

## The Importance of Global Engagement with Junau Boucard and Arminda Kamphausen

[00:00:00] **Emma Bjorngard-Basayne:** [00:00:00] Welcome to the launch podcast. I'm Emma Bjorngard-Basayne, academic advisor there in the school of business at the Stamford campus.

**Kayla Hogrefe:** And I'm Kayla Hogrefe, academic advisor for the school of business on the Hartford campus. In this episode, we're talking to a few different people about the importance of engagement outside of the classroom, and we'll do a few different episodes about the importance of engagement.

[00:00:33] This particular episode focuses on global engagement opportunities, which you might be surprised to learn are not only study abroad opportunities. And we talk to Arminda Kamphausen, She is an academic counselor and she's also the associate director of global business programs. And we also talked to Junau Boucard, who is a UConn school of business alum.

[00:00:56] He graduated from the Stamford campus with what is [00:01:00] now the business data analytics major. Um, at the time that he graduated, it was called the business and technology major. So you might hear us. I use the phrases interchangeably in the episode. And then after he finished his undergrad, he continued with the UConn school of business and the part-time MBA program, which he just completed.

[00:01:17] Um, and right now he is working as a finance manager in the MBA leadership development program at Johnson and Johnson. So he's going to share some great insight with us. So he's going to talk to us a bit about the importance of engagement outside of the classroom and some of the international opportunities that he's had through the part-time MBA program.

[00:01:38] So, Emma, what exactly could you give a good definition of what it means to be engaged? Like what is engagement and why is it important? I think in terms of, uh, any

[00:01:48] connection to this conversation that we had, uh, on this podcast episode, I think engagement can, you know, it can come through many different venues.

[00:01:56] **Emma Bjorngard-Basayne:** Like it could be, you know, what your typical club engagement, you know, joining your club and getting to know people that way. Yeah. Or it can be studying abroad, like going to another country. It could also be engaging through some of our certificate programs and that's something that Arminda talks about.

[00:02:14] **Kayla Hogrefe:** Yeah, definitely. And when you're in job interviews and internship interviews, Um, or your networking, what employers want to hear are your stories and your experiences. So, yes, it's awesome to get an A in financial accounting, but what skills and unique experiences are you going to offer to that company or to that internship and how are you going to build and acquire those skills?

[00:02:37] So that's a little bit about the importance of engagement. And, um, without further ado, let's listen to Junau and Arminda.

[00:02:54] What is your name and your connection to UConn?

[00:02:57] **Junau Boucard:** [00:02:57] My name is Junau Boucard and I [00:03:00] have a deep connection to UConn. I attended UConn for both undergrad and MBA and earned two degrees from the UConn school of business. So you could say I'm a two time UConn, Husky, and just really loved my experience and, um, the amazing professors and all the opportunities I had to interact with them.

[00:03:17] **Emma Bjorngard-Basayne:** [00:03:17] can you tell us also where you work and the role that you have?

[00:03:22] **Junau Boucard:** [00:03:22] Sure. I'm currently a finance manager at Johnson and Johnson. Um, a role that I assume after completing my MBA and May, 2019, um, I joined the company through what's known as their MBA leadership development program, which is a full year rotational program where you go through two unique rotations and finance.

[00:03:41] Um, for my first rotation, I support JJ DC, which is Johnson Johnson's corporate venture arm, and is also one of the oldest. Corporate venture fund and the life sciences industry. So we have investors all around the globe pursuing opportunities across, um, three of Johnson. Johnson's main sectors, [00:04:00] pharmaceuticals, medical devices, and consumer, and they're basically working to solve, um, critical healthcare needs for doctors, patients, consumers.

[00:04:10] **Kayla Hogrefe:** [00:04:10] Can you tell us why you decided to pursue the P MBA program after your

[00:04:13] **Junau Boucard:** [00:04:13] undergrad? Yeah. Yeah. So I think, uh, pursuing a MBA, uh, I think it was an easy decision for one, one of my personal philosophies to get better every day, everything that I'm doing. Plus I think I've always liked school and loved learning.

