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2024

### Bailey Rodgers-Elena Rosario '14

Bailey Rodgers

Elena Rosario

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**Bailey Rodgers:** Okay, so thank you so much for participating in the Tell Your Story oral history program. We hope that this will be a great experience for you and also to be able to share your experience with others as well. So, the questions below, there's just a couple of questions about your experience. I might go off book a little bit if there's something interesting that I want to hear more about or that might make it more interesting for your oral history. So, before we begin, could you please state your name and spell it out for us as well.

**Elena Rosario:** My name is Elena, E-L-E-N-A Rosario, R-O-S-A-R-I-O, and I'm from the class of 2014.

**BR:** Awesome, welcome back. And for the record, my name is Bailey Rogers and I am the Linda Lear Special Collections Librarian. Okay, so the first question, pretty simple, but why did you decide to come to Connecticut College?

**ER:** So, I am a legacy student. So, my sister came to Connecticut College and it's actually her reunion year too, 2009. And so, when I applied to schools, I was actually living in Florida, so I only applied to colleges in Florida. And my sister was like, you should check out Conn, you should try Explore Weekend, which is this weekend where they bring up potential students that are interested in the campus to kind of come stay on campus with a student. You live in the dorm for the weekend. So, I was like, okay, fine, I'll do it. So, I did Explore and I loved it. I fell in love. So, I was like, wait a second, what do I do? And then I applied and I got in. And so I came and even from Explore, I ended up doing Explore and Spring Preview, which are both kind of visiting programs. I'm not sure why they accepted me into both, but I was very excited. The Spring Preview is once you're already admitted. So, by that point, I had definitely known I was coming to Conn and I was able to make friends, like build friends that I had met at Explore. And then, and it just, yeah, I just fell in love with the campus. I was really attracted to not having Greek life. I didn't really care about it not having a football team. You know, I didn't want- I came to school, like, wanting to be a history major. So, like, I wanted to do this, you know, the school part was important. And so, it had all the stuff that I could do, you know, here. But it was a whim because if my sister wouldn't have told me to come to that weekend, I would have only applied to school in Florida and I would have never even thought about Connecticut College. So, I'm really grateful for the Explore. And I can't even remember who hosted me, but that person obviously made my trip very memorable too. And so, I think the infrastructure of just those types of programs also were like, wow, if they're going to really cater to kids and really show us like we're welcome here, then that's the kind of environment I want to be in.

**BR:** Yeah, absolutely. Yeah. So, what, if anything, surprised you about the college during your time here?

**ER:** Yeah, so I am- my sister was the first in our family to go to college, so I'm also first generation and coming to a school, like I- I did very well in high school. I think I was like third in my class or something, so I was always like an overachiever. And when I got here, I don't think I'd realized like how- two things: one is that the students that I'm now being compared to, a lot of them went to private schools, a lot of them have parents that went to college, so it was just like, that was really hard. But then the other part of that was just not understanding the level of -- what's the word? The rigor, right? The rigor -- and so for me, it's like at my school, I was like the top of the class and always in the top five, right, between like one and three or whatever. And then I got here and on my first paper, I got like a C and I was like, what the heck is this, you know? And I was like, I remember literally walking out of Blaustein, like right here, walking out of Blaustein, crying, calling my mom and being like, I shouldn't be here, like, I'm not supposed to be here or whatever. And it was one of those experiences where I think, and I, because I have friends who have different experiences, I think like you get the experience that you put in. And I think that moment and some other moments really made me like, I'm going to figure out what I need to do to make it here. And once I did that and I figured out that formula, I was fine, right? I did the honors thesis, I did everything, but I didn't know that it was going to take so much work for me to change, not necessarily, like, in a bad way, but I had to change the way that I wrote, the way that I talked to be able to live to those standards that they were holding me to, you know? And so that was a shock, right? And I think being a student of color, I'm Puerto Rican, being a student of color on campus was hard. When I was here, we had Posse, we still have Posse, but I think that changed the climate a lot. But like, I definitely was not prepared for like a campus where anywhere I was, like I would stand out as different, as other, you know?

**BR:** Especially coming from Florida.

**ER:** Yeah. So yeah. So, I came from Florida and from Hartford and Connecticut. So it was like, I was not used to that. So that was really hard. But I think, you know, Unity House was a saving grace for me for that. So anyways, I digress.

