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Alissa Miller and Abigail Kauerauf

IWU Council for Women
Illinois Wesleyan University

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2017 Council for IWU Womens Summit Recording: Alissa Miller and Abigail Kauerauf

Alissa Miller and Abigail Kauerauf Transcript

ALISSA MILLER: This is Alissa Sherman Miller here, class of 2008, with Abbie. Do you want to say your full name?

ABIGAIL KAUEAUF: I'm Abbie Kauerauf. I'm class of 2019.

MILLER: So, where are you from? What's your home town? And, describe one of your favorite-favorite things about that place.

KAUEAUF: I'm from Springfield, Illinois...just an hour south. I really like that it feels like a small town, but it's really quite big. It's the capital, and it's just really, really wide...there are so many different parts of Springfield...and it has a great...it has downtown which is very historic and then it has a west side...and there are a lot of different parts of Springfield that are really cool and I like that. Just five minutes out all the towns are farm towns, but Springfield feels different because it's the capital and because there is government and so much business...it's a really interesting atmosphere.

MILLER: Did you participate in like government, or things like that...growing up there...like protests and marches or rallies?

KAUEAUF: Oh, not so much. Now that I am older, yes...but not when I was a kid.

MILLER: Yeah, and then...where are you in the sibling order of your family?

KAUEAUF: [Laughter]. Um, I have an older brother...he's two years older...he's a senior...actually he's a senior here...and then I'm a triplet...so I have three...I have two others siblings. So, I'm the oldest of that...of the triplets and then I have a sister and a brother.

MILLER: Are they also here?

KAUEAUF: No...there at...they're at different colleges. Yeah.

MILLER: Oh, okay. That's fun. Is that why you chose Illinois Wesleyan? Because your brother?

KAUEAUF: No, absolutely not. [Laughter].

MILLER: [Laughter].

KAUEAUF: No. It was my first choice and he just happened to be here, and I asked him before...my parents and I asked him is it okay if your little sister goes here...and he was like "yeah, it's fine...whatever."

MILLER: [Laughter].

KAUEAUF: I really don't see him that much.

MILLER: Yeah, it's the kind of school where you can be...like it's a small enough campus...but it's still like...you cannot see someone if you don't...

KAUERAUF: Mhm...you can be as involved in things as you want to be.

MILLER: Yeah. Um, what are you proudest of your life or accomplishments or...?

KAUERAUF: Oh...

MILLER: [Laughter].

KAUERAUF: Um.

MILLER: ...experiences.

KAURERAUF: I'm proud of the fact that I...um...I'm involved in a lot of things. I always have been involved in a lot of things...that I think are really beneficial to the community and not just myself. I'm involved in a lot of RSOs and I'm...I-I'm proud...I am proud that I can manage my time well enough to do all that and still have...and still take on these courses and then I work and so I'm...I've always been proud of how I manage. It's not really an accomplishment, but it's like because of this I can accomplish things.

MILLER: I was thinking about my answer to that...I don't know if that's what you were going to ask...but I feel like it's along the same lines of multi-tasking...like last year...I was really proud that I was in grad school and planning a wedding and like..

KAUERAUF: Yeah...

MILLER: You know life...as well as taking on responsibilities that work like training in place **(3:43)** and it's overwhelming but I'm really proud of overcoming that difficult time...it sounds like you to...like managing your time well.

KAUERAUF: Mhm. Where do you work?

MILLER: Um, I work at the University of Chicago Hospitals...

KAUERAUF: Oh, okay.

MILLER: ...as a Nurse Practitioner...

KAUERAUF: Oh, my sister's a nursing major...

MILLER: Oh, really?

KAUERAUF: Mhm. Yeah, she has just started her clinicals.

MILLER: Oh, cool.

KAUERAUF: Yeah, she goes to Valparaiso University.

MILLER: Yeah! I looked at that school.

KAUERAUF: Yeah!

MILLER: ...the school of nursing...

KAUERAUF: Yeah, so they either...clinicals either go to Hobart, Indiana or Gary, Indiana.

MILLER: Oh, wow.

KAUERAUF: Um, so she's been going at like 7am to Hobart...

MILLER: Yeah.

KAURERAUF: ...which is a lot...

MILLER: ...early...

KAUERAUF: It's a lot (4:20)...near the hospital care...I think she will at one point switch to Gary.

MILLER: Okay. That would be interesting.

KAUERAUF: Yeah.

MILLER: Yeah, we get a lot of patients from south...or...it's in northern Indiana...but south of Chicago so we get a lot of patients from Gary...even Valpo and South Bend 'cause we're like a tertiary hospital...meaning like...you know...meeting patients...

KAUERAUF: Mhm.

MILLER: ...that need certain special surgeries or treatments...would come to us.

KAUERAUF: Mhm. What kind of work do you do...like what...what department do you work in...or is that how it's called or...

MILLER: Yeah, exactly. Well, I'm a...I'm in the pre-op clinics, so I see people before surgery to make sure that they are safe for surgery...but technically I'm in the Department of Anesthesia.

KAUERAUF: Oh, okay.

MILLER: Yeah...it's like internal medicine so...

KAUERAUF: Yeah. I like it.

