[00:00:04]

[MUSIC] You are listening to Tell Me Your Story where we connect to HLS staff on a personal level. Hello everyone. This is Edgar Kley Filho from HLS Human Resource Department. My pronouns are he, him, his and today we are talking to Jessica Crews from HUDS who will tell us about her life, how long she is in this position at HLS, and the work she does. Thank you for joining us Jess and please tell me your story.

[00:00:38]

Well, thank you for having me. I appreciate this. It's very nice.

[00:00:41]

You're very welcome.

[00:00:44]

My story.

[00:00:45]

Yes.

[00:00:45]

You want to know my story. Where do you want me to start?

[00:00:48]

You can say what do you do in HUDS? What is HUDS.

[00:00:51]

It's the Harvard University Dining.

[00:00:53]

Dinning Services.

[00:00:54]

I am a checker, as I like to call it. I feel it's more than just a checker. It's a lot more than just ringing in numbers [OVERLAPPING]

[00:01:06]

It's never the title.

[00:01:07]

It's never just doing that.

[00:01:08]

You always ends up being a little bit more.

[00:01:11]

A little more doing everything.

[00:01:12]

But that's all right.

[00:01:13]

But I also do help out with catering when they need me. Get that over time.

[00:01:18]

Yes, it's always good.

[00:01:21]

Yeah, and I help down in the Hark box, which is the coffee station, making drinks and stuff like that sometimes too, helping out Brione.

[00:01:32]

Yeah. We have a whole episode to talk about Brione. No I love him. We have an episode we recorded with Joe and he's a wonderful kid.

[00:01:43]

Oh, he's one of my absolutely favorite.

[00:01:45]

Did you know that he was Yvonne's nephew?

[00:01:51]

I thought he was just calling her auntie as in auntie.

[00:01:53]

No.

[00:01:54]

Honest to God nephew?

[00:01:55]

Yes, real nephew.

[00:01:57]

She didn't telling me that.

[00:02:00]

I think she has told me that in the past maybe, I don't know if it's even five years, not even. I know Yvonne since I started here for 20 years and just recently I went to find out that Brion was her nephew, which I thought that was a really cool story.

[00:02:19]

I'm about to knock some sense in him. Another really quick fun thing about me and Brion, so my best friend who I've known for 20 something years now. My first year working here when I was Restaurant Associates and we were in Pound when it used to be the old Pound, rubs grain or anything like that, that's where we used to have the summer cafeteria. One day I said Brion. Oh yeah. I'm hanging out with my best friend. He's like, oh, my friend Fallon, he was like, "Oh, I know Fallon." I'm like, What do you mean you know Fallon? She's my cousin. I'm like Fallon? He was like yes. Fallon Williams? Yeah. Fallon Bishop Williams? Yes, Jessica. I was like, wait a minute. How do you know? She is my cousin.

[00:02:58]

Oh, my gosh.

[00:03:01]

[OVERLAPPING] I'm like what? How did I not know this. That's amazing. It was so weird.

[00:03:08]

So you know your friend for almost 20 years?

[00:03:11]

Yeah. At that point when I finally met Brion I think we had known each other for about, it was about 10 by that point. Ten years I had known Fallon. When it started working here, that's what I'm at Brion and that's when I found out that they're related.

[00:03:29]

It is amazing.

[00:03:30]

Oh, it's crazy.

[00:03:33]

I don't know. Brion now is in Medford I believe?

[00:03:36]

Yes.

[00:03:36]

He told him that she was born here or lives most of his life in Cambridge then moved to Boston?

[00:03:41]

Yeah. Then he went to New Hampshire.

[00:03:44]

Now he's back in Medford. [OVERLAPPING].

[00:03:46]

Oh, yeah.

[00:03:46]

But it is interesting in the connection.

[00:03:49]

The connection. The world is very small and I especially think Massachusetts is extremely small.

[00:03:55]

Yeah. That's why they started talking about Boston. How it's a small community although you have people from everywhere.

[00:04:01]

Oh, yeah. I was just watching this movie last night spotlight, which was the movie about the Boston Globe outside the church and one of the lines from the movie, actually really brings us up, was even though it's a city and its Boston, it still has that small town feeling and it does and it's weird because you do find people that know somebody that knows you. It's the weirdest thing in the world.

[00:04:32]

Heather Williams for example, I was chatting with her here and she was talking about her family living in West Medford and everything. For me it was just a story from the past so I assumed that they had moved out and I told her I don't know what the question was she said, no no. My mom's is still there. My mom and my sisters still live in the same address and everything still in West Medford. I said, really? Because we went back, a good chunk saying the whole story about her parents and everything, how would they came and I thought that was really cool. The way that she said no, my mom is there. I need that address I need to stop by too and drink coffer or something like that. Talking about family, you are from the Massachusetts area, family from here?

[00:05:20]

Born and raised. My whole family actually. Both sides of my family, my dad and my mom both grew up in Winthrop.

[00:05:26]

Winthrop?

[00:05:26]

Yes. Winthrop Mass. Interesting thing is I'm half black, half white. My dad is the black one and his family was the only black family in Winthrop at that time.

[00:05:39]

Wow.

[00:05:40]

So everybody knew him because the only black family, and he was best friends with my mom's brother Jimmy and that's how my dad met my mom and I don't think they started dating until they finished school and after[OVERLAPPING].

[00:05:56]

Figuring out how to tell Jimmy first? Saying Jimmy I did tell you I'd like to date your sister?

[00:06:04]

Jimmy I like your sister. This is back in the '60s and '70s. My mom's best friend, actually Theresa, my aunt Theresa, used to date my uncle Jimmy and my dad at one point.

