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Dr. Nam

Soc 201

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Interview Transcription

Me: Hi, I am Olivia Van Wey and this is my Oral History project. If you could just state your name.

Devyn: Devyn Greenberg

Me: And how old are you Devyn?

Devyn: 23.

Me: So I would like to get to know who you are, tell me where you were born, birthday, city you are from, what was your childhood was like? I want to get to know you.

Devyn: So my name is Devyn, I was born march 5, 1990. Born and raised in San Diego, my whole life. My childhood was pretty normal, I had two parents and a brother. I grew up in a small town called Clairemont, where my parents owned a home my whole life. We didn't have the extras, because my parents definitely focused on getting us a good education at a private catholic school in La Jolla. So that really consumed most of our finances. So we didn't have the nice clothes or anything like that, the education was the most important thing for my parents because they never attended college, and my dad didn't even finish high school. So they wanted us to not only finish high school but go onto college.

Me: Now with your parents wanting you to go to college, wanting you to finish high school did that kind of affect what you wanted to do with your life?

Devyn: Absolutely. I always, my parents, always made me dream big. Like I said, I didn't always have the most, but dreams were huge in my family. I was dreaming of being a doctor and going to college and having this wonderful, spectacular life. Wanting more than they had, and bettering my children's life later down the road.

Me: So you ended up going to a private high school that was really good, your parents really saved for that, after high school what was your original plan?

Devyn: My original plan was, apply to a minimal amount of colleges because it costs money to apply to colleges. And, whatever one I got into I would attend. I ended up getting into every college I applied to and chose the University of Arizona. I attended there and shortly realized how expensive it was- to not only to live out of state but the finances of college, a meal plan, living, gas for your car, and shortly realized that my family and I were not able to make that work out of state. So I tried to get a job at the University of Arizona. And then my mom was actually diagnosed with cancer, so after the finances and that, it was just, it was time to come home. And ended up at a community college in San Diego where I spent two semesters and transferred to the University of San Diego.

Me: So how was that transferring back from community college into a University, I know it was competitive and the finances and everything how was that?

Devyn: It was extremely hard, I didn't think I would actually get in, especially the business school. But i did get in, and once I got in then we took on the finances and realized I can take as many student loans as I need or as much as the government let me. And just worry about it after college, in hopes that if I'm going to a good school and doing the best I can do in school because GPA does matter, so if i maintain a good GPA and I'm graduating from a good school, my job opportunities will be more, at a higher paying job, and hopefully the loans would work

themselves out later down the road. And I was at home, so if I needed money for the day or week I had grandparents, parents, aunts and uncles, to call everyday so that took the burden off and we weren't paying for plane tickets or gas to and from Arizona and out of state tuition as well.

Me: I remember talking to you earlier and you said you worked multiple jobs while in community college was that kind of get you by till transferring back?

Devyn: Yes, the jobs during community college were not only so that my parents could save, I am the first one in my family to go to college so the whole family college is behind me, they all there to help with anything they can. But also so that nobody was giving me money for the time i was at community college I didn't ask anybody for a dime and I could save. So my first semester at the University of San Diego, was all my own money, I did not ask anybody for a dime. I did take out the student loans, but aside from the student loans and what they didn't cover, I had the money to cover. So that made the transition a little smoother for everybody involved, not just myself.

Me: So where your at now in your current situation, you have the money to support yourself and you have the student loans, you now obviously are at a point where you can just decide okay I wanna do this now that I am in college. You said you are in business school, what is the ultimate plan?

Devyn: So at the University of San Diego, we are one of three schools in the United State who offer the supply-chain management degree which basically just helps any company in the entire world get from raw materials to the shelf to the customers. Everything you buy at a store, came from a store, and really came from nothing. And that process that it took, is what my emphasis is in. And my ultimate goal is to actually, become a consultant for companies international. And help them kind of narrow in on that process and help them save money, time, resources, and that

is definitely the goal I would like to achieve and am currently achieving that goal with my recent job offer before I even graduate.

Me: Now what is your job right now, I know you are excited about it.

Devyn: So my job offer is at a company called HD supply. Which use to be affiliated with Home Depot. But it is no longer affiliated so it is now called HD supply. I received a job in inventory. Sounds a little boring, might be a little boring. But its really the nuts and bolts of what I wanna do with my life. Its gunna help me to understand how an inventory kept, we have twenty-two thousand different items, and hundreds of thousands of each item. The company did nine billion dollars last year just in sales, and there is a team of five of us starting on may thirteenth. That will be in charge of nine billion dollars worth of things, and how do you manage so many items on a computer. Once I think I understand that, I will understand more really life application of what i wanna do. This job is a two year job, and after two years, the company is really google-esque. So you actually get, to choose where you wanna go within the company after two years. So once you've done your time like every other graduating college student, you get to choose anywhere in the company you wanna work. If you wanna move, if you wanna travel, if you wanna do whatever. If you wanna do part of logistics, HR, marketing, management, whatever you wanna do, you choose. So I'll really be able to choose my route after I have a better understanding of what this whole company is doing.