MILLER: What do you hope your future holds?

KAUERAUF: Well, to go to grad school...I'm interested in public policy and....I'm going to study abroad next semester...

MILLER: Oh...

KAUERAUF: ...that's like the most...that's like the near future...

MILLER: Yeah.

KAUERAUF: So, I'm hoping to...I hope that I can go to a lot of places...

MILLER: Where are you going to be?

KAUERAUF: In Berlin.

MILLER: Wow, nice.

KAUERAUF: So, uh...it's only difficult because I am English and German...and so um...yeah I hope that I will be okay with speaking German for three months.

MILLER: [Laughter].

KAUERAUF: I think it will help a lot.

MILLER: Yes.

KAUERAUF: I think it will...um...I think my German will really improve, but I...

MILLER: Definitely.

KAUERAUF: ...definitely a little concerned but I think it will be fine. My German has improved a lot since coming to Wesleyan so...

MILLER: Mhm.

KAUERAUF: Yeah.

MILLER: It's a tough language but I'm sure you'll improve a lot in those three months.

KAUERAUF: I hope so. [Laughter]

MILLER: [Laughter]. I was a Spanish minor and...uh...I didn't have much opportunity to study abroad as a nursing major, but...

KAUERAUF: Yeah.

MILLER: ...they do a May term [laughter]...

KAUERAUF: Yeah.

MILLER: ...as you know from your sister.

KAUERAUF: Yeah, she told me that when she got to school, they said okay here are your...here's your four-year plan. Here's what you're taking.

MILLER: Yep.

KAUERAUF: ...there's not...there's maybe one or two electives...

MILLER: Mhm.

KAUERAUF: ...and that's it.

MILLER: Yeah, that was something that I liked about Wesleyan...is that you had May term and you could do fun things.

KAUERAUF: Yeah.

MILLER: And then, so I did go to Mexico for a month and I...

KAUERAUF: Oh.

MILLER: ...I improved a lot in my Spanish...

KAUERAUF: Yeah!

MILLER: ...in that one month...but I wish I had...like now they have a Spain program. I don't know if they still have that.

KAUERAUF: Yeah, my roommate is on that right now.

MILLER: Oh, cool. Yeah I wish they had that. I think it just started after I left.

KAUERAUF: Yeah. Did you have Dr. Folsie?

MILLER: Yeah!

KAUERAUF: She was my Gateway professor.

MILLER: Oh really! I love her, she's great.

KAUERAUF: Yeah.

MILLER: She's a great Gateway professor.

KAUERAUF: Oh yeah, she was really good because she's very intimidating...

MILLER: Yeah.

KAUERAUF: ...so then it makes you want to do better and so you can [laughter]...because when you get the syllabus...it's just like...Victoria Folsie...and it has all of the...

MILLER: Oh, her letters?

KAUERAUF: All of her letters...credentials?

MILLER: Yeah.

KAUERAUF: ...and the whole rest of the line...

MILLER: [Laughter].

KAUERAUF: So, as a first year it's intimidating but I really loved the class. It was called, "Portrayal of Mental Illness," and so to me that meant oh it will be books and movies—so it was my first choice. But, I think everyone else thought that it would be more scientific, so we had mostly bio majors in the class, but it was books...so...

MILLER: So, you were happy that it worked out for you!

KAUERAUF: I was the only English major in the class. We read books the whole time...and I think... so I really enjoyed it.

MILLER: You liked it?

KAUERAUF: Um, yeah. We read, "One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest."

MILLER: Yeah!

KAUERAUF: I read that in high school...it's one of my favorite books...so I was...I was a little over eager during that section...I could answer all of the questions.

MILLER: [Laughter].

KAUERAUF: I just think it's a great book, but uh yeah it was a lot of fun.

MILLER: Did everyone else end up enjoying it and like...

KAUERAUF: I think so!

MILLER: ...appreciating...

KAUERAUF: For the most part!

MILLER: ...psychiatry...from a different perspective?

KAUERAUF: Yeah, I think so.

MILLER: I think that's important to realize...yeah it's about like how media portrays psychiatric illness.

KAUERAUF: Definitely.

MILLER: It's not just your experience as a clinician so...

KAUERAUF: Mhm.

MILLER: That's cool. Gosh some...some of these are pretty deep here.

KAUERAUF: Oh no [laughter].

MILLER: [Laughter]. Um.

KAUERAUF: Do you have any requests? [Laughter].

MILLER: Yeah...

KAUERAUF: [Laughter]. Let's not do that. No. [Laughter].

MILLER: When in life have you felt most alone? Yeah.

KAUERAUF: No...let's skip those.

MILLER: I guess I will answer that one...it's kind of...

KAUERAUF: Okay.

MILLER: But, when I moved to...so after college, I moved to Rochester, Minnesota to work at the male clinic...

KAUERAUF: Mhm.

MILLER: ...which is like a really proud moment of my life, but I was so lonely because I didn't know anyone and it's a very hard experience after coming from college where it's easy to make friends...

KAUERAUF: Yeah.

MILLER: ...especially if you're out-going like I am, to just go and realize that people aren't welcoming...like they don't want to make friends.

