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Kristine Klein, interviewed by Kennedy Platter

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Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 0:02

This is Kennedy interviewing Kris on November 22, nope 25th oh my goodness. Are you ready?

Kris 0:09

Yes. (laughter)

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 0:09

Okay. So can you tell me about your family background?

Kris

Okay, um, I grew up in Greece. I had two brothers and a sister all older than I was. My dad owned a restaurant. My mom was a stay at home mom. She died when I was eight. And things got really crazy then. Umm my dad remarried. And I didn't get along with my stepmother. So I went to live with my sister when I was 14 years old. So that basically is the the brief history or my brief family background.

Kennedy

How much older is your sister then you are?

Kris 0:55

My sister was nine years older.

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 0:56

Okay. I gotcha. Did anybody of your siblings go to college. What did they end up doing?

Kris 1:03

None of my siblings went to college.

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 1:05

Okay.

Kris 1:05

And I was the baby, which is unusual because it's usually the other way around. My oldest brother ended up working as a maintenance man for 3M-

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 1:18

Okay.

Kris 1:19

-which was a business here in town a long time ago. My sister ended up working in real estate and my next brother who was six years older than I was, owned his own carpet cleaning business.

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 1:35

Okay. Awesome, so how did all of that affect your education? Or did it not?

Kris 1:41

It did, because instead of having family as a role model, I had friends as role models, and all my friends were going to college so and they were all doing well in school. So I said, Okay, I'm going to college. So it really did affect it in an unusual way.

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 1:57

Yeah. Okay. Awesome. Umm can you tell me about high school experiences?

Kris 2:03

Oh boy. I was a music drama, person. So in all the musicals all the drama, all the theater productions in the choir and that sort of thing, had a really close knit group of friends. And we would even do outside productions.

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 2:24

That's so cool.

Kris 2:24

Yeah um...

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 2:26

Not affiliated with the school?

Kris 2:27

Not affiliated with the school we put on with it. What is it called? Like a show? A talent show, but it was just sort of fun. We just did all sorts of fun things together.

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 2:41

For sure. What high school did you go to?

Kris 2:44

Greece, Olympia.

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 2:45

Okay. So right in Greece, and what kind of classes were offered when you went to high school?

Kris 2:52

The typical ones. You know, it was (pause) it was history, science, math. And they were just starting to do some unusual ones. I remember taking a class the history of protest music, I took a theater class, I took a music theater class, so they were just starting to branch out and do things that weren't the four you know, reading writ-writing; three: reading, writing and arithmetic.

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 3:26

Got it, do you know about high schools today and if you could choose a class that you would want to take, back in when you went to high school from like, when I went to high school? like um, I took we took piano I took piano class one time as electives. Is there anything that you wish you could have taken in high school that you didn't get to?

Kris 3:53

Yeah, architecture!

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 3:54

Oh, okay.

Kris 3:55

Yeah. Yeah. As a little kid. I was always designing houses, as a little kid like six, seven years old I made floor plans or go out in the backyard and make a floor plan on the leaves. So yeah, architecture, definitely.

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 4:10

They did offer something interior design type of thing in school. So that was really cool. So, jumping to college, what did you think college was like before you went to college?

Kris 4:22

You know, I really don't know that I had a clue. I just knew that in order to get ahead. I needed to go to college, but really, I, I just thought of it as like high school. You know, you had classes you went to them and you got graded.

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 4:46

And you your family obviously could not tell you about their experiences. So just relying on friends and hearsay.

Kris 4:53

Exactly.

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 4:57

What made you go to Brockport

Kris 5:00

It was well, it was the school that gave me, how do I say this? I was guaranteed entrance into Brockport because I had a B average in high school. If you had a B average you were guaranteed entrance into Brockport at the time. It was the only school I applied to.

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 5:21

Oh, really?

Kris 5:22

Yeah. Yeah. Because I knew I could get in and it was close to home and yeah.

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 5:26

Okay, yeah. So if you had a B or above you were basically guaranteed and so yes, if you had below was it kind of like, like a lottery type of thing or what you probably not going to get in?

Kris 5:40

No, I think it was probably a case by case basis. I don't know. It was just said when I talked to them. It was like, okay, yep. B average. I'm in.

