creator: Stith, Kelly

Physical Description: 2 Digital Files (MP3, PDF/A)

Scope and Contents: Oral history interview with Kelly Stith conducted by Claytee D. White and Stefani Evans on June 27, 2024 for the UNLV Remembers: an Oral History of the 6 December 2023 Shootings project. In this interview, Stith recalls starting to drive from Henderson to UNLV for an appointment, but her significant other informed her that there was a shooting on campus so she drove to his home instead. They checked on their friends throughout the day and Stith began thinking about what she could do about shootings in America. Stith is a writer, artist, and punk rock enthusiast who teaches in the English departments at both UNLV and NSU. She decided that she would use writing, photography, and music to heal and that she would use her voice to create more awareness and thus create change around gun violence. Stith believes that we all have a responsibility to ourselves and our communities to enact common sense gun laws through community organizing, writing, and by mobilizing the arts community. Digital audio and transcript available.

Names and Subjects:

- women artists
- Creative writing
- Mental health

Allister Dias oral history interview, 2024 July 16 (OH_03923_012)

digital
file 00

Creator: Dias, Allister

Physical Description: 2 Digital Files (MP3, PDF/A)

Scope and Contents: Oral history interview with Allister Dias conducted by Claytee D. White and Stefani Evans on July 16, 2024 for the UNLV Remembers: an Oral History of the 6 December 2023 Shootings project. In this interview, Dias discusses his experiences on December 6, 2023, through his role as Editor-in-Chief of the *Scarlet & Gray* from his office in the third floor of the Student Union and as a journalist on the sidewalk across Maryland Parkway from UNLV. He talks of hearing gunshots and sirens, seeing students running, and seeing his Business School professors react to the day. He recalls using the newspaper as a vehicle to collect student stories, serving as a conduit to local and national news organizations, allowing people charge their phones, seeking therapy from the UNLV's Student Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS), and finding joy in the generosity of UNLV students and peace in photography and writing. Dias is currently serving as CSUN President, Faculty Assistant at the UNLV Center for Business and Economic Research, and Lead Consultant for the UNLV Writing Center while an economics major at the Lee Business School. Digital audio and transcript available.

Names and Subjects:

- University of Nevada, Las Vegas -- Beam Hall (BEH)
- Journalism
- Consolidated Students of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas
- The Scarlet & Gray Free Press (2016-)

Stacey Fott oral history interview, 2024 July 18 (OH_03923_013)

digital
file 00

Creator: Fott, Stacey

Physical Description: 2 Digital Files (MP3, PDF/A)

Scope and Contents: Oral history interview with Stacey Fott conducted by Claytee D. White and Stefani Evans on July 18, 2024 for the UNLV Remembers: an Oral History of the 6 December 2023 Shootings project. In this interview, Fott describes being at her desk in UNLV Special Collections and Archives when the first alert sounded. The building provided a sense of safety, and Fott continued to check on students while the Library was locked down. Her husband, who also works on campus, used his scooter to take Tropicana to their nearby home. After the evacuation of the Library, occupants were sent to Thomas & Mack. She walked home after inviting others to use her home as a pick-up location because it was near campus yet out of the zone where traffic was not allowed. Fott returned to campus the next day to move her car. She recalls passing Beam Hall felt too overwhelming, so she walked between Wright Hall and the Law School to Lot N behind Lied Library. After some reflection, Fott's anger is subsiding but arises every once in a while. She was able to go home to her husband and cats, but recognizes that a number of colleagues will never go to that physical home again. Digital audio and transcript available.

Names and Subjects:

- University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Library
- University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Libraries. Special Collections and Archives

Ace Lagman oral history interview, 2024 July 29 (OH_03923_014)

digital
file 00

Creator: Lagman, Ace

Physical Description: 2 Digital Files (MP3, PDF/A)

Scope and Contents: Oral history interview with Ace Lagman conducted by Claytee D. White and Stefani Evans on July 29, 2024 for the UNLV Remembers: an Oral History of the 6 December 2023 Shootings project. In this interview, Lagman (a senior, English major, Creative Writing emphasis) recalls having just left Lied Library with friends when he received the text alert about the shooting. After a short debate, the group decided to head for their cars in the Cottage Grove parking lot. On the way, Lagman stopped to warn some construction workers at the Engineering building, even using Google Translate to communicate the alert to one worker. One friend drove Lagman to his apartment, leaving Cottage Grove and taking Flamingo Road East to Eastern, as they knew Tropicana would be closed. He talks about reaching out to friends, and how two friends especially helped him in the days after. He recalls a two-hour drive beginning at 2:00am, windows down, listening to music, while driving aimlessly in places where businesses were open and people were about. The creative writer talks of being unable to write anything in the first five months after the shooting; he still has not written about the event or his reaction to it. He remembers calling the Suicide Hotline two weeks after December 6 and the worker telling him he was their tenth call that day. Digital audio and transcript available.