KAUERAUF: Minnesota's not a nice...

MILLER: They're not...they're not nice.

KAUERAUF: They're not. Oh, oaky.

MILLER: They're passive aggressive is what they are.

KAUERAUF: Oh...

MILLER: [Laughter]. And I-I can prove this because my husband is a Minnesotan

KAUERAUF: Oh...

MILLER: So...he's not passive aggressive but he agrees with this...that they're um...maybe they're just ...I think like...

KAUERAUF: Maybe it's a mid-west thing.

MILLER: Yeah...

KAUERAUF: ...being passive aggressive...

MILLER: Definitely, and I think just like as an adult like I just thought oh you know people want to be friends with me.

KAUERAUF: Mhm...

MILLER: But clearly they already have their own friends...their own lives. They don't...

KAUERAUF: Yeah.

MILLER: ...want to welcome people all the time so...yeah, it was really lonely.

KAUERAUF: It's definitely odd coming to college because I had always had my triplet brother and sister...

MILLER: Yeah...

KAUERAUF: ... flanking...

MILLER: That's big.

KAUERAUF: ...my side...

MILLER: Yeah.

KAUERAUF: ...so I'm glad we all went to different colleges...

MILLER: Mhm.

KAUERAUF: ...there was like the first week...it was a little like oh this is... I have to make friends...because I'm very...not very...but I'm more introverted...

MILLER: Mhm.

KAUERAUF:so what I did...instead of like going out...okay I'm going to make a friend...I just joined like a bunch of clubs...

MILLER: That's a great idea.

KAUERAUF: ...and I hoped that people...that I would find people through there but like yeah that's...I did that a bit in high school too. That's the way that I try to do it because I know that I won't go out to like a party and then try to make a friend. I'm not like....that's not how I make friends so...

MILLER: Yeah, not chatting with some random person...

KAUERAUF: Yeah, that doesn't work for me [laughter]. But, uh yeah, orientation week was definitely like oh man. Yeah. [Laughter]. I had to find new friends!

MILLER: Yeah, that's really hard because you've always had like best friends all the time.

KAUERAUF: Yeah, and I've always stayed in Springfield so that people I knew in elementary school, I pretty much knew throughout...

MILLER: Mhm.

KAUERAUF: Some people moved and things but like I pretty much had the same group of people.

MILLER: Did your plan work, joining clubs?

KAUERAUF: Yes!

MILLER: ...to make friends...Yeah...

KAUERAUF: It did, which is good. [Laughter].

MILLER: [Laughter].

KAUERAUF: ...but in classes too...

MILLER: Yeah, and I think that...like that's the thing about college is that everyone is in the same boat, so they are willing to make new friends.

KAUERAUF: Yeah, oh yeah.

MILLER: ...versus the adult world...

KAUERAUF: ...especially freshman year...

MILLER: ...now it's true... **(11:05)** Yeah.

KAUERAUF: It's like who are you? [Laughter].

MILLER: [Laughter]. Yeah. Just knock on people's door.

KAUERAUF: People are so desperate to eat with somebody.

MILLER: Yeah, lets...yeah you don't want to eat alone.

KAUERAUF: Yeah.

MILLER: Let's all go as a group to saga.

KAUERAUF: Mhm.

MILLER: So, but then I met friends through my dog...I got a dog...and that's how I met friends [laughter].

KAUERAUF: [Laughter].

MILLER: And then I moved back to Chicago because I hated it so much there.

KAUERAUF: [Laughter].

MILLER: ...but, I did...I loved my work...I just didn't really like Rochester, Minnesota. But, um, yeah...and...um...who has been...well it says who has been the most important woman in your life but I would just branch to who has been an important woman in your life?

KAUERAUF: Um, uh my mom definitely.

MILLER: Mhm.

KAUERAUF: ...but that's a little cliché...

MILLER: No...

KAUERAUF: Okay. [Laughter]. Um, I've noticed especially since I've gone to college...I've noticed a lot more but I look a lot like my dad and have like the exact same man-mannerisms of my dad so I always would like just model myself after my dad...

MILLER: Mhm.

KAUERAUF: ...which is fine [laughter]. Once I got to college...as I separated from my parents...I was like wow I have a lot in common with my mom too so...

MILLER: Oh.

KAUERAUF: ...now we just have really good conversations...

MILLER: Aw.

KAUERAUF...and I was just like hm...I don't know why [laughter] my whole childhood I-I was always thinking like oh I have to be like my dad when I...now I kind of like bring it up to her sarcastically so I've noticed we have the same exact music taste and like the same exact...

MILLER: [Laughter].

KAUERAUF: ...taste in books...we're always sharing books... and so she'll be like oh I like this artist and I'll say oh me too just because you-I don't know who it is but I also like this artist.

MILLER: [Laughter].

KAUERAUF: She'll be like do you want to do this or do you want to read this book and I'm like sure [laughter].

MILLER: [Laughter].

KAUERAUF: ...I assume it's great because you like it [laughter].

MILLER: You have such great taste mom...

KAUERAUF: Yeah.

MILLER: [Laughter]. Gosh.

KAUERAUF: Yeah, I have no opinions except yours [laughter].