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 5:50

Awesome. Yeah, um. Was High School, different than college? What were some differences if you can share some?

Kris 6:03

It- on the personal side, it was the first time that I was responsible for buying my own food, making sure everything was taken care of. There was no one behind me saying make sure you clean up or that sort of thing. And also, there was a lot more freedom. If I didn't want to go to class, I wasn't going to get detention. I just didn't go to class, it might get a lower grade if I didn't go. But otherwise, there's a lot more freedom. And the population was so much more diverse in college.

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 6:40

Yeah.

Kris 6:40

Which was really great because I think it helped develop me and allowed me to pursue life outside of New York state because I've lived all over the country.

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 6:57

Okay.

Kris 6:57

So yeah, and I've always felt comfortable no matter where I lived.

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 7:01

Yeah, that's awesome. When you say it was more diverse. Could you elaborate a little bit on that-

Kris 7:06

Sure.

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 7:07

-since college?

Kris 7:08

Oh, sure. My high school I think had one African American. (alarm goes off)

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 7:12

Okay.

Kris 7:13

I don't know what that was. (laughing, referring to alarm) Maybe two, okay. And when I came here, there were there were African American there were Asian. There were all sorts of people and all different ages. So you no longer had that group of people all around the same age. It was, you know, I

had people in class that were in their 50s. And, and I had, you know, just all sorts of different people who were veterans, people who were, I don't know, just every it was sort of exciting.

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 7:48

Yeah, I can believe it. Yeah. Can you tell me about some of your college experiences outside of Brockport. So I know you went to Geneseo. Georgia. Georgia State. Yeah.

Kris 8:03

Geneseo. I went for library that's where I got my master's in library science. And that was a little town. So and that was sort of fun. Yeah. But I was only there for a year. So it wasn't. It was a short master's program it was a calendar year.

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 8:21

Yeah, that's kind of different.

Kris 8:22

Yeah. No. Well, it was August, to August.

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 8:25

Okay. Yeah.

Kris 8:26

Yeah. But it was it was interesting. And then I went to law school in Georgia, which is even more diverse than and Atlanta- it was in Atlanta, and it was just, I was married at the time. And I really, really liked Atlanta.

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 8:43

Yeah?

Kris 8:44

Yeah. People were, it was a more blended community than any that I've ever lived in. Well, except for DC. I lived in DC for a while. Yeah, because, you know, I was, we lived in one house, we had an African American family next to us across the street was a Mexican American family next to them was a lesbian couple. So it was just it was really a really interesting place to be.

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 9:12

And that wasn't something was that not something you grew up with?

Kris 9:15

Oh, no. It's um, the the family dynamics changed dramatically after I moved away because I tended to be very more left leaning and my family was very right wing, so it was (laughing and inaudible)

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 9:41

So yeah, so going away and experiencing all this different thing. It really would you say it made you grow as a person?

Kris 9:47

Oh definitely Yeah, definitely it. It helps see things from a different viewpoint rather than my own cultural upbringing. It made me think about Okay, here is this made me think about I was invited to a party at my neighbor's house. And I was the only white person there. Okay. And I thought, now I have an inkling I certainly don't know what it's like to be the only African American **in a white b** but here I am the only white person in a party where everyone else is African American. Yeah, it's like, yeah, it's a, it's a little uncomfortable.

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 10:32

So you had like not of course, not a true feeling, but you kind of experience that.

Kris 10:37

Exactly. Exactly. It was it was in I actually think they were more welcoming to me. I hate to say this, than a group of white individuals would be to one African American.

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 10:52

Unfortunately, yeah. Okay, so moving on from that kind of thing. What did you think you wanted to do coming into college?

Kris 11:04

I thought I wanted to be an actress. Yeah. Ended up a librarian. (laughing) Don't ask!

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 11:14

So what was your major when you came into Brockport

Kris 11:16

Music, music, a music performance and ended up in music history when I decided that I was not a performer.

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 11:24

That's okay. At least you stuck with it.

Kris 11:25

Yeah, Yeah, I did.

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 11:26

Um, and so you ended up what was your major after you changed like your exact major? It was library science?

