

Intro Hi, I'm Jacob Walsh, and I'm Orion LaMontagne. Thank you for tuning in to the Manage-A-Bull MBA podcast where we have deep dive conversations with students, faculty, staff, and alumni to give you a comprehensive picture of the life inside of a top tier media. In this episode, we speak with Megen Rose Rependa. Megen is a first year MBA student from Toronto, Ontario. In our conversation we talk about Megen's first year in the MBA, why she chose to come to UB, and hear about her recent success by the internship for the summer. Be sure to check out our show notes where we will post links to the UB MBA web page and the contact information Megen and ourselves. If you enjoyed this podcast, follow us on twitter @UBMBAandMS to stay up to date on what's happening in the UBC School of Management where extraordinary is our ordinary.

Jake Welcome back. We are here starting the first episode of season two of the podcast Orion and I started this about 13 months ago now was when we first kicked off our conversation. What was it? at the Graduate lounge?

Orion Yep,

Jake We just kind of ramble.

Orion We did we did a podcast of ourselves.

Jake Yes. We rambled for a solid hour and a half. We had to cut it down like 45 minutes.

Megen Would have been some good editing time right there.

Jake But uh, not worked out. Well. So here today we are with Meghan Rose. Rependa.

Megen Correct.

Jake Megen is a first year MBA student now in her second semester, and from the Great Northern country of Canada.

Megen Yes, the great white north. Yeah. So I am In, like Jake just said, my first semester, I have a background in philosophy from University of Toronto, I grew up just around Toronto and sort of the country area surrounding. I moved to the big city when I was 16. And lived there until this past year. so new to the NBA and new to the fields new to the city, new to the country, new to pretty much everything around here so far, at least.

Jake Well so what am I most curious questions is being you know, from Toronto, which is close by and has some large MBA programs itself, what drew you southern border into your to do

Megen so a couple of things. First of all, I knew that I wanted to end up working in the States. So one way As an international student to make sure that you at least have a better chance of being able to do that is to go to school and second of all,

I am not a very competitive person. I'm not a very aggressive person. I'm not somebody who likes to be in a program that is very cutthroat and coming from University of Toronto, that is something that's just sort of ingrained in our school. And I was finished working with that. I didn't want to be in a situation like that pretty much ever again. So in doing my research for business schools, it wasn't so much the clout of the school that was drawing me not that you'd be doesn't have a great reputation. It does. It was more what people were saying about the atmosphere and the culture of the school. And I had heard really, really great things about it. And that has only been proven to me time and time again, my cohort is incredible. We're all friends. Literally all of us. We have a massive group chat where we're talking constantly. I'm getting together with people tonight that I've talked to three or four times that I'm excited to have over and get to know even more now and it's just it's been a really, really great experience with the people here. so far.

Orion Yeah, I remember I was lucky enough with myself and Kate Jarvis to have have lunch with you when you were still considering different schools and and I remember that was something that was different about you asked about that we never heard was you were concerned about or you wanted to know what the culture was like in the in the MBA program and it sounds like, you know, it's it's, it's meant that that need for you?

Megen Oh, absolutely. absolutely. It has. It's gone above and beyond what I was expecting it to be. It's really just a collection of people who have each other's backs. 100% of the time, my cohort, they are amazing people and I wasn't expecting it to be so welcoming and so supportive and just such a good community.

Orion That's awesome.

Jake Yeah, I think that the collaborative aspect and kind of the support that the program offers is definitely one of the one of the strongest attributes that's offered here. And now I find it really interesting because from all the different people I've talked to that, that hasn't been one of the drivers I've really heard before. So especially someone coming coming from international aspect. So I mean, props to you. Sounds like you did your homework. Beyond UB how'd you like buffalo?

Megen Oh, it's been really fun. It's been really fun. It's definitely a change. I'm used to things being open on Sundays. Just in general, I'm used to being able to go out late at night and get food sort of anywhere or go on to Uber Eats and maybe midnight and be able to have an array of different options at my fingertips. Perhaps not so much here. But it's been. It's been a lot of fun finding all of the amazing little areas. There's a karaoke bar that we now go to every single Thursday as a cohort. There is so many many fun things to do around this city that you just need a little bit of effort to look into. And then you meet incredible

new people and you have incredible new experiences. And I've been to I think, three concerts here now. It's been sort of surprise after surprise in Buffalo

Jake Have you been to Ironworks yet?

