

131. Rebecca Quebedeaux Pike: Athlete to Alumna

Gavin Kelly

Hey, everybody you're listening to beyond 1894 this is the official podcast of Louisiana Tech University. My name is Gavin Kelly from the Office of University Communications, and our guest for this episode is Rebecca Quebedeaux Pike. She is newly the coordinator of marketing and membership with the Louisiana Tech alumni association, but she's also a Tech grad, doubly so, right? So again, first, what? How long have you been

Rebecca Pike

on the job? Two and a half weeks.

Gavin Kelly

So a lot of the guests we have on, I'm always like, you know, I know you've been busy and it's been a long time, and I know you're busy because the job is new, but I also ask a lot of our guests about their job, and we'll get into that, but I know that it's kind of fresh, and that we might not be able to talk about that so much, but talk to us about after graduation, because you graduated just this past May, how you came into this role, and you have a degree that kind of aligns with this role. And then talk about what appealed to you with this job description, and like, why you think you're good fit for this job. I feel like I'm interviewing you, but

Rebecca Pike

yeah, so I was looking for a very stable job after graduation, and I had been looking on LinkedIn, and I really wanted something remote, and I just couldn't find anything. Like the job market is so bad on LinkedIn right now, I was applying, and it was like, rejection after rejection, or just like I was getting ghosted left and right. And I was one day just sitting down, and I was like, let me just see if Tech has anything open, like, I'm in Ruston for another few years, probably. And I was like, I love the University. I'm sure working for, it's great. Let me just see. And I searched careers, and came upon this position, and I was reading the job description, and it was like, preferred undergraduate from Louisiana Tech, preferred MBA from Louisiana Tech. And I was like, wait, I have both of those things, like, let me just apply and see what comes of it. So I applied, and, yeah, I got a call, like, a month later from Dr Tim's, and we just kind of went from there. Yeah,

Gavin Kelly

that's exciting. And you know what you said about the job market? It's very true, and especially for somebody like you, who has an MBA, who kept their grades up, who was very involved, and has a probably pretty stacked resume, to be saying you're getting rejections left and right. It's, it's a problem for everybody. It's kind of crazy.

Rebecca Pike

No, it was so scary because I was like, What am I missing? Or like, Did I not do something? But my mom was just like, you know, rejection is redirection. Like, sure, the right job will accept you and it'll end up falling into place.

Gavin Kelly

I too, when I graduated, I was like, I want to get this job, but I don't know if I will. Yes, it's kind of just it feels strange to get to that point. I remember earlier this year, after I think the text piece, I saw you and I asked, she was like, so what happens after graduation? You're like, well, I'm getting married, and then, yeah, so I'm glad that it worked out, and I am always glad to when, especially a fellow college of business person, is able to get a degree in marketing and then get a marketing job. So it sounds like you like it already, and I hope you do continue to thrive in that role. Let's turn the clock back a little bit and talk about how you got to Louisiana Tech, kind of why you got to Louisiana Tech. So tell us about where you're from, and then those early sort of thought processes about where you were going to go to college.

Rebecca Pike

Okay, so I'm from Baton Rouge, and my dad actually went to tech, and when I started looking at colleges, I was dating my husband back then, and I got in a conversation with him, and I was like, what if we went to the same college like, that would be so crazy and such a high school. And I always thought I would go to LSU. Like, up until my junior year of high school, I was like, I want to go to LSU. I, like, reached out to their coach too, and got a response. And I was like, Oh my gosh. Like, I could run for LSU. And then as I started talking to my parents more, they were like, Well, why don't we just, like, go drive up to tech and see what it's all about. So I reached out to the coach, got a response, ended up getting a scholarship, and it just seemed like a no brainer. And so I kind of followed my husband up here, because he kind of convinced me in the early days of like, well, let's just go, Yeah, to college together. And it was during covid too, so I didn't do a campus tour or anything, like my mom and my then boyfriend and I drove up here on, like, a weekday and just walked around the campus, took some pictures, and I was like, Okay, it's like, kind of a small, quiet town, like it actually seems like a community here, and not just some place where I'd come and be a huge one out of 1000 in a classroom. And so the more I got to looking, the more I was like, I think this is actually really good fit for me. And yeah, then I committed, and. Got a bunch of scholarships, and it ended up working out really well.