[00:04:27] And I think I consider myself a lifetime learner and I think I encourage everyone to, to strive for that. Um, also having kids, I want it to be or leave a good example of my daughter. Um, My family and even my community, because I think the more people pursuing higher education, I think it leaves, it helps you think and see the world from a different perspective.

[00:04:48] And the more, you know, the more that you're able to, um, create opportunities for yourself and others.

[00:04:54] **Emma Bjorngard-Basayne:** [00:04:54] I know that we know that you've had some international experiences through the PMBA program. [00:05:00] Um, could you talk a little bit about those? Like. Maybe where you, where you went and if there was some highlights from that trip or, or those trips.

[00:05:09] **Junau Boucard:** [00:05:09] So, um, overall great experience with the UConn, um, international emerging or immersion trips. Um, I was fortunate to go to South East Asia, twice to learn about international business and emerging markets, finance. I think the trips

were, um, a fundamental part of my learning while in MBA program. Um, it gave me overall exposure and insights, um, about doing business abroad.

[00:05:31] Um, because things that you don't learn like from reading textbooks, I think you develop that by being on the ground, you're meeting new people from different backgrounds, different cultures. Um, you're seeing the way people think what motivates and inspire them. And you're able to build deep connections with your cohort, the people that you traveled to on those trips.

[00:05:51] I think, um, being abroad, I learned a lot about the world and a lot about myself. Um, gave me an opportunity to really look inward and outward. [00:06:00] And some of my travel buddies that, um, or my cohort is still good friends with me till this day. So I rely on them. Um, they work in different industries, so if I ever need something, I could just contact them because, um, I was able to build that connection.

[00:06:14] Um, do the UConn MBA program and get, get different perspective if I needed something.

[00:06:18] **Kayla Hogrefe:** [00:06:18] That's awesome. What a good opportunity. How has this, like your international experience with PMBA and some of the other engagement opportunities that you've been a part of through both your undergrad and your grad, how have they impacted your personal and professional development?

[00:06:33] I know that you participated in the expert professional development program during your undergrad, specifically the export compliance certificate. So how have those things kind of shaped, um, your personal and professional development?

[00:06:45] **Junau Boucard:** [00:06:45] Um, yeah, so I think the experience overall had a, um, transformational impact for me.

[00:06:51] Um, both personally and professionally, I think UConn gave me an opportunity to improve as a, as a learner. Um, over the years, I was [00:07:00] able to learn things. I never had the opportunity to learn, um, prior to getting, um, admitted and really develop and refine new skillsets. So understanding just a broader perspective in terms of how business is conducted across the globe.

[00:07:13] I'm understanding my strengths and weaknesses, being able to, um, develop soft skills and specifically time management, because I did work. While pursuing my MBA. So knowing that you have to wake up early head to work and then being able to manage your time when you have to do coursework or on the weekends, working with different team members on group projects and, um, just really refining the way that I approach life.

[00:07:39] Right? So I'm always been intellectually curious, love, learning, new things. So I think, um, UConn had different opportunities for me to just pursue, um, just new, new things to learn about. So I did do the export compliance program, which was a, I believe a grant that UConn got to be able to teach students about how exports and trade work, um, globally.

[00:08:00] [00:08:00] So I did that, um, which was pretty interesting. It was outside of the normal coursework, but something that I feel was important because as a student pursuing, um, or had an interest in international business, I wanted to do that. So to just learn more so. I'm glad to have the opportunity to do that. And then, um, I think just overall the opportunities going through the MBA program, I think being able to just build the confidence that I needed, um, because you do learn so much and, um, you're able to add context to any conversation you have, especially when doing business.

[00:08:32] So someone's mentioning equity trades or something happening globally. Um, I'm able to make those connections and be a part of those conversations, um, without being left out and in the room. And then overall the network that you build within the program, I think is, is unmatched because, um, I've met so many people and expanding my network and it's just been, it's been a great opportunity to do so.

