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Liz Norell - You are listening to Tiger Stories, a podcast where we bring you the stories of the students, who make up the community at Chattanooga State Community College. Today, we are going to do something a little bit different with this episode, we are going to share stories that we recorded at our fall semester Late Night at the Library in November, that brings students into the library for goal setting, for encouragement, for a pizza and snacks and other fun giveaways and coffee, don't forget about the coffee. We bring tutors in from the writing center and the math lab and other parts of campus and generally, just have a really good time getting together and pushing through some of those last projects at the end of the semester.

This fall, we decided to set up a Live With Liz podcast booth so that students could come by and share what were working on while they were at Late Night. I am Liz Norell and I was there to talk to students as they were working on their projects and I can't wait for you to hear some of the things that they told me during my spent at late night at the library. And one of the things that I love about working at Chattanooga State is that we have a committed set of faculty and staff, who genuinely want to see our students succeed. Late night at the Library is one of the many examples of how the faculty and staff and students on this campus do what it takes to support our students in a way that they need. I had so much fun and I know you will too. So let's listen. So introduce yourself.

Jarraud - Hello, my name is Jarraud, coming in from ChattState.

Liz Norell - Awesome. So why are you at Late Night at the Library tonight?

Jarraud - Because it's a wonderful experience, you get to win stuff, you get to do some homework, meet with your professors if they are here and see some of your classmates as well.

Liz Norell - You won something?

Jarraud - I did. So it's my first time looking at, I thought I would say like ChattState, but it's from the Kolwyck Library and Information Commons.

Liz Norell - KLIC as they call it.

Jarraud - KLIC, KLIC, KLIC.

Liz Norell - How's your semester going?

Jarraud - It's pretty good. I just finished up one class today.

Liz Norell - You finished a class?

Jarraud - I finished it.

Liz Norell - Which class?

Jarraud - COMM 1010.

Liz Norell - Yeah.

Jarraud - So that's good, I am happy. It frees up a little bit more free time, you know, the whole work life balance.

Liz Norell - Sure.

Jarraud - Yeah.

Liz Norell - Are you feeling crunched here at the end of the semester?

Jarraud - Oh, no, no, no.

Liz Norell - You would never.

Jarraud - No. I won't say I would never, but

Liz Norell - (Laugh).

Jarraud - You know, I would just try to stay ahead of your homework as much as you can and you won't be stressed out at the end of the semester.

Liz Norell - How long have you been here?

Jarraud - This is actually my first semester here.

Liz Norell - Your first semester?

Jarraud - Yeah.

Liz Norell - Sweet.

Jarraud - But I am like a career college student.

Liz Norell - Gotcha.

Jarraud - So I guess, I know a little bit more of the lay of the land.

Liz Norell - How long will you be here?

Jarraud - I plan on graduating. My original intent was to just get the credits I needed for another institution, but I am going to end up graduating. My original goal was in the springtime, but it's just going to be a lot of classes, so I mean classes 20, 2021, I think or I might still be 2025 dues.

Liz Norell - Like to follow maybe here next summer.

Jarraud - Yeah, next summer. Yeah.

Liz Norell - Cool. What are you studying?

Jarraud - I am actually entrepreneurship major.

Liz Norell - Awesome.

Jarraud - Yeah. Hopefully, I will get my own business. Well, I am going to get my business which is called claim in advance. Yeah, I want to do entrepreneurship.

Liz Norell - Excellent.

Jarraud - Yes.

Liz Norell - So what do you have left to finish out this semester?

Jarraud - So I have my American government and then I have a psychology class as well, it's just intro to psychology. I took a lot of my upper level classes at different institutions.

Liz Norell - Sure.

Jarraud - But I mean just basically, the only thing I really have left are the, the nitty gritty of my things, you know. Just a lot entrepreneurship and business classes.

Liz Norell - Cool.

Jarraud - Yeah.

Liz Norell - Tell me what you, what your experience at ChattState has been like?

Jarraud - So I mean I am not from Chattanooga. I am not from Tennessee. It's just a very, it's a very wholesome experience just meeting new people and learning about their backgrounds. It's very interesting. I like it here, it's very open, I like the openness.

Liz Norell - Yeah.

Jarraud - Like people come from different walks of life and you can just combine and then you just meet people that you never expected to meet.

Liz Norell - What do you want to tell the listeners of Tiger Stories?

Jarraud - So Dr. Liz's amazing.

Liz Norell - Oh, come on, I am not fishing for that.

Jarraud - Like a lot of people say it. But I mean it like

Liz Norell - (Laugh)

Jarraud - I really don't like instructors, like, I dropped one class because I had to cuss an instructor out early in the semester just because I don't like foolishness, but she is the real deal. Like if you have never taken a class with her, please do, feel free to take class, come by, what is it, it's CAT 67, is that your office?

Liz Norell - Yes.

Jarraud - Yeah, like I don't usually remember things like that. So you have been a big inspiration to me.

Liz Norell - Well, thank you.

Jarraud - You are welcome.

Liz Norell - Is there anything else you would like people to know about you or about ChattState or about life?

Jarraud - You only get one life so just live it to the best of your abilities.

Liz Norell - There you go.

Jarraud - Don't, don't be afraid to fail. You only fail when you don't try.

Liz Norell - Okay. Thank you.

Jarraud - You are welcome.

[Music]

Liz Norell - Okay, so tell us who you are.

Grayson Davis - So, I am, my name is Grayson Davis. You know, I am a college student here, chilling out. Do a lot of fun stuff. I used to be an Arts major at CCA and now, I am a premed major, it's kind of huge change.

Liz Norell - Premed?

Grayson Davis - Yeah.