Gavin Kelly

Yeah? So I'm guessing too, also, if you grew up in Baton Rouge and then thought about LSU, I'm sure they're like, subliminally and very, like, overtly, kind of, like, trying to bore that into your brain. If you grew up in the Baton Rouge area, it's like,

Rebecca Pike

LSU, robust, yeah, yeah, yeah. It's usually people go to LSU or UL. That's like, the two colleges down there and LSU, so big, a lot of people want to rush and do sororities. I knew I didn't want to rush or do a sorority, and I also just knew, like, I like, more introverted. And so I was like, I feel like a smaller school with smaller classrooms was going to be way better for me, because my high school, like we had 141 in

our graduating class, so our classroom sizes were pretty small, and the thought of like, sitting in an arena with like 500 other students in a class, yeah, like not really having a one on one with the professors, was so scary to me. I was like, There's no way I'm gonna be able to handle that.

Gavin Kelly

That that logic applied to me as well, on a little bit of a smaller scale, because I graduated with, I think, 26 other kids. So I was like, I thought about LSU, I toured and had applied and everything. And then I was like, I just don't know if that's like my style at this point. So I get that. Were you so you know, you talk about running, how early on in your life did you start running and did you enjoy it right away? Was it something that always clicked for you, or

Rebecca Pike

what? Yeah, so I actually started running cross country when I was in fourth grade. It was technically, like, against the school rules for me to for me to race in fourth grade, but a girl dropped out, and so the coach was like, here, just like, run and let's see how you do. But I actually signed up for it because my sister signed up for it, so I was just at all the practices. So I would start practicing with them, and then I was like, this kind of fun, like, way to get my energy out. And then come, like, seventh, eighth grade, I was like, wait, I'm actually kind of good. Like, maybe I should pursue this. And so then ran for a really good program when I was in high school. And then come, like, junior year, I was like, I want to run in college. So then I started seeking it out, but I pretty much always loved it, and now I think I'm kind of addicted to the endorphins that it

Gavin Kelly

gives me. A lot of people would love to love running. Yeah, it's a hit or miss. That's good. What was it so the transition from, like, running in high school to running for a d1 program here at Tech, was that difficult? Or was that something you split into pretty talk about that a little bit.

Rebecca Pike

Yeah, the transition was really rough. Like, the training was different, the coaching style was different. My high school team was really big, and coming here, the team was pretty small when I joined, so that dynamic was a little bit different, too. And I came from being like a front runner in the state, and then I wasn't anymore. So it was very difficult, especially because, you know, when I would have a rough practice in high school, I would get to go home and talk to my parents about it, and then I came up here and I had to call my parents about it. So it's a little bit different and a little bit isolating, to be completely honest. But it got better over the years. It started to get better, but yeah, the transition was pretty rough for me at first. Yeah,

Gavin Kelly

well, you find a rhythm, right? Yes. But also it's a new place, and it's a new thing, and it's very intense. And then on top of that, you gotta worry about classes and grades and all that. Let's talk about the classes part a little bit now that I think that I think about it. So marketing, yes, was it always marketing from the beginning?

Rebecca Pike

No, okay.

Gavin Kelly

Talk about, talk about the thoughts in high school when you were deciding and why you thought your initial thing was good. And then talk about why you switched.

Rebecca Pike

Okay, so up until, like, my junior year of high school, I wanted to be a vet. Okay? That was like, I was dead set on that. And then we dissected pigs in my biology honors class, and I was like, I cannot do this, like it made me feel sick. And then I slowly realized that I was not cut out for the medical field whatsoever.

Gavin Kelly

I bet the initial vet logic was, I love animals, so I want to take in this cutting an animal open.