[00:08:54] **Emma Bjorngard-Basayne:** [00:08:54] So I'm going to go back to your international experiences and just asking if [00:09:00] you feel like you learned anything in particular about business practices, abroad from, you know, going to different countries and, and learning in a new environment

[00:09:10] **Junau Boucard:** [00:09:10] like that. Sure. So yeah, definitely learned a ton about, um, doing business globally.

[00:09:14] So I, I think I forgot, I forgot to mention that. Um, I did go to Southeast Asia twice. We visited Vietnam and Thailand during two unique trips. Um, between 2018 and 2019. And I think what I've learned is just, um, the underpinning of doing business abroad, right? So we take so much for granted being in a developed country.

[00:09:38] And the U S is, um, there's established laws that are in place when doing business. So you're protected. Everything is stable, but when you go overseas, if you're a company looking to expand, right, um, you have to look at trade tariffs, you have to look at taxes. You have to look at the rules and regulation for that specific country.

[00:09:57] And I think doing business, um, [00:10:00] Also there's, um, different profiles that you have to look at it from a country from a risk perspective. So I think it's complex, right? So by being, um, a student, um, and the MBA program and traveling and seeing, um, those countries firsthand and learning about them, I think it makes you a better decision maker.

[00:10:18] Um, one example I could think of is, um, Coca-Cola we visited the company while in Vietnam, and we learned about how, um, they were able to expand to the local market. So when a company like Coca-Cola us, um, US-based company is expanding. They have to make sure that they're able to adapt to the unique culture or country that they're, um, they're serving.

[00:10:38] So they have to make sure that they adapt to the tastes and preferences of those individuals in the countries. And, um, just marketing and pretty much everything that's done when doing business to be successful, because there's things that if you overlook, um, it could have some unintended consequences.

[00:10:54] And, um, yeah. So I think just overall learning how business is done, knowing what to [00:11:00] watch out for and working to, to be successful. Um, when doing some sort of international expansion,

[00:11:06] **Emma Bjorngard-Basayne:** [00:11:06] interesting like about how, I mean, and when you think about it, like, of course you would look for like taste preferences and they can, you know, they differ between countries, but like, I didn't think about that.

[00:11:16] That's, that's a really interesting point, you know, for someone who's not that well-versed in business.

[00:11:22] **Junau Boucard:** [00:11:22] Yeah. No, it's definitely interesting. And being in country, you'll see that like, There's certain flavors that you get in Vietnam that you wouldn't find anywhere else in the world.

[00:11:32] **Kayla Hogrefe:** [00:11:32] I've noticed that with like the lays potato chips.

[00:11:35] **Junau Boucard:** [00:11:35] Yeah. The flavors that that's unique in the market. So there's things that countries prefer versus um, in the us, no one would ever think about buying them.

[00:11:44] **Kayla Hogrefe:** [00:11:44] You've kind of answered this, but, um, our next question is why is it important for undergraduate business students to seek out experiences that will encourage global perspectives?

[00:11:54] **Junau Boucard:** [00:11:54] Yeah, I think, um, it's critically important for undergrad students to, to seek out [00:12:00] opportunities, to gain a global perspective because as future leaders, right, you're working to, um, enhance your skill set. So you could become a future decision maker and you have to understand that the world is smaller than you think, and that everything is interconnected.

[00:12:15] So one decision or one thing that happens across the globe could impact you. Um, just personally, right? So if gas prices or gas supplies gets cut in the middle East, how will that impact gas prices in the us? Right. And if gas prices go up, um, You may not be able to afford certain things or prices go up.

[00:12:35] So there's a butterfly effect for everything cause and effect. I think having a global perspective helps you understand that. So for undergrad students, I think it's important to gain that global exposure or global experience. And, um, I think when you explore new cultures, you, it helps formulate or shape your, your way of thinking, right?

