Tracey

18:42

Interviewer: What was your major?

Tracey: Oh, International Studies

Interviewer: OK, and did you do a minor too?

Tracey: No, I didn't. I was close to a French minor, but I didn't end up. I needed like one more class or something.

Interviewer: OK, no worries, and the year you graduated?

Tracey: 2012

Interviewer: OK, fine. The question is, the undergraduate experience, graduation, and degree completion are what's called "scheduled events." And they're considered rites of passages. How do you feel about your transition from school to work?

Tracey: Well, I, when I, my last semester in December, I took an internship with [cuts off], and they ended up hiring me after graduation, so it was pretty smooth.

Interviewer: OK, good. So things kind of worked out really nicely for you. Were there things that you were p-, that you had expected that, you know, once you got your degree you thought would happen? And were there things you thought that should have happened didn't?

Tracey: Well, [cuts off] work in IT, in technology…I [cuts off] what I was going to do with an International Studies degree, but I didn't think technology. So I think that was the biggest thing. I just, I didn't think I would end up in technology. I didn't expect that to happen.

Interviewer: [Cuts off]

Tracey: I mean it pays well, but it's not what I want to do forever.

Interviewer: Oh, OK, so we'll look at your career aspirations, because that's [cuts off] for. OK, so transition as you went from school to work. What would say were social support? Cause it sounds like initially when you were in Ann Arbor, [cuts off] talked about your social support that helped you navigate from school to work. And then also, you can talk also about your transition from school, from work [cuts off] to Arizona, what was that like and was there anything challenging?

Tracey: OK, so the transition from college to my first job was definitely really difficult, because it was in a field I didn't know anything about. It's a lot different working and having to impress a client or someone. You're not just like doing your best in a paper or trying to work with a team. You have to impress someone else and make them like see everything that you're doing. So it was really difficult. And then it was a start-up company so it was like a lot of work. So my mom was pretty much like the supporting factor. [Cuts off] I would be so stressed, and she would be like, "Tracey, you should quit this job [Cuts off] killing you." I'm like, "I know." And then it got

better and I learned more so it was a little bit easier. But then when I got the job here in Phoenix, it was definitely time. Because that job

was too stressful and too much work. It wasn't rewarding at all. And then so moving to Phoenix I have family out here in Tucson so that's been helpful. And I have an uncle in California; that's not too far either. And then my parents will come out and visit me. And I just got married in December so my husband is like part of it.

Interviewer: Congratulations. That's awesome. We'll have to get that information on the record. That is so, [cuts off] so it sounds you've got a lot of support then.

Tracey: Yeah.

Interviewer: Yeah, now tell me how long, cause we're also tracking how long millennials kind of stay within companies. So how long, it sounds like the last company was stressful but how long did you stay with them?

Tracey: From the internship till I left, a year. But if you would count like employment, like actually working, it would have been like eight months. And then I've been with this company now a little over a year.

Interviewer: Wow, isn't it amazing? Like almost two years have gone by since you've graduated.

Tracey: I know.

Interviewer: Things are moving quickly, huh? So let's see, OK, here's a question where we ask a

little bit about the university environment and your work place environment. So we create a lot of opportunities for students to learn while they're in school inside and out of the classroom. So it's a two-part question. What part did the academic

degree do to prepare you for gainful employment? And then the next part is, did the social college experiment prepare you for gainful employment?

Tracey: OK. So I think the most helpful would be the written and analytical skills. Not really any one class. I mean I don't think I use much of what I learned in college. But the written skills definitely are very important and analyzing problems or questions. I use those skills a lot. And I think that's what Midwest University tries to teach more than anything. And then social wise, I did a lot of international traveling and studying abroad. [Cuts off] helped me work with all types of different people, and then I mean the business world is like, it's all about who you know, right? So the most important thing, so definitely, I think the social aspects for me were as important as like the communication and analytical skills. I'm pretty outgoing anyway so yeah.

Interviewer: OK, well good, good. Now this one, we were trying to look at when recent graduates entered the market, trying to determine, do you think the economy played any, did the economy have any impact in your own job search or the job market?

