[00:00:04]

Who are listening to tell me or a story where we connect to HLS staff, on an a personal level. Hello everyone, this is Edgar Kley Filho from HLS Human Resources department, my pronouns are he, him, his, and today we are talking to Yvonne Smith once again in, how should I say? Farewell episode with Yvonne? Since she's preparing for retirement, and Yvonne as everybody knows, works for the dean of students office and was the first CPAs. Are they recorded for the podcast? Tell me your story. Yvonne.

[00:00:56]

Hi I'm good. Thank you for having me back.

[00:00:58]

Thank you for coming and talking to us again. I had to do this because you had so many more questions regarding everything that just happened since we started this project together. I remember telling you after you release that there were a few things that you forgot to to talk about. For example, I know during the whole period that you work together two big events in your personal life that you shared with me, and I think worth mentioning, one for honoring a person that was so important. The second part of your life that was also so important istill is. Let's start with talking about your mom.

[00:01:47]

Yes.

[00:01:48]

While you can tell us about mom.

[00:01:51]

Mum. Let's talk about being a single parent. She was a single parent. She has three girls to raise and also my grandmother, her mother lived with us as well.

[00:02:01]

Yeah.

[00:02:02]

She stood up on her own, and I have been at Harvard Law School for 44 years. My mother was the custodian for Harvard University. She was here for 36 years.

[00:02:19]

Thirty six years working here.

[00:02:20]

Yes, I believe. She started off and Widener Library, and then she went to different houses where she was on the custodial staff there. But when she retired, she retired from Kirkland House.

[00:02:35]

Kirkland house?

[00:02:35]

She is Kirkland, less how she worked there, yes.

[00:02:39]

Mom from Barbados?

[00:02:40]

Mom from Barbados.

[00:02:41]

How was the mom for Barbados, tough, easy, was fun.

[00:02:47]

I think. Maybe I had it just a little bit easier than my two sisters, because I was the youngest. I'm the first person to formally born here in the States. My older sisters, and everyone else born back in Barbados. I think maybe just a little bit easier, but she was still tough.

[00:03:08]

Yes,.

[00:03:09]

She was still tough.

[00:03:09]

I think is a generation that learned that way and it wasn't necessary to be that way as a single mother as well. Three girls?

[00:03:17]

Three girls. She kept us in line though.

[00:03:18]

Yes.

[00:03:19]

She kept us online. We had a routine. You went to school, you went to church. You had the chores to do on Saturday morning and she kept us in mind.

[00:03:30]

That's really nice. What was the year that over her passing around?

[00:03:34]

Is 2014.

[00:03:36]

2014. For you as a reference, I remember we chatting about this. You as an adult, as a mother as well, having your kids, how was the impact? How was that loss?

You know, we knew it was coming. She had been sick. She had Alzheimer's, she had the dementia. She has declined. She declines slowly though. It's this terrible disease, some people have had that disease, they can stay even and then take an immediate dive. She stayed even for a good long time her decline, I believe was slow. But although, you know, something's going to happen is still hits when it does happen. It is right.

[00:04:29]

But I believe that she was at peace.

[00:04:35]

At the end.

[00:04:35]

At the end, I believe she's at peace. We always took care of her and we did our best to try and keep it at home, but it got to a point where we didn't need to put her into a facility.

[00:04:49]

Yeah. Because that is special care.

[00:04:51]

Its tough, yeah special special care, it's hard.

[00:04:53]

You're never prepared. You don't know how to deal with that diseases?

[00:04:58]

Exactly. It's hard, so she was in assisted living and then we moved her from assisted living into a nursing home. But the thing is with my family, we share the responsibility of her. Yes. There were some times when some members of family were carrying 80% of us will carrying 20, but vice versa. But at the end of the day, we all took care of for someone when she was both in assisted living in a nursing home, someone went to see her every single day.

[00:05:30]

Every day.