[00:12:54] So you're thinking more. Broadly, um, and you understand that us is not the center of [00:13:00] everything. So it helps you create and collaborate with people outside your comfort zone. And I think, um, some lessons for me, I didn't get a chance to travel, um, abroad or do study abroad while doing my undergrad, which I wish I did.

[00:13:14] I think that's one of my regrets, but I did take advantage of that through the MBA program where I got to travel quite a bit. Um, so yeah, for undergrad students, I think it's

important to take time, to learn, take time, to travel, to learn about yourself because, um, when you step outside your comfort zone, I think that's when the real growth happens.

[00:13:32] And, um, helps you understand that diversity of thought is really important, right? Because people think differently outside the U S. Um, things that motivate you in the U S could be completely different and motivates someone else and in India or China or across, across the, the globe. So I'm part of the, um, international experience.

[00:13:51] I think it makes you more valuable. And, um, and if you understand the world, how the world works. I think you'll be more positioned, [00:14:00] well positioned to make decision in the future. Oh, uh,

[00:14:04] **Emma Bjorngard-Basayne:** [00:14:04] you know, connecting to your point there about the future. So what are your plans for the future? Like career-wise like what, where do you see yourself?

[00:14:11] Like 10 years. And then also, do you feel that the part-time MBA program has. Like helped shape those, um, you know, ideas and hopes that you have for the future professionally, and maybe expose you to things you wouldn't have been exposed to before.

[00:14:27] **Junau Boucard:** [00:14:27] Yeah, sure. So the MBA program, um, definitely changed my career trajectory, right.

[00:14:33] Allowed me to learn about new industries and also pivot from where I worked before joining or. I'm enrolling into the program to where I am now. Um, I pivoted to a corporate finance role from Oregon FinTech for over a number of years. So I did consulting and, um, product development prior to, um, earning my MBA.

[00:14:53] And then as a result of earning the MBA, I majored in finance, um, and was able to take a lot of accounting [00:15:00] classes, finance classes, which I enjoyed. And during the interview process, it really prepared me to take on that my current role. So I think, um, it opened new doors for me. Um, again gave me the confidence and the context to be able to have those discussions and understand the broader perspective of doing business.

[00:15:17] Right. And I think also strong network that I was able to build at UConn. Um, tell me, succeed in the long run. So, I guess for the future, um, definitely big plans, um, plan to continue to leverage, um, everything that I've learned in program to be able to add value to my organization, as well as my community.

[00:15:35] Um, definitely want to be an inspiration to the younger underclassmen. That's looking to maybe find what career path they want to go into. So they could use me an example as an example, because, um, I didn't really know what I wanted to do, but I think the program helped me. Um, kind of make that decision, right?

[00:15:52] So if you're a person that loves learning, I think the MBA program will help you find what you want to do ultimately. And I think just [00:16:00] overall, um, the MBA program, I think it helps you become flexible because right now, um, this is challenging times

for everyone. So I think, um, Having gone through the MBA program definitely helps you deal with ambiguity.

[00:16:14] So you don't know what's going to happen next, but I think I have the confidence that I could endure anything that's going on in the world, especially with COVID. This is extremely challenging times, but adapting to this new remote work environment, adapting to, um, just going digital, right. I think the program, um, helps you do that because we were already taking online classes, but now I think COVID accelerated the need to continue online learning.

[00:16:40] And I think even the future of the MBA program could be reshaped. So it'll be exciting to see how, um, UConn adapts to it and how students, um, are able to, to adapt, you know, definitely, um, trying times, right people, the world is on a global lockdown, so people are not traveling, but business doesn't stop. [00:17:00] I think now being able to be flexible and adapting to the new way of working.

[00:17:04] So zoom, Skype. Um, whatever video conference that, um, you're able to use. I think you need to be able to use that and, and be flexible to continue doing business. And I think just connecting with people, um, learning that things will, this will continue for awhile. So it's just a matter of, um, tweaking your mindset to, um, to adapt and evolve from this.