Kris 11:34

Not till I went to graduate school.

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 11:36

Okay.

Kris 11:36

Yeah.

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 11:37

Oh,

Kris 11:38

No, I, my degree was in music history.

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 11:41

Okay. That's awesome.

Kris 11:42

Yeah. When they had a real music department here, it was a while ago...

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 11:47

Yeah, when I when I've talked to my parents and grandparents, I've seen theater and music has really declined since they were children. So and even since I've been in high school, it's kind of gone down a little so.

Kris 12:01

Yeah.

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 12:04

So, did you have a mentor with your decisions in college?

Kris 12:09

No, I did not.

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 12:10

It was solely yourself?

Kris 12:12

Solely myself. Yep.

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 12:16

Okay.

Kris 12:17

Yeah, no, there was, you know, I mean, there were there were professors who encouraged but, but not really, you know, there was no one really directing my path- matter of fact, deciding to become a music librarian, which was what I started out as after I got my library science degree. There was no one directing me that way. Matter of fact, I read about it in a music education journal. Yeah,

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 12:47

So there were people helping you just no one you went to for advice?

Kris 12:50

Right.

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 12:51

Okay. Yeah. Yeah. Wow, I have mentors here. So I can't imagine not going to somebody for help, so that's-

Kris 13:00

I didn't know that I could. I think that's part of it. That was not. I think that was part of not having anybody in my family go to college.

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 13:09

Okay. Yeah.

Kris 13:10

So I didn't know that I could go and get help from I didn't know that I had an academic person that I could go to and talk to about what to do or how to move forward or anything like that.

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 13:26

I guess times have changed because now they make you really understand that you have people that you can talk to. And I think that's a good thing.

Kris 13:33

Yes, I think that would have I probably would have been an accounting major. (laughing)

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 13:44

Okay, so was college affected by financial decisions that you had to make?

Kris 13:53

No, because I had lots of grants. Basically got through undergraduate school with grants. Okay, and a couple of loans. But no. And I worked. I was a work study student. So I was declared independent from my parents. I went through a legal process that declared me independent. And so that helped with grants.

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 14:16

Okay, yeah. Being solely by yourself.

Kris 14:19

Yeah. Yeah.

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 14:19

Makes sense. So how did you meet your friends on campus?

Kris 14:24

Oh, that's a great question. It was interesting because there were not. There weren't a lot of people that I knew from high school who came here, right. I lived with my aunt and uncle the first year that I was here and had a roommate. So that helped. I met you know, I got to know her. She was a dance major. Okay, so that was good. And then just in classes or just being in the union or just talking to people, it was a lot of in class and and just I can't remember if I belonged to organizations outside of the music department when I was here, I did in other in my graduate school. But yeah, I think that was it. And then there was always you know, you always met people at Spring-in do they still do spring-in?

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 15:20

No, I think Dr. Martin had said something about a spring in and we do um I'm blanking on what it's called. But we have one day and its diversity day. That's what we do now. Can you explain what spring in?

Kris 15:36

Oh my gosh. Spring in was a day in the spring where there were no classes. And they actually pulled beer trucks onto campus. And everybody just partied all day long.

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 15:54

Right on campus?!

Kris 15:54

Right on campus

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 15:55

Totally wouldn't not go down nowadays. (laughing)

Kris 15:59

I didn't go to every one, but I did go to a fair number.

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 16:03

Yeah. And you met lot of people that way?

Kris 16:05

Oh yeah, yeah, cuz everybody went to spring in!

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 16:08

For sure. Yeah. That's definitely would not fly here!

Kris 16:14

Oh, how things have changed.

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 16:18

You said you lived with your aunt and uncle your first year here and then with a roommate or after you had a roommate Can you kind of explain your living situation through your time here?