Megen Yeah, I have. Yes. So that's where I went to my second concert and it was like a fever dream. It was so strange. It was the art is music music is art music is art festival. And I have never experienced something like that before. And it was so much fun in the silos they had almost like music haunted houses setup. That's crazy. It was so weird. So cool. So strange. Definitely will be doing it again.

Jake Yeah, that's one of the fun things buffalo even though it's a smaller city. There definitely are a lot of cool events like that, that go on that you can definitely get access to. And then I mentioned Ironworks because it's My favorite venue in the in the city of Buffalo

Megen Unsurprisingly it's a really really cool there.

Orion Yeah, I mean with concerts to me we are a small city we get a lot of good shows between Darien Lake which is a little bit a little bit further east from the city and then you know Ironworks

Jake The Townballroom or the keybank center yeah especially. Usually I feel like artists if they're in New York they're either in New York City or buffalo you're gonna have to hit the upstate New York area

Megen yeah I said Death Cab for Cutie here. Oh, yeah, yeah. At the at the Art Museum at the

Jake Art Museum. The Albright Knox

Megen Yes. Yeah, just outside of it. Yeah, really? Yeah. It was a lot of fun and taking the bangers and Death Cab for Cutie.

Jake I'm surprised how many people were there for like Death Cab for cutite. they've sold out Madison Square Garden. I'm surprised that

Megen it was probably 250 people.

Jake That's awesome. That's such an intimate show.

Megen Yes. It was a lot of fun. It was so good. So good. First time I saw that no second time I saw them in person.

Orion In the summer, they do Kerfuffle. I don't know if you've heard advertisements where it's like, a whole bunch of bands. It's like little, little alternative mini Woodstock. That that's really fun and it's packed. It's it's usually, you know, down at the harbor.

Megen Y'all definitely have to check that out.

Jake Do you plan on living here over the summer? Yeah,

Megen yeah, I actually have an internship now.

Jake Congratulations.

Megen Thank you. With Fisher Price. Yeah, yeah. So I'm really, really excited for that. So they're an East Aurora. So I'll be living here over the summer and working for them. And I'm really excited for that.

Orion Will you be taking over for Steve that is

Megen I will be I believe so.

Orion Marketing?

Megen Yes, yes. But there's two different there's two different divisions. There's brand strategy and product development. I don't know what she did, but I'm doing product development which is very Very cool. Awesome.

Jake Is that a, like a direction that you were hoping to go to the program with marketing and

Megen have no idea actually, yeah, I had no idea what I was going to get into. No. So I I'm very excited to do it now. And I think it is something that I would have never pictured myself doing. I didn't think that I wanted to do marketing at all, but in doing your internships, you know, you put out as many applications as you can. So I put out I was pretty lucky Actually, I put out about six or seven and got to nose right off the bat for being an international student, unfortunately, and then to no responses, and then a couple offers for interviews. So going into the interview for Fisher Price, I spoke to Steven Davis, and after he explained a little bit more about the position and how he This time with them had gone. It was something that I hadn't thought about that I'm now almost certain that I think that I might want to do. There was a lot of things and almost in there and probably stay in there for a while. But you know, there's there's so many decisions to make. And I'm trying to keep such an open mind about it. But I'm very excited for it for sure.

Jake Yeah, I mean, the thinks in the maybes that's that's kind of comes in part and parcel with the first year. The first year you got ideas and you start taking classes and something's like, Well, actually, no, I don't want to do that. Or experiences come up. You're like, Oh, you know, that might work out. Something that that just makes sense. So what you said product development?

Megen Product development Yes. So they have two different lines, six different teams, two different lines, they have the baby gear, and then they have a bunch of different products for different age groups. So those will be toys and then the baby gear is actually here. So like a baby on or something like that. I don't know which team I'm going to be working on yet. Think I'm going to hear a little bit

more about that in about two or three months. But yeah, it'll be taking a role in a product from starts not quite to finish because it's only an internship. But I will also have the opportunity to see projects in all different stages of that development. So while the product that I start off working with, I might not see through to the very end, I will see other products in stage two, stage three, stage four, all the way to actually pushing them out onto the shelves. So it'll be interesting to sort of get that snapshot of the process in different variations.

Jake That's is a really cool program to be a part of, and I know I know the Fisher Price. They're such a large company to get exposure to that, you know, so series props to you are there you know, there's the other interns are will just be doing,

Megen I believe it's six, six interns. I don't know if they're planning on having them all come from UB. But there are six grad student interns at Then a bunch of undergrad interns I believe as well, but for this position, it's one for each of the teams.

Orion Do you know, you know, if any of your first year, classmates?