Liz Norell - Wow, so you have got to do, you are signing up for A&P in Organic Chemistry?

Grayson Davis - Yeah. Actually, my first semester that I started here, I chose A&P because I have this bad habit of not getting involved in stuff, so I thought to myself, 'Grayson, what's the, what's the best thing you can do to, you know, ensure your, your student life,' and I thought to myself, 'well, there's only one thing I can do and it's take the hardest class here.' (Laugh)

Liz Norell - Yeah, sounds like a great strategy.

Grayson Davis - I suppose, so yeah.

Liz Norell - How's it going?

Grayson Davis - I'd say it's going pretty well. You know, you got to adapt and overcome different classes that you're taking in, in order to get what you're going for in your field, but other

than that, like the student life is great. You just have to like seek out instructor's help if you need any, like, if you have any problems with anything and overall, the atmosphere is just a really good learning environment, especially with Tennessee Promise.

Liz Norell - Yeah. Are you the first? Is this your first semester here?

Grayson Davis - No, it's not my first semester here.

Liz Norell - Okay.

Grayson Davis - Let's see, this, this would be my third semester.

Liz Norell - Excellent.

Grayson Davis - So I am a sophomore here. Yeah.

Liz Norell - So you have conquered A&P?

Grayson Davis - Yeah. Well, I am going to retake it again.

Liz Norell - (Laugh)

Grayson Davis - Yeah

Liz Norell - That's not uncommon.

Grayson Davis - Anybody, anybody, who's going to take A&P, who is doing this podcast, make sure to tie yourself down to that and maybe choose some classes that aren't as high maintenance because it is very fascinating work and what you do is awesome, but if you're not motivated to learn, you should try that. Yeah (laugh).

Liz Norell - So what do you think about ChattState? What's your experience been like?

Grayson Davis - Oh, Chatt State is excellent. I mean it's the first college I have ever been to. Its financial programming is really excellent because for somebody like me who has Tennessee Promise, all of it is free, except for the books. So really, I come here, it's a, it's a great atmosphere. There's always something happen around here, you just have to look out for it with your two eyes and yeah, just there's a whole bunch of people from different walks of life and there's always a place for everyone here which is like excellent.

Liz Norell - You work in the print shop?

Grayson Davis - I do, I work in the printing department.

Liz Norell - What do you think about that? What's that like?

Grayson Davis - You know, I'd say the one thing that people come to the print shop for is just a really great place to listen to some good music.

Liz Norell - That's true.

Grayson Davis - We have a radio station that plays all the time and it plays good rock music, it plays 80's music, I am not going to lie, the, the, the first reason that I went to the print shop actually was to listen to that music all the time.

Liz Norell - Excellent.

Grayson Davis - Because I was selected to tutor a whole bunch of people, and I was like, I am just going to, I am just going to do what I like, and you know cut some papers down and worked with arts and crafts.

Liz Norell - Yeah. So what advice would you give people who want to come to ChattState?

Grayson Davis - Don't give up. The one thing that somebody can do in life, that completely shuts them down is having the mentality that you won't make it. I want you to take that out of your mind and say that you can do it. Even if you don't believe that you can do it, you always should fake it till you make it, because everybody can do what they set out to do if they have the right qualifications and the right knowhow to get there. Chattanooga State is that knowhow and if you let it motivate you, then you will get anywhere that you want. So if you're struggling on a test or you have got stuff that comes up in your life that's too stressful and I know how that feels more than anybody, just, you know, take a minute to calm down and say to yourself, 'you can do this', and that is like one of the most important things that you can learn in life. There's a lot of important things you can learn in life, like looking at quotes and stuff, but I'd say the base thing that you, you need to do is realize your self worth and realize that you can do anything that you set your mind to. I know that's very cheesy, but it's very true.

Liz Norell - It's also true.

Grayson Davis - Yeah.

Liz Norell - So what brought you to Late Night at the Library?

Grayson Davis - So like any student, you know, procrastination station over here, I got a, I got a, I got a back down on that work and just really grit my teeth into, into all these projects coming up. Also, free pizza's great. With free pizza, always make sure to go there first.

Liz Norell - Yeah.

Grayson Davis - (Laugh)

Liz Norell - So what are you working on here tonight?

Grayson Davis - So I got a couple of projects that I got to work on. One of them is a PowerPoint for Biology. One of them is one in your course, which is the new course hearing and I was going to finish some of that stuff up and I am going to turn in that abstract pretty soon as well.

Liz Norell - Cool. Excellent. Anything you want to share with people who are listening?

Grayson Davis - I think that cats and dogs are both equally as good.

Liz Norell - That's solid right there.

Grayson Davis - Yeah, yeah, I think that based on who you are as a person, it really depends on what kind of a person you are, but just understand that they are equally cuddly and you can hug one if it wants to allow you.

Liz Norell - Excellent. That's solid. Thank you Grayson.

Grayson Davis - Thank you.

Liz Norell - Yeah.

[Music]

Liz Norell - So tell me your name.

Zachary Wallace - I am Zachary Wallace.

Liz Norell - Zachary Wallace. And you are here tonight why?



Zachary Wallace - Because they are doing the Late Night at the Library and qualified as one of my campus engagement activities for Dr. Nichols's class.

Liz Norell - College Success.

Zachary Wallace - Yes ma'am.

Liz Norell - In Math? Or is it Math and Sciences?

Zachary Wallace - Math and Science.

Liz Norell - So this is your first semester at ChattState?

Zachary Wallace - Yes ma'am.

Liz Norell - How's it going so far?

Zachary Wallace - It could be a little bit better, but I think I am doing pretty good.

Liz Norell - What have you, what do you feel like has been the best part of coming to ChattState?