Kris 16:27

Sure, sure. I never lived on campus. I lived with my aunt and uncle the first year and I had a roommate there who was a dance major. My uncle decided that they were going to sell their house and because they were older and they were both retired. And I went to I went to a boarding house that was down the street from them. And there I had the same roommate, okay, and then another dance major joined us, okay, so I lived there for a while and then I moved with a person I met I think in the Union. I don't know how else I would have met Abby- and Abby, who I met in undergraduate school and I are still in contact. Oh, that's awesome. Yeah. She's in Colorado. She and I rented an apartment in a house, way down Main Street. It's still there. Yeah. And I've lived there for about a year with her and then I move back into the boarding house for a little while. And then the woman who was in charge of the, who owned the boarding house was quite elderly. And she went into a home so we all moved, everyone moved out. And I moved in with another music major a house. Oh my god, what was the name of the street? It was like right across from campus, right near the Fine Arts Building, I can't remember.

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 17:54

There is I want- my goodness, does it go like a "V"?

Kris 17:57

Yes.

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 17:58

Yeah, I know- "Allen"? I know exactly what street you're talking about though. Yeah. Wow. So you said a boarding house. Can you just elaborate what a boarding house was? 'Cause I'm not really sure.

Kris 18:12

It was the woman who owned the house rented out rooms Okay, you got the room and you and you could use the kitchen to make your meals and her washer and dryer. So yeah, yeah, so it wasn't like the living room was a joint No, it was your room and the kitchen that was about it.

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 18:33

Got it. Okay.

Kris 18:36

Yeah.

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 18:37

And then you say a lot about the union on so you did you spend a lot of time in the Union. How do you How would you describe the union when you went to college here?

Kris 18:45

Um, it was it was the meeting place where everybody you know, between classes, it's where you went it is, you know, you're hanging out there you got your coffee there that there were no coffee shops in the library you know, it was yeah, it was just the general meeting. Yeah, a meeting place. I spent most of my time there at the library and the Fine Arts Building. That was uh, my three places.

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 19:15

Have you been in the Union this semester at all?

Kris 19:17

I haven't.

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 19:18

I was gonna see if you knew any of like, can see any differences or one?

Kris 19:22

Oh, I'm sure I would, because it was just a big room.

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 19:25

Yeah.

Kris 19:27

I noticed that. When did I go? I think I went with my cousin. My cousin lives out here. And I think we walked through the union. We had to walk through the union to go to the for the meeting about the for the adult education

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 19:45

Oh yes, gotcha.

Kris 19:46

And I saw there was a coffee shop there, but there were some things that I remembered like walking down the hall. Yeah, yeah, I didn't stay for very long.

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 19:54

Some drastic differences.

Kris 19:57

Yes.

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 20:01

So, how do you see the dating culture at Brockport when you were in college?

Kris 20:07

Oh my gosh. That's a great question. It was mostly in bars. What can I say? Although a couple of the first person I dated when I was here was, he was Vietnamese, okay? Which threw my family for a loop, as you might imagine, they were not happy. (laughter) I didn't care. But I met him in the Union.

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 20:38

Okay

Kris 20:38

You know, you know, you sit down at a table and there are no other spots. So you start talking to the people at the table that you're sitting at. So it was that was it. You've met a lot of people there in class. Yeah. But bars were probably the main place where you I don't know that that's changed much.

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 21:01

Yeah. I don't know, probably not. (laughter) So how do you think that social academic spheres affected relationships during college?

Kris 21:13

What do you mean?

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 21:14

Um, so you said that you were with someone who's Vietnamese?

Kris 21:20

Yes.

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 21:21

Was it? Was he in the same major? Was he completely different? Was it like that kind of thing?

Kris 21:28

He was in a totally different major. He was an economics major. And I was a music major.

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 21:33

Gotcha. So spheres kind of mixed.

Kris 21:36

Definitely. Definitely. Yeah. My- It was interesting. I had a lot of music friends and a lot of theater friends, but then I also had a lot of friends from the sciences, and mostly from the sciences. So it was an interesting combination.

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 21:57

So based on academics, they were mixed, but were there um cliques, would you say? Like, click were things "cliquey" back when you came here?

Kris 22:06

Oh, yeah, definitely. Yeah, definitely. Even within the music department itself, there were the, you know, the voice majors sort of hung together and the brass players sort of hung together and yeah, we knew each other, but really truly stay there. Yeah, yeah, there were definitely, I don't- (laughter)

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 22:28

That won't, change. There's always gonna be clicks. I feel like like.

Kris 22:31

There always will be.