**BR:** Real quick, I did have some follow-up questions. You said some really interesting things. So one, you said there were a couple of moments where you kind of were like, okay, this is like my experience. I have to figure out what I want to do. Could you maybe talk about one other experience?

**ER:** Yeah. So for me, my nickname in undergrad was Elena "Doing the Most" Rosario. And I just did the most. And so, for me, I wanted to- I wanted to get the full experience of college. And I think I did. The only thing that I didn't do, and I don't regret it, but I definitely would do it if I could, was study abroad, right? That was for me, but anything else, I took advantage of because I was like, I'm here, I'm paying, I'm going to this elite school, I'm going to take full advantage of everything. So I took all the classes. You know, I majored in History, but I was, like, one or two classes away from majoring in Anthropology and Sociology because I was just like, I'm going to take anything that interests me and advocate for myself. You know, I wanted to be- I decided that I wanted to try out for the track team, which I ran cross country in high school, but I broke both my ankles skateboarding in high school and so, I knew when I got to college, I said, I'm not going to be an athlete. And then the rugby team recruited me. And then I was really fast and I was like, wait, I guess the broken ankles didn't do that much. And then I tried out for track and I got it and that was one of those moments where it's like, I would have never thought I would be a varsity athlete in college, but after breaking both my ankles. But, you know, someone said, come to rugby practice. And I said, okay, instead of saying no. And I think that was a lot of my college experience was saying yes and joining things. And I know you're going to ask about activities later, so I won't go too deep, but I did a lot of different activities. And a lot of it started with just people saying, you want to be in this? And I said, you know what, instead of feeling like an outsider and other, like join these activities, get your, you know, you get your friends from there. And I was really able to build like pockets of friends all around campus.

**BR:** That's awesome. My other question, it does kind of have to do with the next one, so I'll just read what the next one is. And you've already touched on it a little bit. Where did you live specifically in Florida when, before you came here and what was your growing up experience like and how did that contribute to your college experience?

**ER:** So I actually grew up in Connecticut and in Hartford and the greater Hartford area, but when I was in eighth grade, my mom moved to Florida. So my high, all of high school -- I went, I graduated from high school in Florida -- I, yeah, I grew up in very, I mean, in the Connecticut, in Connecticut, I grew up in very like multiracial environment and I'm still best friends with my middle school best friends and one is a Black American and the other is Filipino, Filipina. And so I always kind of like was around other people of color and then when I went to my high school in Orlando was a predominantly Black high school was actually the first Black high school in the city of Orlando, and so it has like a museum and stuff, super cool, like they do oral histories and I think -- so yeah, I grew up culturally very, what's the word? I feel like I was, I had a ton of culture around me and experiences -- but one of the things that I lacked was seeing people of color in professional roles. And that was another, like, shot, like another thing about Conn that was different for me was that I met my first, like, Puerto Rican doc, like PhD, you know, and

that was so amazing for me because, you know, growing up in a city where they have parades and you see your flag raised and you have a Puerto Rican mayor, like it feels good, but then, you know, you go to the doctors and you go to all these places, all the people that made it and like, none of them look like you. And it wasn't really until Conn when I had my first like Puerto Rican professors or even just Latina, Latino professors. And I think that that- so yeah, so I think I was, I came in really like wanting to figure out like, okay, how do, how does everyone else make it? You know, how can we get- how can I use the experiences that I have and then also make sure that I'm giving back to my community and, like, come- when I come back to the community, like I have more to offer. And so that's like, you know, what I've been doing since I started at Conn was really just thinking about ways that universities can help fund the act, you know, the community. And, and that's kind of what I've been doing.

**BR:** That's really cool. Yeah. That's really cool. After the interview, I want to talk to you more about that. But anyways, what did you study while you were here and do you have any specific memories of classes or professors that stand out?

**ER:** Yes. I just wanted to say, I forgot to mention, I lived on Burdick, I lived in Burdick my first two years and everyone thought- and I chose to live in Burdick. The first year, people thought it was crazy because I'm like one of the loudest people but I'm like an extrovert introvert. I loved Burdick. I told them they'd have to like pull me out of Burdick, which is what happened because I was a floor governor my junior year and they put me in Johnson because I was an athlete and it was like the athlete's dorm and they wanted people that were athletes in there to kind of understand and do events that were not- like, all the events happen when we have practice. So, you know, it's like, and then my senior year I was the house fellow of Wright. In terms of your next question, which was about classes, right? Majors?