[00:06:18]

Oh, wow.

[00:06:19]

Which freaked me out when I found that out. I'm like, wait a minute, I could have been her child. I don't know how I feel about those and so they got together. They had me I was actually at the wedding. I was a baby.

[00:06:35]

You were invited?

[00:06:37]

Surprisingly, I was invited to the wedding.

[00:06:39]

The typical thing with many kids is why was I not in the wedding?

[00:06:41]

Exactly, yeah. There's actually, I think a wedding picture of me being held by my mom in her wedding dress. I think that's what it was.

[00:06:50]

That's really cool.

[00:06:51]

Yeah, it was neat. They just had me because I'm perfect, so why have anything else? Yes. I'm an only child, we lived with her for a period of time. Moved to Revere, then mom and dad split up. Me and mom moved to Boston, we move to Bay Village and my grandmother and my mom's older sister, Michelle were also living in this really cool building in Bay village and we were able to get the apartment right underneath them.

[00:07:23]

When you say Bay village, which area?

[00:07:24]

Bay village it's near the theater district, they call it the Southend. Not Southy, South end.

[00:07:32]

Is not the Back Bay.

[00:07:33]

Yeah, it's around Back Bay. It is Back Bay Area. I actually really liked that area.

[00:07:38]

That's what the Southy, Southend.

[00:07:42]

The South end is different from Southy.

[00:07:44]

Yes. Because the Southend became I think for a stretch, I think from maybe the '80s until recently was the Gay area.

[00:07:54]

Yeah. Literally. Actually right around the corner from where we lived. Literally right around, up the street, and we go left, there was a gay club right there and it was a fairly popular one I'm thinking. It was really interesting because I remember, I know we weren't there that long and I was still young. But I remember my mom walking me to the bus stop and we would pass by transvestite hookers almost every morning.

[00:08:21]

Oh, wow.

[00:08:22]

To the point where actually they knew my mom when she was pregnant with me.

[00:08:25]

Wow.

[00:08:25]

My mom would talk to them obviously, she was that type of person, she was really cool she didn't care, and then one day, I'm never going to forget this, this is the best story for me at least, I was waiting at the bus stop, 5:00 6:00 something like that possibly I don't remember, and I look over to my right and I see this woman talking to a guy in a car and I'm like and all of a sudden, another car shows up and another car shows up. She got taken jail. I was like, Oh, my God, right in front of kids waiting to get on the bus. That's Boston.

[00:08:59]

I heard the stories is like this.

[00:09:03]

From New York about Times Square area. Then they said that Times Square was not the best place to be.

[00:09:10]

It was not.

[00:09:12]

There was a kind of a crowd that was different than what you see today.

[00:09:17]

The Times Square is not what it used to be.

[00:09:19]

I forgot the name of the other one that was a little bit farther back. I don't remember now. That one is to be decent Square, and then later they moved everything to Times Square that today the entire world knows. [OVERLAPPING] Back Bay and South Bay.

[00:09:36]

At the time, yeah. It is very much back then.

[00:09:39]

I heard that now is changing, again, and gates are being down to Dorchester and even further.

[00:09:46]

Yeah. Actually [LAUGHTER] another quick story. I was just out this past weekend. [LAUGHTER] we went to a bar which most of us did not know because we're not from Dorchester, and at the time, we didn't know. It was called D bar. One of the people we were with was like, I didn't tell you this at the time, but it's a gay bar, and we're like, oh, okay. Then all of us were like, D bar. [LAUGHTER] Like you can say Dorchester's bar, but.

[00:10:14]

What's that test, D stands for Dorchester. You could interpret the way that it wasn't.

[00:10:20]

I was like, I did not realize they had a gay community in Dorchester. At least not like that.

[00:10:24]

No, it's becoming bigger.

[00:10:25]

That makes sense now because they are pushing. Well, don't forget also a machine that used to be industry from Fenway Park, that's gone.

[00:10:33]

Machine's gone.

[00:10:34]

Machine's gone.

[00:10:35]

Wow. I used to go there.

[00:10:37]

Oh, I know. I want there a couple of times too. It was a great place and they took it away because they actually basically took that whole street and they're putting up dorms for BU. [LAUGHTER] They also took out the local bar. That's a local bar, I guess you could call it. The Baseball Tavern, which was all the places. [OVERLAPPING]

[00:10:56]

Yeah, it was very fun.

[00:10:57]

That was the bar that basically all those people who used to work at Fenway used to go, they took that away too. They are talking like that destroying the whole Boston.

[00:11:05]

It is amazing how much they are pushing it out. Then I wondered the other communities choose if they're going to be pushing even further. Now keeping pushing.

[00:11:15]

Listen, it's getting to the point now. I live in East Boston right now, and the sound's really terrible. If I offend anybody, I apologize. But when I started getting off the train at Maverik station, I saw more and more white people getting off there and getting off not go into the restaurant but going home. I'm like, we're screwed. That's it. I was completely right.

[00:11:38]

That was a very diverse bowlful. But it is an amazing area. If you think the team is out of town. Boston is an amazing area, close by to everything.

[00:11:48]

That's part of the reason why. Because it really is. Yes, it's a 45-minute way to get to here, but just to get to Boston, It's like two stops. Not even two stops, just one stop.

[00:11:59]

You can even cross right there.

[00:12:01]

They had the board the ferry.

[00:12:01]

They had the boat to ferry to, [OVERLAPPING] to go back and forth. I'm not surprised because the same way that happened with South End is going to happen with these bars.