Megen I don't I don't know yet. I hope so. I have I have a few people that I have in mind that I think would be incredible for the job. But I haven't it's been such a crazy couple of weeks, this past couple of weeks that we haven't really had a chance to talk at all.

Jake Did this just come through? Did you do this last semester?

Megen This just came through so I got the phone interview. Two weeks ago, same night, I got an email saying they wanted to do a six person panel interview. Yeah, yeah. And they wanted to do it in four days. So planning for that was interesting because it was midterm season. Okay, so I had two exams. One the day that they wanted to do it. So I told them that it wasn't gonna be able to. And they were pretty flexible and set up a Skype interview with me. And that's even more intimidating on Skype or Skype. And I'm sitting here it's a it's an 8am interview. So the building isn't even really open yet. I had to I wanted to be in a room by 730 and make sure I have all of my stuff set up make sure I'm I'm totally set out before I get this Skype call. So we had to make special arrangements. People came in early for me to open the room early. It was it was an adventure. It was an hour long. And it was a little confusing, because they were all on one computer, but sitting around in a semi circle. And there's a little bit of a delay. So you would say something and you can't get that immediate feedback. That's so Important in an interview, it was just like a pause. Oh, no. Exactly, I interrupted people a lot and they interrupted me a lot. But it apparently went well. And two days later, I got a call from them saying that they wanted to offer me the job and it was one of the most satisfying moments so far for sure.

Orion That's awesome. That's that's one of the one of the better internship opportunities in terms of you know, looking at lucrative after graduation possibilities for opportunities. So So that's, that's fantastic. Yes, yeah.

Megen No idea how I got it, but I do.

Jake That's awesome. They on the little screen like do you have a large screen or

Megen no, I have them on my little computer on my laptop. So remembering of one thing I will always do from now. If I ever have that situation again, or if I'm just even face to face, I will have a sheet of paper. And I will write down each of their names. And one question that they asked because trying to write the thank yous afterwards, and putting faces to questions and interactions together, and a lot of them had very similar names. And they all went around in a circle and just like 15 seconds, it's done. I have their name, their position, how long they've been working for, for fisher price for where they came from. And it was six people's worth of information to hold in my head while I'm terrified. I'm about to not get this job.

Orion Were you able to patch together to flow of information?

Megen Yes, I was able to sort of think about where I was looking on my little tiny computer screen and responding to the people. Yeah, no, it went well. It went very well.

Jake Yeah, then. I mean, the fact that you got that secured so early, the rest of the semesters, kind of smooth sailing.

Megen Well I had an exam 15 minutes after that.

Orion How'd that go?

Megen That went, Okay, that was one of the one classes that I'm not a huge fan of. So it'll, it'll go better next semester. Hopefully.

Jake So, I mean yet, the nice thing is now getting that done so really, you won't have to be worried about that you're gonna watch a lot of your classmates starting to sweat as summer is approaching and internships aren't filled. Everyone always, you know, everyone always does. Some of them aren't until right on the line. I know I i last semester, it wasn't until like, maybe like two or three weeks left in school, and I finally secured mine. And it was a little bit of like a little stressor,

Megen inner panic.

Jake But then it came through and I had a great time. So you know, they still do come through. So I mean, speaking of this semester, how's how's the semester going?

Megen It's a whirlwind. Yeah, we were told that it might be a little bit easier than last semester.

Jake That's a lie

Orion I think its a little bit eaiser man.

Jake I don't think so

Orion Yeah, it's not.

Jake I think my second semester was my hardest of all. And it was slightly self inflicted, because I took 21 credits.

Orion Well, that makes it harder

Jake Plus I was like in a club, and then a whole bunch of other stuff. But yeah, it was by no means as intense. Yeah,

Megen yeah, I'm in a very similar position. I'm doing. I'm doing the full gambit of, of course, all of the required courses. I'm doing leaderCORE, I'm doing global programs. I'm doing the consulting club. Obviously, as you know, you're a part of it. I'm doing data modeling, of course, because data modeling Frank. So this these past two weeks, two weeks ago, it was two exams and a 25 minute presentation. This week, we had I can't even think about what we had. Now we're working on two 15 page papers, another presentation. And of course, a big case for Frank as well.

Jake That's due tonight, you gonna be ready.

Megen Yes. Are you still the TA for this class as well?

Jake Yes, I am.

Megen Great.

Jake I am looking forward to this one. This one's I feel like of all the cases cuz I did this class last semester to executive MBAs, but I feel like this case is the one that trips people the most,

Megen is it?

Jake I think so.

Orion Which one is what's with the map? Like we had a map out the

Jake Yeah, it's, but you also run 60,000 simulations?