MILLER: [Laughter].

KAUERAUF: She's like ah stop [laughter]. But yeah...

MILLER: I'm sure she appreciates like a different sort of relationship as you've...

KAUERAUF: Yeah.

MILLER: ...gotten older...

KAUERAUF: ...it is different. I also think that we were pretty lucky in that when we were...when she had four teenagers in the house we weren't that like we never really went through an edgy phase [laughter]...

MILLER: Yeah...

KAUERAUF: Or like...I don't know... we were all...I think it's because like...

MILLER: **(13:22)** like I'll beat you all the time...

KAUERAUF: Yeah [laughter], like I hate you mom...

MILLER: ...24/7 for five years...

KAUERAUF: Yeah, my sister had that like when she was thirteen for a little bit...

MILLER: Mhm.

KAUERAUF: But I think the thing is that all the four of us check each other a lot.

MILLER: Mhm.

KAUERAUF: So, we never really had the opportunity to do that because it was like what are you doing? Why are you doing that? [Laughter]. So then we are all like pretty normal childhoods I would say.

MILLER: That's nice.

KAUERAUF: Do you have any siblings?

MILLER: I have a younger sister...she's a physician assistant.

KAUERAUF: Oh.

MILLER: ...so we're very similar. In very...in different and other ways...like she's always very popular and outgoing like...

KAUERAUF: Mm.

MILLER: ...pom and squad (13:57) and I was like music...

KAUERAUF: Oh yeah.

MILLER: ...and theater...reading my book all the time but um I-I definitely had a harder relationship with my mother...not like you know...I don't know...it's just like we're so similar that we would...we're very like stubborn...you know...strong-willed women...

KAUERAUF: Mhm...

MILLER: ...that I did not like the rules that she had [laughter].

KAUERAUF: Yeah.

MILLER: I thought her curfew was too early...not that I was doing anything bad I just thought it was stupid that we had a midnight curfew...or it was like 10 o'clock...it wasn't even midnight...it was like 10 o'clock on the weekends...it was like so early...

KAUERAUF: Yeah, that's early.

MILLER: ...and then she pushed it to eleven and then finally by senior year...I think I got midnight...and I was like this is ridiculous...but uh all of my friends were in the same boat because they were all over-protective parents...

KAUERAUF: Yeah.

MILLER: But anyways as I've gotten older I've come to become very close to my mom like...

KAUERAUF: Mm...

MILLER: ...we also share books and talk a lot...

KAUERAUF: Yeah...

MILLER: ...so I would agree even though it's cliché that my mom is the most important woman in my life, she taught me you know that work-life balance is a myth...you know something I was like...I'm going to have that and that...she always pushed me to...you know...educate myself...is the most important thing...more than like dating and having a husband...

KAUERAUF: Mhm.

MILLER: ...and I felt like she modelled like valuing myself as a woman for myself and not like by definition of a relationship...and just those important lessons that I never felt um...I know it's like a new age now but never felt dragged down by stereotypical professions even though I ended up in a stereotypical woman's profession...

KAUERAUF: It's okay [laughter]. I heard there's a nurse shortage now.

MILLER: Yeah, there has been off and on throughout time like the eighties maybe and then again there was kind of a boom and there weren't enough jobs and I think we are now trending more towards a shortage...but there's definitely a physician's shortage too.

KAUERAUF: You said you were a nurse practitioner?

MILLER: Mhm. Yeah. Does your sister want to become a nurse practitioner?

KAUERAUF: No.

MILLER: No?

KAUERAUF: I think just a...

MILLER: Not just a nurse... [Laughter].

KAUERAUF: a...

MILLER: A nurse. [Laughter].

KAUERAUF: ...nurse. Yeah.

MILLER: So uh, yeah but my dad has been important in my life too uh...what would you...are you a sophomore?

KAUERAUF: Yes.

MILLER: What would you say to incoming students at IWU? What would you want to say to them?

KAUERAUF: Oh, um...it's okay to say no to joining clubs [laughter].

MILLER: [Laughter].

KAUERAUF: So, uh orientation week the theatre kids do like a college 101 show and they tell you about like drinking water when you party and things like that...

MILLER: Yeah.

KAUERAUF: ...but also...like...when you go to the RSO fair don't join everything...I remember one of the theatre kids saying that and then in my head going I'm going to do that anyway. And then I did it and then it's overwhelming [laughter].

MILLER: Yeah.

KAUERAUF: And I can't...I-I struggle with saying no because I want everyone to like me...

MILLER: Mhm...

KAUERAUF: So...the-the only thing I'm looking forward to when I study abroad um in the fall...I'm hoping that I come back and people will forget that I'm there.

MILLER: [Laughter].

KAUERAUF: ...and they won't...but then I'm like opposite and I have a-an opposite position because I [laughter] obviously put my name forward for everything so...

MILLER: Yeah.

KAUERAUF: Hopefully...some of the things I can...I know there are like two clubs I'm in that I could probably...push aside.

MILLER: Yeah. Just when you come back just like ignore those emails.

KAUERAUF: Yeah.

MILLER: Yeah and just...

KAUERAUF: Yeah, oh wow.