Names and Subjects:

- Creative writing
- Mental health

Emily Navarro Mendoza oral history interview, 2024 August 05
(OH_03923_015)

digital
file 00

Creator: Mendoza, Emily Navarro

Physical Description: 2 Digital Files (MP3, PDF/A)

Scope and Contents: Oral history interview with Emily Navarro Medoza conducted by Claytee D. White on August 5, 2024 for the UNLV Remembers: an Oral History of the 6 December 2023 Shootings project. In this interview, Mendoza, a freshman at UNLV, recalls working a pre-final exam event in Pida Plaza that began at 11:00 on December 6, 2023. As the first popping sound was heard, students began running out of Beam Hall into the open plaza area where her event was in progress. Mendoza witnessed the arrival of police cars, and when she heard, "shooter," she ran to the microphone and announced, "active shooter" before she began to run with her colleagues. A large group of students ran between the Student Union and FDH, across the parking lot, onto Maryland Parkway where all cars stopped, and they assembled at the business area near the Chipotle Restaurant. Mendoza and about nine others ran toward Eastern and ended up at the Medical Center on the corner of Harmon and Eastern where they were given shelter and snacks. Her sister picked her up after maneuvering around all the street closures. The next morning, Mendoza recalls the Rebel Events staff greeting each other in Pida Plaza with hugs, securing their belongings, and cleaning up the plaza. They were heartbroken but could not allow the disrespect of their event, their campus, to be left in such chaos. They felt fearful being in the area, yet, they decided to finish this event as they always do: by leaving the space better than they had found it. Digital audio and transcript available.

Names and Subjects:

- College students
- Mass shootings

Mark Padoongpatt oral history interview, 2024 August 05 (OH_03923_016)

Creator: Padoongpatt, Mark

digital
file 00

Physical Description: 2 Digital Files (MP3, PDF/A)

Scope and Contents: Oral history interview with Mark Padoongpatt conducted by Claytee D. White on August 5, 2024 for the UNLV Remembers: an Oral History of the 6 December 2023 Shootings project. In this interview, Padoongpatt recalls staying hunkered down for hours with his class in CBC-C that had been locked by building personnel. He recalls it was the last day of class, and food had been ordered for a celebration. As Padoongpatt and his students waited for the police, they formed a plan of action to execute if shooters came to their door. Finally the police arrived and escorted them out and had them go to the Thomas & Mack. Mark was relieved, cried, located his wife, and went home to his family. Padoongpatt concludes the interview discussing the many unanswered questions centering around race. All those murdered or injured were people of color. Padoongpatt voiced this truth when the administration was not allowed to. Digital audio and transcript available.

Names and Subjects:

- Racism
- Mass shootings
- College teachers

Risa Federico oral history interview, 2024 August 05 (OH_03923_017)

digital
file 00

Creator: Federico, Risa

Physical Description: 2 Digital Files (MP3, PDF/A)

Scope and Contents: Oral history interview with Risa Federico conducted by Claytee D. White on August 5, 2024 for the UNLV Remembers: an Oral History of the 6 December 2023 Shootings project. In this interview, Federico, who works for OLLI (Osher Lifelong Learning Institute) and for Brain Health in the sciences corridor of campus. She describes being on the Paradise campus at the corner of Paradise and Tropicana on December 6, 2023. Federico and her colleagues stayed in place while others ran from one building to another checking on everyone. As official campus notifications changed and lessened, they vacated the campus and went home to loved ones. However, Federico made sure to be the last one out of her building, ensuring the well being of each person as they departed. During the lockdown period, Federico called and texted family members and friends to keep them informed of her safety. After the incident ended, she emphasized the importance of the campus memorial service. She believed that it was good to see everyone gathered in one space mourning the ones who were no longer in the number. Digital audio and transcript available.