Megen Yes. It's crashed our computers multiple times. So thank you for that.

Jake Your Welcome. You guys got to find the person who grew up with the best computer

Megen we have. They are the only one who's allowed to touch it. Right now. We just all stand in a little circle around them and go oh, that color there. Please.

Jake Yeah, I remember that because last year, when I run, I run the same group and our friend Kate. She, she handed off like kind of the final product to me. And then I was doing some like touch ups and put our memo together. And like I wouldn't mean to change something and I would just like click on the wrong cell and then we calculate, would take like 10 minutes working on a really crappy computer at the time. There was a doozy.

Megen Yeah,so recalculations take forever.

Jake Yeah. So I'm looking forward to seeing what everyone has to offer for the for that

Megen it's I mean, this case I don't want I'm gonna knock on wed before I say anything that's gonna Jinx us. It's it's made a lot of sense so far, putting it together. Yeah, it just like it lines out pretty easily. The actual scenario and trying to think about how to how to model that has all fallen together pretty simply, it's just the sheer amount of data. That's an IT that's literally crashing our computers. My computer, shut off. Okay, well, I guess I'm not allowed to work on this anymore but I I mean, I guess you'll be the judge quite literally a whether or not I'm right

Jake Well, thankfully I'm not the the only judge there's two of us so we'll we'll come to a middle of Jake's Yes. Usually how we do is we grade them both separately. And then we come together and reconcile. You know, so you don't just get one one opinion you get an average of two opinions.

Megen This is very fair. Yeah.

Jake And you know, back to the the amount of work you're doing I've kind of come to think that it's not that each semester it's like easier or there's less work, you just get better at handling the amount of work.

Orion I think second years, it's

Jake I'm just a masochist. You're doing your best semester just keep getting harder.

Orion You did mergers acquisitions, so that I think that's what I hear

Jake That was the hardest course I've ever taken. So

Megen Really?

Orion Yeah, it's a doozy. Everyone's everyone's getting beat up. And then with

Jake mergers and acquisitions,

Megen yeah, whos it with

Jake This guy, John Dunbar. He's great. He's worked in m&a for, like 30 years for like a private equity firm, he's mile he's done like tons of tons of acquisitions, he really knows the stuff. Of course, you literally model out the entire process of one company purchasing another company, like everything from start to start to finish, you know, your, your due diligence, your letters of interest, you know, going through the deal, building the financial model, doing, you know, putting together like an actual contract agreement. So you go through all of it. And he actually teaches Well, he doesn't teach it. There's two kinds of versions of the course the law school has one that's more like the legal structure inside of it. And then his is more of a financial structure inside of it. So it's, it was a lot of research, a lot of lot of math, a lot of assumptions. I mean, you're, you're trying to, you know, essentially project out how you're going to finance deal and you know, what what you expected to be and but also your purchasing based on stock prices. So as the stock price fluctuates, all the numbers in your deal fluctuate with it, because, you know, if, say if a company is currently selling, like \$40 a share, and your offers at \$60 a share between, you know, when the project starts and by the time it gets close to the end of the project, their shares have increased now of \$60 a share so you're no longer offering premium. So like you have to be able to adjust your model on the fly as well and keep like a consistent premium depending on how things change. So that I mean, that was a project Did you model that all out in the projects was fun, a lot of work but overall fun. But then this test where they were fair, but they were Yeah, they were they were very, very tough. So it's nothing that I can be mad at him like all we never talked about that feel like they were fair tests. They were just he kind of set it up. He's like, you know, I do this as if you you know you were a partner in my first I like that I'm looking for the level of work that I would expect from a partner of mine. You've been in this 30 years ago, we got a little more, but a good class, I wouldn't suggest it unless you have a strong intent of going into either, you know, strategic consulting, m&a or finance.

Megen notetaking

Jake if you don't think it'll be relevant to your future of work I wrote when I suggested because it is a large workload,

Megen it's always harder when the professors have had that experience in the field as well. And I mean, that's been the case. Even in my undergrad, even with philosophy taking courses about philosophers from scholars of that philosopher. It's the worst. It's the worst. It's amazing because you get such an incredibly

deep and detailed perspective of what's going on. But they also know so much about the area that You can't get away with anything. And yes, that's a really, really, really tough thing. I also know it's a really good thing. So that's why Frank's class has been such a hard sort of pill to take for so long because this is what he's teaching is what he did. It doesn't follow sort of the the typical outline of what the moment managerial process class would typically look like. And another MBA I know. But when I was showing, sorry, when I was showing what I was doing to my dad over Christmas, actually, he's a an executive at a fairly large company. He looks at me and he goes, Well, that's what I get my employees to do this like Yes, so I've been told multiple times, I guess I'm learning actually a political thing. So that's nice, but it they definitely keep you honest. And what you're putting out there and saying, Well, if you gave that to me, and I was your boss, You would be fired. So they definitely keep your standards really high when they have that experience in the field.