Zachary Wallace - Privilege to further my education and build on a career that I want.

Liz Norell - Yeah. What do you want to do?

Zachary Wallace - I am wanting to, to get a Physics major.

Liz Norell - Physics?

Zachary Wallace - Believe it or not, I actually got inspired by a TV show.

Liz Norell - Which one?

Zachary Wallace - The Big Bang Theory.

Liz Norell - Yeah? I love the Big Bang Theory. Who is your favorite character?

Zachary Wallace - Sheldon Cooper.

Liz Norell - For sure, right?

Zachary Wallace - Sure.

Liz Norell - Bazinga.

Zachary Wallace - Sheldon is actually the reason why I decided to apply and after this, I am hoping to get a job at National, Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

Liz Norell - Awesome.

Zachary Wallace - But, yeah, at first, it started out as a joke and then I did a little bit of research, discovered that someone in that field could actually do really good.

Liz Norell - Yeah. So you came to ChattState?

Zachary Wallace - Yes ma'am.

Liz Norell - Did you have a break between high school and Chattanooga State or did you come straight here?

Zachary Wallace - I had a bit of a break. I graduated in 2014. Up until I watched the Big Bang Theory, I had no, no real interest in becoming or going to college in general. But yeah, I am actually glad that I did.

Liz Norell - Good. I am so glad you are here. And Dr. Nichols is amazing, isn't he?

Zachary Wallace - Yes, definitely.

Liz Norell - I love him, he is just so kind and funny

Zachary Wallace - The only flaw that I see is he is a huge Tennessee fan.

Liz Norell - Oh.

Zachary Wallace - I am an LSU fan myself. (Laugh)

Liz Norell - Oh my. Oh, I am sorry, we may have to end this conversation now.

Zachary Wallace - Well, that's just true. (Laugh)

Liz Norell - I am just kidding (laugh). So what's your favorite class so far?

Zachary Wallace - So far, I would have to say College Success.

Liz Norell - Yeah. What do you feel like you have gotten out of that class?

Zachary Wallace - To be more involved in stuff on campus.

Liz Norell - Yeah. What other things have you gotten involved in?

Zachary Wallace - Well, I haven't gotten involved yet, but there's a night, they are doing the karaoke night.

Liz Norell - Yeah. Are you going to do that?

Zachary Wallace - I am.

Liz Norell - Awesome.

Zachary Wallace - I am a big fan of music. I like to sing. I feel like this is my one chance to actually participate in something that I love.

Liz Norell - That's incredible. Are there other things that you have taken away from College Success? Because I have to be honest. most people don't say that's their favorite class. So I am just really curious what, what about it you feel like has been helpful.

Zachary Wallace - Well, my other three classes are English and reading classes, so

Liz Norell - Not your favorite?

Zachary Wallace - Not really.

Liz Norell - It sounds like you are more into the math and the science.

Zachary Wallace - Yes.

Liz Norell - Yeah. Was that always that way like in high school too?

Zachary Wallace - Well, my past classes were always like science, history.

Liz Norell - Cool.

Zachary Wallace - And then math is for me, much like Sheldon, it kind of is way too easy.

Liz Norell - Yeah.

Zachary Wallace - So it's just one of those classes that's like and

Liz Norell - Yeah.

Zachary Wallace - I get, I get through it real quick.

Liz Norell - So tell me what advice you would give other people who are at ChattState, or who are thinking about coming to ChattState?

Zachary Wallace - Definitely apply because you, you would be surprised how far you could get. Even if you don't see yourself with a college degree, much like myself, definitely, try to open that window because you will be surprised what comes out of it.

Liz Norell - So last question.

Zachary Wallace - Yes ma'am.

Liz Norell - What do you want to tell people who are listening to this right now?

Zachary Wallace - Definitely make sure that you follow your dreams because they have a way of working those stuff out, even if your inspiration comes from a TV show.

Liz Norell - Yeah, there we go.

Zachary Wallace - Because my inspiration came from a TV show and so far I am having a blast.

Liz Norell - You are having a blast, awesome.

Zachary Wallace - Oh yeah.

Liz Norell - Thank you so much.

Zachary Wallace - Thank you.

[Music]

Braxton Mahr - Hi, my name is Braxton Mahr.

Liz Norell - Hi Braxton. So what brought you to ChattState?

Braxton Mahr - Collegiate program actually.

Liz Norell - You are Collegiate High? Awesome.

Braxton Mahr - I am.

Liz Norell - How long have you been here?

Braxton Mahr - This is my fifth semester.

Liz Norell - Okay and where are you in the Collegiate High progress?

Braxton Mahr - That would make me a junior in this, in the fall semester.

Liz Norell - Junior, okay. Why are you at Late Night at the Library today?

Braxton Mahr - Just something to do.

Liz Norell - Yeah.

Braxton Mahr - Get homework done, enjoy some good, games, why not?

Liz Norell - Did you have a particular project or assignment you wanted to work on tonight?

Braxton Mahr - Student research or so, student research symposium.

Liz Norell - Awesome. What's your project about?

Braxton Mahr - The cause of the Civil War and how they have involved to the modern era. So like, looking at, for example, slavery and the embedded racism that, or the racism that has embedded in our society and how that presents itself today. Or you have states' rights and how

some states want to legalize marijuana and while the Federal Government still has it as a class I illegal substance. So that kind of topic.

Liz Norell - That sounds like early American history.

Braxton Mahr - It is.

Liz Norell - Yeah. Awesome. Cool. What's your experience at ChattState been like so far?

Braxton Mahr - It's very relaxed, laid back.

Liz Norell - Okay.

Braxton Mahr - Compared to your normal school environment. You have a lot more freedom.