[00:05:34]

My sister Sheila, and her husband Anthony, they'll both retired. They would go every single day, and check on her and feed her and make sure that she was okay, and make sure she was taken care of.

[00:05:47]

From the three of you, who do you think that she resembled the most? Sheila, Beverly, or you in terms of personality [LAUGHTER] [OVERLAPPING]

[00:06:05]

But you know what though? I think as far as looks wise, I think as we're getting older, I think Beverley resembles my mother more and more.

[00:06:14]

Really?

[00:06:15]

As she's aging. Yes. My mother's name was Inas I-N-A, and every once in a while a glance at Berveley be, like wow, hey Ina?

[00:06:27]

It's the same personality.

[00:06:29]

No personality. Probably more like me or Sheila.

[00:06:34]

Really?

[00:06:35]

Yeah, it looks wise, Beverly, but I think personality wise me and Sheila.

[00:06:38]

But you, and Sheila are, quite different.

[00:06:39]

We are.

[00:06:41]

You know what? All three of us have different.

[00:06:44]

Beverly is a, different conversation, you should talking about a completely different level. But because they were thinking if she looks like Beverly and it has a personality of a Beverly. Now I am a picture of your mother, but she's in-between you and Sheila, I can see that is a calmness there or they know that it's true. I spiced part. The other event in your life that I know that you went through and was not easy. Cancer?

[00:07:13]

Yes.

[00:07:14]

Yes.

[00:07:15]

How did you find out, how was [OVERLAPPING] everything.

[00:07:19]

There was talk about being blindsided and coming from nowhere. That was when I was 50. I turned 50 and I went for addition to my regular checkup and everything. The doctor, he said to me, you're 50 now and that's the time when you need to start having colonoscopies. I was like yeah. I'm joking with him, like, now you're really going to be at my butt and we're laughing and going on. He sets me up, we have the appointment and I'm at Brighton Hospital for the colonoscopy. Then the Dr. says, I think I saw something.

[00:07:57]

Wow.

[00:07:57]

I'm not really sure. I'm going to send you up to BI, send you off to Beth Israel for some further testing. Sent me up to Beth Israel, further testing and there it was. Now, I was lucky enough that it was caught very early.

[00:08:17]

At the age.

[00:08:18]

Yeah, I was caught very early. I went through radiation and chemotherapy.

[00:08:25]

For how long have you been on that process?

[00:08:28]

Six weeks of radiation and chemotherapy?

[00:08:31]

Six weeks?

[00:08:32]

Yeah. At five days a week for six weeks.

[00:08:35]

But then we went back, had another test to figure out that was okay?

[00:08:40]

To figure out that was okay

[00:08:41]

But you still visit doctors.

[00:08:43]

Yes, as a matter of fact, I go I have a procedure scheduled for Monday at [OVERLAPPING]. I still go make sure I get tested. I think they've lowered the age for testing. At the time for me it was 50, I think is lowered now to 40.

[00:08:59]

Yes.

[00:09:00]

In my family, we get tested now, because, the history and everything.

[00:09:06]

I have done mine I think since the 40s and I'm always concerned about that. That's one of the reasons that I quit smoke in 2005 because there is such a history of cancer in my family, not just one, very different ones in my mom's side more than any other. I don't remember anybody on my dad's side but my mom's side, I would say five or six with different cancers, all that, the lungs and jaws.

[00:09:36]

Now I see why be careful.

[00:09:40]

I always trying to pay attention and he did something serious that like you just joked when you when the doctor said. I think all of us feel that way like, no, this is something that we always feel like happens somewhere else but not with us.

[00:09:56]

Right, it's not going to happen to my family, it's not going to be me. [inaudible 00:09:58] I felt fine and my body didn't feel me different, I didn't like something different going on or anything. Not at all.

[00:10:07]

It's the same, when I heard about melanoma, the skin one that you would just see I stained there and you don't think much of it, right. Suddenly that one they said it's very aggressive in the few months, six months, less than a year, someone can be completely out of a place there with. But now you are cancer free? [OVERLAPPING] Just monitoring.

