

TEA WITH TRAILBLAZERS
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SPEAKER: MaryAnn Black
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TEA WITH TRAILBLAZERS NO. 5

JESSICA ROSEBERRY: Welcome, everyone, and thank you for coming today. This is the Tea with Trailblazers, and we have a wonderful program today. We're honored to have such a distinguished speaker this afternoon. Before we begin, I'd like to mention two things. The first is that there's a guest book in the back, there for you to sign, and we hope that you'll sign it so that we'll have a record of your attendance today. The second thing is that we're going to record this event, so if you ask a question, or if you share your own story during the question point of order, we'd ask that you also sign a consent form for us so that we can make this available to historians. Let me go ahead and introduce myself. I'm Jessica Roseberry, and Adonna Thompson and Suzanne Porter are my cohosts today, and if you two would please stand. Adonna Thompson is in the back. *(laughter)* We are planners of this event today. Giving our introduction is Beverly Murphy. She is the assistant director of the library, marketing and publications, and the library's Webmaster, and she will be introducing our speaker today. Beverly.

BEVERLY MURPHY: Good afternoon.

AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Good afternoon.

MURPHY: I'd like to welcome everyone to our fifth Tea with Trailblazers event. It has been said that the best way to know where you're going is to know where you've been. But some people don't really want to spend a lot of time talking about the past, especially if some events haven't been the best. But the past can shape the future. And that's why this month in particular

is a good time to revisit the trails that have been blazed so that we can be informed and reminded as to how far we've come as well as get reenergized for the journey yet to come. Having said that, our guest speaker for today, MaryAnn Black, is a prime example of an exceptional pioneer and trailblazer. She has provided Durham families with professional service for more than thirty years as an accomplished clinical social worker. In fact, she was named Social Worker of the Year in 1994 by the State of North Carolina, and later the same year, by the National Association of Social Workers. Currently, she serves as Associate Vice President of Community Relations for the Duke University Health System where she works to establish partnerships with the city, the county, and other agencies and organizations. She is a valuable link between the health system and the diverse communities it serves. MaryAnn currently holds positions on a number of boards and committees and was Durham County Commissioner from 1990 to 2002. During her career, she has received numerous honors and was recently awarded the Samuel DuBois Cook Society Distinguished Service Award. She has been characterized as "a good representative of Durham....a thoughtful voice for moderation and a public official who has skillfully practiced the act of compromise". This is just a brief walk down her extensive trail. So let's sit back and let her take us the rest of the way. I present to you MaryAnn Black.

(audience applause)

MARYANN BLACK: Good afternoon, and thank you, Beverly. What a wonderful, wonderful introduction. So I am just happy to see so many of you here, so many of the people that I know, those of you that have touched my life in some way. I actually have two of my bosses here today, so, boy, does that put pressure on me! *(laughter)* And I'm going to be talking about them, and they're already in the remarks that I have made, so you'll just have to brace yourselves, gentlemen. Last week I called Jessica, and I said, "Okay, I'm trying to think about

what I want to say when I speak to the group next week. Can you tell me what you expect and tell me some of the speakers you've had in the past?" And so she listed some of the speakers who are here today. And then she told me that they had two people speaking with them, and I said, "Oh, my! There's only one of me." (*laughter*) So I've got to fill all of that time.

Therefore, your job is to make sure that you talk to me to help me with this hour-long presentation that we are doing together. So I told Jessica when she told me about some of the comments that were made by many of you who spoke ahead of me a few years ago that I really enjoyed hearing what you had to say. So I hope the words that I share with you today will be meaningful and that if I say anything that is not clear to you, please, during the question period, please ask me the question so I can make sure that you're clear. So have you ever had the experience of saying yes to something and then later thinking, Gosh, why did I say yes to that? (*laughter*) Well, I got to thinking about that as I was trying to script some remarks to make to you, and I thought, Why did I say yes to this project? (*laughter*) And, well, what experiences do I have that I can talk about at the tea? And then I said, What messages can I give to you that you have not already heard? I've a strong belief that all of us are trailblazers in our own way.

Therefore, what message can I convey to you that will be different from the messages you have heard and the stories you have about yourself and have already read? My conclusion: my story is about me and the people who have helped to make me the person that I am. As I thought about the time we will spend this afternoon, my mind travelled to my early childhood experiences. And I know this about Duke and what I've done at Duke. But I can't talk about Duke without first of all telling you a little bit about my background. So as I was thinking about the pieces I want to share with you today, I thought about the good times I had growing up as a child, the sad times I had as a child, and the sad times I've had as an adult, the frightening times