Liz Norell - Okay.

Braxton Mahr - So, but there also is room for you to fall apart, procrastination, taking too much leeway in overstepping their boundaries. So with freedom comes responsibility and that's as far as I am aware, a general good, general good rule for life.

Liz Norell - Yeah. And what do you feel like has been the most interesting thing that's happened to you since you came here?

Braxton Mahr - Mainly, the Honors program.

Liz Norell - Okay.

Braxton Mahr - Because when you think of a college or university, you think of a large lecture hall, maybe 50, 60, 70 students in a room, but when you get into an Honors course, you have 18, 20, if that, like our current class, Coslett's Early American History, it is only nine people. So it is just, you get a lot more directly connected to the professor, you are connected with your classmates a lot more. And instead of it being, instead of it being tedious work like you would think filler work, it's more challenging while still enjoyable.

Liz Norell - Okay. And if someone were listening to this and saying, 'should I join global scholars', what would you say?

Braxton Mahr - If you are here for the challenge

Liz Norell - Yeah.

Braxton Mahr - Why not.

Liz Norell - You went to DC, right?

Braxton Mahr - I did.

Liz Norell - What was that trip like for you?

Braxton Mahr - It was, I had been to DC before, but I hadn't seen everything we went to. So it was more of a refresher, but also I could appreciate it more with time. Seeing it once, you're more in awe of what you have seen when the second time around you start to appreciate, 'oh, this is the history of this building or this room, this is what occurred in this room,' and of course, with taking classes and learning about exactly what occurred like in American History, you can start to put a, and what you read in your textbook into a physical place.

Liz Norell - Cool. What advice would you give people who are thinking about coming to Chatt State, or who are already here or may be.

Braxton Mahr - Don't let the stress get to you because it very easily can. Some professors are very good about that. They will pace the projects. They will understand that a lot of projects coming at the end of the semester so they might try to pace it a bit forward so you have equal spacing throughout the year. But on occasion, you do get a professor that can't, that doesn't, that doesn't take that into consideration, then you get a bunch of projects coming in at the end. So it's good to take those projects that you know are coming up and spread them out instead of trying to rush at the last minute to get everything done.

Liz Norell - Good. Thanks for chatting with us.

Braxton Mahr - Thank you.

[Music]

Liz Norell - Tell me who you are?

David Brown - My name is David Brown.

Liz Norell - Okay.

David Brown - And I am also junior at Collegiate High school.

Liz Norell - Excellent. So have you been here since Braxton got here too, you came at the same time?

David Brown - Yes.

Liz Norell - Did you guys know each other before you came in?

David Brown - No, we didn't, not at all.

Liz Norell - No? But now you do.

David Brown - Yeah.

Liz Norell - Cool. So what has your experience at ChattState been like?

David Brown - I have really enjoyed it. You know, like Braxton, I met some interesting people, some funny people really smart and articulate people, and it has just been a great experience overall. Yeah.

Liz Norell - What kind of relationships have been formed with people on campus?

David Brown - Very close relationships. Going in, I didn't think that it would happen. I thought it would be more study based. I wouldn't really form relationships, but as time progressed, I have just had so many great encounters with people around here.

Liz Norell - What brought you to Late Night at the Library today?

David Brown - So all of my assignments, this is the end of the semester. So all my assignments are starting to stack up and I procrastinate a lot.

Liz Norell - Sure.

David Brown - So that's probably part of the reason why I stacked up. And being at the library, I can't necessarily lay down and take a nap. So I am forced to do my work and so it gives me the opportunity, plus food and snacks.

Liz Norell - Right.



David Brown - So you know

Liz Norell - Good stuff.

David Brown - Yeah. They are good.

Liz Norell - Is there something that you really, really feel like you have got to get done tonight?

David Brown - Yes.

Liz Norell - What is that?

David Brown - I have a paper due tomorrow and I also have to do a poster for the research symposium.

Liz Norell - Yeah.

David Brown - Yeah.

Liz Norell - I have a student here who's like starting on her poster tonight, so yeah.

David Brown - Yeah, it's, it's intense.

Liz Norell - Long nights.

David Brown - Yes.

Liz Norell - Yeah (laugh). What do you feel like you've learned during your time here so far?

David Brown - I've learned the importance of believing in yourself and pacing yourself. When you don't pace yourself, things stack up, like they did tonight and when you don't believe in yourself, your grades suffer. You need to actually believe that you can do something.

Liz Norell - And what advice would you give other people who want to come to ChattState or who already are here besides believe in yourself?

David Brown - Yeah (laugh).

Liz Norell - And pace yourself.

David Brown - Right. You should try to make friendships with other people. Being friends with other people allows you to get other perspectives and also, if you need help on an assignment, they will always be there to help.

Liz Norell - Is there anything else you would like to share with us?

David Brown - Hi mom. (Laugh)

Liz Norell - Good, perfect.

David Brown - Yeah. (Laugh)

Liz Norell - Thanks so much guys.

David Brown - Thanks.

[Music]

Liz Norell - Tell me your name.

Shelby Bryant - Hey, I am Shelby Bryant. And I am a Political Science major here.

Liz Norell - Woo.

Shelby Bryant - Yeah (laugh), totally biased, I like it a lot.

Liz Norell - What brought you to Late Night at the Library today?

Shelby Bryant - Well, I, honestly, I usually end up at UTC since they have later hours and it goes with my work schedule, but it's really nice to be here with the rest of my fellow students, people I can put, you know, faces to. It's nice. Yeah.

Liz Norell - What are you working on tonight?

Shelby Bryant - I am (laugh), trying not to feel pressured, I am working on my, I am registering for classes and I am going to review my final drafts of a bill I might propose for TISL, the Tennessee Intercollegiate State Legislature, which is happening this Thursday and yeah, and hopefully that's all.