Names and Subjects:

- Memorialization
- Osher Lifelong Learning Institute

Christine Salas oral history interview, 2024 July 30 (OH_03923_018)

digital
file 00

Creator: Salas, Christine

Physical Description: 3 Digital Files (MP3, PDF/A)

Scope and Contents: Oral history interview with Christine Salas conducted by Claytee D. White on July 30, 2024 for the UNLV Remembers: an Oral History of the 6 December 2023 Shootings project. In this

interview, Salas recalls what she witnessed on December 6 while working in the World Languages department in UNLV's Beam Hall (BEH). After going to retrieve something left in the copy room, she heard three gunshots on the floor above her, footsteps running away from the shots, more footsteps, and someone yelling, "Active shooter!" The first text alerts came minutes later. She shut the door to the windowless copy room, texted her sister, let another faculty member in, and waited with them in what seemed like the longest hour of her life. They heard pounding on the doors and feeling someone trying to break in, but finally saw an arm of the police officer who had broken through, telling them to walk a certain way. Salas speaks fondly and shares memories of her murdered colleague, Professor Naoko Takemaru. Salas speaks to her lifelong love of soccer, her past trauma and a close friend's recent death and describes her sense of safety being ripped away, her confusion, therapy, and the healing process. Digital audio and transcript available.

Names and Subjects:

- University of Nevada, Las Vegas -- Beam Hall (BEH)
- Takemaru, Naoko

Kathy Windham oral history interview, 2024 August 08 (OH_03923_019)

digital
file 00

Creator: Windham, Kathy

Physical Description: 2 Digital Files (MP3, PDF/A)

Scope and Contents: Oral history interview with Kathy Windham conducted by Claytee D. White and Stefani Evans on August 8, 2024 for the UNLV Remembers: an Oral History of the 6 December 2023 Shootings project. In this interview, Windham, who is the office manager for UNLV's World Languages department, recalls leading the office in preparing for the end of the semester on December 6. She describes hearing someone run the halls shouting "Active shooter!" so Windham immediately turned off her office lights and pulled her supervisor with her to hide under her desk. She texted her boyfriend, as the fire alarm started blaring, its horn just outside her office. She heard three or four gunshots and thought of Professor Naoko Takemaru, who always took her lunch at noon in the adjoining office. With her supervisor, she remained under the desk for about an hour until the police entered the office to escort them out. As a friend drove her home, she heard about the possible victims and she contacted everyone in the department; all eventually responded except Naoko. Windham had known Naoko since 2015. Windham sought therapy shortly after the shooting through the Las Vegas Resiliency Center and Victims of Crime and describes how the technique of forming "neutral sentences" during post-traumatic episodes continues to help. Digital audio and transcript available.

Names and Subjects:

- University of Nevada, Las Vegas -- Beam Hall (BEH)
- Takemaru, Naoko

Anonymous Narrator oral history interview, 2024 August 06 (OH_03923_020)

digital
file 00

Physical Description: 1 Digital Files (PDF/A)

Scope and Contents: Oral history interview with [Anonymous Narrator] conducted by Claytee D. White and Stefani Evans on August 30, 2024 for the UNLV Remembers: an Oral History of the 6 December 2023 Shootings project. In this interview, [Anonymous] describes celebrating the end of the semester with their class that met on the second floor of Beam Hall. As alarms started to ring--but before any text alerts had been sent--

they told their students to run out of the building and led them out the door. Not knowing the building very well, the narrator describes opening an unfamiliar door that led to an exit on the Maryland Parkway side of the building, facing the Student Union and Greenspun Hall. As the group exited, there were people sitting at outside tables and so the narrator screamed "Run! Run!" to the crowd. [Anonymous] ran across Tropicana to the Vons grocery store on Maryland Parkway and hid behind the building. They sought therapy two days later, and found the "Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing" (EMDR) technique especially helpful, and recently made the decision to change careers. Digital transcript available.

Restricted: The narrator for this interview (OH_03923_020) has requested their name be redacted and the audio file closed. An edited version of the transcript with [Name Redacted] is available.

