

EXTRA CREDIT

A SUMMER & WINTER SESSIONS PODCAST

Episode 13 Transcript

00:00:02 Introduction

Welcome to Extra Credit hosted by the Rutgers University Office of Summer and Winter Sessions. Listen to hear from students as they share their experiences at Rutgers and some tips on how to navigate a condensed semester. Also gain the perspective of professors and learn more about the courses they teach.

00:00:18 Rosie

Jasmine, thank you for joining us today. If you don't mind introducing yourself to our listeners and just telling us a little about you.

00:00:25 Jasmine Bagner

Sure, hi, my name is Jasmine Bagner. I am a nontraditional senior, majoring in communications and minoring in sociology.

00:00:35 Jasmine Bagner

And I am currently on track to graduate in this coming May 2021.

00:00:41 Rosie

OK cool, so uhm since you mentioned you're a nontraditional senior, can you just tell us a little bit about your journey to Rutgers and how you got to where you are now?

00:00:49 Jasmine Bagner

Yeah, sure, so I actually am 28 years old. I graduated in 2010 from East Brunswick High School and from there, I went on to Rider University. Um, just for general, you know, education. I didn't really know what direction I wanted to take and fast forward to attending Raritan Valley Community College where I received my associate's degree.

00:01:18 Jasmine Bagner

And then I transferred to Rutgers last spring. And- and now I'm here.

00:01:26 Rosie

Nice, well we're happy to have you. I also attended Rutgers, so it's a good school and it's a lot of fun, uhm.

00:01:35 Rosie

So, since you ended up returning to school, did you have a job in the meantime? That kind of helped you push you in the direction of what you wanted to major in? Or how did you decide what you would like to major in?

00:01:51 Jasmine Bagner

Yes, so I decided to major in communications. Because I love the endless possibilities that it gives to me. Uhm, with communications, every organization company needs a communications person, whether as public relations, media, marketing, anything like that. There's a communications person that's needed.

00:02:12 Jasmine Bagner

So, with my background in healthcare and in education, and I'm a substitute teacher, you know there's a lot of communication skills that I had to acquire doing those positions, so it actually just came natural to me to select the communications major, just to handle those things as well, uhm, the field that I want to pursue is going into non-profits.

00:02:38 Jasmine Bagner

So, learning all of these interpersonal, extra-personal communication skills, marketing, organizational communications, just to name a few classes that I've taken here at Rutgers. It definitely hones in on the skills that I would need to go further in my career. So that's just a little bit as to why I chose the communications major.

00:02:54 Rosie

Sure, yeah, you mentioned the medical field. Can you expand a little bit on like what you did for that?

00:03:00 Jasmine Bagner

Sure, so I went to Anthem Institute for medical assisting, and between the gap I went to Rider and Raritan.

00:03:10 Jasmine Bagner

So, I went for medical assistant. I worked in doctors' offices as administrative medical assistants, basically doing the front end of the office.

00:03:21 Jasmine Bagner

I also did the back end, assisting the doctor and as well as direct bedside care at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital where I assisted nurses, drew blood, did wound care, etc.

00:03:36 Rosie

So, for the nonprofit industry that you want to go into, is that more so in the medical field that you're looking or is there something- another type of nonprofit?

00:03:47 Jasmine Bagner

So in regards to the nonprofit field- so I have thought about actually continuing on within healthcare.

00:03:56 Jasmine Bagner

An aspect of, um, more so the social health care. So basically, what I'm looking to do is to work within the community to end homelessness and food insecurity. So, working in that aspect with organizations that I've looked into, for example, Feeding America or Americorps, and those aspects I've looked in, you know social service wise, you know helping the people with their body, mentally as well, so just a whole holistic thing that I'm looking to do.

00:04:33 Jasmine Bagner

Um, however you know, with my background in healthcare, it's definitely a passion that can continue on with that.

00:04:41 Rosie

Wow, that sounds like a really great cause to pursue. And do you do any volunteer work with any of these organizations like so far or?

00:04:51 Jasmine Bagner

Not specifically with these organizations. However, in the past, I have done at Rider University. It's called Midnight Run, where we went into New York City at midnight and we gave out sandwiches and personal hygiene kits that we made at the university, and we went there to the city and gave them out to the homeless.