Jake

Yeah, and I especially, I know most of this with Frank I've been working on this past year Really? Yeah, that's a lot of it, as well as you know, it's when we're grading stuff, it's not just as the answer right, but as would this be something you'd be comfortable putting on a projector in front of your boss and your colleagues, you know, like, that's the level of professionalism we're looking for. And all the my new details, you know, like really is is this work quality product. So I think that the nice nice and then also just the, the, how I guess, most important, the the standard that not only some of these professors will do too, but themselves, especially when you see professors like you know, Frank, and even this guy, John Dunbar who did m&a with, you know, they expect a whole lot of you but they also go to great lengths to make it incredibly relevant information, always bringing in like current up to date numbers and statistics upcoming These are the talking about. So that type of attention to detail. I mean, I really appreciate it the professors that have had,

Megen

Oh, absolutely, and just their willingness to be around when I was here for that interview going up to the to the classroom and, again, building wasn't open. No one else was here. Guess who actually ended up letting me in? It was Frank, it was Frank. And it wasn't we hadn't even asked Frank to let me in. It was another employee who had come in and early just for me, but I was just five minutes early, and he walks by 730. He goes, Oh, hi. How's it going? It's like, Oh, I'm just about to interview. It's like, Oh, do you need to get into the room? Yes, please. Yes, please. So no, they are they're always here. And they're always willing to just give you their time and any type of help that they can. And that's something that I really appreciate.

Orion

Yeah, even though you know, data modeling is it It's challenging the, the science that Frank gives us. They're, they're not easy to figure out. But I will say, you know, you can go in there almost anytime and Frank is in there. And as long as you're not just trying to get the answer, you're not just being lazy. You know, he's, he's more than willing to, to spend time with you and explain what he's

asking for. It's not like, you know, you're just thrown out there in the ocean of data. And All right, go away to an answer

Megen your 60,000 different results.

Orion He'll help you help you get to where you need to go. So that's definitely, you know, spaces. commitment to the students for sure.

Megen Yeah, yeah. And I definitely think that one thing that I've learned in this past semester and the starting of this new semester is just keep asking a question until you feel as though you've gotten an answer that makes sense to you, because it's really easy to look your professor in the eye. They're re explaining something for the third time and just go home. No, oh no, I'm gonna go home and teach this to myself. And I think that throughout the semester, I've gotten more and more comfortable asking that second time, that third time, that fourth time because not everyone explains everything in the way that makes the most sense to you. For example, like I love the way that Phil Perry Thomas class, as well. I love the way that that man teaches his class, I didn't know that I would like finance, I actually used to have total anxiety around anything math base. Now I'm a tutor for the executive MBA finance. So just sometimes you gel with the way that someone explained something, and sometimes you don't I find it sort of difficult to learn from Frank. I know that he's a wealth of knowledge, and I know that everything he's giving me is super helpful, but I have to be willing to rework how I'm asking things and put myself out there as I can. Don't I don't know what you're saying. And I really need you to re explain this to me. And it's not it's not anyone's fault. It's just we communicate differently. And we have to figure this out because I do not understand what is going on.

Orion I think stats is a little bit

Jake Is the problem more stats or data modeling.

Megen Oh both

Orion Oh, yeah. I mean, it's finance follows and that's how Perry teaches it is it kind of iterates on the next thing, the next thing that's is and data modeling, you know, you still have to draw from from from stats is, I mean, it's it's very big ideas, and it's a lot of stuff that isn't it's hard to wrap your brain around, I think a little bit more than than finances, which which finance is definitely complicated and in its own way, but stats is like it's definitely tricky, I think. Yeah,

Jake especially with stats as well and also data mining, finance. You know, at least for the, you know, the first core finance out it was like in this situation this is the formula to use. Yes.

Orion And as long as you can remember it, yeah. And pick out the pieces. Again,

Jake And then you know, on the other hand with some of the stats, but definitely data modeling, it's like, okay, we have this chunk of information. We kind of want to get to this, like presentation over here. How the hell did we do?

Megen Yeah, yeah, absolutely.