MILLER: Yeah.

KAUERAUF: Still on German time.

MILLER: [Laughter].

KAUERAUF: Maybe I'll try that.

MILLER: Yeah.

KAUERAUF: We'll see. I'm not sure...

MILLER: ...unsubscribe...

KAUERAUF: ...how successful I'll be but...

MILLER: Yeah.

KAUERAUF: We'll see.

MILLER: It's a good point.

KAUERAUF: But still I would say still to join...

MILLER: Yeah.

KAUERAUF: ...clubs...just because it enriches your college experience. Oh, and to go to all of the discussions and all of the international films and speeches...

MILLER: Mhm...I-I would agree with both of those things like I also struggled with saying no to a lot of things...I...but I was always really happy with that decision like later on...maybe my grades...I know they could have been better if I had studied more but I would rather have had those experiences...

KAUERAUF: Mm.

MILLER: ...with the clubs and the organizations I was in...um I second that like going to see a poet was really cool to me and like a speaker um on like you know gay and lesbian rights...

KAUERAUF: Yeah.

MILLER: ...things like that...that you don't really get that opportunity...especially a free opportunity when you're out...

KAUERAUF: Definitely. Oh yeah.

MILLER: ...in the greater world...um.

KAUERAUF: Yeah, you can really educate yourself in so many different things...

MILLER: Mhm.Yeah. Hm. What question sticks out to you? What example of your high school or growing up years did you feel like you could be *you* out loud? When did you feel like you could be you...yourself? I guess?

KAUERAUF: During high school?

MILLER: Yeah...or growing up years. This is probably...that's...that struck me as a question for you because being one of triplets...I don't know if you ever felt like lost?

KAUERAUF: Mhm [laughter]...

MILLER: ...in the...

KAUERAUF: Oh no.

MILLER: No.

KAUERAUF: I'm the oldest...

MILLER: Oh okay.

KAUERAUF... I'm definitely the leader [laughter]...

MILLER: [Laughter].

KAUERAUF: So...

MILLER: The birth order of things...

KAUERAUF: Yes...

MILLER: ...it's very true.

KAUERAUF: Yes. It is. And also they're...they're a lot more shy and so...

MILLER: Mhm.

KAUERAUF: Um, and so it's always been like what am I doing? And, they'll also do that [laughter].

MILLER: They'll follow.

KAUERAUF: Yeah. Um, we were all in band and um I started to be out loud...um when I was fourteen I uh...do you know what Kiwanis is?

MILLER: Yeah, it's a club.

KAUERAUF: Yeah. The high school version is called key-club.

MILLER: Yeah, my cousins were in it.

KAUERAUF: Yeah, cool.

MILLER: [laughter].

KAUERAUF: I was in key club and I was um fourteen and I just put my name to be the lieutenant governor and I got it.

MILLER: Oh, wow.

KAUERAUF: And so that was like an experience where I could fulfill all of my...like I really like meetings and um binders and tabs and hole punches...

MILLER: Yeah.

KAUERAUF: ... and things like that [laughter] so like at fourteen that was probably the best opportunity for me and I met...so it was all...you have a lieutenant governor per division and so there are like thirty-six of us across Illinois nation Iowa and we have to go to board meetings um...

MILLER: Wow...

KAUERAUF: (20:41) and we they are all like in Chicago usually...now I would also be with a bunch of fourteen year olds so it-it was cool to um start...to become more professional.

MILLER: Mhm.

KAUERAUF: And to work on things like charity events and things of that nature um...

MILLER: That's sounds like good leadership training.

KAUERAUF: Oh it was so good. It was such a good leadership experience...um...I'm really glad that I did it...and then um yeah I...it really helped me with public speaking and um time management again...things like that...were really helpful so...that was...that was one thing that's like usually I did things my siblings did as well but this was one thing where just I did, so that was...that really helped me with my independence and...and thinking of myself not as like part of a system but like as a... my own person...so that...I really. High school that was probably one of my highlights.

MILLER: Mhm.

KAUERAUF: Um, besides that usually we did everything together in high school. I would say band is a huge part of my high school experience.

MILLER: What instrument did you play?

KAUERAUF: I'm a percussionists...

MILLER: Yeah?

KAUERAUF: ...so I played uh percussion and then I was in the jazz band so I played piano there.

MILLER: What was your favorite percussion instrument? Was it like cymbals, or drums, or snare?

KAUERAUF: Uh, marimba definitely.

MILLER: Marimba?

KAUERAUF: Yeah.

MILLER: Oh, that's cool. That's really cool instrument.

KAUERAUF: Uh, any of the...any of the xylophone. I'm in a ja—...I'm in a jazz combo here.

MILLER: Oh, cool.

KAUERAUF: ...and I play vibraphone.

MILLER: Wow, I love vibraphone.

KAUERAUF: Me too.

MILLER: Really cool.

KAUERAUF: Nobody knows what it is.

MILLER: Yeah.

KAUERAUF: I was telling my German professor...when I was signing up for academic advising last semester and he was like, "what classes are you going to take?" and I was like I'll probably take jazz again and he was like, "what do you play again?" I play the vibraphone and he had to look it up...