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 22:32

Yeah. Do you have a partner currently?

Kris 22:36

I- That's a good question. I need to think about that one for a second. Because I was living in California and I had been with someone for 10 years. And he's Mexican American, which also my family was not so you know. (laughter) I don't do anything my family likes what can I say? (laughter) I he and I have stayed together but it's long distance. Obviously, because he's still in California.

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 23:02

My my boyfriend's a Marine, he lives in California so-

Kris 23:04

There you go.

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 23:05

I completely understand. So, How did you guys meet?

Kris 23:14

Yeah. I worked at the State Library. And he was in the grant making section of the State Library. And we just kept running into each other the hall. And finally, he stopped me one day and we just started talking and from there, that was it.

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 23:30

Awesome.

Kris 23:31

Yeah.

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 23:31

So you keep saying all these states you've lived and you've lived everywhere.

Kris 23:35

Lived a lot of places. Yeah.

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 23:36

Can Is it because of work? Was it because you just wanted to travel? Why? Why is that?

Kris 23:42

It was work and travel. Okay, let's see, I've lived in here we go. New York to Tennessee, to Florida, to Maryland, to Texas, to Washington, DC to California, and then back here.

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 24:00

Wow, yeah, I thought I lived on a lot of places. My dad was in the Army. So I moved around a lot growing up, but you, you moved around a lot.

Kris 24:09

This is all after I got my degrees (inaudible), yeah, yeah, exactly

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 24:14

What made you come back to New York after?

Kris 24:17

My sister who was my only remaining nuclear family member was dying of cancer. And I really felt a really strong pull that I needed to spend at least some time with her. Because it was sort of the end of my nuclear family.

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 24:31

Yeah, yeah.

Kris 24:32

So yeah.

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 24:36

I'm glad you got to experience so much. I hope I can do that and just travel for whether it's for work or whether it's because I want to I hope I can do that. So let's move on a little bit. What kind of extracurricular activities did you do in college? I know you said stuff about theater and dance stuff. Did you have any more clubs or anything that you did?

Kris 24:59

I didn't here, I was more involved while even in, I want to say when I was in law school I did a lot more about actually, in when I did library science, I was, I would volunteer at the local public library. I was the secretary of the library Students Association. So I did a more, more of that sort of thing.

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 25:26

Outside of Brockport, you'd say?

Kris 25:28

Oh, outside of Brockport, you know what I'm trying to think. I did a little bit with the kids, the group of friends from high school, putting on little shows and stuff, but not for very long because academics, you know, and living here and friends in Rochester trying to coordinate it didn't work out that well, and I didn't have a car. So yes, and that's one thing that I've noticed too, is that when I went to school here, not that many people had cars

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 25:59

Yeah.

Kris 25:59

I mean the commuters obviously. Yeah, but not so many people in town. So yeah, it was like both my cousin and I are like, I can't believe how many kids have cars. Yeah.

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 26:10

Wow. Um, when you went to Georgia, did you do it? You did. Did you do extra curricular type of things? or?

Kris 26:19

Yeah, well, partly to because I was married. So as part of, we did a lot of hiking with the, the Sierra Club. And I was involved with the Audubon Society. So yeah, I did a lot of other stuff. Okay, cool. Cool.

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 26:36

What did you plan to do with your degree?

Kris 26:38

(laughter) After I got it, I decided to become a music librarian, which the music history would help. And I did that my first job was as a music librarian in Memphis, Shelby County Public Library and Information Center in Tennessee. So yeah, I used it at least for a few years. (laughter)

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 27:02

When you were little, what did you want to be when you grew up?

Kris 27:07

I, I actually wanted to be an architect.

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 27:10

Okay, so that Okay, yeah, all stems back to uh-

Kris 27:13

Yeah, I that's, I wanted to be an actress or an architect that was it. Yeah. Or a writer. Okay, those were the three, you know things and I could do them all.

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 27:24

For sure? Yeah.

Kris 27:25

Yeah.

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 27:28

Do you think if you had like an architect class in high school or something like that interior design, you think you would have strayed into a different path?