Jake Figuring out you know, how to how to combine, you know, all your different functions and presentation styles and analysis like, yeah, it can be a little bit, you know, but it's definitely challenging.

Megen Very challenging.

Jake There's no, no shortage of time that was spent on that in the past. Yeah.

Megen But that was one of the big selling points for my internship. It was how well do you know Excel? Well, I'm sure you've heard of Frank, Frank and I, Frank and I spent a lot of time together. Isn't it that way? I have I have his Excel sheets up on my computer probably 100% of the time. So it definitely was something that my internship interviewers were looking for specifically, do you know how to do these things? Have you taken the time and even even presenting it to them? As you know, I don't have a whole lot of experience in this in my background coming from again, philosophy, you don't really have spreadsheets going on. But just presenting it as I have taken this much time in this much effort to improve those skills. No, I'm not an Excel whiz. But yes, I am working on it consistently. And yes, I am succeeding in this class was probably wanted to know. I am certainly not one of the I can we just talk about for a moment just pausing this. The questions in the individual assignments where it goes for advanced users only Yeah, you know who you are. I hate those guys so much. I look at the little blue text and I go, I'm not an advanced user I should have started from shotgun. I know when I do when I try them every time but it's I don't know that just it rubs it in my face.

Orion So I take it that if I were to ask you, which which class challenge you the most it's, I'm getting the feeling. It's the stats data modeling world.

Megen Definitely, definitely data modeling, stats to stats to some degree, yes. I only hesitant on that one because it's not as 100% applicable to where I'm going to be going. It's very important, but it's not something that I'm going to be consistently doing in the workforce. So I just sort of didn't think about it quite as much. I think also So Stars class that I'm in right now, our strategy class, we have our first deliverable for it Monday. So we'll see how that goes. But that one's definitely. I'm, I know it's going to be tough. It's also one of the most interesting ones I've been in so far. Because it very much mimics a philosophy class. And it's so interesting. It's, it's, I finally get to just like, sit and think about a problem. And that's really, really nice to have the experience doing it again, but Star also scares me. So we'll see how we got this

Jake kind of side topic, but I'm curious to jump from philosophy to business.

Orion I'm curious about that.

Jake How did that happen?

Megen How did it happen?

Jake What happened and I guess what is your How

Orion Tell us all about it?

Megen So I went when I was in my undergrad. I was going to at the at the university that I was at, you had to either double major, major, double minor or specialize. You couldn't just major minor. So, yeah, it's it's University of Toronto, they're they're intense. They're like I said, they're cutthroat. I'm not, I'm not, I'm not here for that. But so I was going to double major in cognitive sciences and philosophy. And I ended up getting pulled into the world of philosophy so much that I realized that I wouldn't be able to fulfill all of the requirements for both if I wanted to take the classes that I wanted to take for philosophy. So I ended up specializing spending all of my time, all of my time 100% of every single waking day in philosophy classes, and it got to be a lot, especially considering I don't see myself in an academic role I did for a while I considered going to recently Perhaps following through to my masters and doctorate in philosophy, but I was getting really, really frustrated with the questions that they were asking. And the process is fun. The process is a lot of fun getting just somebody theory, working through it, figuring out what they're saying, figuring out what the important parts are trying to see how they're contradicting themselves whether or not that actually works. But the problem is, is that so many philosophers divorce themselves from the world so totally that it's not giving you anything applicable. Even questions of say the trolley problem. I don't know if I can swear on this podcast.

Jake I don't care.

Megen Bullshit. Absolute, I wanted to pause real quick. You're setting up a scenario that is putting limits on a situation that do not exist in real life. You can't draw anything useful from the trolley problem where you're asked whether or not to sacrifice one for five, or throw one person in front of a train or whatever iteration of it you want to think about, that's not going to thinking through that problem is not going to give you any actual insight on how we see our own ethics. If you're putting constraints that you don't live through on it, I'm not I'm never going to find myself in a situation where if I push a fat man off a bridge, it's going to stop a train. It's not going to happen. And the decisions that I'm making in the moment are what are actually informing sort of what's happening ethically. So that's a vision from the real world. And the thinking world is what started to drive me a little bit nuts. And I got the opportunity to be in a class led by a man named IRA wells, who was incredible.

Jake I recognize that name, whats he from?

Megen

Iyra Wells is the head of one of the divisions at University of Toronto. But he also has written I don't know if you've ever read any articles about Jordan Peterson.