MILLER: God...

KAUERAUF: He didn't seem that impressed.

MILLER: Oh, it's really impressive, you have to like multiple...like very good dexterity which I don't [laughter].

KAUERAUF: [Laughter]. And he was like okay [laughter].

MILLER: It's not just you know rhythm, it's tone and you know.

KAUERAUF: Wow, thank you.

MILLER: [Laughter]. I play the French horn.

KAUERAUF: Oh! My mom played the French horn.

MILLER: Yeah, oh it's beautiful instrument...

KAUERAUF: Yeah, it really is.

MILLER: Yeah.

KAUERAUF: Very under-utilized.

MILLER: Thank you.

KAUKERAUF: [Laughter].

MILLER: Yes-yes. So...

KAUERAUF: We didn't have enough in my high school...

MILLER: Oh really...

KAUKAUFER: And they weren't...like I think you have to...it's one of those instruments you really have to learn...like you really have to take lessons...

MILLER: Yeah.

KAUKAUFER: ...and master because if you don't play it right it sounds very...

MILLER: Horrible.

KAUKAUFER: off...and so we had a...

MILLER: Yes...

KAUKAUFER: ...had some people struggle.

MILLER: Uh... [Laughter].

KAUKAUFER: That and my sister played the Oboe...

MILLER: Oh, that's another one.

KAUKAUFER: That's another one where you really...

MILLER: [Laughter].

KAUKAUFER: She too—she took outside lessons...

MILLER: Yeah...I did too. I played here in the...just in the pep band...

KAUKAUFER: Oh yeah, ah huh...

MILLER: I didn't really have time for the orchestra...

KAUERAUF: Yeah no I'm... my jazz combo is just once a week.

MILLER: Yeah.

KAUERAUF: Cause I-I could not do...

MILLER: No, definitely...

KAUERAUF: Could not...

MILLER: **(23:31)**. You're a double major right?

KAUERAUF: Yeah...

MILLER: Yeah, no.

KAUERAUF: Yeah, I could not commit to any at a time.

MILLER: Yeah, it was a lot of fun.

KAUERAUF: Would you get paid for pep band?

MILLER: I did...

KAUERAUF: Yeah...

MILLER: ...which is awesome.

KAUERAUF: Somebody told me that the other day and...

MILLER: I know...

KAUERAUF: ...so surprised like why am I not in this? [Laughter].

MILLER: You should join it!

KAUERAUF: No, I don't want to... [Laughter]

MILLER: Okay [laughter]. Well, it was really fun...

KAUERAUF: ...seems like a big commitment...

MILLER: ... you actually get paid to hang out with your friends...yeah what time is it I'm supposed to be in charge of time.

KAUERAUF: Um... It's 2:48...

MILLER: Okay.

KAUERAUF: I think...if I'm doing my...

MILLER: Thank you. Okay, that's fine. Yeah, I would say I'll get back to it maybe one of these days.

KAUERAUF: Yeah, they had a...my father went here and they had recently...somebody retired or something and they had like a big concert if you were an alumni and you were in band you could play...so he...

MILLER: Oh.

KAUERAUF: ...he was very excited.

MILLER: But they had a pep band one of the...was he in the pep band?

KAUERAUF: No...

MILLER: Okay...

KAUERAUF: Well, he was but I think he just played with the orchestra...

MILLER: Oh, okay...

KAUERAUF: ...or something...he played trumpet...but...

MILLER: That's cool.

KAUERAUF: ...but he would be...like after dinner...because it was my senior year in high school after he would go to the basement and you could hear him practicing...

MILLER: Aw, that's so cute...

KAUERAUF: [Laughter]. He was so excited.

MILLER: [Laughter].

KAUERAUF: It was, it was really cute.

MILLER: Aw.

KAUERAUF... and he was here the other day and he likes talking about how like oh I graduated from here in 83' you know sort of things and was like I was here recently and the uh something-something concert...

MILLER: [Laughter].

KAUERAUF: ...nobody saw me...

MILLER: [Laughter].

KAUERAUF: No, he didn't say that but (24:47).

MILLER: (24:48-24:49).

KAUERAUF: Yeah.

MILLER: I would...I would care.

KAUERAUF: I was right there!

MILLER: [Laughter].

KAUERAUF: [Laughter].

MILLER: I would...I-I played again...

KAUERAUF: Yeah. Took out the old trumpet [laughter].

MILLER: [Laughter].

KAUERAUF: Dusted it off.

MILLER: It's funny because I came...I come back for most homecomings. I have a friend in town...

KAUERAUF: Mhm.

MILLER: ... I showed up and it was like a reunion year for the pep band...

KAUERAUF: Oh...

MILLER: I think it was the...like the directors' like anniversary.

KAUERAUF: Okay, maybe that was the same thing.

MILLER: Okay.

KAUERAUF: Was it two years ago?

MILLER: Yeah.

KAUERAUF: Okay, that was it.

MILLER: ...and I showed up just to go to the game and I ran into him and I was like oh congrats and he was like oh do you want to play? And I was like I haven't played since college.

KAUERAUF: Yeah.

MILLER: He was like that's okay I'll have someone go run and get a mellophone for you and I was like uh...no.