Kris 27:36

Yeah, definitely. Definitely. And also, when I was in high school, it was still very gender biased. So girls didn't take shop. Okay, you did Home Ec. which is your interior design, but I wanted to design buildings. I want to design houses. Not do the the interior. And in order to do that you really needed a background in how things were engineering and that sort of thing. But you couldn't, that was not an option for girls.

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 27:36

Yes.

Kris 27:36

Yeah.

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 28:11

And if that was different, do you think things?

Kris 28:13

Yes

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 28:15

Gender bias kind of really-

Kris 28:17

Yeah.

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 28:18

Yeah. Was there more? Were there different things that gender bias really affected when you were in high school and college? That kind of thing as well?

Kris 28:26

I don't think so much in college. Because you were able to take any class you could you were well unless you need unless it was a prerequisite. Yeah, you could take just about anything you wanted so if I wanted to take something in engineering, engineering 101 or whatever Yeah, I probably could have but. By that time I was doing the music stuff. In high school, I think it would have made a difference had had there been less of a you know you have to take Home Ec you have to learn how to sew you have to learn how to cook I still don't cook very well. And I can't sew worth beans. (laughing) Nor do I want to! (laughing)

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 29:11

So you went to law? Did you use that in any way your law degree or did you not end up using it? or How did things go with that?

Kris 29:25

I did it. I went to law school and my last year there, not the last year- My second year- was my second year? I can't remember. I was a student attorney in the tax clinic, which is why I probably should have done accounting because I was really good at math and doing all that sort of stuff. Yeah. But they say music majors are like that to all sorts of numbers.

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 29:47

Yes. Yeah. I'm not. I'm not musically. I can't do any of that. But I have heard that math and music go together. Yeah.

Kris 29:57

And when I graduated from law school, I thought long and hard I had actually applied for a job in Los Angeles, working with the it was called INS the immigration naturalization services- ICE now is working for the Department of Justice, which means I will be sending people back to their countries. And I didn't want to do that. I just didn't. So I ended up using my law degree and becoming a law librarian. Okay, so I taught, I worked as a law librarian and taught legal research.

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 30:35

Okay, yeah.

Kris 30:37

So, so I use that for quite some time. Until I went. That was in California. And before I went to the State Library, where I changed from being a law librarian into a government documents librarian, okay.

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 30:51

So you use the Law degree just not towards-

Kris 30:53

Yes. And I still you know what you still use that mean? No matter what education you get, you always use it. Even now there are things or organizations I belong to someone will say, oh, it doesn't matter if we do this. If I say, Oh, wait a minute, this isn't a legal opinion. But yeah. Because I'm not a bar certified lawyer. I know. And I don't want to think that I'm practicing without a license. Yes, I'll say, you know, think about this, or you better talk to a lawyer because I don't think that's really what you want to do.

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 31:23

You're educated. So you can Yeah, you can voice an opinion. Yeah. You not wanting to work. Sending migrants and immigrants back and working with ICE. Would you say that was a moral choice? Or was it a was a controversial thing or like, what really made you decide to not do that?

Kris 31:45

A couple of things. One, it was there was a moral issue. I could see me having trouble sending someone back to a place where it was so dangerous for them. But the other thing was, I was in my forties. And the the work schedule was, you're in court three to four days a week. And then the other three or four days a week you were working on your cases. Now that adds up to seven to eight days a week. (laughter) And I thought I in my mid 40s going into my late 40s I don't want that kind of schedule now.

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 32:26

You don't want to do homework and for the whole rest your whole life.

Kris 32:29

Yeah no, I don't (laughter) you do but I know Yeah, you end up doing that no matter what. But yeah. Yeah, had I known that in high school, I would have done better.

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 32:43

What can you do?

Kris 32:44

I'm telling you now homework never ends. But it gets more fun as you get older.

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 32:52

Oh, yeah, I hope so. Yeah. Now that I'm in a degree in that I want to do once you I feel like once you're in something that you are really happy and you're excited.

Kris 33:01

Yes.

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 33:01

Not as bad as taking math or chemistry, which I cannot do. (laughing)

Kris 33:06

Yes, it is very true.

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 33:08

Okay. Um, did you feel like college prepared you for the real world?

Kris 33:14

No, no.

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 33:15

Can you elaborate a little bit?