Jake

Yeah, yeah, he wrote a big one about him. A very famous one about him, because I won't get into that. um Jordan Peterson was a professor at University of Toronto. So there, there's just a lot of cross pollination Exactly. So I got the chance to go into a class with Ira Wells that was for mentorship and leadership, and it was a capstone. And what we were doing was we had a class together of six people, and he loved it. And together, we would collaboratively come up with ways to help the first years in whatever stream we were in. So University of Toronto was separate into a bunch of different colleges. So we were working with students. Each of us got a class of students tomorrow. We were just sort of thrown out there and going, Okay, go, go mentor them, Go, Go have fun. But then we would come back in class and sort of talk about our experiences and work through different strategies and ways to actually do it. Well, and in doing that, we read a bunch of different theories on workplace organization, on different HR theories, different ways to have actual physical work environments work well. And that was the first time that I had had sort of the combination of philosophy and a career come together really easily. It was I was finally able to sit down and think about things in the way that I really liked doing saying, Okay, what do we have and how can we make it better, and then actually have a situation in the real world where I could implement that and reading all of these different it was a lot of Harvard Business Review article. A lot of difference textbook for Business School articles. And in reading those, I realized there might be something that I could do with this. So I didn't know where I would be going with it. I didn't know what I wanted to do with it. But I figured if I went into business school, I would be able to integrate what I had learned with, perhaps a career. And that was really, really exciting, especially coming out of a four year undergrad where you're terrified that you're never going to have a job and work at McDonald's forever. So I made that decision pretty quickly. I applied to just a couple schools gone and everywhere I applied shows up obviously, and the transition was strange. Like I said, Stars class is probably the most similar to what I was doing. In my old school, it's a lot more here's the information I want you to be able to know it and apply it in different scenarios instead of where I was it was here's the information destroy it, take every bit out of it that you absolutely can put it back together. But the combination of the two with stars class and strategy and of course data modeling, having both these classes here that are saying okay, this is the information know it, understand it, be able to use it, and here's what you know, take it apart has been really really interesting. I find that talking with people who know who've been in the in the industry and say accounting before who have been working with banks before having conversations with them where they know their stuff, and then conversations with me where I just sort of go okay, but what if has had

some really, really interesting results. So It's sort of led me into being in the consulting group. With you, Jake.

Jake And Orion

Megen And Orion, I'm so sorry you were not at the last meeting,

Orion yes I was, I was at every one I literally spoke, we talked.

Megen Where you late, we didn't

Jake We talked about doing the podcast at the consulting group happy hour

Megen We talked at the happy hour, I know we talked at the happy hour

Orion I talked more than any other e board member. I talked about the legal stuff that was going on. Like

Megen I apologize, it's been a crazy to weeks.

Orion It's okay.

Megen But yeah, so it's I've been given the opportunity to take just sort of like these big questions in something like the consulting group, and the information that the school is giving me the toolkit to actually say, Okay, well, I have this big question, but I also have all of the things that I need to be able to solve it now. I also know these things and mesh them together. And that's been a lot of fun.

Jake Yeah. So, obviously, there's something that's, you know, always open to change. But what's kind of your personal roadmap for the next year? And then potentially beyond that, like we're not it's like you're going to be done with all the core classes, and it's completely electives? Do you have any of the types of classes or specifics that maybe you're interested in?

Megen I have a list going. I know that I'm not going to be taking mergers and acquisitions now. Thank you. I appreciate that. Um, I'm not really quite sure I know that I want to get a concentration. And I have considered doing either HR or marketing along with consulting, and I think that's going to be sort of informed by my internship because it is a marketing internship and I had never considered myself going into marketing, which a lot of people are surprised by when they talk to me or see me. I just sort of look like a marketing major sure I have that vibe about me. I'm probably going to end up going into one of those two, but I'm not quite sure. I have a lot of classes that I know that I want to take that I wasn't able to take this semester because of LeaderCORE and global programs. But I'm also incredibly fortunate to be in both of those as well. So I have a broad general idea but nothing really solid.

Jake What Global program are you doing?

Megen Europe,

Jake yeah, you leave in a couple weeks.

Megen Yeah. Two weeks. We leave in two weeks. We haven't. We have we have a lot of loose ends to tie in before we do that.

Orion Will this be your first time here for me even before

Megen I've been before my family is polish. So I've been to Poland a couple times visiting family Ukraine as well. I've been to Sweden and I've been to the England, Scotland, Ireland area as well because that's where my my mom's family is. But this is my first time going to Budapest in Vienna. So that's going to be absolutely incredible. I cannot wait to see those areas. It's it's something that I've always wanted to do and never had the opportunity to do. So.

Jake All the trips that Dorothy puts together, they're fantastic.