Tracey: Yeah, definitely.

Interviewer: OK, [cuts off] so that did impact your short-term goals, your long-term goals?

How do you make sense of today's economy?

Tracey: So I'd definitely say short-term goals. As I said, I didn't think I would be in IT or technology. But there's a lot of jobs and they pay really well. And when I was graduating, I mean I was applying for a lot of jobs in Washington and New York.

And I mean no one would give interviews. No one did anything or even respond. But then I got that internship with the IT company. I mean they were the only ones to offer me a job so I had to take it. And then, I mean there were opportunities to like do, I was thinking maybe about a Fulbright Scholarship or something in India. One, this one like, it wasn't a Study Abroad, but it, you would work in their company in India. But [cuts off] like that, some fee like two thousand dollars to work. And I didn't even get paid while working there. So you know, I took the job. I mean now I'm in the role more, and I understand the role and the job. And it's definitely, the next five years I'll probably be in a similar role just because it pays so well. And there's not very many other jobs. I mean I even thought about going back to law school, but I've been looking and like fifty percent of law graduates can't even find a job. So what am I going to do with a hundred thousand dollar law degree? So yeah.

Interviewer: And that's a good point. So when you took the one position, did you have to go to India, you said the one you had to pay the two thousand dollars towards?

Tracey: Yeah, so it would be I forget the program, but it was this program that would set you up with a company in India, and you would work with the company. A lot of them were like either education-based or they were doing something to better the community in some way. But they

were “for profit” companies, but more than just profit companies. It was a year-long program. You would live, work there. I think they paid for housing, but there was like a group housing. Like you would share a bedroom with three other girls or something. And then I’d have to pay for all my travel, my meals, I’d even have to pay like a program fee.

Tracey 5 May 30, 2014
Interviewer: Yeah, how long did you do that one for?

Tracey: I didn’t do it. It was that or work for the IT company.

Interviewer: Ah, OK.

Tracey: When I graduated, those were my options.

Interviewer: So would you say you sent out a lot of applications in that last semester?

Tracey: I sent out a lot. And I went to both of those Job Fairs, the one in the fall and the one in the winter. And it was like nothing was, and they were all like boring jobs. At least technology is a little….it’s moving, it’s exciting. A lot of the jobs were like “Oh you’ll work at Target. And you’re going to in their corporate office, and you’re going to do this stuff all day.” It was like boring jobs, nothing exciting, definitely not working my degree.

Interviewer: Now in the last semester, what would you say, would you say…

Tracey: And then also people I know, a lot of people I know went to work for Teach for America. And then the others are just like working at restaurants. No one’s really working like that, like a career.

Interviewer: Some of our kids are working at restaurants with Midwest degrees?

Tracey: Yeah.

Interviewer: Oh [cuts off] reaching back for some guidance or…Cause that's got to be disappointing though.

Tracey: Yeah, definitely would be. I don't know. I don't think they, I think it's more they don't know what they want to do. And then there's not that many jobs so it's just open.

Interviewer: Right, wow. Yeah, and then [cuts off] talks about, you know, recommendations and it's almost like, you know, for students who are recent grads who are still trying to figure out what to do….

Tracey: Right.

Interviewer: That seems like a different question than those of my recent grads that are like, yeah, [cuts off] so those are almost like two different things. So I'm still, I'm collecting, so trying to understand the phenomenon. Because my goal is to hopefully design something. Because there's such a great number of people that either A) can't find what they want to do or get a decent job or you have people who are like "Oh I know I already got the first degree, but I'm going back for the master's."

Tracey: And that's what a lot of people are doing. They're like, "I can't find a job. I don't really

know what I want to do. I think I want to go back to school."

Interviewer: Yeah, but what's concerning is if they acquire so much debt.

Tracey: Exactly. That's expensive. Like I was saying about the law degree. Like yes I would love to have a law degree, practice environmental law. But a hundred thousand dollars, and I hear it's not even worth it if you don't go to the top three law schools. It's just a waste of money.