[00:10:33]

Yes, cancer free, we just monitor.

[00:10:35]

That's great.

[00:10:36]

Yes and I'm very thankful for that. I would encourage if you have health insurance and health care to take care of yourself, go to your yearly physicals because that's how it was discovered with me. Went my yearly physical and follow my doctor's instructions for follow up and have the colonoscopy.

[00:10:59]

Was easy having the support of work support and did the kids have a benefits to go through everything?

[00:11:05]

Absolutely.

[00:11:06]

Because it might be much more difficult for someone who doesn't have the benefits to be able to get through. [OVERLAPPING]

[00:11:10]

If you have the benefits and you have the health care take advantage.

[00:11:14]

Yeah and do your exams and monitor yourself once an year. [OVERLAPPING]

[00:11:17]

Do your exams and monitor yourself. Absolutely. The work support, my colleagues, my bosses, phenomenal.

[00:11:24]

Because psychologically it is I scare right Yvonne? You're not expecting like you said but then suddenly the doctor come and say, hey, I saw something there. He is right, you need to do now. But between that and the best result in the end, you feel like “what's happening here, what's it going to be of me?”.

[00:11:45]

Right. You're wondering you don't know what's the result is going to be? When am I going? What's going to happen? [OVERLAPPING]

[00:11:51]

Having a good support system, your family, your friends, coworkers, it's a good thing.

[00:11:56]

Absolutely. I couldn't have made it through without all of that.

[00:11:59]

Another thing that I know and I had asked you before we even start recording this episode is mental health. Can you tell us a little bit about that?

[00:12:12]

Mental health. I think when we think of our health, we think of our physical health, I think we may even think of our financial health but how often do we really think about a mental health? It's physical, it's financial, spiritual, but all of that, including your mental health, mix up your entire well-being [OVERLAPPING] It's also cycles all encompassing.

[00:12:45]

Feels like one pushes the other more or less to an edge that you don’t know what to do [OVERLAPPING]

[00:12:48]

Exactly.

[00:12:48]

More or less.

[00:12:48]

It does.

[00:12:49]

Sure you that sometimes you don't know what to do.

[00:12:51]

It does, all these things can add them to your stresses of the day, your inside the of the day. It can add up to the depression. Yes, I have dealt with depression even before having to deal with my mother's illness and her passing, and even before having to deal with the cancer diagnosis. There are a lot of things and a lot of stresses that we're on me. I went and I spoke to someone. First time I went and I spoke to a therapist. It was my former boss, she has since passed away. But she noticed a difference to me in my work, in my style and just my behavior and how I was and she was like Yvonne, you're not yourself, what's going on, something's off. She had me sit in her office and call my health plan and tell my health plan that I needed to see someone, I've wanted to see if that was a counselour.

[00:13:49]

That was very nice.

[00:13:50]

That is what I did. Being an African-American woman, I said, I'd prefer if I could speak to another woman and in particular, if it's another African-American and I would love that. My health plan was able to find that for me. I scheduled my first appointment and [LAUGHTER] my boss at the time, she has since passed, her name was Suzanne Richardson. [OVERLAPPING]

[00:14:12]

Is the dean, the Dean of Students.

[00:14:14]

She was dean of students at that time, yes.

[00:14:16]

Wow.

[00:14:17]

It was Suzanne who did that for me. I had my first appointment and I came downstairs and opened the door and walked out after my appointment was finished in there with Suzanne. She was there waiting for me. This is when Au Bon Pain was still in the square and she took me and we went to Au Bon Pain, had a hot chocolate.

[00:14:36]

Wow.

[00:14:37]

She was there to support me, to be there for me, help me get through this. I think that mental health can have a stigma to it. But I think nowadays society as a whole, I think we are paying much more attention to the importance of the stability and the mental health. Even we see it in celebrity speaking of it. We saw, who's this swimmer? Phelps.