00:05:15 Jasmine Bagner

As well as, I've done, since I was a kid actually, an organization called Tiny Touch of Heaven, which helps the local community by also creating um, personal hygiene kits and making homemade food and just going out in our own time and giving to the community. And more recently I'm a member of the Plainfield Angels, which is the same concept, but we do feedings and on a larger scale more so during the holidays like Thanksgiving and Christmas

00:05:50 Jasmine Bagner

We're going to one of the local homes in Plainfield, NJ, and we're setting up a big holiday dinner and to give these individuals, you know, just the feeling of that they're getting love from the community, that holiday spirit, and of course, a great homemade meal. So, I'm always looking for other things to do on my own time. It doesn't have to be connected to organization.

00:06:13 Jasmine Bagner

You know, I'll just go out, you know, to the streets and do something if that's what I'm led to do in my heart.

00:06:21 Rosie

I think that's really great. It sounds like some, some good eye-opening experiences too, I'm sure.

00:06:28 Jasmine Bagner

Oh, definitely I could- You know, I've gotten a ton of experience, you know, the one thing is it's definitely humbling, you know, because sometimes we often take for granted the things that we have.

00:06:42 Jasmine Bagner

You know, and we have so much and you know we take it for granted, but going out and helping those that may not have an access, you know it humbles you and it just gives you a sense of ownership to the community, like you know that you're a part of this community. It's not- just, there's others in this, and there's me, but it's, we're a we, you know. So it's definitely a humbling experience. And I, I love giving back to the community.

00:07:12 Rosie

Yeah, was there anything that really sparked your passion for volunteering? And this type of work?

00:07:18 Jasmine Bagner

Uhm, so it's more so for me, it's in regards to my upbringing and my religious background that sparked it. Uhm.

00:07:29 Jasmine Bagner

For me, it's always been instilled to me to help community and to give to others. So that's really where it started with my upbringing and my religion. However, now it's not just about you know religion or just upbringing now that I'm older.

00:07:49 Jasmine Bagner

It's just about myself and what I take away from it and what I give back. And that's ultimately why I want to go into the nonprofit, social services aspect to continue what my passion is and to make it a career as well.

00:08:05 Rosie

It's really great and I think-

00:08:07 Jasmine Bagner

Thank you.

00:08:08 Rosie

Obviously having a passion behind what you want to do makes it all the more worthwhile.

00:08:12 Jasmine Bagner

There's no doubt.

00:08:13 Rosie

Uhm, I know- kind of your Rutgers journey is a little short lived. But have you been able to do- and especially with being virtual for this year- have you been able to do anything at Rutgers or join any clubs?

00:08:26 Jasmine Bagner

Uhm, so I definitely have, um, still stayed active, or attempted to stay active, by doing different networking events through the Career Services Department as well as of course through the Communications school.

00:08:41 Jasmine Bagner

I've done a lot of different networking events as well as last semester I was inducted to Phi um, Theta Kappa, which is the- I'm sorry, Lambda Pi Aita, that's the other honor society at Raritan. I was a part of, but Lambda Pi Aita is the National Communications Honor Society. So, I was inducted here at Rutgers University last semester.

00:09:11 Jasmine Bagner

And I just continue to go on Handshake and you know on the Rutgers website to see what events I can always get into for the week.

00:09:20 Jasmine Bagner

You know, especially being virtual, it's great to have that online aspect where you can still communicate with others.

00:09:29 Rosie

Nice! And just to switch gears a little bit, I know you took a summer course. Do you mind telling us what course you took and a little bit about it?

00:09:36 Jasmine Bagner

Sure, so I actually completed four online courses this past summer and I completed Public Speaking, Race Relations, African American Literature, and um, Gender Relations. So, all of those classes were fully online and like I said, I did a full course load online because I wanted to be productive.

00:10:05 Jasmine Bagner

You know, especially with everything that's going on within the world, and everything coming to a pause. I still wanted to be productive and feel as though I was doing my due diligence to myself and my education. Uhm so yeah, I did those four classes and I loved them and that I was productive over the summer.

00:10:27 Rosie

Yeah, definitely four classes, especially summer courses are so condensed so props to you, that's a- it's a big thing to take.

00:10:33 Jasmine Bagner

Yes!

00:10:37 Rosie

Do you work also while you're in school?

00:10:39 Jasmine Bagner

Yes, so prior to COVID starting I was doing more stuff than substitute teaching. But once that began, I just went full throttle into the school. I'm very focused on academics and, you know, as we discussed accelerating my process of graduating sooner. So right now, I'm just fully committed to school, um, and you know, I was looking for a career immediately after graduation, if not, before graduation.

00:11:12 Rosie

Yeah, definitely.