Kris 33:20

The there's the difference between theory and practice. I think what college did is gave me a foundation. It gave me better critical thinking skills. But what I didn't realize what really didn't, and maybe because I was young and really naive, it's an undergraduate school, was that the things that I was learning in college, like how to write better and that sort of thing would carry through into work. I didn't realize it I'd have to do so much writing.

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 33:56

Okay. Yeah.

Kris 33:58

I didn't there. Were that sort of tasks. There was also in college and undergraduate, not so much in graduate school because it was pretty rigorous. But, you know, if you cut a class, there's no big deal and work. If you come in, I never did this- (pounding upstairs) Okay? Come on through (referring to upstairs noise)-and work. If you start calling in, you're going to lose your job. Yeah, I didn't have that problem. But what I did see was people who did do that affected my ability to work because they weren't doing their job. And if my job relied on their job, then I ended up doing their stuff to get my stuff done. So in some respects, it really didn't help because it was a little too free.

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 35:00

Yeah, okay.

Kris 35:02

And I didn't really, I didn't really get it. And I didn't really get- and another thing that I didn't get is that there were a lot more career options available and parts the part of the high school and part of that was college.

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 35:20

Would you say that's like the school's fault or like your own fault for not getting into things or mix of the two?

Kris 35:27

I think it's a mix of the two. I was a little bit of a rebellious kid. So when my stepmother said to me, You mustn't you know, I don't know why you're doing that. It's like, well, I'm going to do it no matter what you say, now. You don't want me to be a music major too bad I'm going to be!

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 35:48

And I take it that you did things for yourself and not for other people, which a lot of people didn't do or don't do and I feel like you really did you focused on yourself and what you wanted to do. Doesn't matter what your family thought?

Kris 36:01

Yeah, yeah, and definitely

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 36:03

Yeah, definitely. Yeah. (laughing) Good for you- That's really important. I feel like, yeah, I'm still learning how to do things for myself and I'm 20 years old.

Kris 36:17

You'll get there! (laughter) You have the concept though. Yeah, that's, that's good for sure. Because a lot, don't. A lot of kids, I see some that my significant other's son is almost 30. And he doesn't want to move from home. And he wants his dad to help him get another job. And it's like his dad, is saying "no, you've got to grow up."

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 36:43

So were there any world or national events that happened during the 80s that affected your college experiences or your just life experience? Any stories or examples you can tell?

Kris 36:56

Well, you know, there was I'm trying to think Exactly. Was it the Nixon resignation?

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 37:09

Yeah.

Kris 37:10

So that was a big thing. Yeah. That really was and then there was the end of the Vietnam War. Gosh. Yeah. I sad to say at that time I was not really particularly politically aware.

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 37:30

Okay.

Kris 37:33

Which, although, see, I remember this will be funny. It was I remember boycotting certain things because of what was his name? Oh my gosh. I just we just did a whole big thing on oh my gosh, I can't even think-

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 37:54

Yeah.

Kris 37:55

-but boycotting different vegetables from California. Because of how they were treating the migrant workers there. Cesar Chavez! (laughing) knew I'd come up with that. But yeah, I was not very politically aware. But there were big things. Like I said the Vietnam War between the 70s and 80s. There was Nixon resigning, there was Watergate. So yeah,

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 38:30

Though you weren't politically aware of could you tell there were people that were on campus?

Kris 38:36

Oh, yeah. Oh, yeah, definitely. Definitely. Yeah. Because there were there were demonstrations. And yeah, there definitely was

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 38:47

When do you think you got the most politically aware and the most into politics or demonstrations or things like that? If you ever did yeah.

Kris 38:59

I would say when I was living in DC, because national news was my backyard news, and so that would have been late 80s, early 90s when I got involved and then I've just stayed politically aware. I worked look, for example, I worked on Governor Brown's election. Several years ago, I worked on his campaign. So yeah, there have always Yeah. So after that, and now it's sort of like the woman's movement. I'm a volunteer at the Susan B. Anthony house. So, I'm always sort of pushing that and

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 39:41

For sure, I am. One of my minor is Women's Studies. So I'm very into being an activist, obviously a social work major. So and I know during that time, you know, you read about it in history classes, all the movements ever going on. So I just thought I'd ask and see if there's anything big you could recall

Kris 40:02

and well the woman's movement was really big in the late 70s too it was really big. You that's, you know, I think now started when suddenly I would have been in high school but yeah, it was. It was. I remember friends in DC, 'cause I lived in DC twice, or in that area just sort of know I lived in DC twice. Because I lived in DC then I went to Atlanta, then we came back to DC. Just you can't live in DC and not get involved. You just can't- (noise from upstairs)

(more noise from upstairs) I dont know what they're doing up there...