I've had, and the loving times that mold my life and made me the person I am. There are some wonderful stories to tell. Unbelievably, I grew up as a shy child. I am the middle child and did not often talk. In fact, my sister said to me once, she didn't know that I could talk. (*laughter*) She is the youngest of the group, and her mouth was constantly going. (*laughter*) So there was very little for me to say when my sister was talking. However, I've always been a good listener and observer of people, and perhaps that's why I became a social worker. However, Ralph Snyderman knows that I really wanted to be a doctor. And the opportunity was not there for me at that time, and so I went into social work. Isn't it interesting, I wanted to be a doctor, so now I'm working at a medical center. And I'm learning a lot of things that I think I would have learned had I been a doctor. You know, I like me. And I would choose to select me as one of my friends. That's not a simple statement. There were many years when I questioned what was wrong with me and why I was treated differently. You see, I was born in New York City. I grew up in the segregated South, a place that did not allow negroes to become all that we could become. The desire to achieve was not embraced. It was during the years when negro children had to walk many, many miles to school. We had all of the outdated books, and we had all of the outdated, carved-up desks and many of the beaten-up, used musical instruments. And so as a young child, when you have these things and you're trying to understand why you can't have the new book or why you can't have the new desk, and your parents are wanting to protect you and not talk about what the issues are but trying their best to help you know that you are a good person, that you can learn, and that you are loved, but the everyday world of the South is consistently giving you a different message. And so I can recall one day, my brother, my sister, and I were coming from music class, and we were walking through Sears Roebuck, and my brother was determined to get some water. It was a hot day. So he went to the water fountain

and decided to drink from the white water fountain. My sister and I became very concerned, and I remember turning my back to try and hide my brother, who was determined that he was not going to stop drinking the water when I tried to pull him away. And lo and behold, someone came to him and really scolded him for drinking that water. I think the thing that probably saved him was the fact that my father was a person who was well known in my community. And so when he asked my brother's name and my brother told the name, he said, "Go on home, I'll speak to your father." And so, you know, it was those types of experiences that would send the message to us, You are not an equal person. And therefore for a person who is sensitive as I am—and I'm still a sensitive person—you're constantly doubting yourself. But instead of externalizing some of the issues, you end up internalizing and trying to figure out, Can I do better, what can I do to change this situation? My parents are wonderful parents. I'm very blessed. My father is eighty-nine and still upright and going. My mother is eighty-seven and still upright and being the first lady and helping to do things for her husband. In fact, we just had a discussion last evening, because my father unfortunately lost the youngest brother in the family Wednesday, and so they're getting ready to go to Wayne, Michigan. And my father said that he was going to drive (*laughter*) because he did not want to ride the plane because the planes are being blown up. (*laughter*) So of course the children got involved. Father is flying in the morning (*laughter*) to Wayne, Michigan. I said to my mother, "Mom, you don't need to go. You can stay home"; my sister is going to go with Dad. And she said, "Oh, no. I have to go with my husband, because he wants to go." So I just think she's a wonderful lady and they're wonderful parents. And I tell you that story because I want you to know that my parents have done everything that they could do to take care of their children and to make sure that we received a good education. In fact my mom would often tell us the story about how she went

without because she wanted to make sure that when we were in college, one, we were getting good education, and, two, that we had the things we needed to have so that we could look and be like the other children. My parents would not allow us to go downtown on Saturday. And many of you know what I'm talking about. Saturday was the day when many people of color went downtown. And so my parents' position was, We aren't going downtown. When we did go to town—and rarely was it on a Saturday; usually one day during the week—we were well groomed. I can remember from a little child—and I had a lot of hair then; I've lost hair since then, but lot of hair, and my mom used to talk about, "I don't know what to do with all of this hair!" And we'd laugh about it. But we were groomed with the hair and the bows and the shoes and everything else, and it was my mother's way of sending the message that we, one, were the Eadie children and that she had pride in her family. And I also think it was a way of saying, We are different. Now, my mom and I have not had that discussion. But I tend to know my mom and some of the principles by which she lives. My parents gave us music lessons and had us work hard in church. The church is actually the place where I learned leadership skills. It is also where I learned two ideas that would guide my life: Do unto others as you would have them do unto you; and, I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. Now, I know that those passages are in other—I think I saw something in Buddhism and saw some passages that looked very much like the ones that I have come to live my life by, and I'm sure those same principles are in other religions. Maybe stated in a different way, but the principles are the same. And so there have been multiple times in my life when I've had to compose myself and then remember my verses to bring the strength to me that I needed so that I could continue to move forward without moving forward in a negative way. I recently finished reading *Stormy Weather*, and it's the biography of Lena Horne. I don't know if any of you have read it. But she, too, grew up in

the Jim Crow time. Her life was very different from mine. However, she became a very angry person and kept that anger in her heart, which got in the way of some of the performances that she could do. And I asked myself the question, Why will some people grow up angry and others work against the anger, the sadness, and the feelings of hopelessness so that they can help to make this world a better place? Is it in the genes? Is it the way we are parented? Is it a determination to move forward in spite of life difficulties? Whatever the answer, my goal is to leave this world a better place. So there is no time for me to be angry. There is no time for me to feel self-pity. I like to spend the time trying to seek solutions to life problems; enjoying life; enjoying my family; enjoying friends; and, yes, my job. I have always loved the jobs that I have. And I have said that when a job becomes a job, it's time for me to leave. We humans want to learn from each other. I have gotten questions about my ability to work as a county commissioner and withstand the politics. People have said they could not survive the loss of a child and questioned how I did it. All of this is a part of life. Well, Becky [Heron], maybe not politics. *(laughter)* Everybody don't go crazy and choose to go into politics, do they?