KAUERAUF: Mhm.

MILLER: I'm sorry.

KAUERAUF: I'll watch.

MILLER: Yeah like I-I kind of would like to play again but like I don't want to sound really, really bad.

KAUERAUF: Yeah.

MILLER: Like you need to practice like...

KAUERAUF: Yeah. [Laughter].

MILLER: [Laughter].

KAUERAUF: Yeah, he was excited [laughter].

MILLER: Like I haven't touched a mellophone or a French horn in four or five or however many years...eight years...yeah it wasn't going to sound good.

KAUERAUF: French horn can be a jazz instrument.

MILLER: Yeah! My band director in high school would not let us play! And the jazz...

KAUERAUF: Miles Davis has a French horn in his...in one of his albums.

MILLER: [Gasp]. I was like I know this could happen but you wouldn't let us do it. He was very traditional about jazz

KAUERAUF: Well, we're about to start...we're about to start...we're about to have like a coup in our jazz combo because [laughing] we're just the um...it's just the like no-cut-no-audition.

MILLER: Yeah.

KAUERAUF: If you want to be in it fine get in there and so that's-that's why I did it because I didn't want to drop [laughter] um but um...but it's been about...so this will be my fourth semester and it's been about the same people every time and we're and they're usually like music-ed majors so we know we're not that bad but this semester we have um...like we increased a lot and we have a cello and we have a violin...

MILLER: Wow.

KAUERAUF: ...and some of us like veterans are like are really [laughing]...

MILLER: Really not happy about it...

KAUERAUF: We're really not liking some...all of these string instruments.

MILLER: [Laughter].

KAUERAUF: We have two guitars now.

MILLER: Wow.

KAUERAUF: It's kind of grading...

MILLER: Mhm.

KAUERAUF: But um...

MILLER: Yeah, I mean I...

KAUERAUF: I always say in the beginning of the semester we'll never make it in time like we'll never have any music to play and then we always do.

MILLER: Yeah.

KAUERAUF: The concert is always okay.

MILLER: How-how do you find string instrument pieces for the jazz combo band?

KAUERAUF: It's not...it's just when they take solos.

MILLER: Oh okay...

KAUERAUF: ...it just sounds just like this isn't right.

MILLER: Yeah. Like base obviously...

KAUERAUF: ...it's not pure [laughter]. Well, base obviously is totally fine yeah.

MILLER: Yeah but like are they like plucking on the cello like the base player does?

KAUERAUF: No, they're like...they're bowing.

MILLER: Hm.

KAUERAUF: And, it's just I don't know it's a little odd but I can tell my professor is he's super he's like I'll say anything because this guy was going to play piano and we always have like way too many piano players. I actually went in and asked for piano and was told that we already have like a bunch and so I was going to leave but then I was like I also play percussion.

MILLER: Oh.

KAUERAUF: So, that's how I [laughter]...

MILLER: Nice!

KAUERAUF: ...did that. But um, uh this guy came in and he like oh I play piano and my professor was like oh we already have like two piano players and he said well I also play violin and I was thinking no [laughter]. I looked at my professor and I went no [laughter].

MILLER: [Laughter].

KAUERAUF: And I can see that he was thinking and he went okay yeah.

MILLER: [Laughter].

KAUERAUF: Yeah, we can do violin.

MILLER: [Laughter].

KAUERAUF: And I was like no, I don't want to.

MILLER: I don't want violin...

KAUERAUF: And I looked at the base player and they were like no.

MILLER: [Laughter].

KAUERAUF: So...now we have a violin.

MILLER: Oh, wow.

KAUERAUF: But he's...he's very good at piano...I wish...

MILLER: Yeah.

KAUERAUF: ...that he would play for piano...

MILLER: Oh...does he play like electric violin? No...okay that does seem like strange yeah.

KAUERAUF: Hm. It could work.

MILLER: **(28: 18-28:19)**.

KAUERAUF: Yeah.

MILLER: No, more like blue grass to me.

KAUERAUF: Yeah and we're playing like we just got a new jazz professor so our old one last year he-he really picked songs that fit our group...

MILLER: Mhm.

KAUERAUF: ...and this...which was fine...both ways are fine but this one...our new professor...he picks songs that are like classic be-bop you're going to like...you need to know this if you call yourself a jazz musician and so it's more difficult to fit this weird instrument.

MILLER: Yeah!

KAUERAUF: Um, line up in there...

MILLER: Yeah that is kind of strange.

KAUERAUF: So...

MILLER: So, if he's so like into letting anyone in then why is he so...

KAUERAUF: Yeah...

MILLER: ...traditional about...

KAUERAUF: Yeah, purist...oh well.

MILLER: [Laughter].

KAUERAUF: It will work.

MILLER: That's interesting.

KAUERAUF: Yeah, have you been to the jazz club...I don't...downtown?

MILLER: I feel like I...no.

KAUERAUF: I can ____ (29:09).

MILLER: I know...I definitely saw jazz on campus because I had a friend who was in the jazz combo but...

KAUERAUF: Mhm.

MILLER: I don't remember. Is there a jazz club downtown?