[00:15:03]

Michael Phelps.

[00:15:04]

He's spoken to it. We have an African-American artist, Taraji P. Hanson, she has spoken to it. I can think of [OVERLAPPING].

[00:15:14]

There's a big number of people coming out and talking about this. [OVERLAPPING]

[00:15:17]

But there's a big number coming out and talking about this and I think that's so important, especially in communities of people of color. But it's okay to say, I'm not okay and it's okay to get some help with that. Even if it means talking to someone or sometimes medication can help. You take medication for your blood pressure, you take medication for your cholesterol, you take insulin for your diabetes. If you need to take some medication that's going to help you in your balance or for your mental health, I'm all for it.

[00:15:49]

Of course, I think about cultural aspects or these generations.

[00:15:53]

Yes, generational cultural.

[00:15:55]

Because in my end, at my age as well, being from Brazil, my family is a lovely family, but the generations were always there. A lot of other things is just something silly, you should deal with it. [OVERLAPPING]

[00:16:13]

Don't talk about it.

[00:16:14]

Yeah. It's not a big deal, you just need to deal with it.

[00:16:19]

Yes.

[00:16:20]

I think bringing now that's more open, you have more people talking about this, there are diagnosis, there are scientific research to back up all this information that you're receiving. I think you are reaching a point that is easier for someone to come and say, I have depression, I suffer with depression and go to look for the medication that's necessary, the treatment. Even again, the support around to understand that without treating that as something like I said, it's just a silly thing that you have to know. [OVERLAPPING]

[00:16:56]

It's real.

[00:16:57]

Yeah. It is important. You said that you look help with psychotherapy?

[00:17:07]

With the counselor.

[00:17:08]

Counselor.

[00:17:08]

Yes.

[00:17:08]

With the counselor.

[00:17:09]

That's also a part of this support system or this treatment that makes a difference for you?

[00:17:17]

It does. Knowing that there's someone that I can speak to, whether it's monthly or weekly, biweekly knowing that there's someone there that I can, and it doesn't necessarily mean that something's wrong.

[00:17:26]

Yes.

[00:17:27]

Sometimes it's just to go and speak to someone, and say no, I'm doing okay, there wasn't anything happening, there wasn't anything pressing on me right now. But it's also good that if there is something pressing on me, there is outlet, I have someone that I can go speak to you and I can say anything. It's confidential. Anything that I can get it off my chest and points to help deal with things or just the relief of speaking it and getting it out there and making it known and getting some help.

[00:17:59]

I think it's important too. I feel like we deal with higher education, dealing with the students. You see an increase in requests for accommodations, exams accommodations, or even you know, staying here. There is an increase that you noticed in the past few years more than before. I always wonder, is this, because it's so more acceptable to talk about this or that is really something going on, the pressure or the technology, whatever is in the environment that we live in. That's making this more as an impact for them.

[00:18:39]

I think it's a combination, Edgar. I think it's a combination of the environment that we live in a society and the things that we're going through, but we've made such progress. It is more acceptable. It's okay to talk about it.

[00:18:53]

You don't need to go through this alone.

[00:18:56]

Exactly.

[00:18:57]

You can have someone please reach out, please.

[00:19:00]

Exactly.

[00:19:02]

Whether it's a friend or if you go straight for a professional, Harvard has a phenomenal support system. The SHARE group for the Harvard University is 24/7 that anyone can call.

[00:19:15]

Can call, yes.

[00:19:16]

It's confidential and they can start the process of just checking in and say, "Hey, I'm feeling this way, what should they do? Why?" you know, I think before we wouldn't have done that season, that support system that most of people have now. Right now is just some narrow, but taking advantage of it and really making that call contact someone or check on someone because I think it is very important.

[00:19:45]

Attached to it. No shame.