(laughter) At any rate, my goal as a politician was to represent the people well, gathering the facts, listening to people, and trying to be a good leader. I did not think that local politics could get as nasty and mean-spirited as it can. And once we were having an issue in the county. Becky, it was the schoolboard merger issue that we were going through. *(laughter)* And I called my older son and talked with him about an issue and something that had been printed in the newspaper about me that truly was not true. Now, my older son was a quiet man. And he listened to what I had to say very carefully. Now, remember I said I don't like self-pity. He listened to me very carefully, and I think I had a tear or two coming, and he listened some more. And then he said, very quietly, "Now, Mom, when you decided to run for county commissioner,

you knew this was a part of it. You are a strong lady. Suck it up and face it.” (*laughter*) And then Chris said, “And I love you.” And he hung up! (*laughter*) And so I do think that I was waiting for Chris to give me a little bit of pity! (*laughter*) but he did exactly what I needed him to do, and I sucked it up, and I went ahead, and we continued to work hard and eventually got that merger taken care of. And I think anyone who chose to get to know me came to understand that I’m not a person who does not value people who are—white people; I’ll just go ahead and say what the paper was saying—and that I am a person who values all people and tries to find the goodness in all of us. And hope that people will forgive me my faults. What has made me a trailblazer at Duke? And I started to think about it, and I thought, Well, is that saying that I’m old? (*laughter*)

JOYCE NICHOLS: No!

BLACK: (*laughing*) Thank you, Joyce. So I actually thought, Okay, let’s go back in your mind’s eye and think about when you first came to Duke. So this is my second time at Duke, and many of you may not know that. But my first boss at Duke was Dr. Bill Anderson. And he is here with us today. I came to Duke in 1974 and worked as a social worker in the Child Guidance Clinic. I remember receiving a call from Frederica Harrison, a person who taught at UNC. She is also a social worker. And Freddie called and said to me, “MaryAnn, I’m getting ready to leave the Child Guidance Clinic, and I remember you as one of my students who was always eager. And I believe you would be a good person to take my place. Would you be interested in coming over and talking to Dr. Anderson? And so I thought about it and said, “Yes, I’ll do that.” So I went over, and I talked to Dr. Anderson, and I—well, I guess Kathryn Barklay first, then Dr. Anderson. And they made the decision to hire me. And when Freddie talked with me—and Bill, you may not know this—she made it very clear to me that you all were looking

for a person who could fit into the structure there at Child Guidance and that you did not want a person—*militant* is my word—a person who would be militant or (*laughter*) a person who—I don't want to say *make waves*, but a person that you could be comfortable with. And so Freddie wanted me to know that as she was saying, I think you would be a good person to work at the Child Guidance Clinic. Well, I received the job. And I was very happy to get the job because I learned so much. I was already trained as a social worker, but being with the psychologists and the psychiatrists and all of the other people there really enhanced my learning and expanded my ability to do other things in the world. The clinic was a lonely place in the beginning. And the doors—if you've ever been to a clinic, therapists keep their doors closed. Now, there's a reason for that, because you're sitting in there with patients. But as you walk down the hall in the clinic and all of the doors are closed and you're the new kid on the block, and you're thinking, Well, how do you get to meet people? and, Who do you talk to? and all of those kinds of things, it can be a lonely, lonely place. But Bill, I don't know if you did it or if Kathryn did it or who did it, but I was placed on your team. And so then to be placed on the team of the man who is leading the institution is a mixed blessing. Okay? (*laughs*) The goodness is that you get to know him, he gets to know you. The mixed blessing is he also gets to know what you don't know. (*laughter*) And so you begin to think, Okay, do I talk in here, or do I not talk. And you have to figure out the ways in which you want to be productive and to give back but also to be a very good therapist. There were many children of color who came to the clinic. And I can remember having a conversation with someone who I guess thought that the Freudian way of working with children did not work for some children of color. And mainly the children who were the foster-care children. And I had a different thought about that. I thought that those children could benefit from psychotherapy. Now, I knew that you could not sit those children in your office and

do once-a-week therapy with them, because there were too many other social problems going on that created problems for those children. So you had to have a holistic approach to working with the children. And it had to do with making sure that you were working with the DSS [Department of Social Services] worker or the family, foster-care parent or whomever, that the needs were being taken care of the children as well as therapy. Well, I found myself becoming just disheartened, because I thought that there were so many things that these children needed, that I was trying to figure out, How else could I help? And I had a discussion with Kathryn Barklay, who was my supervisor, and said I wanted to start a mentoring program. And then, Bill, I remember talking with you about it as well. And we started a mentoring program for these children. I went to Dr. Barbara Nixon, who was a PhD-level psychiatrist at North Carolina Central University and asked Barbara if she would make a way for me to get students from Central—mostly males, because I had females who were coming forward and saying, We want to volunteer. But it was the male students I need for those male boys who—young boys who were not doing well in school, and nor were they doing well in society. Barbara made a decision that she taught a class in psychology. And for any student who signed up to volunteer for nine months, she would give them some class credit. So they could choose not to write a paper, or they could choose to throw out the worst grade or something, but somehow she would give them credit for having volunteered one-on-one with a student, with a child for nine months. And it worked. I got my mentors. And so we got the program started; I believe I had twelve children in the first group of children that we paired, because I met on Saturdays with the volunteers, and then they left and had to go and work with their students—the children, and they did tutoring and basketball and all kinds of things like that. And I was able to get a little bit of money from the city council, a little bit of money from Operation Breakthrough to help us buy tickets for