[00:12:08]

It's going to happen everywhere.

[00:12:10]

Soon, they're going to be in Roxbury. That's very close. They're true to Boston, which is amazing.

[00:12:15]

Well, they already did it to Southy. They basically did that in Southy. The heart of Boston or the heart of Massachusetts is sort of going away. It was catering all to people who have very good amount of money and are getting condos. They don't care where. They don't care how much they're paying.

[00:12:34]

They're are going to put in there.

[00:12:35]

That's what's ruining us.

[00:12:36]

We are talking about your family.

[00:12:37]

Sorry, my family. Yes.

[00:12:40]

Your mom and your dad were from Winthrop, they got married and [OVERLAPPING] you, and then they split.

[00:12:47]

So me and mom moved to, like I said, Bay Village, and then after that we moved to here. We move to Cambridge.

[00:12:54]

Really?

[00:12:54]

Yes. From, I would say, I was little like 10, nine. Nine or 10. Let's go with nine. I was starting fourth grade, and I started school at the PVD school, which used to be on, I forget the name of the street. Doesn't matter. But it was basically up the street on massive, near the exit. I went to PVD, loved it. I was there from fourth grade to eighth grade, met my absolute best friend Jesse.

[00:13:30]

In that school?

[00:13:31]

In that school.

[00:13:33]

The kids were from around where?

[00:13:35]

Kids were all from Cambridge.

[00:13:36]

All from Cambridge.

[00:13:37]

All from Cambridge, all different types. He had black, white, Asian.

[00:13:42]

Very diverse.

[00:13:43]

Very diverse. He had rich kids, he had poor kids.

[00:13:47]

Really?

[00:13:47]

There's a couple of kids there who definitely, they had the money. Then there was kids like me who didn't have a crap load of money. We're okay. I'm not saying we were super poor. But still we had to pick and choose what we can get. Mom actually worked two jobs, sometimes three depending on what was going on. Then stayed in Cambridge and went to Cambridge or into Latin for high school.

[00:14:15]

I think Brione also went.

[00:14:17]

Brione also went there too.

[00:14:19]

He wasn't there for as long. He stayed for, I think a couple of years and he went to Boston. I stayed [LAUGHTER]. Those are another four years that were absolutely amazing to me.

[00:14:31]

You enjoyed that?

[00:14:32]

I loved the school.

[00:14:33]

Because it was a very diverse school, right?

[00:14:35]

Extremely diverse school. That was part of the reason why I loved it. Because it was so diverse and so many different types of people, so many different types of walks of life. Because also don't forget, Raglan is the only public high school in Cambridge, or at least at the time. But it was the only public high school. A lot of the other schools while the other high schools are either charter schools or private schools.

[00:14:58]

Briana said that he had a really good education.

[00:15:02]

I personally think Winch had one of the best education. We had a really good sports program. Not to toot my own horn, but I was the manager of the girls varsity basketball team. [LAUGHTER] Thank you very much.

[00:15:15]

There you go.

[00:15:16]

Just saying I was the best at getting water, let me tell you.

[00:15:19]

Good results.

[00:15:20]

Let me tell you. I've always been in the service business.

[00:15:22]

Nice. [LAUGHTER] who knew, let's get here.

[00:15:26]

I know. It's just what you walk into. Yeah, I was there. I loved it. I had a great time at some amazing people. Still friends with some of them.

[00:15:39]

Your high school was there?

[00:15:40]

Yeah. I went to high school as well.

[00:15:42]

How was the high school?

[00:15:43]

High school was fine.

[00:15:43]

Regular, normal.

[00:15:45]

I'm extremely happy, I went to high school at the time that I did. If I went to high school now with all the social media that they have, I probably have been bullied a hell of a lot more. When I went to high school, I was fine because even though I wasn't exactly the best looking or the most fit, I never really got teased, I never really had anybody bully me. That was the other reason why I think. Like I said, it was the only public high school at the time. All the other grade schools, all those kids, we all basically knew each other. When you wanted to high school, you already knew that person.

[00:16:18]

Yeah, because of your other places that exist.

[00:16:20]

Exactly. I'm not saying that there weren't bullies and not saying people didn't get bullied, and I'm not saying that there weren't the popular people. They are unbelievable. But you would find jocks in acting class. You would find the acting kids doing sports or doing really good at science things and sometimes the science nerds. I didn't really feel like there was a real popular, unpopular thing, everybody was really mixed at the time.

[00:16:50]

Just fine.

[00:16:50]

At least from my four years.

[00:16:51]

That's cool.

[00:16:53]

I really liked that, I really appreciated that. I never felt alone, I guess is a good way to put it. I never felt that I should worry about anything. I went there and then I went to UMass Boston for college.

[00:17:10]

I really liked UMass Boston actually do. Because it remind me a lot of high school. [OVERLAPPING] UMass Boston had the same feeling to it at least to me.

[00:17:21]

It's interesting because you're talking about UMass. I just had a conversation with Alex Gonsalves from facilities. He also went through UMass Boston.

[00:17:30]

It's a really good state school. It didn't have dorms, so I stayed at home. At that point me and mom were living in Summerville, which was interesting.

[00:17:43]

You didn't stay in the dorms for UMass [inaudible 00:17:45]

[00:17:45]

No because they didn't have dorms at the time when I went to [OVERLAPPING]

[00:17:48]

That's what Alex said [OVERLAPPING]

[00:17:50]

That didn't happen until three or four years after I left.

[00:17:56]

You have to go back and forth?