[00:19:46]

Yeah, nobody should. This is fantastic. Changing gears a little bit because there were two big things that you have worked together being through it I think is the biggest part of this place where you work, important in both ends and you should be talking about. I think we should start from the beginning and then talk to the end. The two biggest celebration that you have are two big events that we have for university or Harvard Law School, specifically, Orientation and Commencement. Did the graduation talking about do you have been part of both for many, many years to the Dean of Students Office? How you feel about what's orientation for you in terms of the staff were looking into the students because we have our own perception about what these students think, about Orientation and coming to this institution.

[00:20:42]

I think it's a time of excitement.

[00:20:43]

Yeah.

[00:20:45]

What can we do to welcome students to make them feel like we're giving them the information that they need to begin here to make it through the next three years. Just letting them know, Hey, we're here with the Dean of Students Office. You are here as a student now we're here as staffing. Come to us, we can help you get through here. We have the best candy bowl.

[00:21:07]

Yeah [LAUGHTER], that's true. Candy bowl. It's interesting to see how many students come to orientation are set to Harvard Law School. I totally understand when they say I feel like I don't belong because of the fear of what the name of the institution, name of the brand means to them. How many times have I told the students if the Admissions Office sent you a letter of acceptance saying that you were chosen to be here. That's it.

[00:21:38]

You are here [OVERLAPPING].

[00:21:39]

You are part of this. Of course, there is many different ways or perception that people have about what Harvard Law School be. But that's why all this staff and faculty and administration system is here to give that support. I liked that too. I think it is, I feel bad that so many students come to HLS with that, security and feeling it because I know that the weight of the name is heavy on them. But also that means that you are, that person gets chosen to be here. Its going to be a fantastic three years if you put your mindset.

[00:22:22]

Exactly.

[00:22:22]

Right to that one. Then you have.

[00:22:25]

For commencement.

[00:22:27]

For commencement. The general there [LAUGHTER]. Nobody could touch down or mess with Yvonne’s info tent.

[00:22:37]

That's the beauty of it. We have orientations, so we're there to greet them. Make them feel welcome. You are here. We have a reasonable resource for you. Then those three years go by. When you see them at commencement, yes, that's wonderful.

[00:22:53]

Yes.

[00:22:53]

It's like you made it and they're happy and they're proud. The families are here, they're happy, they're proud. It's a wonderful time.

[00:23:02]

Yeah, it is wonderful.

[00:23:03]

I love that.

[00:23:04]

The way that we can prepare everything and have that, you know, setting up the entire event for them to be proud of their achievements.

[00:23:15]

Yes.

[00:23:15]

For the family to be proud of them as well and everything that they went through. I think is nice when you get to know so many students and see them walking through this stage.

[00:23:26]

Yes.

[00:23:26]

That's it. Is always for me when I was there and this year less, that I was a volunteer. There is that feeling of it's amazing that they went through three years. Now they are out to become what they studied for it. But it's also bitter sweetness in the sense say, I don't know, you are going to see them just on TV or [LAUGHTER] some of them come back to see is, are we check it on some of them that still on Facebook or Instagram or that kind of a thing. But it is an amazing event and everything else.

[00:24:02]

I did say that like Commencement just a little bit better of orientation.

[00:24:06]

I agree.

[00:24:07]

Something about.

[00:24:08]

I think you did it, you made it.

[00:24:09]

I remember when you orientation is a first-year student and then now it's like hear you yeah.

[00:24:15]

You mean he's just [OVERLAPPING]. Is just that all that energy of everybody being happy in the end of a road in terms of achievement, which is fantastic for us, for the staff, of course is much better as well because it's just two todays event orientation usually is four- five days and everything that comes with the preparing getting to know all these sections and right. Who are the leaders and watch it do when they get here, all the instructions, the trainings, and I think orientation tends to be more tiring in a way for students. Is just pretty tough because it helps you prepare. For the commencement, is just cheering and enjoying the whole.

[00:25:05]

Enjoying it. Yeah.