Rebecca Pike

And so then I was kind of thinking about what I wanted to do, and I like, couldn't figure out what I want to do with my life. I'm still figuring it out. I felt like I was one of those people that had a bunch of passions and a bunch of things that I liked, but I was scared if I pursued it as a job, it would become not fun anymore. So I my dad's an engineer, and so I decided on biomedical engineering because I was good at math and science and pretty strong in all the subjects in high school. And so I was like, it's a tough one. I was like biomedical engineering, yeah, yes. Keep in mind, I don't understand how a motor works, so probably not a good idea looking back. And so I all of my like, initiate or orientation things were CO as started my first quarter and realized I was not cut out for engineering. I was. Crying one night, and I looked at my husband, and I was like, why am I doing this? And he was like, you can switch your major, it's okay. And I was like, no, like, I can't switch my major. Like, I'm a failure if I switch my major. Very common, yes, self talk, yeah. And the more I was talking to people about switching my major, everybody was like, you'd be so good at marketing. And I was like, what is marketing like? What do you mean? Like, advertising? Like, I wasn't really sure, like, what the concept meant, and so I just switched my major to Business Administration. So that was my fall or my winter quarter of my freshman year. And then everybody was like, marketing, marketing, marketing. And I was like, Okay, so, like, without even thinking, I just went and switched my major to marketing, yeah. And kind of went from there, and I still, like, the first the rest of my freshman year and my sophomore year, I still was kind of like, I don't really know what I'm doing or like, if I want to pursue something like this, but I knew it like, would at least open up an avenue for if I wanted to own my own business someday. And then, kind of my, I guess, my junior but it was my senior year, I was like, wait, I actually kind of love the social media aspect, and kind of like creating messages to send out to people. So that's kind of how I landed on marketing. But it was not marketing when I came in. That's

Gavin Kelly

okay. That happens for a lot of people. And I think what you said too about worrying about switching majors, you think like I'm losing I wasted time, or I'm going to switch and hate that too, or nothing, and then like, but like you said, the trick is to kind of just do it yeah, and then worry about it later, because it usually works out the way it's supposed to, yeah. And I know that you and I are probably well suited to

hype up to college of business, but they are good about if you're taking one major, especially the first couple years of classes you're taking are really good at slotting into the other majors. So for you, it was also probably, well, if I switch to marketing and I want to switch to another business major, it'll be easy. So going from somebody who started in engineering, switched to business but was unsure about what business to eventually being somebody who got an MBA in the time it takes people to usually get an undergraduate degree. What was the like thought process there? So when, at what point were you like? I think I should get an MBA, because I have time, because I can, because I want one. Like, what? What were you thinking?

Rebecca Pike

So I I feel like coming into college, I knew I wanted to take 12 hours every quarter, because I was like, why not? Like, if I

Gavin Kelly

have to run and do d1 athletics, but I'll just take 12 hours.

Rebecca Pike

But my high school was really hard, like we had test, quizzes, homework, like I was up till like 11pm every single night doing homework. So the workload coming to college and still taking 12 hours a quarter was less than what I was doing in high school. So it didn't feel like I was doing that much, I didn't feel like I was overworking myself. And so I was like, I'll just take 12 hours every quarter and see where it leads me. And then after my second year, I was like, wait, I'm gonna graduate next year. Yeah. Like, that went by really fast, and I had another year of tops left, and so I got to thinking. I was like, well, like, I might as well go ahead and get my MBA and that way, like that would probably get me a little bit further career wise in whatever I wanted to do. And since Business Administration is a little bit more general than marketing, I felt like it would have opened up a lot of doors. And then I had an economics professor in one class tell everybody, you should get your MBA, because you get paid more. And I was like, yes, like, I have to get my MBA. Then I met another professor.

Gavin Kelly

I guess that didn't really tighten up your graduation timeline, because, like you said, you were already on track to graduate super early, and so you just decided to switch the MBA. But the concurrent program in the College of Business is really helpful for that too. So alongside studying and running whenever it was time for you to sort of do the student side of the student athlete stuff, because we talk about that all the time, and they talk about a lot in athletics, is like student comes before athlete. For a reason. They love to say that, but it's not a given that every student athlete is going to treat the classroom, yes, equally. So clearly that was something that mattered to you. So throughout your experience as a student athlete, maintaining your grades, staying involved, being involved on, like, academic committees that are made up of student athletes. Like, why was that important to you and why did you keep that going?