[00:17:58]

Which was fine. [OVERLAPPING] I was already on the redline so it was fine. I was actually going to school at the same time that they had 9/11.

[00:18:06]

Wow.

[00:18:07]

The thing was I remember that day because they closed the school down because the school is literally like right across from the airport. I had no clue what was going on and they were like, schools canceled. Awesome. I go home, [LAUGHTER] I turned on the TV like bam news.

[00:18:24]

That's the reason.

[00:18:25]

I got accepted to Hunter College in New York City.

[00:18:28]

Wow.

[00:18:32]

One of my best friends. She said that she was like, "Jess, you could have been there." I was like. "Wow. I really could have." If they had dorms, I would've been there. But because Hunter College was a lot like UMass Boston and didn't have dorms.

[00:18:45]

They didn't have dorms there too.

[00:18:46]

I couldn't go cause New York rent was crazy even then. I was there for three years. I messed up, just academically I didn't do what I was supposed to do academically. They kicked me out, they brought me back, said, well, if you take these two classes, mind you the two classes they gave me was a class that I failed and another class that was a pass or fail class, there was no grade on it. When I passed that class and I got the pass, but the class that I failed, I got a D, I still failed. They basically were like, you're out. I'm like, How does that make sense? I just got disillusioned and I just didn't fight back and I was like, whatever, I have a job, I'm fine. I'll to go back later because that's the great thing about college, you can always go back. But at the time, I was in it for English. What am I going to do with English? I don't want to be a teacher cause I don't like kids [LAUGHTER].

[00:19:47]

It's funny because I told someone else about this too. I also went to school in Brazil because of a convenience, more than anything else. The system was, you could be an accountant or a teacher or in science. There were three different high schools. To be a teacher was the closest to my house. I would have to walk like ten blocks to get there. The other one was on the other side of town. About being accountant, I always hated math was not my thing. They say, okay, let's go for this one to be a teacher and then the whole preparation and trying to play games with the kids and now this. I would never be. But the funny thing, Jess, I said I will never going to be a teacher.

[00:20:34]

I know.

[00:20:35]

Isn't that weird?

[00:20:37]

It is weird.

[00:20:38]

I was always near this thing.

[00:20:41]

I agree.

[00:20:44]

Because you feel like you don't want to be a teacher but hey, look at this.

[00:20:47]

Exactly. It's not that I hate kids. At that same point, I was also working at Fenway with the Red Sox and [OVERLAPPING] I worked at the Red Sox. Well, not so much with the Red Sox [OVERLAPPING]. For Fenway [inaudible 00:21:04]. I was contracted out. Actually that's where I met my best friend, Fallon, Prion's cousin. I was at Fenway for 22 years.

[00:21:17]

Really?

[00:21:19]

Yes. Last year was my last year. I can't do it anymore.

[00:21:24]

But was it a part-time?

[00:21:26]

Was considered part-time because it was only during the summertime.

[00:21:30]

That's the weird thing to understand the system. It's a part-time because it's summertime but it's a full-time day. Full day?

[00:21:37]

Yeah. But it was also because you work with the Red Sox schedule. I wasn't working every single day of the summertime. It'd be like one full week and then nothing and then two days and then nothing and then five days and then two days off, then you have another seven days. The baseball schedule is very odd. My friends used to hate it because they be like, do you want to hang out? I'm like, I can't I have work. They're like I hate Fenway. I was like [LAUGHTER]. I wouldn't see my friends for three months.

[00:22:08]

Wow. But then you were just there or you had different a job? I had other jobs during the [OVERLAPPING] winter time too. There's only one year that I did not have a winter time job and I did not like it. I did not like not having a job. I was on unemployment just for six months. Just six months of unemployment. I hated every second of it.

[00:22:28]

Too much free time.

[00:22:29]

It was too much free time. I know is weird and people have yelled at me about it, but I felt weird getting unemployment cause in growing up and my whole family we are all workers. We work. For me not to work but get paid for it at the time it freaked me out and I'm like, I don't like it. [OVERLAPPING] I feel like I'm cheating or I feel like something, you know what I mean? I didn't like that, but that was the only time I've been on unemployment.

[00:22:58]

How did Harvard happen?

[00:23:02]

Somebody who used to work here Melissa. Thank you Melissa Gagnon. Melissa Gagnon used to work here and she also used to work with me at Fenway. You might remember if you saw a picture of her.

[00:23:13]

I think I remember.

[00:23:15]

She was one of the managers. One day at Fenway she was like, "Jess, how do you feel about making coffee drinks?" I'm like, "Yeah, I can do that. I used to work at the Downtown Crossing laws at the time, because right was before it was AMC. The movie theater, they used to have a coffee bar and that was one of my jobs there was to make coffee. I knew how to make drinks. I was like, yeah, I could do that, no problem. She's like, it's not going to be a permanent thing cause you're basically just covering cause somebody is out on FMLA and I'm like, yeah, it's a winter time, that's fine. I'll take it. I got the job in 20th October 2010 and I've been here ever since.

[00:24:02]

Wow. Poor person who to take the leave. [LAUGHTER]

[00:24:08]

I feel bad for her. She decided not to go back. But at the time I was like [OVERLAPPING] I'm sorry, I took your job.

[00:24:17]

I'm so much better than I got my profit that I make is so much bad.

[00:24:22]

Sorry, I make the best coffee drinks.

[00:24:24]

They said that you are okay.

[00:24:26]

But they add they said to me, you're pretty good bunch, you stay around well, knock her out.

[00:24:33]

Poor thing.

[00:24:34]

But yes, I've been here ever since.