Names and Subjects:

- Post-traumatic stress disorder
- University of Nevada, Las Vegas -- Beam Hall (BEH)

David Schwartz oral history interview, 2024 August 13 (OH_03923_021)

digital
file 00

Creator: Schwartz, David G., 1973-

Physical Description: 2 Digital Files (MP3, PDF/A)

Scope and Contents: Oral history interview with David Schwartz conducted by Claytee D. White and Stefani Evans on August 13, 2024 for the UNLV Remembers: an Oral History of the 6 December 2023 Shootings project. In this interview, Schwartz, who works as UNLV's Ombuds, recalls what he experienced in a nearby building on December 6, 2023. Schwartz works in a building diagonally across Pida Plaza and Beam Hall, where the shooting occurred. When Schwartz and his office manager heard shots, they executed their emergency plan they had designed. It worked perfectly, although Schwartz did not leave campus but remained to assist students in accessing the safest routes to their destinations and shared advice on how to connect with families and associates. Then he went to the university command center and then to the dormitory housing area and passed out pizza. He describes his goal for the day to be a stabilizing force and help to students, in the same way that he would have wanted someone to help his own children. Digital audio and transcript available.

Names and Subjects:

- Ombudspersons
- Mass shootings

Derek Ellison oral history interview, 2024 August 16 (OH_03923_022)

digital
file 00

Creator: Ellison, Derek

Physical Description: 3 Digital Files (MP3, PDF/A)

Scope and Contents: Oral history interview with Derek Ellison conducted by Claytee D. White and Stefani Evans on August 16, 2024 for the UNLV Remembers: an Oral History of the 6 December 2023 Shootings project. In this interview, Ellison, a junior majoring in physics, shares how his father works in the Physics Department at UNLV so Derek knew the campus well even before he became a student. He describes how he was on the second floor of the Student Union, using the computer lab to write his final paper when the alerts began. Students in the lab, a glass-enclosed room, began to hide. He talked to his parents all the while thinking

about his essay in the back of his mind. Because Beam Hall was so close, police came to the Student Union quickly and asked everyone to leave. Derek exited the building from the Maryland Parkway side and took refuge near the apartments to the south. Ellison's father picked him up and they went home. He recalls returning a few days later, seeing the memorial that had been erected, and reading the tributes honoring the three faculty members. He and his father discussed the racism aspects of the shooting since all those murdered were people of color. Digital audio and transcript available.

Names and Subjects:

- College students
- Mass shootings

Francis Anisco oral history interview, 2024 August 16 (OH_03923_023)

digital
file 00

Creator: Anisco, Francis

Physical Description: 1 Digital Files (MP3)

Scope and Contents: Oral history interview with Francis Anisco conducted by Claytee D. White and Stefani Evans on August 16, 2024 for the UNLV Remembers: an Oral History of the 6 December 2023 Shootings project. In this interview, Anisco shares his experience on December 6, and how he graduated from UNLV Lee School of Business as an Accounting major on December 19, 2023, less than two weeks after the shooting. He describes preparing for the end of the semester on the first floor of Beam Hall while wearing headphones, when he thought he heard gunshots, and saw people running. He gathered his belongings and ran out toward Hospitality Hall and started texting his friends and turned to run toward Tonopah Hall when he heard a volley of gunshots. When he reached his car, he called his dad and drove home. He talks about his professors, Dr. Patricia Navarro Velez and Dr. Jerry Chang, and the accounting graduate students who were on the fourth floor that day. Anisco shares he has sought therapy and recalls the breathing techniques that helped him process the trauma of his department coming under attack. Digital audio available.

Names and Subjects:

- Navarro-Velez, Patricia
- Chang, Jerry

Megan Griffard oral history interview, 2024 August 22 (OH_03923_024)

digital
file 00

Creator: Griffard, Megan

Physical Description: 2 Digital Files (MP3, PDF/A)