[00:25:06]

I think it's fantastic. I also know that you got the CAD Harvard Hero Award. [OVERLAPPING] [LAUGHTER]

[00:25:17]

I also know that you got the Harvard Hero award too my friend.

[00:25:22]

Isn't that incredibly wrong?

[00:25:25]

Both of us, Edgar?

[00:25:26]

Yeah.

[00:25:27]

Could you imagine that?

[00:25:28]

I could and I think for me I didn't want to take anything from you, but I was so happy when I heard that you were not just nominated, but you got the award because they knew a little earlier and you had the session there to participate. I was so happy, my God, this is amazing. Knowing that you are going to be leaving. That's a phenomenal. It's like a graduation. Like, how do you call it? The cherry on top of the cake. People say, like, people like me can say that. That was fantastic, but how did you receive it? How did you feel about the whole event and everything?

[00:26:15]

We were on a Zoom call and everyone else was in the office, in the conference room and I was working from home. All of a sudden, they were ending up that meeting, our staff meeting. I see all these people start flooding into the conference zoom [LAUGHTER]. What are all these people come to our staff meeting? Will get and who's coming into this room? What's happening? Then all of a sudden it's like Yvonne surprise and they hold up a sign that says, No, you are a Harvard hero. I'm like, what?

[00:26:48]

It's really [inaudible 00:26:49].

[00:26:49]

Is something wrong with the zoom call? Am being pranked? There's something happening [LAUGHTER]. What's going on here? I was like, No, that's for real Yvonne I was so shocked.

[00:26:58]

I think.

[00:26:59]

I was so surprised and so touched and so like, oh my goodness.

[00:27:04]

But this is really well-deserved.

[00:27:07]

Let me turn the tables on you. How did you feel when you found out?

[00:27:10]

It's not about me, Yvonne. I was beyond myself. Honestly, I was really surprised. I didn't expect at all.

[00:27:19]

Same here.

[00:27:20]

But one thing when they told you that I thought that was the coolest thing. When I saw Kristie. She was in the office there. Kristie was a student here?

[00:27:32]

Yes.

[00:27:32]

Was one of your BSA students who is now Assistant Dean for Admissions. I think that for me when I saw Kristie there and thinking about the award that you were receiving, but having someone that's part of your life for so long.

[00:27:48]

Yes.

[00:27:49]

That you help to go through all what she went through to come back again and become Assistant Dean of Admissions, I thought, that's such a cool scene, just see someone participate in your life and, you know.

[00:28:04]

Same thing I had Meredith Boak [inaudible 00:28:05] as well in the Clinics and I had Catherine Pattanayak as well.

[00:28:12]

Was Steven Ball during your time or not?

[00:28:15]

He was not a BSA though.

[00:28:17]

He was not BSA.

[00:28:19]

Oh let's not talk about Steve.

[00:28:22]

Kristie, Meredith and Catherine felt like they were.

[00:28:25]

They were all the BSA.

[00:28:26]

Yes

[00:28:27]

That's wonderful.

[00:28:28]

It was great.

[00:28:29]

It's a great group of folks there. Then you had the Harvard hero, well deserved the party and everything, family getting together. You also have a goodbye party for you are retired.

[00:28:46]

That was fantastic [inaudible 00:28:47]

[00:28:50]

That was so awesome.

[00:28:51]

That was great.

[00:28:53]

That was a good number of people. I'm so sorry, I have to apologize here here because I couldn't stay for the party because I have family from Brazil coming and you had something scheduled to do together. I couldn't stay for that event. But I know there quite a lot of people came to not just work here, but came from Ellen Cosgrove was here.

[00:29:19]

Yes.

[00:29:20]

Our Dean of Students.

[00:29:22]

Our Dean of Student, yeah.

[00:29:23]

When you were in Pound Hall, which was wonderful. Who else was there that I know that you remember?

[00:29:29]

I had also one of my former students come. Jen came from Denver, Colorado.

[00:29:34]

Denver.