[00:24:37]

First with Restaurants Associate.

[00:24:39]

Yes, we are restaurants associate at the time. That was also the same year that going into the summertime is when they finished building this whole area [inaudible 00:24:49] like that. When I came back in 2011, it was oh, yeah, everything was clean and nice and big.

[00:24:57]

I know that's a big tradition, but comparing with what pound house used to be right there for the events there and I never thought it was horrible. I remember that was darker.

[00:25:09]

It was darker. It's a little bit smaller and felt they got its own little kitchen, but it was I liked it. I liked ropes. I had a good time in there.

[00:25:20]

The events there. There's some times, for example, I think if I'm not mistaken, the parody used to be there and they used to bring those awards and stuff.

[00:25:36]

First year, Kara, she used to be the manager here. I was working. She had me Bartend for parody. It's the first time I'd ever seen it. No. Really told me about it. I'm saying I'm saying that I will listen to them and they were making fun of or complaining about Restaurant Associates food never like that [LAUGHTER]. I instantly took that to heart. Now mind you I had been here like not even a full year. I took that to heart. I think it was somebody who like all a joke.

[00:26:08]

[OVERLAPPING] they do with the fire everyone. They don't forgive anyone know.

[00:26:12]

No. I think it's great. It was after I got over that little thing because I'm very protective. Like something that even if I'd only been here for half a year, I'm going to protect it because I protect my people.

[00:26:23]

I think we develop a sense, I feel the same sometimes that our people where I hear people say things about HLS or whatever. I feel like you don't know. We were talking about things that you heard someone say you or sometimes not even the real reason that's happening and you are going full.

[00:26:48]

I feel very protective of things. It's that whole sibling thing like you can't say crap about. I can say it all.

[00:26:56]

I can talk or whatever I want about my brother and sister but they could not come talk [inaudible 00:27:03].

[00:27:04]

I [OVERLAPPING] worried about that. Don't make me take you all back. I'm very much in that because I didn't have siblings. I'm very protective of people.

[00:27:17]

Another thing about the kids, when they talk about Parody, it 's amazing to see because we notice these kids have been lawyers. Which is a big huge deal. But then when you see them dancing, singing, acting, I'm seeing, why don't you do?

[00:27:36]

Some of them have really good talent? Some of them that I'm like, my God. Like you said, I'm doing this. Why aren't you doing this?

[00:27:48]

I can't remember the name of the kids. It's a blond kid. I think someone would remember. That kid's voice was amazing. Country songs that he sang during Parody, playing, was just incredibly. [OVERLAPPING] I feel like what else you are already at Harvard Law School? Harvard lawyer. Lawyer. Yeah.

[00:28:09]

When you're saying too you play piano. I don't know, anyways so [OVERLAPPING].

[00:28:13]

Yeah like my dad, what is this?. Some of these kids that I talked to, they're not just law school book smart. They're like these kids have so many things going on.

[00:28:23]

A lot of different talents.

[00:28:24]

A lot of talents, and they're amazing.

[00:28:26]

Yeah, so you always look at them. They are here to be lawyers and learn from one of the best places in the world. But if you think about other things that they could be doing or if they're going to try.

[00:28:37]

Yeah.

[00:28:38]

I don't know.

[00:28:38]

They're like go do it.

[00:28:40]

Just to watch it is that's. Talking about that, how is the relationship with the students, how the interaction with them. Is a two thing?

[00:28:49]

I forgot how truthful I should be. [LAUGHTER] I have met some amazing kids here.

[00:28:56]

Yes.

[00:28:57]

I have met some amazing kids here, people who I'm still friends with on Facebook. You remember Mikey, the Italian kid? That was like everywhere? [LAUGHTER].

[00:29:06]

I think I do. Yeah.

[00:29:07]

[OVERLAPPING] Still friends with him.

[00:29:10]

Wow that's nice. [OVERLAPPING]

[00:29:14]

I actually have plans to go to Salem with some other students this coming year.

[00:29:19]

Which is wonderful.

[00:29:19]

Which is great. They're amazing kids and I love talking with them. I do feel, and I've said this with Brown and other people. It was actually my aunt who brought it up because I was telling her stories. She was like, you're actually like a therapist there. I'm like, you know what? You're right. Because I can't tell you the amount of times I've had to talk somebody down from being totally stressed out.

[00:29:45]

Yes.

[00:29:46]

Sweetie, you'll be fine. You already got through the biggest part, you here man, you're doing it.

[00:29:53]

That's what they need.

[00:29:54]

That's what they need and especially the one else oh, my goodness.

[00:29:57]

Because they had this academic period. Yeah.

[00:30:00]

Yes. They just freak out and I'm always like it and I'm like, you need to relax, breathe through it. You can get through it. I hope that they know that I'm genuine when I'm doing that. I'm not just doing it to make them like hurry up on.

[00:30:14]

No I believe they all know.

[00:30:15]

I really do like, you can do it, you're fine. You're smart person. You can get through this. It's okay. It's not the be-all and end-all. You'll get through it.

[00:30:24]

The worst part is one year. The worst of all is just the first year because of the amount [OVERLAPPING].

[00:30:30]

That's what we try to tell them.

[00:30:31]

I feel like it's because of the impact of the amount of academic readings and classes and everything else that they come in already feel like.

[00:30:39]

They're going to be like this ultimate ends like you do know [LAUGHTER] that you're here, you've gotten the hardest part down. You are in.

[00:30:46]

They will be fine if they are chosen if there were invited to come to this place. They are already in a good direction. Is just a matter of I stopped with the projection over what this place is and do your thing because you are going to be fine.