Liz Norell - Okay. How are your classes going this semester?

Shelby Bryant - They could be going better. They could be going better. I am definitely putting a lot of energy towards the, the club. I am, I am really excited, I like engaging with my, with people during my classes, but those deadlines get to me.

Liz Norell - Yeah, I hear you. I hear you.

Shelby Bryant - (Laugh)

Liz Norell - What has it been like being a student at ChattState this semester?

Shelby Bryant - You know, I've tried this college thing, this is my third attempt as an adult (laugh) and I like the community here. It makes more sense for me in the stage of life that I am in and I like that there is a handful of other nontraditional students, like I am 23 and so

Liz Norell - There are lots of nontraditional students.

Shelby Bryant - There are, it's, it's kind of comforting, but yeah, no, it's, it's a good environment to be and there is definitely a lot of resources to utilize as well, which is, you know, welcoming and kind of a sigh of relief.

Liz Norell - Yeah.

Shelby Bryant - Yeah.

Liz Norell - What do you have to do with your degree when you get it?

Shelby Bryant - When I (laugh), I, you guys, I am laughing so hard, we just talked about this.

Liz Norell - We did.

Shelby Bryant - (Laugh)

Liz Norell - We just, we just did advising.

Shelby Bryant - Yeah and so (laugh).

Liz Norell - Like an hour ago or something.

Shelby Bryant - I feel like this is a pop quiz, no, I

Liz Norell - Yeah, your answers can change, it's okay.

Shelby Bryant - Yeah, yeah.

Liz Norell - (Laugh)

Shelby Bryant - And they probably will, but I am, I am here getting my associates in Science and Political Science. I hope to transfer to George Washington University.

Liz Norell - Go Colonials!

Shelby Bryant - Woo, and

Liz Norell - Raise high the buff and the blue, sorry, that's the fight song. It's really lame.

Shelby Bryant - Oh, I will learn it, it's fine.

Liz Norell - It's so lame.

Shelby Bryant - I will, I will get to know it someday. Also I will get a Bachelor's in Political Science there. Master's in Public Policy is on my list and then it may be law school. So anyone who is hearing this, please hold me accountable to those dreams and plans.

Liz Norell - But you have a heart for helping people.

Shelby Bryant - Yeah, I

Liz Norell - Like making the difference.

Shelby Bryant - It, like physically pains me to see someone where I am like, I, I mean, I could help them, why I might not. Excruciatingly empathetic. So I try to, to utilize that, I don't know, I feel like that's how I best serve people.

Liz Norell - Yeah. What kinds of relationships have you made with other students on campus this semester, if any?

Shelby Bryant - I, my only on campus experience so far, I've taken, I take the Zumba class, love it, recommend it, and I am doing TISL. So the only folks I have really met are the ones who were kind of similarly minded as me, like in the political sphere. It's, it's really, it's really fun.

It's kind of weird to feel like I am in a bit of an echo chamber with these people who are like, I mean, very specifically into the same kind of things and people I can geek out with about, I don't know, legislation, like Sam from TISL, Sam Ibach, he has been, he has been fun, Angela McClister has been a great resource to talk to and Jinks is someone of our, our student body president, he's who is really great, like, I don't know, it's, still working on expanding my horizons with the people I have met and enjoy. They are lovely.

Liz Norell - What advice would you give people who are thinking about coming back to school, maybe who tried before and now want to try again?

Shelby Bryant - Oh my gosh, you guys, I've, so I did, my first semester of college was in the fall of 2014, right after I graduated high school. Since then, I have changed career paths twice. I have been diagnosed as ADD. I have, I have learned a lot of things that I am passionate about and it's just, I mean, it's fine if it doesn't work out the first time, it's fine if it doesn't work out at all. Formal education, I thought was not for me for a long time. So I sought out like online real estate courses. I have done outdoor education, I have done retail, I have done food and beverage staff. It's, it's okay if you can't figure it out because you won't until you're in a place where you decide to so that's, that's fine.

Liz Norell - With everything in due time is what it sounds like.

Shelby Bryant - Yeah, yeah, it's, I mean it feels like things are coming together for me which is just so obnoxious to hear, I apologize because I know it is.

Liz Norell - (Laugh)

Shelby Bryant - Because I hate hearing that stuff too. I will be like seeking out advice and be like, oh great, someone who just believes in good timing, like (laugh).

Liz Norell - (Laugh) Right, sure. Yeah, it's also because you're showing up and you are doing the work.

Shelby Bryant - Yeah.

Liz Norell - Right, it's not like somebody just said, 'and congratulations.'

Shelby Bryant - Yeah, no and it's one of those things like for me, Political Science is something I have gotten more geared towards as an adult because it's something for me like social issues that have become more prevalent in my life. I have begun to identify with the LGBT community, I have begun to identify with Unitarian Universalist Church personally, which they

are really big on liberty and social justice, and a lot, a lot of things like that become more important to me over the years as well. So it's one of those things, you will do things that make sense to you at the time, you will do things that will make sense to you a little later and you will get there, I guess (laugh).

Liz Norell - That's awesome.

Shelby Bryant - (Laugh) Thanks. (Laugh)

Liz Norell - So I want to give you an opportunity to say anything that you want the world to know right now, I mean not literally right now. We are not actually live, but you know,

Shelby Bryant - It's, yeah (laugh). One thing, be kind to people, you don't know what they're dealing with and the other thing is that democracy is not a spectator sport. Please vote, please be an informed voter. You do have that responsibility, but I think as a community, we should help inform people responsibly. So yeah, make good choices for your seatbelts. (Laugh). That's all.