Tracey 7 May 30, 2014
Interviewer: Is that Harvard, Yale, and ?

Tracey: Stanford.

Interviewer: Wow. That is crazy.

Tracey: Ridiculous.

Interviewer: You know, it's funny to just see how life has just totally changed because of the economy.

Tracey: I mean lawyers, doctors, these people never had problems. And I think both are having problems. IT is still fine though. I mean there's lots of job, like a lot of jobs.

Interviewer: Yeah, but so would people have to get some kind of specialization or how would that work though?

Tracey: So for me, it just worked because I was with a startup and they just needed people [unclear]. That's why it was so difficult, like the transition, like the first three

months were really hard, because not only was I transitioning to like a business world and clients being seen, but I had to learn all these technical skills that were just…it's a lot. Like it's a lot to learn. So [cuts off] but I mean most people that I work with are some type of engineer, computer engineer or mechanical, mostly computer engineers.

Interviewer: Yeah, was so that internship paid or unpaid?

Tracey: Unpaid.

Interviewer: Wow, that's amazing that you stuck with it. And it would be your ace card.

Tracey: Yeah, ended up paying me what, I mean I'm paid pretty well.

Interviewer: Yeah, so it's kind of interesting with the Arts and Sciences. Because I was interviewing another alum and he felt like had his discipline had an internship, maybe the [unclear] degree, he would be working relatively someplace decent.

Tracey: I think that's true.

Interviewer: Because [cuts off] you not only you gain the skills, but would you say you were, these folks, what it sounds like with this company, that's how you were able to go to Arizona?

Tracey: Exactly.

Interviewer: Yeah, so using those networks.

Tracey: This company a client we were working for just liked what I was doing and

wanted to work for us.

Interviewer: [Cuts off] Funny because honestly what caught my attention was how [cuts off] the same thing about the business school students. And then he said, Miss Rosemond, what I [cuts off] when they go do the internships junior year whatever, even if they don't get a job at that company, some [cuts off] that company.

Tracey: Yeah, and that's the other thing. A lot of those jobs or internships are tailored for the business school students. They'll say a business school or economics degree. A lot, I remember a lot of job postings would say that. Either you're in the

business school or you're majoring in economics. That's what they were looking for, those two.

Interviewer: Yeah, so it's amazing [cuts off]

Tracey: Cause it was a start-up and they just needed people.

Interviewer: Yeah, and Ann Arbor is a good place for start-ups too.

Tracey: Exactly. And I found it on a Midwest University posting actually. It was on the Midwest University Careers Web site.

Interviewer: Wow, was that with the Career Center?

Tracey: It wasn't through the Career Center but it was on their Web site.

Interviewer: Oh yeah, the career portal.

Tracey: …jobs

Interviewer: OK awesome. So in terms of now you're, you feel like the economic climate is one variable impacting long-term aspirations, and then you also have environmental cues from peers, also graduates of the Arts and Sciences. So that final piece, you know, your own reflection, so what do you think the long-term aspirations and goals will be?

Tracey: So, well, I'm going to take up a sewing course in the fall.

Interviewer: OK.

Tracey 10 May 30, 2014

Tracey: I'm going to learn how to make clothes because one day I'd like to own, either have my own clothing line or do something in fashion. And then ultimately though what I want to do is work for the State Department.

Interviewer: OK.

Tracey: In like the diplomat.

Interviewer: Oh, OK. [cuts off] state level [cuts off] global or something. So you're saying there's one on the state level too.

Tracey: Well, it's called the State Department.

Interviewer: Oh good.

Tracey: So I'd work as a diplomat for the State Department.

Interviewer: Hmm, OK, and yeah because you've always loved your abroad experiences [cuts off] example, I don't know [cuts off] mapped out all the course guides and you were away for wasn't it almost an entire year? Remember when you went to Istanbul? And you went to Turkey. [Cuts off]

Tracey: Senegal.

Interviewer: Yeah…[recording ends.]