[00:31:03]

Exactly.

[00:31:04]

One thing that I have mentioned before as well here, quite a few. I understand, for example, first-gen are our diverse group of students.

[00:31:14]

Yeah.

[00:31:14]

When they have this sense of not belonging. I feel like I don't belong to this place. One thing that I used to tell them all the time saying, okay, so make yourself belong because you are here, you have a right to be here. [OVERLAPPING] It's just a matter of going through that thing and take out, stop with the noise outside and whatever is that you think that should be.

[00:31:38]

Do what you need to do to get through it. Find people, you can find people. I tried to say something like you there are people here for you.

[00:31:46]

Yeah.

[00:31:46]

There are people here who you can talk to, hang out with and be with. Sometimes I say, guess what? If nothing else, come and hang out with me. See I will gladly talk to you while I'm bringing people in. I've done that multiple times. I don't care. Don't ever feel like you're alone. There was one girl one time and I'm sorry, I never remembered her name. But I was working at catering event and I was the bar tender. She came up to me at one point and she goes,'' You know, I always feel good when I see you here because I always feel safe I always know there's a place that I can go.''.

[00:32:17]

Yeah.

[00:32:18]

That touched me so much. I was like, Oh, well, yeah. Obviously, yes. Anytime you need anything, please by all means come to me. That's what I'm here for. But that always really touched me and so tried to, I might be rude.

[00:32:34]

Might?

[00:32:36]

Shut up. [LAUGHTER] Not everybody who listens to the podcast knows how I really am when I'm at the register. [LAUGHTER].

[00:32:43]

Oh might. [LAUGHTER] A side conversation here because then I'm explaining who Jazz is when she said, I might be rude, oh.

[00:32:53]

Listen I have reasons.

[00:32:55]

In a scale of one to 1-10 Jess.

[00:32:58]

Just 10. It feels like [OVERLAPPING]

[00:33:02]

We're joking. I hope people really understand that we're joking.

[00:33:05]

I'm not always rude. It's just sometimes I need to get people's attention.

[00:33:08]

You are human and I don't remember seeing you rude at all Jess ever.

[00:33:13]

Oh, well, when people come up to me and this is the other one, some guy came up to me one time and he goes, so do I just get the coffee myself? Do what you want to do [inaudible 00:33:25] [OVERLAPPING].

[00:33:25]

You don't go around and put the coffee for us and come back. Why? I think that's a service that shouldn't be talked about [LAUGHTER].

[00:33:33]

Watching around about workers and you tell them that you tell all the [OVERLAPPING].

[00:33:38]

[LAUGHTER] I think you should go around grab [LAUGHTER] my coffee, come back and I'll pay for it [LAUGHTER]. Choose sugars.

[00:33:45]

Two sugars [LAUGHTER].

[00:33:47]

No Mill. Choose sugars.

[00:33:48]

There's just the two sugars. I could just give like slight stir and there you go. Yeah. No. It's just things like that.

[00:33:57]

I think there's a difference coming in terms of how kids were raised up to 2000, it's social media.

[00:34:05]

Oh, that's what I remember I said I'm so glad I went to high school when I did. Don't get me wrong. I love my phone. I truly do.

[00:34:12]

Yes.

[00:34:12]

If I don't have it, I'm not happy but you know what? I don't have my phone.

[00:34:16]

Yeah. You should have an option.

[00:34:19]

Yeah. It is what it is. But it's because I grew up in a time where I didn't have cell phones. I had landlines. People landlines were these phones that they would actually put either on the wall or it was connected to a wire. That tells us how we got our Internet when we first got the Internet yet [OVERLAPPING] [NOISE] yes if you had.

[00:34:36]

Oh my God, I used to love the numbers with nine's and zero's because the longer that they would sound the better. When they were having a lot of a one-to-one sound.

[00:34:45]

No. Give me a nine. Can give a ten like[NOISE].

[00:34:48]

Yes make that old sound was lovely.

[00:34:51]

Oh man, walking with a cord, with the phone connected to the cord phone. Felt like you had a super long ones, like I said, with the phones on the walls, you can walk the whole apartment.

[00:35:02]

To have conversation. [LAUGHTER] But Jess another thing, details of this thing that amaze me. I remember talking on the phone, and playing with the card.

[00:35:12]

Yeah.

[00:35:13]

You know like I was a fidget thing.

[00:35:14]

Oh, yeah. It was a fidget thing.

[00:35:16]

It depends on the conversation would be rolling your finger on rolling our Boolean kind of. I don't know how that thing with the stretch so much back and forth.

[00:35:26]

Would stretch but then everytime it's when we got tangled. Then you had to hold it up and spin back, untangle [LAUGHTER].

[00:35:33]

Techniques.

[00:35:34]

I'm telling you.

[00:35:35]

Show one of those for the kids nowday they don't know.

[00:35:37]

What is that?

[00:35:38]

Why are you doing that? That's weird.

[00:35:42]

Oh, I read books.

[00:35:44]

You were talking about books and new social media style and phones and everything else. One thing that I always told my family in Brazil that I admired here and I felt like, wow, this is such a cool culture.

[00:35:58]

Yeah.

[00:35:58]

Taking the bus to downtown or whatever was, people always had newspapers and books and reading. Always reading something. The majority of them was such and I regret nowadays. Well, how could they take picture if I didn't even have a camera at that time, but a phone for example.

[00:36:16]

We didn't have cameras that were so accessible.

[00:36:19]

But it was beautiful to see my good number of people. Big number actually reading newspaper or reading a book or something. Now, nowadays, it's rare.