Liz Norell - Good advice.

Shelby Bryant - I am not a mom, I promise. (Laugh)

Liz Norell - (Laugh) Not yet.

Shelby Bryant - Yeah, no, yeah, not any time soon.

Liz Norell - Alright, thanks for coming by.

Shelby Bryant - Yeah, thanks. (Laugh)

Liz Norell - Okay.

[Music]

Liz Norell - Tell me your name.

Jay - My name is Jay.

Liz Norell - Jay?

Jay - Yes ma'am.

Liz Norell - Okay. And you are a student at ChattState?

Jay - Formerly, but

Liz Norell - Former?

Jay - Actually about to come back for the nursing program.

Liz Norell - Awesome. Congratulations.

Jay - Well, thank you ma'am.

Liz Norell - So tell me about your experience at ChattState when you were here before?

Jay - Yeah, where do I start? (Laugh) That's a tough one. My experience was actually pretty fun in my first semester. I actually thought it was going to be a rough, really rough, but it was a brief second semester, it was a rocky road, but we came through good. Graduation was like the best part of the, it was a good experience. Got to reflect on a lot of things that happened here, so yeah.

Liz Norell - Yeah.

Jay - I would say it was fun.

Liz Norell - So you have got an Associate's degree here?

Jay - Yes ma'am.

Liz Norell - You graduated. What is it in?

Jay - I have one in Foreign Language.

Liz Norell - Wow. Amazing.

Jay - Yeah. I would take

Liz Norell - What language?

Jay - I took it in for Spanish and I took the study abroad trip for going to Spain.

Liz Norell - Did you go to Spain with Juan Olanzo?

Jay - Yeah.

Liz Norell - How was that?

Jay - Oh, it was a, it was fun, but I really didn't eat a lot on the trip. So it was and it was a difficulty.

Liz Norell - Like your facial expression is saying different things.

Jay - (Laugh)

Liz Norell - Than the words that are coming out of your mouth. You are like, yeah, that was fun, but your face is saying, 'I don't know.'

Jay - It was fun, I am not a big museum person.

Liz Norell - Okay.

Jay - But when I got to meet some of the people over there, it was pretty good. The food is probably good for the average person. I am very picky though so.

Liz Norell - You are picky?

Jay - Yeah.

Liz Norell - Me too.

Jay - (Laugh)

Liz Norell - Me too. I have to imagine though that that really broadened your horizons though, right, like seeing different part of the world. Had you traveled abroad before?

Jay - I lived in Brazil, so

Liz Norell - You lived in Brazil?

Jay - Coming here and then going over there, it's, going over there, it didn't feel too different.



Liz Norell - Sure. Cool. So you've applied to the nursing program?

Jay - I applied for admissions over at ChattState.

Liz Norell - Yeah.

Jay - I am about to take a couple of classes and then take the TEAS test next spring, not this coming one.

Liz Norell - Yeah, good. Good for you. What makes you want to be in nursing?

Jay - At first, I was going to do the Radiology Tech program, but then I saw, I said, you had to say precalculus algebra, (laugh) I looked at that class like, I don't even want to take another math class, I am just going to, just going to go about a different, but I think I have like six, six more classes left and then I can actually apply for it, I am good.

Liz Norell - Yeah, good for you. So what would you tell people who are thinking about coming to ChattState? What would you want them to know about this college?

Jay - Ooh, it is not as hard as it sounds. College is just like, I don't want to say it's just like high school, but as long as you do your work and actually study, pay attention in your class, you're fine. And that aspect is just like high school.

Liz Norell - What advice would you give people?

Jay - Just coming here or?

Liz Norell - Or anyone?

Jay - (Laugh)

Liz Norell - Give me your life wisdom Jay.

Jay - Ooh, I don't miss too many days of class.

Liz Norell - Good advice.

Jay - Of course. Make sure you stay on top of your assignments. Don't slack off because eventually I feel like you just go, you are going to slack off to the point where you are really

going to stop going to class and that's kind of the situation I was in at one point, but it got turned around.

Liz Norell - Good for you.

Jay - So, we are good. If you need some counseling, especially with pushing forward, I highly recommend you go to it because we can't have many more statistics man, it's too rough out there, it's too rough.

Liz Norell - That it's so true. Thank you for saying that. Is there anything else you want to share with people who might be listening? Anything at all, anything in the world.

Jay - Oof, if you all go to ChattState, make sure you all do the study abroad program. I can't even lie, it was lit, it was lit. Just make sure that you feel comfortable going aboard though, because if you don't, it was really, it takes a toll on your mental state.

Liz Norell - Yeah. Alright, thanks for coming by Jay. I appreciate it/

Jay - Of course, anytime.

[Music]

Tater - My name is Tater.

Liz Norell - Tater?

Tater - Well, my last name is Tatro, but people call me Tater.

Liz Norell - Like the potato?

Tater - Yes, ma'am.

Liz Norell - Okay, so that's the nickname?

Tater - It's a derivative of Tatro, which is what people call my grandpa.

Liz Norell - Yes, cool. So how long have you been a student at ChattState?

Tater - Four months.

Liz Norell - Four months? So this is your first semester.

Tater - Yes, ma'am.

Liz Norell - Awesome. What do you think so far?

Tater - I think it's pretty cool. There's nobody here when I come, because I take night classes.

Liz Norell - There are people here tonight.

Tater - Yeah.

Liz Norell - (Laugh)

Tater - I also don't got to the credits ever.

Liz Norell - Okay. So you are a TCAT student?

Tater - Yes, ma'am.

Liz Norell - What are you studying?/

Tater - Industrial electricity.

Liz Norell - Awesome. Do you like it?