**BR:** Majors, classes, and professors.

**ER:** Yes. So, I majored in History and minored in Anthropology. I was like one class away from majoring in Anthro. I had -- I was actually just talking to Ben about it -- I had a wonderful relationship with Lisa Wilson who retired a few years ago. I, when I- I always knew I wanted to do history, but I struggled. I had a professor here that I thought was going to be my advisor and we had a really, just bad interaction and he just said some really offensive things that were both, like, about my gender and about my ethnicity and I ended up -- I'm a Mellon Mays fellow and so for the Mellon program, you have to have a, like, advisor that supports you because they want- they start prepping you as a- as a sophomore for PhD programs -- and so I went into- I got into the Mellon interview and they're like, "You don't have any, like, you don't have a faculty." I was like, well, I had this issue with the person that is a tenured faculty. The person

that I like is an adjunct and they can't be, you know, my advisor and so I'm in this weird position. And so, I got accepted into the Mellon program and the coordinator at the time Leo Garofalo, who's still here, he was like, I'll take you under my wing, but he did like Latin American history and I was like, okay, fine. But it was- I took a class, I took colonial Latin America, sorry, colonial North American history with Lisa Wilson and it was like, whoa. And I was like, you're my professor now. And so we ended up going to Barbados for a summer. I got a research grant and I got to go live with her and do research for a month and I wrote my thesis on that. So, she was like probably the biggest impact that I- for me. Another professor that was really great impact was Ron Flores in Sociology -- I think he's still here -- he helped me a lot just thinking about the project and conceptualizing. And I was really fortunate. I mean, a lot of the people that I worked with are not here anymore. But, uh, Monique Badassi was amazing, African historian, Anthony Graesch was an archeologist. That was my subfield, archeology. And, yeah, every, I think I had, like, two professors that said really messed up offensive things that I'm like, to this day, I will like glare them down. But for the most part, that was not my experience. I was like, I had people that were great. They were hard, hard graders, right? They challenge you, but, like, they were there for office hours and they were there sending you to the writing center and like just making you into the best person you could be, you know?

**BR:** That's really great, yeah. Leo is still here, yeah. I love all of those people. Like that's one I recognize that's still here. You've kind of mentioned it a little bit, but could you go into a little bit more detail about some activities or groups that you were involved in?

**ER:** Yeah. So I did res life for two years. I did, I was a green dot grad. I did the Green Dot, the bystander training. I was a diversity peer educator from a unity house. I was on the club- rugby women's rugby team. I ran varsity track and field. I was in the, scuds improv short form comedy troupe. What else did I do? I did everything. I really did, like, a lot of stuff. I'm probably forgetting something. I was involved in all the. like, a student of color organized- I think it was like MOCA -- like, I think Mocha was the men one -- I was in, oh my God, I can't remember whatever they, like cultural Unity House things, I did ALANA. I was a big sib, a little sib. Like I said, I think for me, I've always wanted to be a teacher and I, when I was here, when I saw that groups or organizations, like, lacked things, like I- it didn't bother me to, like, go and join things. And sometimes I joined too many things, but especially, excuse me, especially some of the things like the diversity training or the Green Dot, it just felt like if I'm not doing that, like, what am I doing? You know? And that was like my way to give back to the community and to kind of- and I was telling someone this reunion, like, when I came, the people that hosted, you know, Explore or Spring Preview, they made us love Conn so much that when I got here and had, like, bad experiences, it was my goal to be like, okay, how can I get to those experiences? And that was for me being involved. The more I knew people, the more things I was involved in, the less I

felt isolated, alone. If some of my friends were busy, I had people, you know, I could go hang out with the track team. And then if they're busy, I could go hang out- oh, I did spoken word. I was on the spoken word group, yeah. They started the group when I was here and I was involved in that. So yeah, I mean, it was like, and a lot of these spaces were, you know, other students of color, other women, a lot of first gen students. But yeah, it was just always a community, you know? But I think, yeah, I- I- I rarely said no to things, but it was really important for me because my, you know, my parents didn't go to college. Like, I wanted to get the whole experience. And I was like, I'm going to do everything and I remember my sister would be like, you have so many shirts and I'm like, because, like, they give you shirts for all the things you do. And she's like, how did you get all these shirts? And I was like, well, I did these things not for the shirts, but you know, it's like, it's part of it. It's like- but it was for the community, you know?