[00:29:35]

Yes. I had another student, Ryan. Ryan came up from Connecticut, he drove up. A bunch of well-wishes and text and phone calls and emails and overwhelming. Fantastic.

[00:29:48]

That's really cool. It is. I heard Sasha was telling me something that you are going to be talking, so on now, how beautiful the party was. How beautiful the event was and everybody that was there.

[00:30:01]

The planning, then the declarations, the food. Just the atmosphere. It was just an awesome good vibe, good times.

[00:30:12]

What happened in that event that Sasha couldn't wait. [LAUGHTER] I don't know if she was still there and she tags our teams everybody in our department say, Oh my God, look at this, this is happening. What happened there.

[00:30:26]

I had another surprise. We have the surprise of the Harvard hero. Then after retirement party, Dean Manning is making his remarks. And he said, now we have a great reveal and I'm like, what is he talking about? What could this.

[00:30:40]

What else?

[00:30:41]

What else? There is now been established at the Harvard Law School, the Yvonne L Smith Award. It'll be awarded to a student every year on Class Day. In addition to the other awards that students can receive each year on Class Day, there was now the Yvonne L Smith award. That blows my mind.

[00:31:06]

It still does?

[00:31:07]

It still does.

[00:31:09]

Thinking about everything?

[00:31:10]

Thinking about it, and I don't know how to say thank you. I have been so blessed by that, so honored by that, so overwhelmed. It's like I have a legacy at Harvard Law School now.

[00:31:24]

Isn't that amazing?

[00:31:25]

It's amazing.

[00:31:27]

When I heard from Sasha I just wrote back just a big yes. Because it is. You have been here for 44 years?

[00:31:39]

Forty four years yes.

[00:31:41]

Everything that you have done here, the orientation, the guidance, the kindness, the support, the instruction, mentoring. We usually talk about you with the Board of Student's Advisor. It goes beyond this. We know how much it took care of all the sections, and all the students that came through asking for your guidance and learning and everything else. Let's not forget about one of the most prestigious important competition, that's Ames Competition.

[00:32:19]

Aim competition yes.

[00:32:21]

Come on. You bring you're in contact and you prepare everything for a Supreme Justice, at least one of them every year. Federal judges coming to this event and how it's developed. It is an amazing event that you take care for so many years. I remember Supreme Justice Kagan.

[00:32:46]

Justice Kagan.

[00:32:49]

Yvonne is still doing this. [LAUGHTER] I thought it was funny the way that it is. Yvonne is still doing this. You are there just on your own in your chair like we always do and the background make sure that everything is okay. But having her acknowledge that and then when giving a shout out and knowing that she was our Dean years ago.

[00:33:10]

She was our Dean, right.

[00:33:11]

That makes it so special to see someone that reached that level but then comes back to honor the students with their presence and their knowledge and judging a mock trial in a way, Ames Competition and giving a shout of someone that matters. That is the start of a recognition in terms of how much you have done, how much it means. This award is just what was needed. I know that you were surprised, I know that surreal for cetain level, but I think for anyone who sees your body of work and everything that you did in this place. There is no surprise there. I think it's just.

[00:33:57]

But so honored, Edgar.

[00:33:58]

Yeah, I believe you.

[00:33:59]

Honored, so thankful, so blessed. It's just awesome.

[00:34:04]

I am grateful.

[00:34:05]

I'm so thankful.

[00:34:06]

That the school did too ,Dean Manning, the Dean of Students that put this together and recognized because I think it is a wonderful recognition of a work that has been done for so long.

[00:34:19]

I am so honored by the recognition.

[00:34:22]

You deserve.

[00:34:23]

Because I've been here for so long, but don't just say you know, I'm here. I'm coming to work. I'm here. I enjoy being with.

[00:34:31]

Working hard. [LAUGHTER] I remember our jokes. [LAUGHTER] I remember how much you joke about how much it's put through, but it is beautiful. My friend, you know how much I love you.

[00:34:48]

Right back at you. That's my Edgar right there you all.