Scope and Contents: Oral history interview with Megan Griffard conducted by Claytee D. White and Stefani Evans on August 22, 2024 for the UNLV Remembers: an Oral History of the 6 December 2023 Shootings project. In this interview, Griffard, UNLV assistant professor in the educational policy and leadership program, describes taking her 18-month-old daughter to the UNLV/CSUN Preschool on the UNLV campus before going to her office. She initially planned to go to the Student Union, where her colleagues had prepared poster presentations when she received the first alert and hid under her desk. Her husband called to tell her he had been called to prepare for mass casualties at UMC and the freeway was closed. She texted her dad, her coworkers, and called the preschool while hiding under her desk. She describes trying to get to the Methodist Church across Maryland Parkway, the designated spot for the preschool parents to be transported to the preschool to pick up their

children. When her turn finally came, she was driven to the school and passed through layers of security before she could retrieve her daughter. Her husband soon arrived and the family was eventually able to go home together. The next day, Griffard returned to campus with her colleague who had been in the Student Union. The following Monday, Griffard and her coworkers held a Zoom meeting to check in with each other and talk about their experiences. She talks about the importance of finding the right therapist, learning how to process painful events, and realizing how her recovery has helped her shut down a tendency to people-please. Digital audio and transcript available.

Names and Subjects:

- Mass shootings
- Education

Elizabeth Ku oral history interview, 2024 August 26 (OH_03923_025)

digital
file 00

Creator: Ku, Elizabeth

Physical Description: 2 Digital Files (MP3, PDF/A)

Scope and Contents: Oral history interview with Elizabeth Ku conducted by Claytee D. White and Stefani Evans on August 26, 2024 for the UNLV Remembers: an Oral History of the 6 December 2023 Shootings project. In this interview, Ku, a UNLV mechanical engineering major, describes planning to meet friends for lunch at the Student Union, but when schedule conflicts delayed their lunch, she instead went to the UNLV community garden. As she started heading for the Thomas T. Beam Engineering Complex - Building B (TBE-B), she saw people running and received the first text alert. As she neared the Science and Engineering Building (SEB), some professors waved her inside the teachers' lounge, where she sheltered with three other students and about four professors. The group in the teachers' lounge played Uno to keep themselves calm; the professors also shared snacks. Ku shares that this experience taught her she is loved; she has a support system; and she has reasons for joy and to live. Digital audio and transcript available.

Names and Subjects:

- Mass shootings
- Mental health

Finley Cotrone oral history interview, 2024 August 26 (OH_03923_026)

digital
file 00

Creator: Cotrone, Finley

Physical Description: 2 Digital Files (MP3, PDF/A)

Scope and Contents: Oral history interview with Finley Cotrone conducted by Claytee D. White and Stefani Evans on August 26, 2024 for the UNLV Remembers: an Oral History of the 6 December 2023 Shootings project. In this interview, Cotrone, Associate Professor in Residence at UNLV's William F. Harrah College of Hospitality, describes how her students were giving their final presentations to Cotrone, Lateka Grays, and Vince Eade when the alarm sounded. They were in a second-floor classroom in Beam Hall (BEH). When the fire alarms sounded, most of Cotrone's students--thinking it was a fire--ran down the stairs and out of the building. When Cotrone attempted to get a student who uses a wheelchair and her friend to an elevator, an officer pulled a gun on the group. The group went into a nearby kitchen, which had too many doors and lights they couldn't turn off. When the group was finally released, security officers escorted them down the stairs to the front exit of BEH, where the group saw the deceased shooter before being ushered toward the Risk Management

building. Cotrone returned the next day to retrieve her car, and used Zoom meetings to talk with her students about their experiences. She talks about how she has not sought therapy; but says she talks about the shooting openly to gain power over it. The interview concludes with political discussions about guns and racism. Digital audio and transcript available.

Names and Subjects:

- Gun control
- Mental health
- Racism

Erika Noltie oral history interview, 2024 August 20 (OH_03923_027)

digital
file 00

Creator: Noltie, Erika M.

Physical Description: 2 Digital Files (MP3, PDF/A)

Scope and Contents: Oral history interview with Erika Noltie conducted by Claytee D. White and Stefani Evans on August 20, 2024 for the UNLV Remembers: an Oral History of the 6 December 2023 Shootings project. In this interview, Noltie, who works on the 6th floor of Flora Dungan Humanities (FDH) across from where the shooting occurred. Noltie and her colleagues did not have an evacuation plan, but did not panic and executed an escape that kept everyone safe. Once in the parking lot, they heard gunshots, rapidly got into their cars, and fled the campus. Noltie shares how staff stayed in touch in the days following the shooting, and their relationships have changed since that day. Healing has been organic and community/family relations are stronger among her work group. She ends the interview by saying she refused to allow the murderer to take her energy, her good life, and her family away. Digital audio and transcript available.