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 40:45

But thank you for sharing that. That's something as a historian and as a just an activist myself. I'm super interested in

Kris 40:53

Yeah. And there's so many different ways to get involved. I mean, you don't have to go out there and be a spokesperson right? You can write articles you can volunteer in the background. Yeah.

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 41:06

Behind the scenes.

Kris 41:07

Yes.

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 41:07

Where majority of it takes place.

Kris 41:09

Yep, so Exactly, exactly.

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 41:11

Sure. Have a couple more questions and then we'll be kind of done. What is your relationship to Brockport right now as an alum?

Kris 41:21

It hasn't been anything for the past- (laughing). But my cousin got me involved with taking classes here. And I find that I'm, you know, coming back and seeing there is some really good things that they offered to alums like I can use the library.

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 41:37

Yeah.

Kris 41:39

So and I'm still exploring what I can. What trouble what, how I can wreak havoc now. Yeah, yeah.

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 41:46

Some things haven't changed since you came here Yeah? Do you see Brockport differently?

Kris 41:55

Yeah, I definitely do because it was, it was definitely a local school. People, you know, something, there were a number of people who came from Long Island, New York City. But it was a lot of commuters. And

I'm sure it still is. But just, I look around and I see such a diverse group of people, and even look in the parking lot. And there's license plates from all over the place. So this is great to see. Yeah, there it is.

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 42:27

And you thought it was diverse when you came here?

Kris 42:29

Yeah,

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 42:29

Seeing it's more diverse, yeah.

Kris 42:32

And I've been in the class, I have to admit, I've been pretty impressed with a number of the students in there. Yeah, some of them, you know, I worry about them with everything, but I was really, really impressed with even those who were not archaeology majors or anthropology majors, how they, you know, did the work and and were involved in the class which is really good. Yeah, sure.

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 43:01

Is there anything you'd tell your younger self to do differently?

Kris 43:05

Yes, I would not have been a music major.

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 43:09

Okay.

Kris 43:11

I would have been more studious.

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 43:15

Okay.

Kris 43:15

And I would have gotten more involved with different organizations. Because I think when you have people who are more academically motivated, you become more academically motivated. A lot of the people I hung out with, you know, we were music we were always practicing. But it wasn't this focus on study. Yeah, other than my science friends were but they were in a whole different. Yeah. So yeah, yeah, I definitely would have done things differently. Yeah. I probably wouldn't have lived with my aunt and uncle, um the first year. Yeah.

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 43:56

Yeah, You would have been by yourself the first year?

Kris 43:58

I probably would have lived on campus.

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 44:01

You never got that experience? Do you wish you did.

Kris 44:04

I do. I do. There was a professor here who's Professor Petit, he was a French teacher. And I had studied French from the time I was in second grade. He wanted to set up a camp. One of the dorms as a language dorm. So on one floor, there would be Spanish and that's all you could speak. You couldn't speak English. There would be a French floor a German floor Italian. So yeah, that to me would have been so cool. Cool. Yeah.

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 44:35

And for people who were trying to get to know the language more being forced to speak it.

Kris 44:43

Yes.

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 44:43

That would help them a lot. Yeah, that would be very cool even now.

Kris 44:46

yeah, it would be. It would be.

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 44:49

That's all I have for you. Do you have any questions or comments or anything else?

Kris 44:54

No. I can't think of anything

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 44:56

awesome.

Kris 44:57

Got started bringing back memories like Monsieur Petit

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 45:00

Yeah.

Kris 45:02

My french teacher! Yeah. It is Cool.

Platter, Kennedy M (kplat2) 45:07

All right, I will stop the recording now.

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