Rebecca Pike

Yeah, academics has always been something very, very important to me that my mom and dad really drilled into us when we were little. They were like, you know, you have to get good grades. Like, that's,

that's your future. And so in high school, I struggled with academic validation. Struggled with academic validation in college. But it definitely was a blessing in disguise, even though it kind of sucked, you know, crying over making a stress, yeah, it's very stressful. But I knew that for me, the student part was more important than the athlete part, because I knew, like, athletic like, I knew I wasn't gonna go pro in running. I knew, like, maybe I'd run a marathon in my future, but I knew that the student side was what would carry my. Career and kind of the trajectory of my life. So I never, ever let that falter. I was like, that has to be the absolute priority for me, because Athletics will come to a point for my in my life where that will no longer be and I won't be a quote, unquote athlete anymore. But you know, my resume like, that's, yeah, that's set in stone. Like, what my GPA was, what degrees I got, I was, like, that's really gonna pave the way for my future and for, like, a future family you locked in. That's what you did. Very much. So, so

Gavin Kelly

I guess, thinking back to, I guess I can say this too, you'll understand marketing sometimes gets a little bit of a bad rap as being like, I mean, I've heard it's an easy major. I think people say that about certain degrees and certain degrees demand more, and certain degrees are less demanding. And as a marketing grad, I don't often like talk about it was so hard, because I don't, I mean, I don't feel that way. But also is not, it's not, not a challenge, right? So also having to juggle what you were doing athletically on top of that, and then being involved, like I said, on committees and stuff, like you were part of SAC, right? And you had, like, leadership positions. So was that also something that you decided on, or was that just like, naturally, like, or was it your peers that were kind of like, you should probably be, like, How'd that work?

Rebecca Pike

Yeah, it's funny that you say that, because when I first told someone I was switching my major to marketing, they were like, so when are you getting a real degree? And I was like, Oh, okay. Like, I didn't realize it was like that. Yeah. I didn't realize there was such a, I guess, stigma around business degrees like that. But my freshman year, some of the older guys on the team were on sac, and they were like, You should just come to a meeting. So I went to a meeting, and I was like, I don't really know what this is about. So I think I only went to one meeting that year. And then my sophomore year, one of, like, my grade level track teammates was the president, and so I would just go to the meetings and see what it was about. And then my junior slash senior year, my third year, I, um, ended up being social media chair because the exec board kind of fell apart because a lot of people had graduated. And so there was a like, new people coming together. And so I was like, Well, I love social media. Like this would probably benefit me, like, some experience. And so I ran the social media that year and tried to, like, help show up to events and stuff and be a little bit more involved. And then my fourth year, there were a lot of, like, administrative changes, so I was kind of the President, but the we didn't really do as much as we had in the years before, because trying to figure stuff out. But yeah, I kind of just had people be like, Hey, you should do this. Or, like, we kind of need someone like, are you able? And I'm a people pleaser, so I can't see No. So I was like, Yeah, of course. But ended up being really, good, like learning experiences and just opportunities for me in general,

Gavin Kelly

yeah, being a representative, being involved whenever Conference USA needs those voices, you know, so that's that's important. We were talking about the sort of stigma behind the grades, like marketing, and I'm just thinking about that still. I one time I was in class, and it was the first day of the quarter, and it was a small it was an honors class, it was small, and we were and we were going around introducing ourselves, name, Major, that sort of thing. And I said I was in marketing. I think I was the only person in class in business at all. And we got done, and the professor straight up was like, why are you in marketing? Like, with a like, with an edge of like, there you could be better than this. And I got asked that question, like, multiple times throughout college, and I don't think I ever had a relent. I was like, I just picked it, and I feel like it's where I'm supposed to be. I don't know what to tell you. Like,

Rebecca Pike

yeah, I'm so sad that it gets such a bad rap, because I feel like it's for the creatives that sometimes people don't really understand. Like, it's a lot more of like, using your brain to create things and agendas and strategies rather than solve how to build a bridge or, like, solve world problems and in that kind of sense. So I feel like sometimes people don't really understand that it's a completely different way of thinking than other majors.