Names and Subjects:

- Mental health
- Mass shootings

Jimmy Jones oral history interview, 2024 August 29 (OH_03923_028)

digital
file 00

Creator: Jones, Jimmy

Physical Description: 3 Digital Files (MP3, PDF/A)

Scope and Contents: Oral history interview with Jimmy Jones conducted by Claytee D. White and Stefani Evans on August 29, 2024 for the UNLV Remembers: an Oral History of the 6 December 2023 Shootings project. In this interview, Jones describes arriving at his office inside UNLV Lied Library and was answering emails when the first alert came across his computer screen. He called the University Police Department (UPD) and confirmed the situation, then went to the Circulation Desk and ordered the building locked down--no one in or out. When multiple groups of police arrived--eventually including FBI, SWAT, ATF, Metro, etc.--he introduced himself as the on-scene commander of the building. After the building was evacuated, he assisted ATF to avoid breaking doors by making himself available to unlock every door in the Library. Jones describes the atmosphere of the students in the library as somber and fearful. He returned the following day to check for damage inside the library, and found minimal damage except "clear" written on some doors. He also discusses racism in the workplace. Digital audio and transcript available.

Names and Subjects:

- Campus police
- University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Libraries

Samantha Feder oral history interview, 2024 August 30 (OH_03923_029)

digital
file 00

Creator: Feder, Sam

Physical Description: 2 Digital Files (MP3, PDF/A)

Scope and Contents: Oral history interview with Sam Feder conducted by Claytee D. White and Stefani Evans on August 30, 2024 for the UNLV Remembers: an Oral History of the 6 December 2023 Shootings project. In this interview, Feder, a psychology major who lives on campus in the dormitory for upperclassmen, recalls her experiences on December 6. She and her housemate sheltered in the bathroom, the most secure portion of the suite. Soon SWAT came in, checked their space, and told them to remain there. However, Feder's cane, wheelchair, or medicine were in a different room. Two hours later, police came through to evacuate the building and refused her request to go into her room for her medical essentials. Feder and her suitemate left on foot, and her suitemate was physically carrying her, while Feder remained calm and mentally carried the both of them to safety. Eventually, they arrived at the medical station near Beam Hall and were taken to Sunrise Hospital where her parents picked them up. Through that day and the weeks afterwards, Feder describes how she has learned to be a better advocate for herself, and she has a plan in place when the next emergency occurs. She is slowly moving back into full campus life, and rebuilding her social support system. The greatest assistance is her new job at the UNLV CARE Center, where she is helping others to heal as well. Digital audio and transcript available.

Names and Subjects:

- College students
- Medical policy -- Nevada

Hannah Werner oral history interview, 2024 August 30 (OH_03923_030)

digital
file 00

Creator: Werner, Hannah

Physical Description: 2 Digital Files (MP3, PDF/A)

Scope and Contents: Oral history interview with Hannah Werner conducted by Claytee D. White and Stefani Evans on August 30, 2024 for the UNLV Remembers: an Oral History of the 6 December 2023 Shootings project. In this interview, Werner, a junior in UNLV's Film School, recalls leaving her dorm and heading to class in Flora Dungan Humanities building at 11:30am. Shortly after class began, she and her classmates started receiving the University Police Department (UPD) active shooter texts. The class decided to remain in place, stacking desks against the door and turning off the lights. Hebbler suggested the students call their families. Werner was talking to her father when she heard gunshots. When the building was being evacuated, they heard banging on the door and loud voices. Realizing it was the police, Werner put on her backpack backwards, and when they opened the door were faced with guns. The class was evacuated about 3:00pm around the building and out the stairs facing Maryland Parkway. Werner started filming as they were being evacuated, sent her film to the networks, and was later interviewed by CBS News. Her dad, a Spanish teacher, was waiting for her near some nearby apartments, and they took a classmate home on their way home that night. Her class met in video calls every night over the next few weeks; Werner is still close with all her classmates. Werner, a substitute teacher, says the event has made substituting harder, is more aware of

her surroundings and emergency exits, and looks to Hebbler as a role model for the way he remained calm and kept his students calm. Digital audio and transcript available.

Names and Subjects:

- College students
- Mass shootings