Megen Dorothy is also fantastic. I love Dorothy. I would love to grow up to be Dorothy. She's an amazing person.

Jake Do you think we'll do another trip next year?

Megen If I can, yes, I would love to. I mean, it'll all depend on how many credits I can afford to give up for it. But if I can fit it in, I will fit it in. Absolutely having having the experience with her. I'm sure it's going to be amazing. And we have a countdown going for how many days left until we can leave. So and it'll be my first time flying somewhere by myself. That'll be because I'm going I'm going myself through Air Canada, just because that's where my family gets points. And most people who are going are going through the airport in New York. I don't know what it's called

Jake JFK,

Megen JFK, thank you. Most people are going through day okay. So I will be leaving a day early and being there an entire day on my own before the actual program starts. So that's going to be very interesting as well.

Jake That'll be fun though. I will say I had a very pleasant experience on Air Canada recently.

Megen Oh, no.

Jake My way back from when I was flying back from India, I took the cheapest route possible but when when India to Sri Lanka, Sri Lanka to London and London to Canada, definitely the Toronto was the route that was bad. They had this new claim for some reason instead of the typical window shutters okay. It was like a smart glass that you could dim and on the darkest setting. It was like wearing sunglasses. And still staring directly into the sun. Oh, and I was on a transatlantic flight in a window seat where I had the sun just next to me for seven hours and like it hurt like it was so bright as dark as it is I was like what genius product tested this

Orion some engineer probably got a promotion for that. Because it seemed so if we could just maybe though

Jake First of all, I guarantee it's more expensive than the simple knockdown shutter and then it's like is

Megen Was it a triple seven? Do you know what planet was?

Jake can remember exactly was 343 it was a Yeah, it was a large she was a decent sized plane. The only saving grace was the flight wasn't full. So I ended up moving to an empty seat like

Megen Were all of the windows like better with

Jake Every window in the entire plane

Megen Weird,

Jake Yeah the darkest it would go and like multiple people were complaining on the flight and I'm just like they definitely never product tested this because you especially on like when you're flying East West like the sun just sits next to you. I'll show you a picture afterwards but like it was Like putting on Walmart sunglasses and staring at the sun.

Megen Did you get a good tan? I don't know. You could get like an iMac.

Jake It was Yeah. And then and then the flight crew and I asked them yes just has an eye masks. I was told only business class gets I'm asked you know us plebs back here having a cataract what we're staring at the sun. That's my rant is over my rant is over. But, yeah, so I mean, we've been going how long we been doing this? We are at the 47-minute mark,

Megen Oo 47 minutes

Orion It flys by

Megen absolutely.

Jake I think that's a fair place to cut it. Megen, thank you very much for joining us.

Megen Thank you very much for having me. I appreciate it. I am so sorry I forgot that you were on the consulting club.

Orion I'm just I'm so surprised. Jake literally showed up late. He sat right next to me. Then I spoke to the whole group. And then and then I'm the one that called you over After party to do the podcast, okay. I understand.

Megen yall scared the shit out of me

Orion Why.

Megen So I'm sitting over at a table of just a couple of people and you two are just like sitting very close to each other. And you looking very serious. And you're looking back and forth. And then I see you all right, look over at me. I look back at Jake and then just start talking again. And then you would look at me and just sort of like mumble something over right. And I was like, something is going on. And I don't know that I like

Orion I was just asking Jake

Jake We were trying to just set up this podcast

Orion I was asking Jake had you talk to me and and because we we kind of had this in the works. We talked about it. We just never actually like got to the point where we're planning and so I was just asking, why did you did you ever actually talked to Megen about this? And he was like no

Jake I talked to her Yeah, I was like, okay,

Orion that's what I called you over.

Megen Like, Hey, can we talk to you for a minute was like oh no no, I don't think you can.

Jake Scary Americans Yes. Well, thank you everyone for tuning in. Keep Stay Stay tuned we'll be back more thing continue on this second season of the MBA podcast up the Managae-a-bull MBA podcasts.

Megen I like that

Orion Aaron took that name and added it to its now the name of the blog too, right.

Jake Oh, really?

Orion Yes. The manageable blog. Isn't it managed one meeting? manageable. Yeah. So So Jake, Jake, that was Jake's he came up with that name. So apparently, your your

Megen That will be what your rememberd for.

Orion Your rippling through the through the

Jake I'm happy if I got that through. Well it's still Bullish I know he always puts a podcast up level that besides the point you search the manageable NBA will be you Wherever you're currently currently listening. Obviously, we're on Stitcher, Google, apple and fun stuff