ballgames and tickets for the mentors and mentees to travel on the schoolbus and all like that. At any rate, the program ended up being a good program, and then it was turned into Durham Companions and got funding from the [Governor's] Crime Commission, and Durham Companions is still ongoing in the community. So that was the origin of Durham Companions. Bill was very smart, and about a year after I had been working at the Child Guidance Clinic, he hired Alice Long. And Alice came in, and Alice started the therapeutic preschool. And there were times when Alice and I would get into her office and sit down and talk, and we would talk about every parent and every child that she was seeing and that I was seeing and together try and figure out, What do we need to do to help these families and to help these children? And the therapeutic preschool, I think ended up just being a wonderful gift that the clinic and Duke gave to the community. Alice became a consultant to Operation Breakthrough, and on occasion she asked me to go and work with the people at Operation Breakthrough, teaching them parenting skills, helping them understand the behavior problems of these children who were three, four, and five. I mean, we had five-year-olds who were being kicked out of school because they were not functioning well or because they were behavior problems in school. And so that ended up being a good partnership between Alice and myself with the help of other people from the clinic who allowed us to do the work that we were doing. The most difficult supervisor I have ever had— (*laughter*) who was that, Bill? It was Kathryn Barklay, a social worker. So I want to tell you about Kathryn, because she unfortunately is no longer alive. But she ended up being the most difficult supervisor for me but one of the persons I learned the most from. So I want to tell you how that happened. Kathryn was harsh, and at times I thought mean. And it was difficult for me to hear what she had to say to me because of the way she delivered the message. There were times when I thought she was picking on me because I'm black. Any of you in here who

are African-American ever thought that? Right. And so, you know, our background from whence we come will at times make us go there. And there are times when it's right, and there are times when it's not. Well, one day Kathryn got on me really hard because we were in team meeting, and we were talking about a little child, and Bill Anderson said—we were talking about the child and the family—and for those of you who may not know what a team is, it is where the staff get together who are working with the case and you talk about the case to come up with good solutions to help the family. And so someone had said that the child was neurotic. And I had not seen the child; I had seen the family, and I said that I didn't think the child was neurotic. And then Bill said, "Well, what do you think the diagnosis is?" And I said, "Well, I don't know, but I don't think the child is neurotic." And then we went on, and Bill said, "Well, you all get together—" he called the other person's name, "and decide what the diagnosis is." Well, Kathryn called me in her office, and raked me over the coal. And she said, "What do you think the diagnosis is?" And I told her the diagnosis. And she said, "Well, why didn't you say that in team?" And I said, "Well, I have not seen the child, so I didn't know if I could give it," and I named what the other person's position was. "And therefore, who am I, a little social worker to challenge?" And Kathryn said to me, "MaryAnn, God has given you a gift. And it's a gift that I want you to always remember. He has given you the gift of a good instinct. And people can go to college forever and never have that gift. So in the future, you speak what you think." Now, I could hear that from Kathryn, because I had talked with her one day, and I said, "Kathryn—" I went in there, and I must tell you, my knees were shaking! (*laughing*) But I said, "Kathryn, I can't deal with you and the way that you are. You frightened me, and so I can't hear what you're saying to me. And I want to talk with you about how you can work with me." And she heard me. And she listened. And so we had a really nice dialogue about what I needed to get from her,

my supervisor, and how I needed her to give me the information so that I could hear the information and receive it and grow. And from that moment on—it was probably a year to two years after working together—that I made that comment to her, and we began to work together really well and actually came to respect and to love each other. But what I later learned was that Kathryn treated everybody just alike. *(laughter)* It had nothing to do with MaryAnn being black. It had to do with who Kathryn was and the way she treated people. But at any rate, she really ended up teaching me a great deal and helped me to be a better clinical social worker.

There was another incident at the clinic that I want to talk about, and Bill, you may not remember this, but I remember it, probably because of how I felt during that time. I won't name the psychiatrist's name, but one of the senior psychiatrists was sitting in a staff meeting one day, and the meeting had not started. And he began talking about vacations and started talking about how much he missed the time when the staff used to go away for the month of August and would spend some time at the beach. And then he bemoaned the fact that times had changed and things had changed. And I'm sitting there thinking, Okay, what is this about? And thinking I'm the change that has occurred. And later I learned that there were times when the beach trips were taken—I was not on the staff then—and there was a place where we at that time were not welcome. And so I don't know who made the decision; or if I have it wrong, you can please correct me, Bill, but I know that they had discontinued taking those trips. But it was very hurtful to have that person talk about, you know, how difficult it was because they could no longer take those trips as a group or whatever. But there was another time when that same person was talking and made a comment, and Bill Anderson took it upon himself to come to me and apologize for a comment that was made by that person. And I'll tell you who it is later, Bill, if you don't remember, but I don't want to say the name out here. But you know, for the director