00:11:15 Rosie

It's been a- it's been a rough wild year, but uhm, you sound very, very driven and determined so I don't- I don't doubt your coming success.

00:11:24 Jasmine Bagner

Even though it's been very short, my time at Rutgers has been very productive. It's challenged me academically, socially, you know. It's opened so many networking opportunities and you know I really have enjoyed my time here at Rutgers and just being able to demonstrate what it is to be a Scarlet Knight and giving back to the community as well as just excelling scholarly so.

00:11:55 Jasmine Bagner

Um, I will say that I love Rutgers and with summer classes, if there's ever a thought to take them or not, just take them to get those classes out of the way. You'll be so thankful once you see that "Oh wow, you know, I'll be done sooner than I thought."

00:12:15 Rosie

Yeah. I like how you touched on the social aspect and you did focus a little on networking. Can you just talk more about how virtual schooling has affected, either keeping in touch with classmates or getting to know them and your professors as well?

00:12:30 Jasmine Bagner

Uhm, so being in an online format now of course you're missing that face-to-face experience, you know. However, being online, you know, if everyone is educated on the technologies, or if you're not, you know everything is a learning curve.

00:12:50 Jasmine Bagner

Um, technology has made it easier. You know, as we're doing here on a virtual platform, you know. It's easy to see you on camera and you know, hear you on audio, so we may miss being out in the world. And you know, academic setting or whatever setting, but with technology, the only thing we're really missing is reaching out a hand and possibly touching, you know, touching each other, shaking hands, but other than that, we're still getting the same, you know, feel of being in person.

00:13:20 Jasmine Bagner

I don't really feel that my education has suffered being online. You know, as I stated, it's a learning curve. So uhm, and the pros are, to be honest, that uhm, you keep going, no matter what's going on. You always have access online uh, to your- to your academics and I guess one con is we don't get snow days, you know, anymore being online. What's a snow day online, right?

00:13:51 Jasmine Bagner

Uh, but other than that you know I just love the ease of accessibility online.

00:14:00 Rosie

The lack of snow days is a little upsetting, but there definitely are some benefits, especially without having to go to class in-person like spending time commuting or- just that kind of all in between stuff.

00:14:11 Jasmine Bagner

Definitely. I definitely am on, you know, the Rutgers buses. OK, as we all know, they are historical, you know what I mean. And you love them. You may hate them sometimes, but it is what it is.

00:14:26 Jasmine Bagner

So being online, you know, we're not cramming in on the Rutgers buses, so you're not spending all that time, getting across campus and everything. However, the Rutgers buses make Rutgers what it is as well. It's a part of, you know, learning what it is to be a Scarlet Knight.

00:14:44 Jasmine Bagner

If you never took a bus, you know, you're not really getting the real feeling. The same thing if you never got a fat sandwich, you know, so.

00:14:54 Rosie

The full Rutgers experience.

00:14:57 Jasmine Bagner

Exactly, but you know, even though we're online for those that are not getting the full experience you'll get there whenever you get there, you know while you're still in school or once you graduate, Rutgers is always going to be here. Fat sandwiches are not going anywhere, you know, and the buses will continue to run, so you'll, you'll get to experience it one way or the other.

00:15:21 Rosie

As one kind of wrap up question, I'd like to ask if you have a favorite experience or one of your biggest takeaways from your time at Rutgers?

00:15:32 Jasmine Bagner

Sure, uh, my biggest takeaway with my time here at Rutgers is um,

00:15:42 Jasmine Bagner

They're going to challenge you in every aspect, being at Rutgers. However, uhm, it builds your character. Uhm, it pushes you to be a better person. It pushes you to have an extreme sense of determination and, and in the end, it makes you a better scholar. It makes you a better person because we're so close to the community and we're seeing everything you know the-

00:16:12 Jasmine Bagner

Being a Scarlet Knight, to me, has been something that I always wanted to do and I'm happy that I finally made it here Rutgers, um. So, I would just say that it's full of opportunities being here at Rutgers and you know, you gotta take it head on. Don't be scared and be a true Rutgers Knight.

00:16:36 Rosie

I love that well, Jasmine, thank you so much for joining us and good luck with your final semester at Rutgers.

00:16:44 Jasmine Bagner

Thank you.

00:16:44 Rosie

I wish you all the best.

00:16:44 Jasmine Bagner

Thank you. You have a great day.

00:16:50 Outro

Thanks for listening and we'll catch you next time on Extra Credit.