**BR:** That's really cool, yeah. What was the campus climate like when you were here, were there any sort of particular events or controversies that you remember?

**ER:** I mean, there was always stuff happening. I remember -- I don't know what year it was -- a couple of us took over Fanning, because we wanted a gender-neutral bathroom. I think we were trying- I think we actually wanted every bathroom in there to be gender-I think that was, like, we were really pushing for that to be similar to the dorms, but the administration and like, they were like, well, we don't live in the dorms. We don't want to be going in the bathroom. But yeah, we took over Fanning. That was a good thing. And there is a gender-neutral bathroom there. It's a little- I'm pretty disappointed, I'm not going to lie, I came here in November and I gave a lecture and I actually went into Fanning and they- it's- the way that they did it, it's like super complicated because you have to go to like a different floor. So, it, like, doesn't actually make it like better because it's like the men's and women's are one floor and then you've got to go to a different floor for the gender-, which is like, I don't know. I just think that's like defeats the purpose of what we were advocating for, but I'm still happy that happened. I recall again -- I don't know what year it was -- someone put the- spray painted the N word in Cro one year that I was here. I can't- it might've been my senior or junior year and we- we did a lot around that. I was here when Sandy Hook happened, which was hard. That was, that was hard to be on campus because we had a lot of people that, you know, a lot of Connecticut residents are here, so there was people that were trying to figure out their families and it was on all the news- like all the TVs in Cro and everywhere, so I remember that. Like, the other thing that I remember vividly and I was in Cro when it happened was when- when the U.S. found and murdered bin Laden. Yeah, so I was here for that and that was- I actually was pretty disgusted by the campus. People were out like in front of Cro, like, with, like, beers, like, just celebrating like fire. It was- it was, like, weird. It was, like, some weird patriotic- and, but yeah, so there was a group of

people that were, like, celebrating and, like, partying about it and like, like, had, like, party type things. And that was, I was studying in Cro and I remember coming out to that and being like, kind of like, oh, that feels not- that doesn't feel good. But yeah, I think that's kind of the gist of what happened between the time that when I was here. The other big controversy- two other big, small controversies, but Conn controversies was when I was here, they took away the gong. So, the new gong there is like a baby gong, but there used to be a huge, really cool one and people kept doing it when they were drunk, so they took that out. And then they also, during my four years, they canceled -- oh my God, what was it called -- It was called- it was- I can't remember the name. They replaced it with Lily Pad, which is in the Arbo, but it was this thing where you run naked from the Plex, like through the whole- like all the way through campus. And then you go to the Cro- Cro I don't remember the name of it, but it was like a big thing. And it was, like, a myth that everyone was like, when our senior year, we're going to do it. And they canceled it, the 2013 class, they canceled it. So, in 2013, so my year after we got it, we didn't get that either. So- so, that was like a little Conn controversy, but not that serious.

**BR:** Um, so you mentioned the Fanning takeover for gender-neutral bathrooms. Did you help organize that at all? Were you a part of any of that?

**ER:** I didn't, I had a lot of friends that worked in the, like, Spectrum Center. I think that's what it's called. And some other people --I was like peripherally involved, but- like, I signed the stuff and I was there, but I- yeah, I don't recall, like, it was so long ago I don't even recall like who was leading it -- but- but it was, I think a lot of people from my class, like 2014, 2013 mostly all students of color, a lot of mostly all queer students, but some allies like myself. And- but, it was- it was cool. It was very cool. And we like, we were, we know, we learned about the other Fanning Takeover. It was definitely not as big or whatever, but we, we tried and, you know, I remember like some people stayed at night. I- I didn't stay, but like, I remember bringing them food from Harris and things like that. You know, so ...