Gavin Kelly

I agree. Also, you did the thing, though you did the you were in engineering, you switched to business. Like, that's also, I think what, what does it is, people are like, Oh, business is the fallback degree when engineering is too hard. And that's not true. But again, I think that because a lot of people do that switch, that's happened, but it doesn't matter, because here we are today, and we both have jobs or both have degrees in marketing. So it's fine. It's fine. Yes, you talked a little bit earlier about the aspects of marketing that you enjoy, and you mentioned social media. I'm gonna put you on the spot a little bit here. You only have to talk about this as much as you'd like, but working in social media in a professional capacity and a personal capacity like you have, I. Yeah, they kind of tend to blend together, I think, when that happens, and when you are sort of trying to market yourself, or kind of be a brand, but also be authentic, but also try to get followers and do the thing like, what has that experience been like for you? How do you keep balance? How do you stay authentic on your social media? Because if you, if you're listening, and you don't know, Rebecca has sort of a social media presence, I'm sure she can talk about it more than

Rebecca Pike

that. Yeah, I actually, I feel like it's so hard nowadays because cancel culture is such a thing, like people are getting canceled for not being authentic enough, but then when people are authentic, they get canceled for their opinions and beliefs. So it's kind of like you find yourself in this, like, weird bubble of like, I'm only gonna talk about this certain part of my life, or I'm only gonna share this specific type of video to avoid getting canceled. So I feel like that's been kind of hard, but I feel like you just kind of have to figure out, like, what your hobbies are, what your niche kind of is, without niching down too much, exactly the whole problem in itself, and just kind of like, share your life. I feel like a lot of times people over complicate social media, at least on a personal side, of like, oh, I have to post this, or everything has to be esthetic. But I don't necessarily think that way. I think some of the most successful influencers just happened to get on the internet at the right time, post parts of their life, and people loved it, and then they like blew up overnight. So I feel like it's kind of hard to stay authentic, but at the

same time, you should keep parts of your life private for the sake of your mental health and for the internet. And there's some creepy people out there that I'm sure would do some crazy stuff with information. But yeah, it's been kind of interesting, because I don't have a huge following, but I see all of these creators getting bashed for different things that they do or say or music that they pick on their posts. So it's like, I feel like you can't really win, but at the same time, those creators are making so much money that it's like, at the end of the day, they're the ones being successful, not not the haters in their comments. So yeah, I gotta

Gavin Kelly

try. So what? It's wrong to ask you if there's a goal, because then that makes it that sort of, like, gamifies it, or, like, makes it again a job, and where you're not enjoying it. And part of it is, if you do have goals to grow following, to maybe get a brand deal, maybe make a little money off of it, those are goals. But also, because it's your personal life, in a lot of ways, you don't want to get lost in that. So the journey versus the destination here, like, talk to me about that.

Rebecca Pike

Yeah. So I feel like I my sister and I used to have a YouTube channel when we were younger, and we would just start filming and editing and like posting like it was the most fun. Yeah, exactly sure, it was the most fun thing for us. And so I actually didn't have Tiktok when it first came out, and then I got it, like, pretty much when I came to college, and I had like, a video blow up, and I was like, Oh, my was like, Oh my gosh, wait. People like, know about me, that's crazy. And so I started posting a little bit more, and like, here and there, I would get like, 100 followers, or a couple 100 followers, and then it kind of started to grow a little bit. And I was like, you know, like, I just want to, like, create content for fun. And so like, n i I was a thing, and I didn't want to have to deal with n i L on top of everything else that I was dealing with. So I didn't really dive into any sort of, like, content creation when I was an athlete, really, like, it was more just, like, fun little trends and dances and stuff that I would do. And then once I graduated, I was like, this is fun. Like, I really enjoy talking to a camera. I really enjoy, like, just filming and like, more so capturing the memories. And so that's kind of what I've turned it into. More so just like, if I want to update people about my life, I'll update people about my life. But if I want to just like, Oh, I'm going on this trip, or I'm doing this really cool thing, and I just want to capture it so that years later, it's a time capsule, and I'm able to go look back on the memories I can so I've kind of just turned it into, like, my personal video diary of, you know, one day I'll be able to show my kids this video and or one day I'll be able to show grandkids, like, look where grandma and grandpa went. So it's kind of just become that for me. Yeah, there's not really a follower goal or anything, just chair in my life that's good. And

Gavin Kelly

also, like, if you're doing that sort of thing and you get caught up in I have to post once a day, or have to post a specific thing. Not only does that kind of mess with your head. It also just kind of doesn't work. Yeah, like, I'm sure that the stuff you've had, and you have, I mean, on Tiktok alone, probably a few million views on things, right, total, so probably in the Top X percent of of creators. Because not that doesn't happen to everybody, even people who post every day. But this, I'm sure that you. Speak to it, the stuff that you've had blow up. You probably didn't know ahead of time that it was gonna be blow up type content, right? So,