of the clinic to come to you and to say, “MaryAnn, I was feeling for you when that comment was made, and just want to let you know that,” went a long, long way. I already respected and liked Bill anyway, but it went a long way to help grow the respect that I had for him as a director and as a person. And so I tell you those stories because I want you to know that there are times when we are in groups and we are talking, and I think it goes across the board, so this is not a black, white, Japanese, Jewish, religion, Christian, whatever comment. We make comments, and we’re not thinking about the comments that we are making. And those comments can be very, very hurtful, and so it behooves me and everybody else to be very careful about how we speak and what we speak. I stayed at the Child Guidance Clinic for ten years and then opened my own psychotherapy practice, and that was a bold step. Because at that time, there were no social workers of color in private practice. I was not afraid of starting my own business, because my parents were in business. I grew up around the funeral home business. Some people get frightened when I say that. (*laughter*) But I did. And I used to tell my son, my younger son, “Why don’t you go home and learn the business?” And he said, “I don’t want to go home and work with dead people.” And I told him I used to have to go—my job was to go over to the funeral home and sweep out the place where the people would visit, and I would turn my head and do this. (*laughter*) Sweeping. But I learned a lot, and let me tell you how I learned things. My grandfather and my father would sit around the table rolling the money, talking about the taxes and what they needed to do to keep the business going. And I was young, but I took it in. And so when I got ready to start my psychotherapy practice, I was not afraid about the business piece of it. I figured I could handle that. I was afraid that I wouldn’t get patients. But very quickly I learned that that was not to be the case. My practice filled up very, very rapidly. And there were many, many people at Duke that referred: psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers

who referred patients to me because they knew my skill level and did not feel uncomfortable sending patients to me. In 1989, Mrs. Josephine Clemmett, who was a county commissioner, made the decision not to seek reelection to the Board of County Commission. I got approached and asked if I would run. And someone said, “MaryAnn, you have the demeanor of Josephine, you favor Josephine, and we think you could win.” I said, “Well, let me think about this.”

(laughter) You know, I had never thought about being a county commissioner. “Let me think about this.” Well, my then-husband made the decision that I would run, so he went ahead and told them, “Yes, she’s running.” I’m still thinking, He told them I’m running. I want you to know—and Becky you can concur with this—campaigning is difficult. In fact, campaigning is actually harder than serving because you’re constantly on the go, you’re constantly—should be constantly thinking about what’s coming out of your mouth and how people will perceive it. And then you are constantly trying to figure out, Where am I going to get enough money to run this campaign? I can remember once the payment—the amount of money the candidates had came out in the newspaper, and a friend called and said, “MaryAnn, you have less money than anybody else.” And I said, “Well, that’s because I didn’t send out fundraising letters. I’m just going to pay for it myself.” And he said, “Well, don’t you know that people look at that and they think you don’t have any support if you don’t have a lot of money?” And I said, “No, that never occurred to me.” *(laughter)* I didn’t want the bother of having to do all those campaign fundraising, because I hate raising money. And now everybody wants to put me on their fundraising committee! *(laughter)* And I tell them, “Did you not see my record? I hate raising money!” *(laughter)* That friend of mine got on the telephone, and within less than a week, he had ten thousand dollars for me. And I said, “How did you get this money?” He said, “I just called up my friends and said, ‘MaryAnn needs money, give her some money.’” *(laughter)* And

so at any rate, he did that. I won't go into the process of campaigning unless somebody has a question about that; you can ask me and then we'll talk about it. But I want to tell you that, for those of you who might be in here who voted for me to serve you, I really appreciate the fact that you did. I enjoyed being a county commissioner because of all of the learning that you had an opportunity to do, and the opportunity to make changes. I can remember sitting at the DSS one day thinking, You know, we need to change a couple of these policies. And beginning to work with my county commissioners, I remember what Becky said to me about one of the things: when I went to them and said, "We need ten more social workers because we have got to protect the children who are sitting in the Department of Social Services in the—oh, I'm forgetting the place—Child Protective Services. We cannot let another child be killed. And we'd had a child who had been killed. And so Becky and the other commissioners voted with me to fund ten new social workers, and that was not a small amount of money. You remember that, Becky? That was not a small amount of money. And so I said, "I love the word commissioner, because in the middle of it is *mission*, and you are serving," and all of that. So thank you for that. It was my work as a commissioner that actually brought me back to Duke. So I landed the position here after I made the decision not to seek reelection to the Board of County Commission. When Dr. Snyderman I think read in the newspaper that I was not going to seek reelection, he called me up and asked me to come and visit with him. And he said, "I understand you're not running for county commissioner again." And I said yes. He had to get that clarified in his head before he could move forward. *(laughter)* And I said yes. And he said, "Well, I'd like for you to come, and I'd like for you to work, start a department for me." And so I asked him about that. And he said when he was going through the lease agreement, he had not realized how deep some of the feelings ran toward Duke for some of the people in Durham who have lived here for a very long