**BR:** Can you talk a little bit about your life after Conn and how your experience shaped after graduation?

**ER:** Yeah. So, I graduated in 2014 and I had wanted to go straight into grad school, but I decided that as I've already described, I was doing the most and I wanted to write an honors thesis and also be an athlete and I was a house fellow. So, applying to grad school was just the- there was nothing else could happen at that point, So I ended up taking, I decided to take a year off and I decided it pretty late and so, I was kind of nervous, like, especially being first gen, I was like, I can't go like home and like not have a job, you know? So, I was really nervous, but I actually was



able to get a job -kind of a job, but more, it was like experience, I guess. I did this- it's similar to like the AmeriCorps, Vista, but it's, uh, religiously based and it was based in Nashville at a conference center at a- it used to be a former Christian college. And the director at the time was the former, was a former dean here, Jocelyn Burdell. And so, she had sent out an email that was like, "Oh, we have this thing where you can come to Tennessee and live in an intentional community, work at our nonprofit, also work at other, you know, nonprofits in Nashville, whatever you choose," and I was like, you know, that sounds cool. So, I emailed her and she told me about it and I applied and I got that. So, I moved to Nashville in, maybe, July, I think July of 2014. So not very, not much long after graduation. And I was in Nashville for a year and then I applied to graduate school and I worked at two nonprofits. And then I started at the University of Michigan in 2015. And I- it's been a long time. I ended up switching my field. So, I didn't do the Barbados history. I changed because I realized like I had an amazing professor and that made me really like the material, but when I got to grad school, I didn't have that experience. I had really bad professor, professors. And I was like, I can't be in this field, like in that sub-field of history. It was just, it was very white, very male dominant, dominated. It was, it was traumatic. So, I ended up taking a year off of grad school and then I came back and I did the original project that I wanted to do at Conn where I didn't have any historian to do with me, so that's why I ended up working with Lisa. And so, I'm still at Michigan finishing up and currently I'm, well, currently I'm at Harvard as a visiting fellow, and yeah, I'll be finishing my dissertation. I'm turning it in, uh, in December and defending in January. So, it's been long. I really thought in the 10 years I would have been done when I came back for this tenure and I didn't and that's okay. But it, it doesn't feel like it's been that long, but it has been a really long time. But in that time I've also taken some of the stuff that I did here like I, I really learned how to be an activist here, um, and advocate for things. And I did a lot of advocacy work and activism in Nashville around at the time they were trying to pass -- it doesn't really matter anymore -- but at the time they were trying to take away -- what's it called? Oh my God -- it was all this stuff around like women's reproductive rights and stuff. So, there was a bunch of stuff happening in Nashville, like in 2015. So, I did a lot of that, a lot of the Black Lives Matter, got to go to Ferguson and do some stuff. So, I've been doing a lot of the same type of stuff, really just advocating for Black and Brown people and our histories and the legacies of that.

**BR:** That's so cool. And congratulations on the dissertation too. It's really exciting. What is it on if you don't mind?

**ER:** Um, so I work on Puerto Rican migration and settlement to Hartford, Connecticut in the 1950s.

**BR:** That's so cool. Really interesting. Do you keep in touch with classmates? And I know you've mentioned that you keep in touch with your previous advisor, so if you want to speak about that too.

**ER:** Yeah, yeah. So, I do keep in touch with classmates. I think I had a lot of friends outside of my class years. So, like my- my- the person I keep in touch with the most with graduated in 2013 and we talked like every other day. I have some other friends like from my class that we still talk to, I'm getting married next weekend, so there'll be a couple of people coming for that, but definitely not as much as I thought I would. I think it's- it's so weird when everyone lives like on the same street, you know what I mean, and so just coming back right now has made me realize like, yeah, I should probably stay in touch with more people, but I think because COVID happened, like, right around my five-year reunion, there was, like, I think, like, at the five-year mark, I definitely talked to a lot more people and then with COVID, I think a lot of, it's just been hard, like it's hard to reach people, you know, everyone has their own experiences and I think, like, there's people that I've reached out to like so many times on Facebook or, like, emails and texts and like just can't, they can't get ahold of them. So, I don't think it's like a lack of my effort, but- but- but definitely I think the people that I was, like, super close with, I still talk to, if not on like a probably monthly or every couple of months. One of my other friends that was a lot younger than me just graduated from, like, law school last week and I like sent her some flowers. So, so yeah, I try to keep it to, I wish like a lot of the people from all those activities that weren't like my close friends, like I have not kept in touch with those people, but a couple years ago I got my improv group is probably like the most, some of the most famous people from Conn and so one of them was, like, on Broadway for Rent, so I got to go see her do that. And that was super great. And like another one is, on one of the, like Stephen Colbert, she's like a producer for the Late Night show and stuff like that. So, there's people that, you know, you keep in touch with sometimes. But yeah, I've kept in touch with a lot of the professors. A lot of them wrote me letters for graduate school. Leo wrote me a letter for a fellowship that I got a couple of years ago actually, so that's been great. And I, because I'm in Connecticut, I'm able to come up, sometimes to visit a little bit more than, than most people.