[00:34:53]

I have two parts. I have to catch myself back.

[00:35:01]

Yes.

[00:35:03]

Now, I think it's everything that was put together as you decide to go for your retirement. I am beyond grateful for the institution, for our school, for our administration, ourDEan, our Dean of students, to recognize someone that deserves this so much. I know that for your sounds surreal, but it is really. I know that sometimes going to say well deserved sounds a little bit like, you got this, well deserved. Now this is well-deserved. That is proof of that in the work that you did. I am your biggest fan.

[00:35:50]

Thank you so much Edgar.

[00:35:51]

We go back so far in our career here working together. You truly are an amazing human being. You are wonderful.

[00:36:01]

Thank you.

[00:36:05]

When we decided to start this project with the podcasts and all of a sudden some folks, when you told me in private that you were thinking to retire, there was that click. That's like your best friend going to say, you are going to move away from this town going to a distant town. Inside of you you are, that's great, good for them. But inside of you, you keep selfishly saying, what about me or am I going to do with this person are going to be here as often like you're used to and you tease each other. Text each other, call each other or something like that. I had that moment. With that came a lot of thinking Yvonne is going, everything that she has done, you'd be gone and we don't have anything else. The podcast is part of that's why were the first one as a way to archive this story that you tell that everything that you did here. I'm just extremely happy that beyond that, that you are going to have very story recorded. We have the administration recognizing this and make it even a legacy that's going to be here. My question is, you'd be here and for the first award given?

[00:37:23]

Yes.

[00:37:24]

You will come back?

[00:37:25]

Yes, I do plan to come back.

[00:37:26]

That would be wonderful to see.

[00:37:29]

The first award, that will be great. Yes.

[00:37:31]

Because I really wanted to see who is the lucky ones. [LAUGHTER] Your award is going to be something that's going to mean a lot for the students as well. I can't wait to see this next Commencement because it's going to be really special. You will come back and then you're still being the info tent to give information [LAUGHTER]. You're going to be a volunteer.

[00:37:56]

I think I can step in and do a few things. [LAUGHTER]

[00:37:58]

Just to make sure that info tent is running properly. Nobody messed up with your stuff that you put together.

Yvonne. That's it. I just want you to do this to be able to say thank you and to give everybody because we're going to be releasing this in August. But to give everybody almost like a hey, wrap up with the things that happened.

[00:38:24]

We come full circle.

[00:38:27]

We did because we had the first recordings. Now, there is so much that happened this past few months since the recording that obviously no, you have to do something just to make sure that you've got all the information about how it happened and how you feel. Going forward, retirement is Virginia?

[00:38:48]

Yes. I'll be heading to Virginia. Yes.

[00:38:50]

You are happy?

[00:38:51]

Yes.

[00:38:52]

The decision.

[00:38:54]

Very comfortable with my decision. I'm happy. New adventures, new things. I've lived in Massachusetts all my life. I've family in Virginia, my niece is there, my nephew was there.

[00:39:04]

Your friends are moving their too right?

[00:39:05]

Yes. My best my best friend [OVERLAPPING] as well.

[00:39:09]

That's lovely. I'm glad.

[00:39:11]

The next phase of life.

[00:39:13]

I definitely I'm going to be stopping by. Believe me, I'm not joking about this. I'm going to be visiting you there.

[00:39:20]

I'm not joking either. My door is open.

[00:39:22]

To see where you are and to chat and see how everything goes. Thank you very much, Yvonne.

[00:39:29]

I thank you my friend.

[00:39:29]

For doing this.

[00:39:31]

Thank you for your kindness, your support, your generosity. I love you my friend.

[00:39:36]

I love you too. You know, very much. There I go again. Jesus.

[00:39:40]

That's my Edgar.

[00:39:43]

Let's wrap this up before I start embarrassing myself here. Thank you for everything. And for everybody out there listening, until next time. Thank you very much. See you soon. Bye, bye. [MUSIC]