Rebecca Pike

yeah, it's so funny, because the most curated content that I make always performs so bad, and then it's always the videos that I'm like, Oh my gosh, like, I just have to set up my camera and, like, say this thing that popped into my head, that's the type of stuff that just, like, blows up. So it's really funny to see that, like, sometimes, the harder you try, the less it works. Sometimes you just have to, like, I had this crazy revelation, and I'm gonna set up my camera, because I need to know if other people didn't know this too. Yeah, those are the kind of things that really blow up. And I feel like that's honestly what kind of shows the authenticity of it, too. It's not like, oh, I forced this to be esthetic, or I scripted this video. It's kind of just like, oh, I had this thought. Let me see if other people resonate. Yeah.

Gavin Kelly

And I think too, there are very few quote, unquote, creators that I like watch consistently, much less like, actually respect or, you know, but the few that I do, they always, when they get asked that sort of question, their thing is always make content for yourself that you enjoy, and then if the rest is going to come, it'll come, yeah, when you start focusing on twisting what you're doing or being a certain person that you're not, yeah, it's very difficult. And I think it's also easy. I had, I had Dr Mueller on the podcast not too long ago, and we were talking about marketing, and she was talking about authenticity, and I mentioned that I think it's like younger people these days are good at spotting and being skeptical, because, like, there's ads everywhere. They're in there on your phone, they're in your face, anything you watch, everywhere you go, there's ads. And so everything is just trying to sell you something. And so it's so easy to be skeptical of just ads in general, but like, the nature of them, what they're trying to say and do, and then that, I think that translates to people, especially with, like, streamer culture and stuff now, but the big ones, the big creators, the big streamers, the big influencers, they have so much pull that it's a little scary. Yeah, I think that's just speaks to the what society is right now. And I do think that if you can walk the line between being authentic, showing glimpses into your life, into your real life, and also the followers and things come along with it, then that's that

Rebecca Pike

can be fun. Yeah, your audience will find you at some point. You know, I think you said a really

Gavin Kelly

good thing when you said, people over complicate social media. And I think brands can do that too. Yes, absolutely. It is just sort of like you don't have to try too hard. Yes, you know, a nice looking picture on Instagram can go a long way. You don't have to post a flyer. No one's gonna freak out if you don't post the graphic with all the words on it, like it's gonna that's not what this is for, yes. So I think having somebody, and I'm not saying the Alumni Association doesn't, because I do, but having a team of people who understand, like, how social media can function is important. And I think that not only is that something you kind of learn in marketing, but you had a special interest in that. So

Rebecca Pike

yes, I feel like brands a lot of time focus on like, brand image, or how they're going to be viewed way more than okay, well, if we post this, like, how many more people are we going to gain as followers like, LSU football is out here on Tiktok, posting that their team, Conrad for the Summer I Turned Pretty and

it's so relatable and like, it gets people to giggle and people from opposing teams to like the video, because it just creates this kind of like, culture of, oh, like, It's not that serious. And, I mean, sometimes it is serious, but it just creates this culture of like, Oh, they're relatable. Like, maybe I should go to college there. Or it kind of just creates this little birdie in someone's mind of like, Oh, I like that. That was funny, and that happened to be a university, yeah. And

Gavin Kelly

also attention spans, man, like it's, they're so cooked, for lack of a better word, like, and I feel it happening to me and I and, like, I'm holding down the 2x speed on tick tock the time, and I'm like, if it doesn't grab my attention, and half a second I'm scrolling and I I don't like that that's happening, but I also think that people very young, like kids in grade school, how much worse it's gonna be, and it's gonna Oh, man, and again, in a scary way, but also in an I guess, if you're a marketing professional like you have to plan on what the industry could have an industry, and how that's gonna gonna shift how people use social media and what it's used for, because it's, I mean, it's tough, it's tough to manage, and it's tough to even, like on a personal level. Yes, I have a very love hate relationship with it. I understand. So I guess I have one more question before we let you go. Okay, so looking back at your time as a student a student athlete, I know you're very early on in your role here, but you know your career is starting, so you when you started, versus you now, what are those big changes? What have you besides like getting married and stuff like, what are the big careers? Personal changes that you've you've taken away from what you've been