Tater - Yes, ma'am.

Liz Norell - How long is that program?

Tater - A single year.

Liz Norell - One year?

Tater - Yes, ma'am.

Liz Norell - And then you are out to do electricity things?

Tater - Yes, ma'am.

Liz Norell - Like what would you do?

Tater - Well, right now, I am working at Lowe's and I just got moved over to the electrical department, but after I get out, I will go, apply to be a lineman.

Liz Norell - So like working on like poles and stuff?

Tater - Yes, ma'am.

Liz Norell - My dad did that for the telephone company. He was a lineman for 30 something years. So how did you get roped into Late Night at the Library?

Tater - They said I was allowed to get out of class for it.

Liz Norell - Sweet. So you had to come over here and get free food?

Tater - Yes, ma'am.

Liz Norell - Okay. Do you have to do like projects and stuff when you are in TCAT or is it just like a show up and do the work while you are here kind of thing?

Tater - Show up and do the work while you are here, but you got to do projects, you have to do them. For your first semester, you have to do 17 projects.

Liz Norell - Wow. So you like it though?

Tater - Yes, ma'am.

Liz Norell - Have you met cool people in your program?

Tater - Yes, ma'am. There is

Liz Norell - Tell me about that.

Tater - There is Andy, everybody thinks he is really good at stuff and

Liz Norell - Is he?

Tater - He always says that he is not, but he is real good at chess.

Liz Norell - Yes.

Tater - And other cool stuff.

Liz Norell - Okay.

Tater - And then there Anthony and he knows a lot. And then there is John. John is my teacher and he is real cool, I like him.

Liz Norell - Awesome. So what made you decide to do industrial electricity? Sorry, this is so far outside my comfort zone.

Tater - Oh yeah.

Liz Norell - But like what made you decide to do that?

Tater - I wanted to buy a 1972 Chevelle SS.

Liz Norell - (Laugh) And this was the way to do it.

Tater - Yes, ma'am.

Liz Norell - Get a job. Any advice you would give to people who want to come to Chatt State or who are already here?

Tater - Come to Chatt State, don't go through the parking lot, that's two 90 degree turns that are adjacent, because they will always pull you over there.

Liz Norell - Okay. Good to know. Thank you.

[Music]

Liz Norell - Tell me your name.

Alana - My name is Alana.

Liz Norell - Alana.

Alana - Yes.

Liz Norell - Hi Alana.

Alana - Hi.

Liz Norell - How long have you been here?

Alana - I have been here for three semesters.

Liz Norell - Three semesters.

Alana - Yes.

Liz Norell - You are almost done.

Alana - Almost (laugh), very close.

Liz Norell - So what are you studying?

Alana - I am studying to be a dental hygienist.

Liz Norell - Nice.

Alana - It's new.

Liz Norell - So you are in the allied health.

Alana - Yes, yes, right.

Liz Norell - Over in the Health Science Center.

Alana - I actually don't have any classes this semester over there. But I believe not the spring semester but the next one, the next fall one, I will be over there, so yeah.

Liz Norell - Wow. What kinds of classes do you have to take for that program?

Alana - Sociology, statistics, anatomy one and two, basically all of the allergy classes, I know that you have to have the chemistry, so you could have taken that in high school or you take that here. And then I believe there is a couple others, but those are the main ones that they focus on.

Liz Norell - So I have talked to a lot of people tonight about A&P, how was that for you?

Alana - A&P, personally I enjoyed it.

Liz Norell - You liked it?

Alana - Just I, because I took a, A&P college course my senior year of high school and so coming into here, most people, when it comes to the ChattState A&P classes, they usually wait a couple of semesters. I just, since it was in my brain, I just did at my first and second semester, and I really enjoyed it. I had Professor Taj for most of my classes.

Liz Norell - She is amazing.

Alana - She is incredible. I love her so much (laugh), she is amazing. You can go to her for any questions you have or anything like that. So yeah, I enjoyed though, it was lots of fun.

Liz Norell - Yeah. What has been a student at ChattState been like for you?

Alana - It's a very broad question (laugh). It has been, it has been really good. I think school wise, you know, apart from like the social life and stuff, it has been very, very good, all of the teachers, all the professors are absolutely wonderful, welcoming and most are open to any questions that you have, or if you need help. The advisors are pretty good too, you know, we love the advisors (laugh). And everyone has just been very welcoming, which I was surprised of, coming to Chatt State. I was kind of nervous, you know, as every freshman probably is on some level, but I was very surprised and I actually love it here (laugh).

Liz Norell - Excellent. What advice would you give people who are thinking about coming here or maybe who just got here?

Alana - I would say

Liz Norell - Like Tater over here.

Alana - (Laugh) I would say when it comes to classes, keep an open mind. I had a class that I didn't like my first semester, I transferred, and it was with a certain professor, but then this semester actually, I have that professor again and originally I transferred to another class to be with my mom who is also studying

Liz Norell - Oh wow.

Alana - We were studying the same thing at that time.

Liz Norell - Cool.

Alana - But, but really if you think about, if you think you need to transfer because of the professor or something like that, hold it off for just a little bit longer and keep an open mind, because they may have a learning, learning or teaching way that will help you in the future, you know. I really didn't expect some of the ways that the professors teach, you know, and I thought, oh no, all professors can't be like that, some, most aren't, but a lot of them do keep to a certain, not schedule per se, but a way that they do it, and

Liz Norell - Can you give me an example of what you are talking about?

Alana - So I did not think coming to ChattState that I would be looking at tons of PowerPoints.

Liz Norell - Okay.