Me: Thats exciting so that sounds like you are in a really good place now where, moving back from community college you, were struggling a little bit just to get jobs and be on your own. So now it sounds like you are guaranteed a job for two years then it sounds like you get to transfer. How are you feeling within this recession, you hear of everyone losing their jobs and you are gaining one, a really good one actually.

Devyn: So I actually have pretty strong feelings about the recession. Having been affected by it through my early college life, and struggling and my parents not making as much money, and my mom not being able to find a job. I can really feel for people affected by the recession. I can understand, being a college student it is hard, because in a sense college is hard, because college in a sense is an extra. Its not something everybody has to do, so when you want to do college so bad but your family just cant really afford it, you really have to set the bar and just and not, not stop. I know a lot of college students are just like, "oh I'm gunna take a break my family really cant afford it." Well, make it work. And I did. Yes its not going to be easy, I have over 100,000 dollars in loans. I'm graduating with a mortgage, and I don't have anything to show for it really. I dont have a home, I am going to move back home after college. It's not going to be fun, but my hope is that it will be worth it down the road. And now a struggle that I really talked about not only with my family but friends and professors is we're a generation that came from parents that worked their butts off, day in and day out. And I think everybody in our generation can look at their parents and just be proud to have their parents as their parents. Most of them don't have college degrees and even if they do, they started from the bottom, they worked their way up, put their kids through middle school, high school, college. So many parents are paying for everybody's- their children's college. And, if you're one of the lucky few, its sometimes a blessing in disguise, because for me, working through college, I have a resume. So many college students these days are graduating without a resume. They haven't had jobs, they don't really know what an 8-hr shift means. An 8-hr shift is not from 9-5, its 9-6, because you have an hour lunch break. And so many college students wouldn't even understand what that meant. And, so its definitely, there is a recession and I definitely, think that part of it is obviously the economy, its terrible, the governments decisions and stuff like that. But another side is, that college

students these days don't know how to work. They don't know how to interview, they don't know how to write a resume, let alone do they have anything to put on it. And we are definitely a lazy generation. It took me six months to get this job. It took persistence, it took me, calling the company, emailing the company. Every time they came to my campus, I just went and said Hi. It wasn't, they knew me. I didn't give them an option, not to hire me. I mean, I wanted this job, I knew the company, and so many other college students don't know how to do that, they don't know how to be persistent, because our parents have worked so hard, to give us this amazing life. But in return, they have made us or allowed us to be lazy. They're like "oh don't work through college, your grades will drop." Well, if I don't work through college, at least a part time job, when I graduate, who's gonna hire me? I'm gonna go from never having a job to a salary position. The two don't add up. Some kids get lucky. And so I think college students graduating right now and the statistics out, is that 50% of college students are unemployed or underemployed. Meaning we have tons of college graduates, Harvard, Yale, USD, Stanford, everywhere, working at restaurants. And it's because they never worked at a restaurant before. So they're starting, where you can technically start in high school. And so, as much as our parents are trying to help us, they are hindering us in a sense. So I think that also is a big factor in this recession. Is that, as hard as it is to get a job, if you start at the right time, if you start at the right age, and you don't have this expectation of "oh! I'm gonna graduate college never worked a job. Oh wait someone's gonna pay me six figures. That is not real life, that's not gonna happen. The average graduating, for people who are employed for college students, is thirty thousand. And that is just in California, God forbid anywhere else in the country. I mean, you're done for. That's close to poverty level. You have to move in with your parents. You know you are not gonna have this mansion two years after you graduate. So I think that college students also need to be very

realistic with their expectations and stop having a sense of entitlement. Just because you have degree doesn't mean that, everybody wants you. So, I think it takes a lot of hard work, and the recession just doesn't help. But, anyone can do it.

Me: you sound really really hopeful that with the right amount of hard work, that success can come then.

Devyn: I um, I do. I am a strong believer in a little bit of hard work and getting down and dirty. I've had jobs that I am not proud of. I mean I've mowed peoples lawns, Im a girl, Ive raked leaves, Ive done it all. But it's really taught me some good morals and standards of life that I will be able to carry with me forever. That life isn't all, rainbows. And, hard work is hard. Its not easy. You know when you go in for an interview, you don't just say thank you and walk away. You say thank you, you then go home, and you write them a thank you email for the opportunity to interview with them. You ask them when they are calling you back, if they don't call you back by that day, you have to call them. And its just like the understanding that things in life wont come easy. And I don't have an amazing resume. My jobs include retail, restaurants, babysitting, stuff like that. Very normal, average college student. I don't have the best GPA, its above a 3.0 but its not a 4.0. I wasn't apart of the accounting society, or the business society or anything like that. Ive done a few, minimal amount of community service, down in Mexico. So for people to say that only people getting good jobs is those who are outstanding is, thats not true. It's people who can be average or below average. But have this work ethic that just shows. Because people have to remember that the people who are hiring us are, are the people who got their through hard work. The people we are working for, (in comparison we) are probably way more educated than them. My dad for example never graduated high school, his assistant went to brown. So we have to remember who we are getting hired by. And once we understand where they came from,

