Colby Healthy Masculinities Interview

1. Can you describe to me what your childhood was like? Who did you live with? What were your favorite parts/memories of childhood? Your least favorite parts/memories?

2. Growing up, what did it mean to be a boy in your home? Do you have any specific memories of these messages? From where and from whom did you get these messages?

3. Who was the most influential figure in figuring out your gender role? Why do you say that? This may be answered in question 2.

4. Moving into early/elementary school, what messages did you get, explicitly or implicitly, about being a boy? Where did you get these messages? Peers, teachers, coaches?

5. In middle and high school, did these messages change? If so, how? What models of being male did you see during these years? Teachers, coaches, peers? (Note: look for reference to relationship between girls and boys changing to segue to next question.)

6. Growing up, what messages did you get about how males were supposed to relate to each other? About how they were supposed to relate to females?

7. The traditional view of masculinity in the US emphasizes power, control, independence, stoicism, and being physically and psychologically tough and strong. After reflecting on your experience growing up as a boy, does this view resonate with you? If so, how? If not, why not?

8. Have you found yourself actively resisting the pressures and expectations to be strong and macho? To hide your emotions and display aggression and dominance? (Note: resistance might be expressing emotional vulnerability, valuing intimacy/interdependence, renouncing aggression/violence, etc.)
   a. If yes: Can you give me specific examples? Was there a critical incident in your life that led you to resist? What are some ways that have made it easier to resist the pressures to conform to traditional masculinity? What are some challenges?
   b. If no: Why not?

9. Now we’re going to move to your experience here at Colby. What was your first impression of what it means to be a “typical” man at Colby? (i.e. how are men expected to act?; what qualities do they have?) How did you get this impression?

10. Has your view changed? If so, what experiences caused it to change?

11. Did you feel like you belonged at Colby when you first arrived? Why?

12. How about now? Why?

13. Would you agree or disagree that “the traditional view of masculinity dominates at Colby?” Why?
14. Are there places or groups at Colby where you have found it possible to be yourself? Where ideas or values about masculinity align with your own? How about places or groups where you find it possible to resist traditional masculinity?
   a. Get specifics (group names, locations, etc.). Find out why.
   b. If sports comes up, ask about the team environment, climate, values, etc.

15. How does your understanding of your masculinity impact or affect your sexuality, and the decisions you make about sexual behavior, intimacy, etc.?

16. How do you think about male privilege/male entitlement? Have your views about that changed during your time at Colby? If so, what led to the change?

17. Looking back at your experience growing up as a boy, is there anything you would want to change in your experience if you were to have a son or foster son someday?

18. What does “healthy masculinity” mean to you?