

Introduction:

This is life invented. Invent the life you want to lead. Invent the life you want to lead. Be creative, be challenged, be the solution. Go Broncos.

Narrator:

Welcome to the life invented podcast presented by Santa Clara University. From campus life to what it means to learn in the Silicon Valley, we explore how to be a Global Citizen in an era of change. Join us as we explore the intersection of technology, experiential learning, and social justice. We're asking the big questions, how do we use these tools to create a future that we're proud of, and how do we invent the life we want to lead. This is: Life Invented.

j:

On part one of The Bronco Choice, we heard from Uma, Nathan, and Alonzo, two seniors and one freshman on their individual decision stories and experiences in choosing to become Santa Clara University Broncos. Here on part 2, we explore what their lives and experiences are like at SCU. Hey, you know that saying "hindsight is 20/20", well if you or someone you care about are going to be making the significant decision of where to go to college, you'll definitely want to stick around and hear their great advice on choosing the right campus that will help you invent the life you want to lead. Let's go!

Alright good people, so in part one you all shared your decision story that got you to this campus, so let's chat a bit about your experiences now that you're on it. Alonzo, what's the most significant difference between your room in high school and your room now.

Alonzo:

Definitely having a roommate was something different, especially. I think Santa Clara does a really good job at matching you with the right person you're going to mesh well with. You go through kind of like an EHarmony type of profile that you set up, so they match you really well there, but it's been really good. You get to learn how to live with different people, and you understand that sometimes things don't work out the way that you want them to work out but you just have to roll with the punches and life just goes on, and that's exactly how things are in the real world, like you're not gonna work with the best people, you're not gonna work with everyone that you like but you have to figure out how to get to that common goal. If you ever find yourself in a bad situation, there's always somebody to talk to. That's something that's very rare, I know other larger universities that I talk to my friends who go there, they're like "yeah, I feel so alone and I don't have anywhere to go" where as for me, hearing that, that's a bummer for me, but being here at Santa Clara, there's so many resources on-campus or 3 doors down that you can go to in order to seek out help that you do need. Everything's right here on campus. It's been a change but it's been like a good change. You know, you go through the ups and downs and stuff like that, but everything has been turning out really well.

j:

Now Alonzo is a freshman, so is what he's saying, is that just like first year "honey-moon", does it deteriorate, you know, year two, three, and four? What do you guys say?

Uma Palaniappan:

You know, I think that the residence halls do a really good job at allowing you to meet a lot of different people and you know, I think Nathan could probably speak more to this because I know that he lives with a lot of the people he lived with his first and second years, but I think that it really just allows you to get to know people better, and you know you learn you have similar passions and interests. I remember I actually ended up living on an all-girls floor, and we all had such a blast. I remember I was studying for my final, Beyonce's album dropped that thursday and there was this massive dance party outside and I was like "guys I have to tell you, I'm trying to study right now, but this is so fun". Just being in such close proximity to so many of my friends was definitely something that was a transition. The other thing was having a communal bathroom and shower. Never something that I really experienced, because growing up my bathroom was in my room so I kinda just walked to my room, but what they don't tell you is that all the residence halls have sinks which may not seem like a big deal, but it is, because you can make oatmeal in the morning, you can brush your teeth, you can wash your face, you know do whatever you have to do in the comfort of your own room.

j:

You're talking about like-- there's a difference between kind of the communal areas and then also on campus there's-- you guys almost have like condos now, right? Where you just have like two or three roommates and internet and kitchens and all that good stuff? Who gets to stay in those things?

Uma Palaniappan:

I actually live in that right now--

j:

Ahh... so you're living the high-life?

Uma Palaniappan:

It's probably the nicest place I'm going to live in for the next ten years. I think that what makes it accessible to students is that the university has all these resources, I think that a lot of schools you know, housing is never guaranteed, and while we don't guarantee here at Santa Clara either, no student has ever had an issue finding housing if they want to, so I think they make it really accessible. They have different styles of living because they know that not all students want to live in the same type of environment. So I think it's really customizable and really adaptable. If there's a group of you that all want to live together, you could do a suite-style, but if it's just four of you, you could do a mini-suite so you each have your own rooms and you have a

jack-and-jill bathroom. I think that my favorite part about living in the residence hall was actually a class that you get to take with your residence hall, it's called your Critical Thinking & Writing and every first year student takes this with people living on their floor and in their building. That class was super fun because I got to know the people as floor-mates but also people as classmates and we'd all write our papers together, peer-edit; so I absolutely loved living in the residence halls. If I could live in them for four years I totally would.

j:

Nathan, what's your typical Saturday like, like what can we find you doing?

Nathan Metzger:

I'd say for me, the typical Saturday is definitely sleep in a little bit and then go get my tater-tots from Benson, because they have the tater tots every Saturday.

j:

I love tater-tots.

Nathan Metzger:

Oh-- who doesn't? I don't trust people who don't like tater-tots (probably don't put that in the podcast). And then, lots of different groups will have things going on, so I know, me personally, that I'm in a capella, so we'll have concerts going on, and then a lot of exploring the area around Santa Clara. So things like: hiking in Big Basin, going up to San Francisco for a day, those are kind of like the more active Saturdays. The more relaxed one's for me are more like, now that I live off-campus, just playing a little bit of corn hole or frisbee in our backyard and trying to get a little bit of homework done so we're ready for the next week.

