

2019EvansNicholas-abstract

Abstract

Ball State University is over a hundred years old as of the writing of this document, yet the stories of its African American alumni, like at many other institutions of higher learning, remains relatively untold. Unless a student is to explore the hallowed establishments of Historically Black Colleges and Universities where the story of minority alumni is celebrated, the African American experience attending predominantly white, higher education institutions is largely unwritten. At Ball State University I have had the pleasure of working on two projects that were similar yet told two different stories of the university. One was the BSU Centennial Immersive project, which aimed to create a series of videos dedicated to telling the history of Ball State. However, these videos lacked one major piece of history, the distinctive experiences of minorities, and in particular, African American students and alumni. The second project was the African American Alumni Oral History Project-II, led by Dr. Michael Doyle. As a member of his team, I conducted two interviews of notable African American alumni from the mid-twentieth century, Col. Aaron (“AB”) Floyd and Ms. Ella McNeary. My thesis includes my research of my interview subjects, the transcriptions of those interviews, and the final documentary for which I served as the primary editor.

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