time. And he wanted to address that issue and asked if I would come in and be the director of community relations for him. So I said to Ralph, “Ralph, I’ve been my own boss for a number of years, I don’t know that I could have a boss. Probably twenty years or so.” And he said, “You won’t—I won’t be your boss, we’ll be colleagues.” And I said, “And sure, Ralph. Yeah, I believe that.” (*laughter*) I also said to Ralph, “Ralph, I’m surprised that you would offer me this job, because, if any of you have ever had to do negotiations, you know that you can go through some tough times. Now, I knew the right thing to do was to have Duke as our partner; I knew that. But Becky, the votes were there for Tenet [Healthcare Corporation]. And then we had several other groups in the nation who wanted to have Durham Regional. And I remember saying, “You know what? I know where Nan Keohane lives. I know where the president of Duke University is living. And if I’m a hundred years old and things are not going right, I know how to knock on that door and find that president. I can’t find the president of Tenet. Duke is going to be my choice.” And so we proceeded, and eventually the five of us agreed—there are five commissioners—that Duke was the choice. But Ralph said to me that he was sitting across the table during some of the negotiations wishing I was on his side. And that’s what made him decide that he would offer me the position. And you know, I was thinking about that piece of it, and I appreciate it Ralph and hope that I’ve done you proud. I thoroughly enjoy the job that I have, and my job is to improve the town-gown relationship. Now, some people think my job is to have teas (*laughter*) and serve lunches. I want to assure you, that’s just a small part of the job. The job is a difficult job. It’s not a pie job. And you would be amazed to know how many people I talk to offline, in fact yesterday I had six meetings with people. And I just told Becky this morning, I’m trying to get on her schedule to talk about the Durham Health Innovation Project. I want everybody to know what we’re trying to do in Durham, and I see Suzanne and

Marianne here, and I'm trying to get everyone to know what we're doing here with the Durham Health Innovation Projects, because what we want to do at the health system is to make Durham a healthy Durham. And so we need you, on March the twenty-ninth, come in to the Civic Center—sign up first so that I'll know you're coming, so you'll get a lunch—come in to the Civic Center to tell us, if you had to write the vision for health in Durham and how five years from now we will be a healthier community, how would you do it? Now, the other part of it is, and what personal responsibility are you willing to take to help us get there? And then what agencies or organizations we need to be working with to help us get there. And so that's going to be on March the twenty-ninth; y'all come. (*laughter*) The other thing that Ralph shared with me—and was talking about some of the issues that we had in the community when Duke had its policy of *separate*. And Ralph, I think I'm remembering that you were the one who said, Take down some of the signs and get rid of the waiting areas and the fountains and stuff like that, that separated the black community, and at that time we didn't really have a Hispanic presence here. Probably some Hispanic people, but not the presence we have now. So Ralph began to tear those doors down, and many people may not know that. I'm a person who likes to give people kudos and credit for the things that they do, so I want to thank you, Ralph, for doing that. So the Office of Community Relations started in 2002, and it was then that I said to Dr. Snyderman—I was still a county commissioner, just rolling off of the county commission—"I'd love to have Duke and Durham sit down and talk about health." And Dr. Snyderman gave me the check to do it. And so we paid for a conversation with key leaders in the community about health. Becky, you were there, do you remember that? And we began to talk about, What would it take for us to say, what are the health issues we should tackle? We've had several local summits, and out of those summits, have come just a lot of very positive things. So for example, at one of the

summits, one of the issues that was mentioned was the fact—oh, I’ve talked too long. Was—I’m sorry; I’ll wind it down. Was the fact that we needed to have specialty access for people. So after several years, the community came together with county government putting up to four hundred thousand dollars in; our community doctors giving eight hundred episodes of care; Duke, twenty-three hundred episodes of care; we put in place Project Specialty Access. And that allows Lincoln patients to come to Duke or the community and get special care that they need for cardiology, for orthopedics, those kinds of needs met that they couldn’t get met through Duke. And these of course are people who are low-wealth people. So I was going to tell you about some other projects. I’ll stop because I do want you to have time to talk, to ask me questions. I want to remind you that the life we live is a journey. We must live this life each day. Once this day is gone, it is gone. Yes, make plans for the future, but do not forget to stay in the moment and enjoy it. As long as I can remember, I looked to people who were achieving as my model. Many of those people did not even know that I was watching them and they were becoming a mentor. And one of those persons, Dr. Miller, who was my elementary school principal—and I remember in fifth grade he said to me, “MaryAnn, you are a smart little girl.” That was the first time someone had told me I’m smart. And I said, “Why do you say that?” And he said, “Because you ask hard questions.” So kind words can be short and easy to speak. But their echoes are truly endless, says Mother Theresa. And I believe that. And so I won’t talk about Elna Spaulding and my parents and my grandparents who were great, great mentors for me and loving people for me. But I’ll leave you with this thought that comes from Cathy Truett [Truett Cathy], who’s the founder and CEO of Chick-fil-A. “Nearly every moment of every day we have the opportunity to give something to someone else. Our time, our love, our resources. I

have always found more joy in giving when I did not expect anything in return.” So thank you for your time.

