

Clayton State University Archives

Student Oral History Project #003 Transcript

Transcription of the "Interview with Alex Lundy" was conducted on 3rd day of May, 2019 at 12:00 pm. Oral history subject Alex Lundy, under graduate student, was interviewed upon her Spring 2019 graduation ceremony by his University Archivist Feechi Hall. Introduction statement giving general information about the recording session appears at the start of the audio recording. The interview recording took place in the CSU Archives Department's Reading Room located on the second floor of the Library Building. Pictures of this interview session are contained within this collection's materials of the Oral History Project.

Feechi: Well good morning Alex. Thank you for participating in the CSU Archives Oral History Project. It is such a pleasure to have you here today. And just get comfortable and we can start this interview whenever you are ready.

Alex: O.K.

Feechi: Alrighty. Well my first question is when and where were you born? And did you grow-up in the same place?

Alex: So I was born in Columbus, Georgia but I didn't grow-up here. My parents are ... they were in the military so we ... I grew up moving every two years or so. So I moved to like California, Virginia, back to Georgia, Virginia places like that.

Feechi: And umm, who were, I mean who are you parents?

Alex: My mother's name is **Tashawn** Lundy and my dad's name is Jacque Lundy.

Feechi: Ok. Ok. And what do they do for a living? Are they in the military as a career or did they...

Alex: Both of my parents are now retired military. So they kind of just do... I'm not sure how to explain it. Ummm odd jobs now. My dad's an IT professional but he does contracting security stuff. So stuff like that.

Feechi: Ok. Ok. Um did your parents or family ever encourage you to go into the military and follow their footsteps?

Alex: They didn't encourage me but I ... I wanted to follow in footsteps when I was younger but was unable to due to health issues.

Feechi: Oh. Okay. Um do you have any siblings? And if so, what are their names?

Alex: My sister, I have an older sister name Stephanie.

Feechi: Where did you go to high school?

Alex: I went to high school at the Lilburn, Georgia Shepherd's Ridge Academy. It was a private school.

Feechi: And, what was it like in high school for you?

Alex: [Brief pause]... Ummm, [Another Brief Pause]....It's a difficult question for me to answer Umm...

Feechi: No, take your time.

Alex: High school was... relatively easily for me in terms of school work. Umm constantly busy be... Managing both sports and studying at the same time.

Feechi: Okay and so that goes into my next question. Uh did you participate in any activities growing up and yes. Ummm and..... did you enjoy participating in athletics? And what sports did you do?

Alex: So I did gymnastics. I did it for about 20. I have a love, hate relationship with gymnastics. I don't want to go into too much detail with it. I miss it, but it.... it umm...I, I got injured about 8 times.

Feechi: Oh my gosh!

Alex: So, it um, I had a hard time um when I was in high school and all until my sophomore year in college I was kind of in and out of the hospital because of the sport.

Feechi: Oh, my goodness. I have a good friend whose half-sister was a cheerleader in high school and coming out of high school into college she got a career ending injury as well so yeah I've completely understand how that is [laughter while saying this].

Alex: Yes [saying yes agreeing in the background]

Feechi: Ok so now we're going to move into more of the questioning regarding your academic experience.

Alex: Ok.

Feechi: Umm as a perspective student, what made you apply to Clayton State University?

Alex: So the reason I came to Clayton State was because I had a sister who went here and that's the only reason I was familiar with it.

Feechi: Ummm!

Alex: I actually had a scholarship to go to Michigan umm and could not do that due to injuries so that's how I ended up at Clayton State.

Feechi: Ok. Ok. Were there any other motivations regarding coming here?

Alex: No.

Feechi: Ok. [Chuckles]. Was your family supportive in that decision of you coming here?

Alex: Yes, cause it was really just for deferment of my...of going to Michigan but that didn't really workout either so.

Feechi: When was your first semester attending Clayton State University and how long have you attended the institution?

Alex: [Laughter] So I, the first semester was fall 2013 and I have been here for six years

Feechi: [Breathes in] And how did you feel on your first day of class or during your first semester at CSU?

Alex: [Breathes heavily as to think about the question] I believe that I was really nervous all the time. Constantly comparing myself to other people and listening to other people and how they use to kind of brag about themselves in a way. I kind of came here just very shy and nervous all the time and comparing myself to other people.

Feechi: Ok. Ok. Um do you feel that your high school experience has prepared you for academic life here at Clayton State?

Alex: I believe it did, in terms of like Mathematics and English um courses that I took here so I was well prepared coming into college.

Feechi: Ok that's good. Did you live on or off campus?

Alex: Lived off campus. Oh I'm sorry didn't mean to interrupt.

Feechi: Oh no, no, no that's ok, that's ok!! Would you have liked to live on campus?

Alex: I think I would've liked that college experience ummm [brief pause] I, I think I would've wanted that college experience to participate on the events and you know stuff like that, student life.

