

Deciding to attend university is an important choice, but choosing which university to attend and what to study can be even more challenging.

However, one of the biggest challenges comes after graduation.

Figgin' out what to do with your degree.

So welcome to "There's Just Not Tellin' How Far I'll Go" where we explore the fears and uncertainties of graduating college and choosing a career path.

In this episode, we'll hear from a University of Connecticut student who shares his struggles with post-graduation uncertainty and how he stays optimistic and hopeful.

We'll also hear from someone who has embraced change, navigated various career paths and found ways to adapt to life's evolving stages.

So I'm on my way to meet Matt Corpus, a senior at the University of Connecticut, double major in journalism and communication, and we're going to be discussing how he plans to balance his passion for both fields while navigating the fears and uncertainties of his final semester in college.

I am incredibly late.

Oh, there he is.

Hey, how's it going?

I'm so sorry, the bus was like acting, so can you please talk about...

Are you going to get a career in the direction, in the field of study that you are in?

So I'm a double major in communications in journalism.

I started off as a communications major and then I would say my junior year, I declared journalism as a second major and I've enjoyed being in the journalism department.

I feel like I've gotten a lot of rewards out of it and just being there.

I feel like I've learned a lot within a short, great time, but in terms of career, I feel like I can go either way because I have both majors I could fall back on and I can either go toward being someone who makes videos and stuff and does content creation. I feel like a lot of people need some torque, type of PR, even just social media presence. So I could lean toward that direction which goes towards communications but I also love writing and I love writing news articles and news stories and interviewing people so I could also lean in that direction.

At the very moment, it's a bit tricky to pinpoint where exactly what direction I want to go into but if it's in between both of those and I feel like I'll be content.

In which direction are you leaning towards what the most?

It seems like right now journalism being in the department for the last year and a half too.

I feel like I've learned so much and I have great professors and they're great resources and they just want their students to succeed and be the best they could be out in the field.

Did you have initial career goals when you started college and have they changed over time?

Yeah, so when I first started college and when people asked me what do you want to be when you grow up, I'd be like I want to be a sports rock asser for ESPN and they're like wow you have it figured out and keep my arm a freshman in college.

And then now people ask me like what do you want to do?

I don't know.

As you go through college you learn more things about the courses you're taking over also more about yourself and what you're comfortable with.

So I do think things have changed and even I still don't know right now but I think I

shouldn't be discouraged by that because I feel like a lot of people kind of go through that.

Like they have something planned out but then there's a complete 180 and then they go in a new direction and it turns out that that making that decision benefits them in the long run and they kind of just learn more.

And so would you say you felt pressure with like you know all of these changes and you know graduated and stuff and where would you say this pressure comes from is it like personal societal family like social media because social media does that seem to be true.

Um, I would say it really came down.

I think it was more like a personal thing like when I was going through my first two years of college I was like I'm just going to be a I'm going to be a college I'm going to graduate in May like this past May.

And then I took a few more classes and realized like oh like maybe journalism might help me might help add to like what I'm learning and might even just give me a better shot of like in like like a nice career.

So I kind of took that gamble and there was something I talked to my parents about because like I wasn't sure like what direction I wanted to lean in there just tell me like I got the end of the day like whatever it is like you want to like pursue I would just just do it.

There's nothing like only person holding you back to yourself so like if you don't try it then like why even you know why even bother so.

Would you say you kind of navigate I guess your passion but also I guess like just trying to secure a job after college like why would you say that balance?

Like you like follow your passion but it's like I need to get my bills paid.

Yeah by passion do you mean just like your desires in terms of like your career path like do where you actually want to career wise.

Not eating.

I feel like it's it could be a bit tricky because like at the end of the day like you want to do something that's like that brings you joy and brings you passion.

That should be like the number one point that's my philosophy when it comes like fun and job like if I pull myself in an environment where like I'm passionate about it and like I'm not burning myself out then I'm content but in terms of like paying bills too like that's that's a really big thing especially in today's like working like one finding jobs is a lot harder I feel like nowadays and like sometimes like even here in backroom jobs is like you know when you don't hear back from a job you really like worked up for and applied for like it'd be really discouraging but like I've experienced that and I've just told myself to like move on to the next one I shouldn't really like let it like dictate like where I'm gonna end up in like a few years because as part of the process you like you have to like fail a lot times to like you know succeed in long run but balancing balancing like passion and like like finances it could be like a really could be tricky and for the people that are able to do it like big salute to them and just like a big comment like it's like I don't like thinking about it now like I don't even know like if I could do it but I just feel like it's something that like once it does happen to me like I you know kind of just have to like navigate it and kind of just so last few questions are so if you have any advice for future seniors or you know recent grads what would that be?