**BR:** Yeah, that's really cool. This is the last question. In thinking about the college today, ten years after you've graduated, is there anything from your experience that you wish certain students today could have experienced?

**ER:** Yeah, so I'm staying in a common room that they made into a room, which was very weird. And as a former like floor governor house fellow, I was- I was just talking to a student about it and there's a few common rooms, but they're not as much. Apparently, she said that it's because the last couple of classes have been really big. In the class that she's in, it's like 600

people, but I just like- that was very shocking for me because I just remember like, you know, we would use the common room to do events, but also like, it was just like, people would be watching a sports game and you- didn't matter if you knew the person you wanted to see the soccer game, you just walk in and you start, you meet someone. And I remember like my senior year, we would watch, like, Scandal every Thursday, you know, in the common room. And like, and, like, I had another friend that my freshman year, we would watch One Tree Hill when it was still on in the common room, you know? And so it was like those experiences that I wish they- like, I don't- I haven't talked to them enough, so I don't know if they have those experiences, but I think now that there's more devices than even 10 years ago, it's like, yeah, I could just imagine being in your room, watching it on your iPad. And like, it's just a different experience when like you could watch, like something came on the TV and you were like watching it with everybody and that was something I wish that they, they still had. And, um, but I've only really been in the Plex, so I'm not sure what the, the other, you know, things look like. Besides that, I mean, they, I think there's so much stuff that we didn't have that I am like, just so impressed by like this room that we're sitting in right now, the library, I think it happened like a year or two after I left. I was just down by the water and because I played rugby, I had to walk down there like every day and I remember being a club team, you know, you often have to fight and advocate for anything and I almost cried seeing that they have permanent goalposts in the rugby field. And I was like- like, it was amazing. And then they have like these little flyer things that these like, I don't know, they're like poles, but they have like pictures and they have like a picture of the rugby team. And I was just like, Oh my God, like, I would have never thought like, we were like, I, we felt like we were always going to get like kicked out. You know, it was like, we were, like, not the cool kids. And so that was really exciting to see that and, and very humbling. And so I think I've been very impressed with the difference, the New London Hall. I mean, that they, they totally, that looks amazing, you know? So- but yeah, I do wish that, I wish that they had more campus experiences. I've also now heard that they have like off-campus housing. A lot of the kids say that they don't party on campus anymore, there's no, like, dances at Cro. They go, they party at, like, a bar, like somewhere. And so all that stuff to me also was, you know, for me, it was hard even like being low income being able to sometimes like go to some events off campus. I can't imagine if everything is off campus and you don't have a car and Uber and they don't have the Camel Van anymore, which used to take us, you know, around. And so, yeah, I just, I really do hope that kids feel community, you know, and I wouldn't know because I haven't talked to, I've talked a little bit, but not enough, but that's something that I feel like we definitely had. Like you could go into a common room, you could go into, you know, just join somebody sitting on the green. And I think that that's been hard because of these classes because of COVID and stuff. So hopefully, hopefully that's not the case.

**BR:** So in closing, is there any advice, anything else that you wish to say for the oral history?

**ER:** I mean, I would just say if there are current students that are going to be listening to this, doing research, I would just say like, make sure that when you leave Conn, you did everything that you wanted to do and like, do not be scared to try out for things or to show up for things. And like, I also think like we- especially, you know, ten years ago when you're in your twenties, it's like, there's so many different things that I think some people feel like you have to do some- one thing and like commit to that for four years. And like, that proves that you did it, but it's like, really like you can do anything. You can do one thing for a year. You can do another thing for a year. And the main thing is to get like a well-rounded liberal arts education, which is, I feel that I got because I took all the, you know, many different types of classes, engaged with a lot of different types of people and so just like, just remember that like, that's your community and like, be a part of it, you know, even in the times where it's hard and you feel isolated and you want to give up like my freshman year, I wanted to transfer, you know, a couple of times and I stuck it through and it was the best decision. And so, I think a lot of it is just, you know, the perseverance of, yeah, that's my advice.

**BR:** It sounds like it all really paid off for you.

**ER:** Yeah.

**BR:** Thank you so much for doing this today.

**ER:** Thank you.