[00:36:31]

It's very rarely you see people reading a newspaper. It freaks me out when I look at the Sunday Globe now, it's a lot thinner than what it used to be. I remember the Sunday [OVERLAPPING], yeah.

[00:36:42]

Online it should.

[00:36:43]

Exactly. They used to be a nice hefty things and I loved it. It wasn't so much I read the newspaper, but I just liked having it there. It was something substantial. There's something there.

[00:36:53]

One thing that the guys when I was in landscape and the guys working in their coffee breaks or lunch breaks. They used to have the Boston or the hair or do with that.

[00:37:02]

Oh, yeah.

[00:37:04]

They had this sport sections with the pages with whatever easy statistics.

[00:37:09]

Oh, yeah.

[00:37:10]

I felt like what are they looking at? I never understood.

[00:37:14]

The box score for action.

[00:37:17]

They wouldn't be talking about that. All the numbers here. I say, that's not my thing.

[00:37:23]

I was never a math person, so statistics and all that type of thing. Right out the door. I have no clue.

[00:37:29]

I never paid attention that much.

[00:37:30]

I just looked to see if the Celtics were winning or if the Red Sox were winning.

[00:37:40]

Everything else in life is good. You said that you are living in?

[00:37:44]

I'm living in East Boston right now.

[00:37:45]

East Boston.

[00:37:46]

Your mom is doing some review or?

[00:37:48]

No. My mom passed away.

[00:37:50]

I'm sorry, Jess.

[00:37:51]

It's okay. She passed away in 2016. Which I'd still been living with her in East Boston. We moved from separable. She loved her job. She used to work at Lesley University, actually when I was Wellesley College, and she's getting too depressing two-second, it was like I got to leave or else I'm not going to be well. She quit that job. I was all freaked out because I was like, well, what the heck are we going to do? Because we don't have money. She got a job working at East Boston Neighborhood Health, and she worked with the elderly. First she was a nutritionist type of thing, nutrition. She basically just put the lunches together. Then she also became like an activities director thing. We stayed in East Boston and I basically stayed with her. I'm still there because at the time the rent was still good. Not anymore, but working on that. My aunt is now in East Boston tube because she's in an assisted living and she's all their mentally, just physically, she just can't do much. I help her in the mornings, Monday through Saturday, just getting read, getting her washed and then she's good for the rest of the day. It's basically just me and her right now because my grandmother passed and my youngest aunt passed. We don't talk to my uncle Jimmy anymore.

[00:39:19]

No.

[00:39:19]

No. We do not talk to him anymore, because it's family and money. It always comes down to family and money. Unfortunately, we don't talk to them anymore, but I'm okay with that. That's not a real skin off my nose situation. It was funny. Not funny, slightly sad, but funny to me. When my mom passed, my uncle Jimmy called and he was like, hey Jess, I'm like, I heard about your mom. Just call and say I'm sorry. Thanks. He's like, well, if you need anything, you just let us know. I'm like, okay. That was it. That's the last time I talked to him. I don't care.

[00:39:55]

Because you didn't have much connection.

[00:39:57]

No.

[00:39:58]

They were distance before.

[00:40:01]

They they live in New Hampshire anyway. Yes, there was an issue with money. Me, mom and my aunt, my shoulder like screw up. We don't need you guys do whatever you're going to do. Just don't talk to us.

[00:40:12]

That's how the break happened?

[00:40:13]

That's how the break happened. I haven't talked to them. I don't need to, I don't really care too. It's just me and my aunt, Michelle. I still see my dad. Sorry, I make that sound like I don't have my dad around. I have my dad. Me and my dad, we're a lot alike in the sense of just because we don't talk to each other every day or even every month. When we do call each other, we do hang out perfectly great.

[00:40:37]

It's normal.

[00:40:38]

It's normal because we're pretty much the same unless something's wrong. I'm not going to call you because there's nothing to call you about.

[00:40:43]

That's very much me too with my friends and family.

[00:40:46]

Dad that's how I'm like [inaudible 00:40:47] people.

[00:40:49]

Yes. Remember anything are falling. I don't have that me as well.

[00:40:54]

No.

[00:40:55]

If you need me, let me know. I'll be available. But I try I don't want to apologize for something that I don't do intentionally.

[00:41:05]

But I feel I have to but I'm like, it's nothing personal, it's nothing to do with the way I feel about you. If something's wrong, call me, text me, I will come running.

[00:41:16]

We're chatting before we started recording about my friend Brazil. That's the perfect friendship that I have. He knows me so well. He knows that. He has no problem reaching out. Hey how is the going? I love it.

[00:41:31]

It's great.

[00:41:32]

I always say, please don't take my silence or my distance as something that I don't care. But I engage and I always appreciate when someone tells me, I'm not available at this time we can talk later and that's perfect.

[00:41:49]

That's fine.

[00:41:50]

But just don't feel like because they don't reach out, I don't like you.

[00:41:54]

No.

[00:41:55]

I just don't feel it was the point.

[00:41:58]

I'm not.

[00:41:58]

I don't like people in general but you know.

[00:42:01]

Edgar, you owe me about you and how I became into the service business, I don't know.

[00:42:07]

No. I think we are people we connect well.

[00:42:13]

Yes, that's true. We need our space I don't have to talk to people every single day.

[00:42:17]

We already talked enough where we are.

[00:42:19]

I was just about to say. That's my whole thing. Especially right when I get out of work, don't talk to me.

[00:42:24]

That's my same time.