we can kind of switch our mentality. And I think it is completely possible for everybody to get a job after college with the right ethical standards. As soon as our generation kind of head fronts that, I think the recession will start to work itself out in our favor- in the college students favor. You know for our parents, the recession is going to continue for a little bit longer, I think for us college students, the opportunities are there and you just need to take advantage of them. And not be too proud. I think you need to take whatever is available. So if your career services center has jobs, maybe not in the city you wanna work in, take it. Work there for two years, you get your work experience then transfer to to company that is in your hometown. Take the opportunities that are there and don't feel entitled that if this company is not gunna hire you, for your location in San Diego, well then I'm not gunna take it. No, take their opportunity in Wisconsin, Michigan, or wherever it is. Take those opportunities and let go of some of those so called things you want in life. Cause those things will come with the experience.

Me: Now you, again are at a good point in your life where you are on this really good road to success. You are kind of a success story. Because you have worked, you are going to a really good university, you have a job. A job that is definitely giving you an opportunity to grow.

What, or who would you dedicate your success to. I know you are saying hard work, anyone in particular or just your hard work?

Devyn: um I would say my dad. My dad made it with, my dad grew up in a really wealthy family but was given nothing. He wasn't given a dang thing. And my parents relayed that down to me. I was never spoon fed I got a job at 14 years old. And as mad as I was that at 14 I didn't get to spend time with my friends because I was working. I was so mad, I was just like how could my parents do this to me. My dad, was really able to instill. A type of ethical standard to not only hard work but work proudly. work with a smile on your face. Theres gunna be days that you

don't wanna go to work. There's gonna be days where it's just gonna drag and drag. But he said just stand tall. Keep pushing through and just don't let people, if you go into work with people with a bad attitude, your day is going to be bad. You carry an attitude with you, and it relates to everyone you are working with. If you go into work halfway through the day when there are people who have been there six hours and you are smiling and you are in a good mood, those people who are miserable are going to put a smile on their face and your day is going to turn out a lot better. And understanding that I just need to keep going even days when I don't want to or I'm not feeling well. And I got too much to do, I got a test to study for, you know my least sympathetic moment is when people say I'm not going to work because I have to study for a test. Manage your time better, it's definitely something learned, it's not written down in a book, but once you understand some of those aspects, it definitely makes your life significantly easier. And my dad just really instilled those ideals in me. Even when we did have the extras, it wasn't "oh let's go shopping." It, what can we do to improve our family. What can we do to give something to our dogs or our neighbors or grandma and grandpa or whatever. It was never, the one minute we had an extra, it didn't go straight just to us. It was definitely shared, so I definitely have that mentality now, when I have extras, you know, give back. Give back to your community, your family, your friends, whoever needs it most. And that'll, it'll pay off in the end.

Me: So from here, the question always is, what more do you want in life? Ultimately you want to see yourself in a certain position but for yourself, your personal goals. Do you want to travel? Do you want to buy a house? Do you want to, I mean what ultimately is the goal?

Devyn: I have big goals. Probably unrealistic but they will be achieved at some point. I would like to own a home before thirty. I would like to have my student loans paid off, before thirty. So at thirty I would like to be debt free and own a home. And after that I would like to obviously

focus on a family. I would love to have three or four children, I would love to be married. Being in a consulting firm or owning my own consulting firm, that is the opportunity to travel. I would love to raise my children just as I was raised. Even if I do have the money which Im sure, I'll have a lot more money than my parents ever had. I don't want my kids to think where their next meal is going to come from like I did, but I would like them to understand what a dollar is actually worth. I wont be giving them the extras, even if we live in this beautiful nice house. They are going to go shop for their clothes at ross, they are not going to get a BMW for their sixteenth birthday. Definitely not a new one, maybe a used one. I just want them to understand, what life is really about, and its not about the money. And as much as I would like to achieve a certain financial status, that financial status is not so I can walk around and flaunt it. That financial status is so that i can put my kids through a good education, I can help them through college. SO they don't struggle, as much as I do. But trust me, they will work through high school and college. Not nearly as much as I did, because it became really hard, and emotionally and physically draining. But they will work absolutely. And I would love to travel the world and show my kids, I don't necessarily go to paris and see the Eiffel tower but I would love to go to an orphanage with my children in Rwanda. I would love to go to South America and help the children, the families in Argentina. I would just love to go and show my children a different side of life that isn't the tropical islands of Fiji. I would love to travel everywhere though, give my children opportunities I did have, and opportunities I didn't have.