(applause)

ROSEBERRY: Thank you very much, Ms. Black. We’d like to allow this time for audience comments and questions. If you raise your hand, Hattie will pass the microphone to you, and please tell us your full name before you speak.

JOYCE NICHOLS: Hello.

BLACK: Hello.

NICHOLS: My name is Joyce Nichols, and I promised MaryAnn I wouldn’t ask any questions.

(laughter) But I just couldn’t—I could not, I couldn’t leave here without doing that. I see Dr. Snyderman over there, and it just so happens that I was a nurse when he made those changes that allowed me to not eat in the basement where the toilets were and come to the cafeteria. That’s one of the nice things I remember about him; I remember some other things, too, but—.

(laughter)

BLACK: I remember all nice things. *(laughter)*

NICHOLS: But MaryAnn, I’d like to ask you, now that you’ve travelled the multiple paths that you’ve gone on, with the multiple skills that you have in tact and diplomacy, which I don’t have.

(Black laughs) And they are exceptional.

BLACK: Thank you.

NICHOLS: Would you consider running for office again, for the House of Representatives or the Senate?

(audience applause)

BLACK: All of you are very kind. I love the job that I have. *(laughter)*

NICHOLS: It does not mean that you cannot continue in some aspect of the job you have, working for the people of the state. And it would broaden your horizon. *(laughter)*

BLACK: Thank you, Joyce. Other questions? *(laughter)*

NICHOLS: I won't stop.

BLACK: Okay. *(laughter)* Any other questions? Okay, Becky. And thank you for coming, Becky. I know how busy you are.

BECKY HERON: Becky Heron, MaryAnn's colleague. Former colleague. But when MaryAnn said that, a few minutes ago, you know, she was a politician. MaryAnn was never a politician. She was always a statesperson. Believe me, that is a fact.

BLACK: So kind. *(applause)*

HERON: No question about it. And MaryAnn, the only problem with access is that they meet at seven—

BLACK: —thirty in the morning.

HERON: Yeah!

BLACK: We do, we do.

HERON: Seven thirty in the morning; I'd serve on that board, but, boy, I tell you it's tough. *(laughter)* Getting downtown at seven thirty. So if you can change that, that'd be great.

BLACK: *(laughing)* I will deliver the message. We have many physicians on that board.

HERON: I know; I know. They've got to get back and do something good.

BLACK: Exactly. That's right. So they drive the time. But I will certainly bring that up. Because I miss my exercise on that morning when we meet. I'm trying to do well for myself. *(laughs)*

HERON: We had a great time together serving on the board.

BLACK: We did.

HERON: And she didn't mention—I don't think you mentioned that you also were chairman of our board of county commissioners.

BLACK: And that was because you all allowed me to be chair and to follow me. Thank you, Becky. *(laughs)*

RALPH SNYDERMAN: MaryAnn, I'm so glad that I came. Hearing you talk about the Durham Regional negotiations with Becky Heron here. I don't know—Ellen Reckhow, is she here?

AUDIENCE MEMBER: No.

SNYDERMAN: But I will have bad dreams tonight. *(laughter)* Post-traumatic stress disorder thinking about the negotiation of Durham Regional Hospital. You're really a good person.

BLACK: Thank you.

SNYDERMAN: I've had the blessing of being able to work with so many good people. You're good; you're smart; you're caring; you listen; and you look. And you've made a tremendous number of contributions. I would say one of the most important things that you taught me was the feeling that I had—and many of us in a leadership position in the medical center, the health system, wanted to do good things in Durham. What we couldn't understand was, Why don't they want us to do it? *(Black laughs)* And why don't they listen to us, because we are trying to do so many good things. What I learned from you and from many of you here in this room is that we needed to be listening to you.

BLACK: Uh-hm.

SNYDERMAN: It isn't as though we're here to be doing things for you or to you. It is doing thing with you. And I think that that is one of the major contributions you've made for Duke, is

for Duke to understand that we work *with* the community, not *to* the community. So thank you so much.

BLACK: And thank you, Ralph. That is so true. (*applause*) And you helped us start the process of having it happen. And I think we're better off, Ralph, now, than we were years ago in terms of listening to the community and working with the community. We still have some ways to go. We still have some ways to go. I know; I know. But we're making progress. Thank you. Any other questions for me? Bill.

BILL ANDERSON: Thank you very, very much for all of your kind remarks. I wanted you to know that the Child Guidance Clinic was a wonderful place to work. And it was about, oh, about two-thirds to three-fourths of our patients were black children. And so we wanted to work with them, but how to effectively work with them was sometimes a problem. And MaryAnn came along and showed us the way. And gave us advice and counsel. I would furthermore say, you may not have quite conveyed the persona of Kathryn Barklay. (*Black laughs*) She was a regal Southern (*pauses; audience laughs*) unmarried lady who packed a wallop. (*laughter*) She terrified we child psychiatrists as much as she terrified you at times.

BLACK: (*laughter*) I later learned that, Bill.

ANDERSON: But you were a great help to us, and it's been wonderful to have known you over these last forty years. And we're glad to be here.

BLACK: And I thank you for being my friend and Barbara as well. Barbara's his wife. Thank you, Bill. (*applause*)

MARY BLUE: I would like to know—my name is Mary Blue. I would like to know about the meeting you said. About March the twenty-ninth.