[00:42:26]

Exactly. Let me be home. Give me at least an hour maybe home and then I'll be talking. But other than that, no, let me be home.

[00:42:33]

I have so many series and movies to watch.

[00:42:35]

Hello, exactly. Now with the strikes we have so much more. We got to watch all of those now because nothing else is coming out for awhile.

[00:42:42]

That's true. There will be a good gap there. I love my sci-fi.

[00:42:47]

I like sci-fi.

[00:42:48]

I like everything.

[00:42:49]

I like everything. Horror is my main.

[00:42:52]

Run today. That a joke about why they run to the barn with all those things.

[00:42:59]

The commercial, I love that commercial.

[00:43:02]

Don't go to Dubai. [OVERLAPPING] Why don't you go to Dubai. [LAUGHTER]

[00:43:07]

Let's go behind the change.

[00:43:08]

Those ones I watched because Brian likes them. Mine have to be very heavy, like a sea star.

[00:43:16]

They're doing a direct sequel of The Exorcist.

[00:43:21]

They have to be very careful about that.

[00:43:24]

That's super careful.

[00:43:25]

Because that movie from the '70s and it's so good if you watch it. There are some silly but it's very strong.

[00:43:36]

Very much so. One of the best movies just in general, what you find out what they've done in it.

[00:43:42]

At that time.

[00:43:44]

Exactly.

[00:43:44]

It was amazing. I'm curious to see if they do a sequels horror.

[00:43:49]

Because I have a huge issue with sequels right now. Before the strike, they didn't have any original ideas. Nothing was coming. It was all sequels or principals, or it was COVID.

[00:43:59]

We'll be there to judge, Jess.

[00:44:01]

I know. Yes we will.

[00:44:02]

We will say, hey that's bad.

[00:44:03]

That's bad. That's so bad.

[00:44:04]

That's so bad.

[00:44:04]

You should take that stuff down because we're done. We didn't talk about and I was going to show our joke about when I asked you to your full name and you say Jessica Crews. Then I go with my C-R-U-Z

[00:44:21]

I could do a real quick. My name is Jessica Crews, C-R-E-W-S. Now, when I first started working here, my first paycheck, my manager gave it to me and I'm looking at it. I'm like, C-R-U-Z. That's not me. I was the only Jessica working here. Obviously it was me, but just I go up to Maria and I'm like, Maria, I'm C-R-E-W-S. She's like, oh you're not Spanish.

[00:44:47]

Crews for us, could be well, Latina in general. It could be Spanish or Portuguese. That means cross. It's always C-R-U- Z. When you said Jessica Crews, it was so easy and then you come and changed my entire spelling there.

[00:45:05]

I'm sorry.

[00:45:05]

Don't be sorry. That's really cool to see.

[00:45:07]

No, it's here.

[00:45:07]

I wonder how many times we may say, for example, Alex is Gonsalvez. He's Gonsalvez S like Salvez. In Portuguese, for Brazil mostly we might have some with S as well, but would it be S like Gonsalvez. That's very common. But you have the some of those two because I think someone does sergeant in my platoon when I was in Army, was that Gonsalves with S. The origin of names it's interesting and how they change.

[00:45:42]

The whole names, things, it's crazy, what starts somewhere else it turns into something else here or somewhere else. It's crazy. Names are interesting things.

[00:45:53]

Jess, I think that's it. I think we talked a little bit recover some ground here.

[00:45:58]

I agree.

[00:45:59]

Thank you very much for coming.

[00:46:00]

Thank you for having me.

[00:46:02]

I'm really happy. I'm always nice to you. You're the one that's not nice to me. [LAUGHTER]

[00:46:08]

Lies, it's the other way around and you know it, sir.

[00:46:11]

I always greet you with the warm hug when I get to the cafeteria.

[00:46:15]

Liar.

[00:46:20]

I was like, is Jessica be okay doing this? I'm not sure because some people feel scared.

[00:46:26]

I don't know what child. Every all the tension has to be on me.

[00:46:29]

Awesome. That's it. I gave you all the attention?

[00:46:32]

You gave me all the attention, I appreciate that.

[00:46:33]

Nice.

[00:46:34]

If you need me to come back so you'd give me more attention, that is fine too.

[00:46:37]

You do a second.

[00:46:40]

I also did acting in high school, so that's my thing.

[00:46:42]

You did too?

[00:46:43]

I had an acting class. All four years. I loved it. It was great because there was something else I should have told you. I wanted to be a comedian when I was younger because I love to make people laugh. I don't know because I can't write my own stuff.

[00:46:59]

You can.

[00:47:00]

I can write but I just can't. I'm more of observational. If things have to happen and I'll talk about it and I can't just have to sit down. You know what I mean?

[00:47:11]

Well.

[00:47:11]

That's a story for another time.

[00:47:12]

Yes. Let's thing about that one.

[00:47:15]

Awesome. People we could come up to me, can you just do a show for me?

[00:47:19]

We have a parody can you another day?

[00:47:21]

They ask me to do parody one time.

[00:47:23]

They did?

[00:47:23]

I was going to do it then my back worn out. It was great.

[00:47:28]

That's really cool. I think I went once a long time ago. It was cute. It was just a sense of because I'm so shy to do this stuff. But they were so no, let's do it. Thank you very much. I'll say again, it was was lovely. Then I'll let you know when you are going to have this releasing and doing all that stuff. Sounds good me.

[00:47:48]

It was great. Thank you very much, Jess.

[00:47:50]

Of course thank you.

[00:47:51]

For everybody listening out there, I will see you soon. Bye-bye. [MUSIC]