Alana - In certain classes, and my first semester, that was only a couple of classes and I thought, okay, they are not going to use PowerPoints all the time, you know, because it's, it's kind of better at least for me when learning to do hands on, you know, and talk about it, but a lot of professors teach from the PowerPoints and actually, because I waited for that and waited to like, taught myself how to accept that, I actually got better grades because most professors will give you the PowerPoints and you can study from those and as long as you do the work and you know, keep to it, persevere (laugh), have a happy attitude, then more than likely, you will get good grades and that's what the people who run the programs look at and you know, it's very, very helpful. As long as you just keep an open mind, so.

Liz Norell - What brought you to Late Night at the Library?

Alana - So I came last semester, or the last time, it was here and I loved it so much, you know.

Liz Norell - What did you love about it?

Alana - I think it was just seeing all the students, I am a very social person, you know, I am a mixture, I am an extroverted in, introverted extrovert, I guess the term would be, but just seeing all the students talk to each other and help each other out and every, the librarians are absolutely just sweet, so sweet to all the students, and they are willing to help you find anything or if you are having trouble with the monitors in the studying room or what not, they will do their absolute best to make you as comfortable as possible, you know, and the extra time that we have gives me more time to study, because if I go home, I know that I am going to lay in my bed (laugh), fall asleep and not study. (Laugh).



Liz Norell - Would agree, that's what I am not going to do.

Alana - (Laugh) Well, I mean every, everyone needs sleep, you know. So yeah, I think it was just watching everyone get along so well, the smiles, the laughter and even if, even if it's such a stressful time, you know, in your finals, it's wonderful to see everyone in high spirits, so

Liz Norell - Do you have a project that you are working on tonight?

Alana - I actually do. I have to do a persuasive speech for my communications class with Professor Avolio and

Liz Norell - Okay, oh my gosh, she is so lucky that you are in her class.

Alana - I love her, she is incredible. She, the way she teaches is just oh, she is amazing. So yes, I am doing a persuasive speech on where we have to persuade the other students to donate to a nonprofit organization and so my organization that I chose is called Moto F.A.M. and they donate money to motorcyclists who have been in accidents where it wasn't their fault and that kind of helps them out with medical bills and stuff that may come up, you know, and then they also along with that, teach people how to be safe when driving around motorcycles and I thought that's such an important thing, because a couple of weeks ago, I actually witnessed a man pass away in a motorcycle accident on 153 I was, I believe it was and that hit me so hard and because my, my parents actually drive motorcycles, you know, ride motorcycles, excuse me, and just seeing that in real life, it hit me and I was like okay, this is something that people don't take very seriously and so that's what I am doing my speech on, I am currently working on the PowerPoint and I got in contact with the man who passed away's family and they gave me permission to share about him and I am just, I am very excited, you know, to talk to all students in my class whenever we do it and so yeah, that's what I am currently working on. (Laugh)

Liz Norell - That's awesome.

Alana - Thank you.

Liz Norell - Good for you. What would you want people to know? What do you want people to know who are listening to this, anything?

Alana - Anything and all, even though you might be stressed out right now, and even though it may seem like you are not going to get through this, you are, in 20 years, you are going to look back and you may feel like, why did I worry so much, so really just know that even though you know you have finals that you have to study for and it feels like you are under a lot of pressure,

know that, number one, you are not the only one, number two, that there are people who care about you and know for a fact that you can do this, you know, even if you really don't think that you can. Trust me, that's coming from me and I am a student where if I get a B, I get mad because I didn't get an A. (Laugh) I, I cried my first semester when I got my first B, I was like, oh, so yeah, just don't worry about it, you know, calm down, you know, we all have final anxiety, I guess would be the term, but in the end, you can do it, you are smarter than you think, you are stronger than you think and there's so many people whether you see it or not, that believe in you, so.

Liz Norell - That's beautiful, thank you.

Alana - Thank you.

Liz Norell - Alright, thanks guys.

Alana - Thank you.

Liz Norell - That's fun.

Tater - Merry Christmas.

Andrea Kincaid - Late Night at the Library is my favorite night of the semester in spite of working till midnight. It reminds me of when I was in college and you know, would have those study groups of my classmates. Working with your peers and your classmates is one of the biggest ways that you can succeed in college, it definitely helped me out so much. So the spirit of the evening, the comradery and we all know that students procrastinate, I should, I certainly did and so they appreciate this extra boost to come and get their stuff done.

Liz Norell - What's your favorite thing about Late Night at the Library.

Andrea Kincaid - Oh, my favorite thing about Late Night at the Library, I think it's the goals board that was the result of Susan Jennings, our Library Dean, that was a product of her creativity. So she came up with the idea for the goals board and seeing those students set their goals for the night and then buckle down and really get to work on them and the happiness and the relief that's on their face when they move it to the completion board, it just hits me right in the heart, it's beautiful.

Liz Norell - How many people came this semester?

Andrea Kincaid - Two hundred and five.

Liz Norell - Ooh.

Andrea Kincaid - Which was a record breaking attendance level. I, you know, was in tears at the check in table, so excited about breaking that record. Next semester, let's make it three hundred, you know, let's, you know, do as much as we can to get as many students in there to, to get ahead on those papers and projects.

Liz Norell - Awesome, thank you.

Andrea Kincaid - Thank you.

Liz Norell - Those of us who have the honor and privilege to work on Chattanooga State's campuses know that something really special happens here. And it's humbling to get to share a few of those special things with you, our listeners. So thanks to you for joining us here today. And a special thank you to the students, faculty, and staff who make this podcast possible. If you are a student at Chattanooga State, and you want to be on Tiger Stories, let us know. You can get in touch at the email address in the show notes. We will be back soon with another installment of Tiger Stories. Until then, make it a great one.

[Music]