[00:17:29] And I think ultimately once we get past COVID, which I think we will not sure when. But I think, um, people are going to be stronger on the other side. And, um, as students, you have to be able to, to know that, but I think for, yeah, check with me in a few years to see what I, where, where I'm at or what I'm doing.

[00:17:48] We will definitely do that. I think, um, like being in this, um, going through a pandemic, right. Um, a lot of people say that, I guess prior to the pandemic, they don't have time to do certain things [00:18:00] because they're commuting. They don't have time to do this because they're so busy. I think now during the pandemic, it's more important to like invest in yourself, whether they're taking some sort of certificate online or looking at new ways to, um, to develop, um, or even read books that you never had a chance to read because after COVID, how will you measure.

[00:18:22] Um, how you've evolved as a person, right? How would you measure how you shaped and, and really better yourself? So I think, I think COVID, you can't use that as an excuse you're on lockdown, but I think you should continue to work to strive and, um, and better yourself. Um, there's a lot of, um, opportunities, I think through UConn that you could do, um, whether it's taking courses and business analytics or taking courses where something that interests you, uh, I would definitely encourage people to do so because, um, Yeah.

[00:18:54] Part of after COVID it's not that you don't have time it's you don't have the discipline. Right. So make sure you [00:19:00] have that mindset too, to keep yourself motivated and, um, learning something new to, to benefit you in the future. It's been

[00:19:07] **Emma Bjorngard-Basayne:** [00:19:07] very inspiring, I think, to see some of our, um, Clubs on campus, like the business clubs and how they, the students who run them have really like stepped up and now have a much stronger like online presence.

[00:19:20] So they are like capitalizing on skills that they've learned in class and like in a marketing class and applying it to, you know, the clubs and, and caring for their members now. And we're all online. That's been very exciting to see.

[00:19:33] **Junau Boucard:** [00:19:33] Yeah. Um, yeah, definitely. There's a lot of stuff online, free courses. Um, Like Tableau for, for example, I think that's, that's like the new PowerPoint for doing business, right?

[00:19:44] If you're, if you have a large data set, you want to be able to visualize it. You use Tableau, and I think they offer free stuff on YouTube or even through their website. Pre-training so you could get certified in Tableau just by going online. So you have the time now. So students [00:20:00] definitely encourage them to, to try to pursue them with their skill

[00:20:03] **Kayla Hogrefe:** [00:20:03] sets.

[00:20:04] Yeah. Like looking at the lockdown as like, it, it stinks, but it's, you can pivot and look at it as an opportunity, you know, to develop yourself and your skill.

[00:20:14] **Junau Boucard:** [00:20:14] So. Exactly 100% agree with that.

[00:20:27] **Kayla Hogrefe:** [00:20:27] So can you tell us your name and what you do at UConn?

[00:20:30] **Arminda Kamphausen:** [00:20:30] My name is Arminda Kamphausen I am the associate director for global business programs in the school of business. And I'm also an academic counselor.

[00:20:40] **Kayla Hogrefe:** [00:20:40] And, um, we just finished talking to Junau who is a UConn undergrad alum. He was a business data analytics major, and also just finished the part-time MBA program.

[00:20:51] Um, and so we, he told us about all sorts of interesting engagement opportunities, um, with a focus on the international opportunities that he's been a part [00:21:00] of, including the export compliance certificate program. Um, and he's done quite a few international trips, uh, with the part-time MBA program. Emma, what else did he mention that we wanted to ask Arminda about?

[00:21:13] **Emma Bjorngard-Basayne:** [00:21:13] Well, I think he was just mentioning the two trips that he went on and then the certificate, and then you just basically emphasized how important it is for students to take advantage. Of based opportunities and he felt that as an undergrad, he could have done more and kind of, you know, wished that he had done more.