Feechi: Right. Right. And did you feel like, I guess not living on campus and missing out on the campus living aspect of it, just from what you know as a student here do you think that there's much of a I guess so to speak campus life? Since such a large portion of our students are commuter versus ... of you know the majority or at least half of our students actually living on campus. Because I know we only have one residence hall and then like apartments that are also close to the university. So, I mean I don't know if you visited other colleges maybe and seeing how like when its, I guess truly a traditional college where most of the student body kind of lives on campus versus not. Did it still feel like you were missing out on a lot of activities going on that maybe you couldn't ...

Alex: I think I did feel like I missed out, I missed out on the independence and missed out on joining clubs and sports stuff like that.

Feechi: Oh Ok. Ok. What was your um program major?

Alex: It was or it is Information Technology, it didn't start out that way but that's what I'm graduating with.

Feechi: Ok. So what did it start out as, if you don't mind me asking?

Alex: It was initially Computer Science I stayed in for about [brief pause] a year in a half until I switched my major I believe or it might be two years though.

Feechi: Ok. Ok. Do you have a favorite course or class that you have taken and if so why?

Alex: I believe my favorite course was like an art elective it was oil painting. It was actually just a really challenging course. And I was able to grow as an artist so that was why it was my favorite course.

Feechi: Ok. Ok. So are you very, are you a very artistic person or where you're in tune with that particular side of yourself?

Alex: I would say so.

Feechi: Ok and have you ever thought about um I guess professional opportunities in that area or are you strictly interested professionally within the IT field?

Alex: I have thought about um being a professional artist. I plan on going to, attend school for art and then moving into more artistic careers after that.

Feechi: Very interesting. Which degree will you earn upon graduation?

Alex: So, I'll earn a bachelor's in Science and Information Technology.

Feechi: What was the happiest moment you've had attending Clayton State University?

Alex: [Brief pause] I want to say my happiest moment was just yesterday. Passing a course I really, really had to dedicate myself to and really putting a lot of effort and I believe it was just yesterday passing a really difficult course.

Feechi: Yeah that has to feel good. I've been there [laughter] I think we all have been there a time or few. Um, what has been the most challenging experience you have had as a college student here at CSU?

Alex: [Deep breath] I believe having to fail a course in school and knowing that my failure was because I didn't try all that hard the first time than having to take it all over again was a challenging eye-opening experience.

Feechi: That was a very wise statement for someone of your age I have to say. Because sometimes people don't have that forethought to see that or recognize that and that's a mature way to look at that, very much so. Ok. Well who is your most influential person you've interacted with during your time here as a student?

Alex: I want to say it is [Brief pause] Dr. Jeff Byers, and he is a CIMS professor. I think why I choose him just because of his belief in his students and how he holds all of his students up to a higher standard, regardless of what we think we can do. So that's why.

Feechi: Ok. Seems like a great person [laughter]. What are the most important lessons that life as a Clayton State student has taught you?

Alex: Do you mind rephrasing the question?

Feechi: Ok. Have you learned any important, I guess skills or tools through your experience as a student here at Clayton State?

Alex: [Silently asking herself the question]

Feechi: Or even maybe something that you've have grown to learn about yourself maybe through going to school here?

Alex: I think maybe I had to actually learn how to work hard for once. And things didn't come easy for me at all. And I really had to put effort into leaning pretty much everything during college. I learned how, I guess my work ethic did improve and I had to learn how to buckle down and not actually quit something for once.

Feechi: Very interesting. While attending CSU, what accomplishments are you most proud of?

Alex: [Deep breath and then brief pause] I am proud of ... getting my artwork into an art exhibit. That's one thing I'm proud of.

Feechi: Wow, which exhibit was it?

Alex: Arts Clayton. We have a partnership with them but that doesn't mean they'll pick us, but one of my pieces was selected to go into their art exhibit. That's one accomplishment.

Feechi: And what type of piece was it? Or what medium of art?

Alex: It was an oil painting.

Feechi: Oh nice. Ok.

Alex: I guess my second accomplishment or yeah my second accomplishment is obviously earning the degree. I failed four classes in college and had retaken three of them. One of them I just never retook. But coming from that and then taking six years in school and you don't know when you're going to graduate. Then having to take Web Integration course last semester is a difficult course, then taking physics this semester, it's like you don't see that light at the end of the tunnel. That's why I'm proud of the degree.

Feechi: [Laughter] As you should be! And I congratulate you on you know on finishing school. Because I think with those kinds of stumbling blocks most would've just you know ... hey this isn't for me or it's a little bit tough and kind of give up. But it says a lot about you and your character for sticking in there and hanging in there and getting the job done and meeting that goal that you set for yourself. So, congratulations.

Alex: Thank You

Feechi: [Laughter] Has the institution changed during your attendance time here if so, how in your opinion?

Alex: Ummm...within my own department I guess we have had a lot of faculty members come and go. That's one change. It seems like that shouldn't be happening because I've only been here for six years and it seems like we have had a lot of people come and go in that program. I've seen the school expand which is really cool and I've seen more ... I guess a more diverse population of students coming from when I first started so that's nice to see.