KAUERAUF: Yeah it's called Jazz Upfront.

MILLER: Okay.

KAUERAUF: I've never been.

MILLER: Cool.

KAUERAUF: I'm not 21 so I cannot...

MILLER: Wait so downtown Bloomington?

KAUERAUF: Yeah! Downtown Bloomington.

MILLER: I didn't know that. I've gone to a few in Chicago.

KAUERAUF: Mhm.

MILLER: ...and like Blues...well actually more like Blues...um...like Blues lot...but I've never done...yeah I didn't know that. Well, thank you for letting me know because maybe I'll go with my friend.

KAUERAUF: I don't know if it's any good because I haven't been [laughter].

MILLER: [Laughter].

KAUERAUF: I just know there is one [laughter].

MILLER: There is one.

KAUERAUF: Yeah.

MILLER: Okay, thank you for letting me check the time. Um...okay.

KAUERAUF: We have six minutes...

MILLER: Six minutes...

KAUERAUF: I don't know what's next, do you know?

MILLER: I do. Oh, we have a little bit of a break so I'll just tell everyone to stop at three I guess. It's in here too. What does leadership sound like?

KAUERAUF: Yeah.

MILLER: Okay. Um, thank you for letting me look at your watch.

KAUERAUF: Yeah.

MILLER: Are there any funny stories or memories or characters from your life that you would want to tell me about?

KAUERAUF: Um...I don't know uh...that's a tough question [laughter].

MILLER: My dad is called the funny man because he's always kind of like a comedic you know he's not like obnoxious but he's definitely more like a slap stick comedian...

KAUERAUF: Oh...

MILLER: He'll always like...every time you pass a cemetery he'll be like people are just dying to get in.

KAUERAUF: Yep. Oh, he makes dad jokes?

MILLER: Dad jokes...which I think are hilarious.

KAUERAUF: [Laughter].

MILLER: ...but no one else seems to really...really like I say them now.

KAUERAUF: [Laughter].

MILLER: I'm not a dad or a mom but I just think they're really funny and my husband does not approve like does not appreciate this sort of humor either but um...

KAUERAUF: Yeah my dad is very, very reserved...but he makes sometimes he makes sarcastic comments.

MILLER: Yeah. [Laughter].

KAUERAUF: If he knows you well enough so if you're his children...

MILLER: Yeah.

KAUERAUF: ...or...or

MILLER: Like a good friend.

KAUERAUF: Or my mom [laughter]. Yeah, he will uh...he'll like say something funny...

MILLER: Yeah.

KAUERAUF: ...but he's very reserved.

MILLER: Reserved. But, um...so he's kind of a character I guess and uh yeah in our family our character. What about you? Any funny stories or memories?

KAUERAUF: I don't know um...I automatically think of embarrassing things...

MILLER: Yeah.

KAUERAUF: ...that have happened to me but I can't like picture...I can't like pin-point one...there's so many...

MILLER: I know.

KAUERAUF: [Laughter]. Uh...um...

MILLER: I'm really bad...uh I really like sarcasm but I'm really bad at it.

KAUERAUF: Oh...

MILLER: Like people take me too literally.

KAUERAUF: Oh, yeah... I-I...I'm always sarcastic and one of my suitemates is very...cannot...like there's no...like she doesn't understand sarcasm...

MILLER: [Laughter].

KAUERAUF: ...at all... so it doesn't translate.

MILLER: Yeah.

KAUERAUF: There's always a disconnect...

MILLER: Yeah.

KAUERAUF: It's funny because my other roommate um is abroad in Spain for the Spain program but she would always be the one to like...she would do the same thing kind of sarcastic and my instinct would be like what's going on? (32:33-32:35)

MILLER: [Laughter].

KAUERAUF: ...like I don't get that...she's a very sheltered child...

MILLER: Oh, god that's sad...

KAUERAUF: ...now she's (32:41)...why is everyone sarcastic?

MILLER: What is this?

KAUERAUF: I don't know...

MILLER: My cousin married uh Japanese woman.

KAUERAUF: Mhm.

MILLER: I was like joking with my uncle because there was some birthday card with pictures of his grandkids and he's white and I was like who are these kids?

KAUERAUF: Yeah...

MILLER: Those are my grandkids...and I was like I know that...joking...

KAUERAUF: Right.

MILLER: Sorry! [Laughter]. That's like every one of the jokes that I have ever told. [Laughter].

KAUERAUF: [Laughter].

MILLER: Just no one gets them!

KAUERAUF: Aw...

MILLER: [Laughter].

KAUERAUF: Yeah...I always laugh at my own jokes...

MILLER: Yeah...[laughter].

KAUERAUF: Or I laugh before I tell the end of the joke.

MILLER: Yeah...

KAUERAUF: Yeah.

MILLER: But, okay I kind of answered that twice. Um, any other questions or things you want to share before we wrap up? Questions you want to answer or tell...tell the future?

KAUERAUF: I don't think so.

MILLER: [Laughter].

KAUERAUF: I think uh...I think we're good.

MILLER: Okay.

KAUERAUF: [Laughter].

MILLER: Well, it was really nice to talk to you.

KAUERAUF: Yeah, you too!