[00:21:32] Um, I think it would be interesting for you maybe to talk a little bit about like the benefits for undergrads, you take advantage of these opportunities. And then also what



opportunities exist, you know, for undergrads beyond the export compliance program that he mentioned.

[00:21:47] **Arminda Kamphausen:** [00:21:47] Well, um, to go back to the export compliance.

[00:21:49] The program first, actually, when Junau took it, it was actually only a compliance certificate that was offered, but we've expanded the program so that now we have [00:22:00] two tracks of export compliance. Um, for those students who want to go a little bit deeper into the nitty gritty regulations of what.

[00:22:08] Compliance actually consists of, and then we also have added logistics and marketing track to the export compliance, as well as a finance track export finance, which is a huge part of getting your exports actually out on the road. And then we took a step back and we thought, you know what, we're going to add.

[00:22:30] Attract that just talks about export basics. And, um, so that is what I recommend for the first and second year students that are coming into the school of business to start with that program before they get into the more heavy duty webinars that are very detailed. Um, so we I'm really pleased that we've been able to expand the program to include pretty much the whole gamut of what exporting.

[00:22:54] Means, of course they touch on it. And the international business courses that are offered at [00:23:00] UConn, but they just don't have time within the semester to go as deep as we can with these webinars. And the webinars are actually produced and put out by a number of different. Professional or federal agencies, for example, U S commerce whose URL is export.gov.

[00:23:19] Right? So that that's really what they focus on. And in all that they do in us commerce, but there's other avenues where we've been able to. Pull information, XM bank, or, um, SP CDE, lots of different organizations that provide information to businesses about exploiting. So we've brought those together and put them in an organized.

[00:23:41] Fashion so that students can view them, take quizzes and earn certificates and move in a more orderly fashion and go at their own pace.

[00:23:50] **Kayla Hogrefe:** [00:23:50] A few, a quick follow-up question. You mentioned [00:24:00] some international business classes. What are the department and course numbers and focuses of some of those classes. Cause I know we have students listening who want to know

[00:24:08] **Arminda Kamphausen:** [00:24:08] the management department. There is an international business course in the past. It's been taught by Ching Tao. Um, one of the faculty members, I think she's still teaching it.

[00:24:18] I know they do offer international business for the MBA program, the part-time as well as the full-time MBA program. Um, and those. Um, instructors change depending on the semester. There's also a global finance course offered through the finance department. And I believe there is a marketing class focused more on global topics.

[00:24:42] **Kayla Hogrefe:** [00:24:42] course numbers that Arminda is referring to is the management three, two, two, five international business. That's it, um, finance 4305 is global financial services or global financial management. And then the marketing classes marketing 3370, which is global marketing [00:25:00] strategy. I have two questions.

[00:25:02] **Emma Bjorngard-Basayne:** [00:25:02] So I was wondering if you think that there's a particular time that undergrads should start the certificate programs, or if they can just do it at any time, like freshmen or seniors. And then I also wondering if you could just talk a little bit about like the structure of the certificate programs, like in other watching webinars, but like maybe approximately how many, and you know, how long it usually takes for a student to complete

[00:25:27] **Arminda Kamphausen:** Normally we, every year we have a kickoff program and that's been recorded and we'll refresh it again this year. Yeah. Um, where we bring in actual, um, professionals associated with next boarding in their work. We have, um, a commercial officer from us commerce in Middletown, and then we have a compliance officer from a big manufacturing wire company in Connecticut.

[00:25:55] We have a financial officer who works with Meridian financial, doing exports [00:26:00] financing. And then we've got, um, a lovely gentlemen from FedEx who works in logistics and transport, so they can come and talk about their specific areas of export for the students. And then the students in the past have been able to ask some questions.

[00:26:17] We're trying to work out. How we're going to do that this year virtually, but we will have some sort of official kickoff program. Once the students do that, then they go in on their own time and they can choose to watch webinars. We make recommendations, especially for the first and second year students who haven't had any business classes yet that they start with export basics.