Alonzo Bilips:

My typical Saturday probably-- actually, pro-tip: do your laundry Saturday morning while everyone else is sleeping. Because all of the washer and dryer machines are open so you don't have to worry about anybody touching your stuff, it's perfect!

j:

There you go, wake up, throw it in, go back to sleep.

Alonzo Bilips:

Exactly, take a 30 minute nap, take an hour nap, it's perfect. So, wake up, and like Nathan, go to Benson, grab some food.

j:

Tater-tots?

Alonzo Bilips:

Tater-tots, two or three orders of tater-tots.

j:

Is the food pretty good here?

Alonzo Bilips:

Oh, food's amazing here. We're catered by Bon Appetite and they cater to Twitter and Facebook and Apple, so we have like top-notch food here. So food is definitely not a problem at the University. And then around noon, I look up to see if any sports teams are having games on-campus. And then sometimes I like to hit up the library just to knock out like one or two subjects before that Sunday night rush to the library. Just to make sure I'm not in there for like 5 hours when I could just be in there for like an hour and a half or two. And then Saturday night, a lot of the off-campus housing, they normally have little shindigs and get-togethers. Where the doors are wide open and they just want people to come in, hang out, get to know different people. That's a really time that I got to interact with people that I normally wouldn't get to interact with. The majority of people who live off campus are Juniors and Seniors. That's a really great way to network and get to know different people that you wouldn't really get to interact with on a daily basis.

j:

Now that you guys are all here and living it up on the Santa Clara campus, as students, your valuable hindsight can now become our listeners foresight. So Uma, you know there are tens of thousands of students in the process of making a very important decision for their lives, what advice do you have for them?

Uma Palaniappan:

I think that it's a time where you really come into yourself, and I don't want to say "rediscover your identity" but kind of-- it's very formative. And so I think that while your parents might encourage you to check out a place or might push you to go in one direction, ultimately you should come to that decision, and I think that once you make that decision for yourself, it opens the door for so many other opportunities, because I think that once you're to make that decision like, "this is where I'm gonna go, and this is the place that I see that I'm gonna succeed", I think that you're so content and satisfied with that decision. You know, we have a 96% retention rate, and I think that's because that students who decided to come here really felt like they could see themselves here, and while it might have taken some students a day to make that decision or an entire year to come to that conclusion, I think that that's really important, whether you end up here at Santa Clara, or any school for that matter, you want to be at a place where you know you will succeed, where you have the resources, and where you feel like you're gonna be challenged and grow the most as a student, as a person, and as a citizen.

j:

Nathan, now you have four years under your belt as well, and are a graduating senior, what key advice do you have?

Nathan Metzger:

The first thing I'd say is: relax, because, kind of at this point in the college decision making process, you kind of know what your options are, and just know that the most important thing is not necessarily which school you choose, but what you do there, because you can find the school that you think is the perfect one for you, and you could go there and just hit the books for four years and that's it; that's probably not going to be as enriching of an experience as if you go to a school that might be your fourth or fifth choice, but once you're in there you really immerse yourself in the college life there, you get involved in activities that speak to you. And then the second thing is: try and take a step back from the decision. Look maybe four or five years down the road, especially if you're looking for what college you're going to go to, think "how do I want to have grown in those four years?" and then based off that, pick a school that you think is going to really help you grow. So like I said, my passions, even though I'm a mechanical engineering student, I'm really passionate about music and social justice, and I knew that those were things I wanted to pursue and grow in, so Santa Clara ended up being the right school for me. Also know that there's thousands of really good schools across the country and that you can really kind of make your way at each of those schools and really find a good time at all of those, I'm sure.

j:

Alright, last but not least, Alonzo, as a freshman you went through this process most recently and it's probably still pretty fresh in your memory. What say you?

Alonzo Bilips:

I think if you look at every University, it's very easy to get the technical skills, to be able to know how to do derivatives, integrals, to be able to write an essay or whatever. All that stuff you can get that at any university, but I think that when you're making your final decision, you need to look at all the abstract components of that University that are going on so that when you're there you're able to be more open to different ways of life or different ideas that you hadn't really pondered while in high school, and I think that that's what's gonna make you a better, and actually a more holistic person when you leave college, because then you're gonna be able to put yourself in other people's shoes and understand how to attack issues better and more efficiently than you would if you just know "well this is how to do it one way". You're able to be more abstract and versatile when you do walk into the professional world. Santa Clara's not gonna be the place for everyone, but we just urge that you make that decision, and make a more informed decision, not about the 98% retention rate or the 2200 SAT score that you need in order to get in, but the fact that when you're walking out of that university, how are you gonna

be able to take your experiences that you went through and everything that you learned and apply that to making life better for everyone that isn't as privileged as you are.

j:

Well said sir, you almost sound like an upperclassman.

Alonzo Bilips:

Thanks!

j:

Uma, Nathan, Alonzo, thanks so much again for hanging out with us and sharing your energy and insight with us. Good luck with the rest of this year; Uma and Nathan, congrats on your upcoming graduation, and Broncos, go make a positive dent in the world.

Nathan Metzger:

Thank you, go Broncos!

Alonzo

Go Broncos!

Narrator:

You've just listened to the Life Invented podcast presented by Santa Clara University, and there's so much more to explore. Visit us at scu.edu/podcasts, and learn more about Santa Clara's commitment to innovative and inspiring opportunities.