Rebecca Pike

through. Gosh, I feel like I'm a completely different person than I was four years ago. I feel like I came into college and I cared so much what people would think of me, or like, I would like, sit in class and I'd like, feel like, Oh my gosh. Like, what if people think my pink shirt is like, to try hard, I'd be like, I would like, overthink everything. And I've just come to realize that people don't care, yeah, like people are thinking of themselves and not you. And I just had to realize, like, I had to detach myself from other people's thoughts. And that helped me so much. Because when I could finally, like, walk on campus or sit down, or, like, be in a conversation with someone and not constantly think, oh my gosh, what are they thinking about what I'm saying? Like, what do they think about what I'm wearing? I gained so much more freedom, because then I was able to truly, like, be myself and feel confident in what I was doing or saying without having to think of like, how is that perceived or like, what are people gonna be saying about me behind my back. So I feel like that's probably the biggest personal change. And then I feel like I've also become just way more confident in who I am as a person. Like moving away from home was very, very hard for me, but now I've kind of, you know, I've gained a lot of friends that I didn't think I would gain, and now they've become my my like, safe space and my circle. So I've kind of built up my own little life and community here, which has been very hard but very good for my personal growth. And I feel like I've also just learned to be very patient with myself, because college was not easy for lack of better terms and a lot of aspects for me. And so I feel like I've just learned that mistakes are okay and that I'm gonna mess up sometimes, or I'm gonna think that I did something wrong and I actually did it right. So I feel like I've just learned to be a much less judgmental person on myself. That's probably one of the biggest changes. That's

Gavin Kelly

good and that's helpful. I think too about, you know, everybody comes into college thinking a certain way, yeah, by the time, if you're the same person, when you start as you already, and it's you probably did something wrong along the way. But I think even people like you or even myself, that like came in and were a little more introverted, used to like smaller spaces and like thinking about how even then you think you're an adult, and you think like, you know something, yes, and then just four years later, you're different, and you're like, Man, I didn't, and I still don't know to this day, I still don't know, but yeah, that's part of it, I think. And again, the journey, not the destination for that sort of thing, but the destination being a degree, in your case, an advanced degree is also a good perk, too. I said one last question, but I lied, because I just thought of something else. And I've only done this, I think, to maybe one or two other people on the podcast, so no pressure, but because you're a marketing person, I'm gonna put you on the spot again. So whenever we publish these episodes, we name them, so it'll be like, your name colon and then like a catchy title after. So if I put it on you to name your own episode, to name this episode of the podcast, where does your head

Rebecca Pike

go? Oh, gosh. Oh, that's hard. It can be

Gavin Kelly

about something we talked about. It can be about something you think defines you. Oh,

Rebecca Pike

goodness. It's like the hardest question ever. At first, I thought athlete to alumni, but then my marketing brain is like, no, that's too boring, but that has alliteration in it. I'm the world's biggest alliteration fan ever. Yeah, I feel like on the spot, that's the best thing I can think of. But I'm sure I'll leave here and think of, oh my gosh,

Gavin Kelly

I should have, please let me know, because you have a couple weeks until this episode's published. So between now and then, if you come up with a better title, let me know. But I do think that's a good one. I'm just interested because I'm often the one responsible for naming them, and sometimes I'm like, just trying to cook something up, and it's like, well, I love putting a marketing person and giving them chance to be creative. So again, thank you for being here today, making time for us in your first month on the job, and we're about to start school, yeah? So I know in the alumni office it kind of it's year round everywhere, but my office like you're always going, but school starting up is going to change everything for y'all too Yeah, and you're working right here in the heart of campus with the rest of us. So yes, it's an exciting time, but good luck in that. I'm sure you'll do great. And, yeah, just thanks again. Thanks again. Thanks for

Rebecca Pike

being here. Yeah, thanks for having me. This is fun. Go Dogs, yes, Go Dogs.

Gavin Kelly

Thank you for listening to beyond 1894. please subscribe and rate us wherever you listen to podcasts. For more information about this episode, you can check out our show notes beyond 1894. Is produced by Louisiana Tech University Office of University Communications.