Don't be discouraged in anything that you do I think especially like one specifically

in terms of like post-grad do not be discouraged if you don't get a job immediately I feel like that's so like normal in this like like day and age like at my roommate that graduated last year I know he told me that at first he struggled finding like a job after graduation but with more with just a few like months off like away from school like he is able to secure one so I think as a testament to like all majors and like whatever career pursuits like don't be discouraged if you just can't get something immediately like that's just how life works and again you have to like fail a couple times in order to like rise to the occasion and kind of land up on top so don't be discouraged and unlike just like a more personal like level like school just like enjoy every second of it like like you get wrapped your head around like so much in the bucks and just like kind of bear yourself in the bucks but enjoy every second whether it's like going like a dining hall with your friends or even just like going like a basketball game here on campus like just enjoy every second of it because you only college is four years and maybe even more for some people but it goes by really quickly and yeah I had been thinking about that like recently because my cousin like after I graduated high school is like it's gonna go by quickly I'm just warning you I'm like no it's not your line and it sure has I blinked my eyes and I'm literally it's I'm two weeks away from graduating I think my conversation with Matt proved that when it comes to being a college student and figuring things out you're not always going to have the full picture but just trust in the process and looking to see where your interest lie and where it back at take you and also being patient being patient with time with life and everything.

I also had the pleasure of talking to Christina Quarte and she is a multifaceted individual a wife a mom of three minister content creator slash influencer and currently a real estate

agent but before she was all of this she went to college to become a lawyer and then she switched over to psychology and then ended up going to risk management and insurance before working full-time as a content creator and now she's a realtor and who knows where else she might go because there's just no telling how far she might and so in our conversation Christina talks about how she dealt with all the changes her confidence in God and advice for any college students who is graduated and may not necessarily know how and what route to go so let's hear.

Okay so when you were in college how did you decide like what you wanted to do after based on like what you chose to major in and stuff and did you stick with that path?

So since the age of ten I always wanted to be the female Johnny Cochrane which I think this is beyond your time before your time but it was the attorney that defended O.J. Simpson and his murder trial.

You know O.J. Simpson?

Okay so Johnny Cochrane was known for defending O.J. Simpson and I think O.J. Simpson was actually acquitted and I saw like the fame I saw the style by which he was an attorney and I always wanted to be that so when I was in college I initially went into college as a pre-law slash philosophy major.

The school that I went to didn't have any like real pre-law tracks so anybody that wanted to go pre-law had to do philosophy.

Well it was challenging to be a philosophy major because most philosophy majors are atheists and I was not an atheist and so all the time I was always defending my faith as a question in my classes so I was like yeah this is just not for me and I had learned that you don't really need to major in anything to go to law school so I changed majors to psychology

and I wasn't interested and I had to take a business course.

I think it was a pre-it kind of it was like a lower level business course that everybody had to take at college and I took this course course course management and insurance and I did well in the course and it was the nature of the chair of the department for that major to recruit students that did well in that introduction course and so he reached out to me and he told me on the idea of being a risk management and insurance major he told me that the school that I went to had the number one program which is true they probably still do the number one program for risk management and insurance and it was a hundred percent job job placement rate that I would definitely secure a job, a high paying job, a more competitive job than my peers and so I was definitely my major.

I didn't know that I was going to go straight to law school and I wanted to make sure that I had a backup plan if I didn't go straight to law school which that's how I ended up as a risk management and insurance major.

Yeah, it worked in the field for about 11 years.

I started my career as a consultant, as a claim consultant.

I didn't get a job immediately and then moved around a bit.

I worked for brokerage and I went to another brokerage or I did reinsurance and then after that I came to a career.

So I moved up and down around until around COVID, around COVID is when I was pregnant with my second child, completely miserable at work.

Had all of these gifts and desires and hobbies that were profitable at that time.

They were starting to generate the same if not more than my career job and so I wanted to really stay home with the kids.

It's COVID, you know, it's the middle of a pandemic.

I'm also an influencer.

I'm getting all this money from influencer work.

I'm miserable at my career job.

I decided to take a risk and quit.

So where are you now in terms of your career or change and stuff?

Because you went from being working in a risk management and insurance and then you switched to being a full time content creator and now you've got a real estate agent.

So how did that change?

So content creation slowed down with an event that took place in my life, which is that

I had a third child.

So too was manageable enough to really pursue my content creation goals in the way that brought me up significant success.

The third child made things a lot more complicated and that I just didn't have the time or the energy to do what I needed to do to continue to be successful in content creation.

And I started feeling differently about it as well.

Like it didn't feel like a passion anymore and I don't know if it's because I couldn't explore the passion as I used to since I was super busy with the kids.

But it just it kind of felt very superficial and vain.

So internally I struggled and then I got I received the prophetic word to pursue real estate.