BLACK: So March the twenty-ninth we will have the Durham Health Summit. That's a Monday. I have so many meetings on my schedule; ladies, help me. That's a Monday. It will start at eight o'clock in the morning, and I have it slated to go until four, but I'm going to change that end time and stop us at three forty-five because I was just thinking—I think that's the first day for Passover—I don't want to get the—it's the first day for a Jewish holiday, so I want to make sure that we're done before four o'clock—because they start at—

BLUE: And where will it be held?

BLACK: It will be held at the Civic Center, the Marriott. And Shelley, do you remember the Website? They can go to a Website and sign up. I can't remember. Just call 668-3792, and you—anybody who wants to go, and we'll sign you up. We need you to sign up, because there is no fee associated with this, except to bring yourself and bring good comments and suggestions for us. But we'd like to provide lunch for you, so we'd like to have the number.

BLUE: And the phone number again?

BLACK: Six-six-eight, three-seven-nine-two. And just reference the March health summit.

HATTIE VINES: Other questions?

BLACK: Well, thank you, ladies and gentlemen. I enjoyed the afternoon. (*applause*)

(*audience members rise to leave*)

ROSEBERRY: Before we leave this afternoon—I'm sorry, we do have a few more—. We'd like to present Ms. Black with a gift before we leave this afternoon.

SUZANNE PORTER: (*presenting gift*) Thank you so much for inspiring and fascinating comments.

BLACK: Thank you very much.

(*applause*)

ROSEBERRY: And we'd like to ask our closing speaker, Karen Jean Hunt, to give us closing remarks this afternoon.

KAREN JEAN HUNT: Good afternoon.

AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Good afternoon. My name's Karen Jean Hunt; I'm director of the John Hope Franklin Research Center for African and African-American History and Culture, which is in the Rare Book, Special Collections Library and the Perkins Library over on West Campus. What a pleasure and honor it is to be here today. And we are now cosponsors of this event. And I just wanted to quickly tell you a few words of why we chose to do this. For Black History Month every year we come together here for Tea with Trailblazers. And it's amazing. We always learn something new every time we come. Today was really exceptional; it was a very good talk. In the John Hope Franklin Research Center, we try to partner, and this is one of the ways we try to partner on campus, and one of the ways that we partner with the Durham community. In our center, we have papers such as—Dr. Charles Watts's papers are there, we have Dr. [Robert] Dawson's papers, we have the Lincoln Hospital papers. And we also have a collection by Darlene Clark Hine, who is a historian. And Darlene Clark Hine writes about African-American women, and she also writes about the healthcare profession. And so one thing we know about black women and healthcare is that it's a community. And you're talking about how do you reach out to either the black community or Hispanic community or whatever community, oftentimes we go through the women. And black women have been doing healthcare, have been doing nursing from the time of slavery to today. So that's one way to get to the community. But you asked the question of why you, why a trailblazer. Because we need these stories. One of the things we do at the John Hope Franklin Research Center is we collect black voices, we try to bring into an archives not what people have said about African-

Americans, but what African-Americans have said about themselves. That's why you're so very important. And the great thing about Darlene Clark Hine, when she was first asked to do something about black women in Indiana, she said to the woman making the request, "You can't call a historian and just order a book like you're ordering a hamburger from Wendy's!"

(laughter) She said, "I'm a professional historian." And the woman was just persistent, persistent, persistent. But when Darlene Clark Hine looked at the stories, when she read the letters, when she looked in the diaries, when she looked at committee-meeting minutes from organizations people didn't even know existed, she came to understand how important having black women's history is. And that's one of the things we try to do in the John Hope Franklin Research Center. But before I let you go, you know, we live in this time of sort of post-racial America, or so it seems; that's what we're being told. But even in post-racial America, even with our African-American president, what are the issues that we are facing domestically? Employment, housing, healthcare, education. In the African-American community, what are the domestic issues that we have always faced? Employment, housing, healthcare, and education. We have a lot to give in that conversation. In the community, you have a lot to give in those sorts of discussions. And we do have great stewards here with MaryAnn Black. But each and every one of you: white, black, Hispanic, whatever, you have a voice and you need to get that voice out there so that we can make these changes. So whether we get universal healthcare or whether we don't get universal healthcare, you can have healthcare, but if you can't get a taxi or a bus or a ride to get to that medical appointment, you don't have healthcare. You can have all the social services out there. If you can't get Mom and Dad off the sofa to get them to take those services, they're not going to get helped. So we have to be out there. We have to be the ones who get a ride or give a ride; go pick up someone's prescription for them. We have to be as

active as we possibly can. So I'm very excited to hear about the program that's going to happen on the twenty-ninth, because I think this is a way for us to build what we know in the African-American community that we've already had. To get out there and help people the best way we can so that all of our citizens become all that they can be. I'd like to thank you very much; I'd like to thank the folks who do Tea with Trailblazers. It's such an honor for the John Hope Franklin Research Center to partner with you; I hope this partnership goes on for a very long time; and I thank you all for coming today. Thank you.

(applause)

(end of event)