Feechi: Ok. What is your earliest memory about Clayton State?

Alex: [Brief Pause] Ummm... I guess my earliest and kind of favorite memory is orientation, student orientation and meeting some people that I actually am friends with now for the first time. So that's my earliest memory.

Feechi: That's really cool. Did you attend orientation by yourself or was it more of a family integrated type of orientation?

Alex: Well my mother was there but it was that student orientation so we kind of separated with our group.

Feechi: [Laughter] Alright. Ummm and you kind of touched upon this before but um asking if you were a member of a club or an organization and you said that you weren't. So, since you didn't, I guess heavily an extracurricular activity here are there any clubs or um organizations that now looking back you wish you would've become a part of, or maybe found out more information about?

Alex: Well, I wrote on my paper ... I guess I need to change my answer a little bit [referring to the interview subject Bio form] I attended a few meetings for the WiiSTEM which stands for Women Interested in Science Technology Engineering and Math but I wasn't like an active member of it. I wish I would have though because of their networking and some of the events they would always go to, but I chose not to so that's one thing that I wish I would've done. Next thing I wish I would've done more of was cheerleading. I did try out for the team but didn't stay for specific reasons I don't have to...

Feechi: Right I understand, right exactly.

Alex: Yeah, I wish I had of done a little bit more.

Feechi: Ok. Alright. Would you encourage incoming or current students at Clayton State to become involved in student activities and clubs now?

Alex: I would. Thinking back... school is very important, it's the most important, but um I wish I would've experienced more now that it's all over. Now that I think about it. I really didn't do anything. I would encourage students to at least go to the networking events, going to the fairs that we always have in the middle of the hall [referring to area in between the University Center and the Library building known as Main Street] which is just going out and seeing more.

Feechi: Ok. What are you looking forward to the most once you graduate from CSU?

Alex: I'm looking forward to spending more time I guess on honing my craft of being an artist. I've been waiting since basically, I started school to really start doing that and like now, I can focus on drawing more and painting more.

Feechi: So, will you think about putting more of your work into art exhibitions like submitting them for different art exhibitions and maybe going up for art scholarships and different things like that?

Alex: I would like to. I would obviously have to get training first, but I would like to start submitting my work to like Arts Clayton and eventually an art museum.

Feechi: Cool. Do you think that your academic experience here at CSU has helped... has help to prepare you for your chosen career path? If so, explain. If not, explain as well.

Alex: Well I would say yes and no for that question. So, my degree was IT and it really ... it helps me get into the gaming industry and animation industry just because it's like oh you have a tech background so it's opened up a lot of doors for me. But I don't have that artistic training, nor do I have that principle or like the theory, the practice that goes into animation-gaming. I don't have that training yet so it's like yes and no. It opens up doors for me, but it didn't... I still have a lot to learn.

Feechi: Ok. Just by chance. Do you happen to have a mentor within the field or industry that either you know directly or maybe you're even modeling yourself or I would even say career path whether after?

Alex: I don't have a mentor just yet. I recently did meet someone that's in the animation industry for many years but it's too soon to call that person a mentor.

Feechi: Well that's a start [Laughter]. What will you miss most about Clayton State now that you are upon graduation?

Alex: Obviously it's going to be the nature. I really like this campus it's a really pretty campus. I enjoy walking around. Coming after class or before an exam just walking around campus. That's what I'm going to miss the most.

Feechi: Many of the employees here also feel that way too. It's a good stress reliever. Ok. What do you want the future students to know about attending Clayton State?

Alex: [Sighs] I want them to know to take advantage the opportunities that are there like the clubs, like the... what's the other building? Career Services. I would encourage students to take advantage of all of the networking opportunities that are on campus. I would encourage them to link up with the teachers for research projects. And I would encourage them to, I guess if they are a new incoming student, if they're a freshman to focus on their own dreams and goals and don't listen to other people. This college could be very competitive, and people aren't always kind in college. So, I would encourage them to really be focused on what it is they want to do. And tune out anything that's negative and does get them to where they want to go.

Feechi: Ok. Well said. Is there anything you want to talk about that we haven't discussed yet?

Alex: Nope. That's it.

Feechi: And is there anything that maybe you want to talk about that I haven't touched on just yet?

Alex: No.

Feechi: Well um. Also, too I just personally wanted to thank you. Alex has been so wonderful to offer her services through an internship for us here at the Archives during the Spring 2019 semester. She has done such an awesome job here. I wish she could stay with me forever [laughter]. But I know she has her own goals and aspirations like we all should have. But it's just really a testament to your character the way that you've always conducted yourself in a very professional manner. Always very welcoming, always very transparent, very good with communication and so as a supervisor of an intern I would just say just thank you for being who you are.

Alex: Thank you.

Feechi: Well I guess at this time this will wrap up our little conversation that we had today. I just want to thank you again so much for participating and being our first official student interviewee. And once again congratulations on graduation!

Alex: Thank you!

Feechi: You're Welcome [Laughter].