And when I prayed about it, I felt a release in my spirit to do it.

I was tired of the performance that needed to take place with content creation because you know as I know that in order to get paid, you got to show up physically.



You have to look at the part.

Lots of people don't understand that as a content creator, it doesn't matter if you're a fashion content creator or an interior designer, content creator, or a tech content creator, you are constantly being judged by your appearance.

And the last thing, a mother of three under four needs is to be judged by her parents.

You know, there's lots of things changing.

You know, your mood changes all the time.

You don't feel your best.

You don't want to show up to perform.

You don't always want to look the part like life is together, what is not.

Like you have all these kids that need all the attention.

And it also feels super selfish to be like, hold on, I know you're hungry right now, but let me put this makeup on.

So I thought about all of these things I put it up in the air and I said to myself, it is not sustainable as a mom of three to three little children to just be an influencer in the way that I was.

So I thought about real estate, I prayed about real estate, I got to release a my spirit and I pursued it.

And it gives me the flexibility that content creation gave me because I'll still work for myself.

I don't get paid.

If I don't work, I don't get paid.

Nobody's going to call me and say, why have you showed up to the office?

Nobody's going to call me and say, why have you sold a house?

I work for myself.

I control my own schedule.

I do everything, you know, what I put in is what I get out.

And so I need that flexibility as a mom to three under five, right?

But I don't have to show up for clients.

I don't have to show up for work and have to look a certain way.

I don't feel the immense pressure of being judged by what my hair looks like, what my nails look like, what my makeup looks like as I'm showing properties.

If I'm wearing makeup or not, if my hair is done or not, it doesn't matter to my clients so long as I find them at house.

So long as I sell their house.

So it has given me the freedom that I need to create a living for me and my family but it does not feel like it comes with performing in a way that doesn't help me right now in this season of mine.

And that's okay too, but you got to learn how to adjust and pivot to the seasons of your lives.

It doesn't make sense for me to hold on to a lifestyle that worked out when I was just living for myself.

Do you foresee yourself changing again?

You'll never know.

I'm a very open person.

And I also, no I'm not that open, hold on, let me slow down.

I don't place limitations on myself because God doesn't place limitations on myself.

And I think that anybody that can confidently say that this is what I'm doing for the rest of my life doesn't understand that they're not their own God.

God can tell me today to shut everything down and then I have to shut everything down.

God can tell me to be a nurse tomorrow and I have to pursue nursing.

I would hope that he never tells me that, but you know, he's good.

He's God.

He can tell me anything and I would have to obey.

So I don't know.

I don't know what the future holds.

So what advice would you give to a college student graduating and not necessarily knowing like what they want to do for the right and the right and the right of the right of the right of the right of the right.

But just don't, what they don't want to, they don't know what they want to do for the foreseeable future or what's it will career path to take, especially if they didn't necessarily major in something like traditional.

I think that one of the things that young people don't do enough of is spend time with themselves and being real with themselves about what they really like and what they don't like.

I would say that this person that doesn't know what they want to do in life doesn't have to, don't quote these numbers, but I'm pretty sure like 70% of college students have no idea what they're doing or what they want to do in the future.

But at least you know a little bit about yourself.

Like you know whether or not you could sit and study for seven hours straight or if you're

somebody that needs to take constant breaks, get fresh air.

And so sit in with yourself and be honest about what you thoroughly enjoy helps you at least refine the search or refine, yeah, refine the job search.

I would say that like don't be so hard on yourself.

Nobody figures it out.

I'm in my thirties and I still don't necessarily feel like I've arrived.

That people pivot all the time.

There are people in medical school that are 65 years old.

It's never too late.

It's never too early.

Everyone has their process.

Because if you want to make mistakes now, the time to make mistakes.

I don't advise you to be trying to make mistakes when you 45 years old and you got teenagers and a mortgage.

Now everybody has to suffer from those mistakes, right?

But when you're 21, 22, 20 years old and you are afraid to fail is like the only thing you need to be afraid of is not failing.

Like failure is a beautiful thing.

It brings you closer and closer to success.

So go ahead and fail.

Go ahead.

Both of these perspectives really changed my point of view on the issue of graduating college and not knowing what to do.

On one hand, Matt is still figuring things out much like I am while on the other hand, Christina is also still figuring it out with a little bit more experience and insight to share.

I have learned to be patient that it's okay to fail and make mistakes, but also just embrace the changes that come with life because it is the only way that I would truly learn and know who I am.

So that is it for today's episode of There's Just No Tellin' How For Our Go.

I hope you enjoyed this episode.

I hope you learned something.

I hope this gave you an insight and perspective on your own life and the direction that you're heading.

And I will see you guys in the next episode, your host, Erica, you're in key.