[00:26:40] And it usually is an average of. Five webinars that they watch and they take a quiz on each one, but each track is different because the content is different. So for example, export basics, there's more webinars to watch, but there's shorter video times. So [00:27:00] sometimes we've even lumped together three videos, and then they take a quiz after the three videos.

[00:27:05] But it's approximately, I would say maybe a four hour, four to five hour commitment. To do each of the tracks except for compliance. So you start with export basics, you can move pretty easily to marketing and logistics onto finance, maybe as a second year student, but you want to save compliance for a little bit later.

[00:27:30] Once you've got some business classes under your belt and you have better understanding of just. How business works before you get into the nitty gritty of compliance, because that content is subs substantive. You have to watch four out of seven webinars and you can choose which ones you watch for each track.

[00:27:49] But each of those webinars is at least an hour long. And it's, you know, as I said, it's hefty. So, um, students take their time with that to make sure they're understanding the

[00:28:00] concepts before they take the quizzes and then we track their quizzes. If they, um, don't do well the first time they need to get at least three of the five questions.

[00:28:10] Right. Then we ask them to take the quizzes again, and we keep track of how they're progressing. And then once they've finished a certificate, we, um, we used to hand out hard copies of certificates that we're sending them digitally. So that they have these certificates to show when they're in an interview or applying for some sort of internship or other job that they have this knowledge.

[00:28:34] And eventually we're trying to work it into some sort of experiential learning program where we can connect students who know these concepts about exporting with somebody in the export field, either a mentoring person or eventually working for a small company. Who's either. Just beginning their export journey or getting into exporting and want somebody who they don't have to [00:29:00] train from the ground up.

[00:29:01] Um, and it would be helpful to small companies, especially in Connecticut.

[00:29:04] **Emma Bjorngard-Basayne:** [00:29:04] One thing that we talked to Junau about in our interview was that he made a point that I thought was really interesting, where he said that he appreciated them. You know, the part-time MBA program and these certificate programs, because he felt that he was learning a lot of information that made it so that he could be part of conversations that even though he wasn't an expert, like in terms of the job that he's doing right now in that area, having gone through this program and having taking the certificate, um, he felt that that allowed him an opportunity to always know, you know, and understand what was being said and have something to contribute.

[00:29:41] Um, that was, uh, a very, very interesting point in and motivation it should be for, for students to do these types of things. So, um, I was just curious what your thoughts were hearing. That that's how he was reflecting on his experience.

[00:29:54] **Arminda Kamphausen:** [00:29:54] That's very encouraging to hear you say that. And it reminds [00:30:00] me of a story that my colleague who works for Meridian financial says when she does her presentation to the students, when she was an undergraduate.

[00:30:09] At UConn. Um, and she was in a business class. She happened to learn in one particular class about a letter of credit, which is something that goes along with financing exporting. And the next week she actually had an interview for a job. And one of the questions in the interview was. Do you know what a letter of credit is?

[00:30:29] And can you tell us about it? And she was able to answer that question and it turns out she got the job because she was the only, only undergraduate who knew what a letter of credit was. So it's just a matter of providing knowledge to students and hoping that they can suck it in as much as they can and use it.

[00:30:48] In their future endeavors. And that is very encouraging to hear about Junau.

[00:30:53] **Kayla Hogrefe:** [00:30:53] Arminda, I know that there is a lot going on with global business programs. There's a lot of different certificate opportunities [00:31:00] and

workshops and conferences, case challenges. And we're going to do a whole separate episode about.

[00:31:05] Global business opportunities. But was there anything specific that you want to get out today for students? Maybe something that's new.

[00:31:12] **Arminda Kamphausen:** [00:31:12] The first one to answer your question, Kayla, we're hoping to call it the global business ambassador program, because now that we've had these certificate programs up and running for a number of years, we've also created an alumni network, right. That have done these global business programs. And that now I think it's time for us to reach out to these students who have gone through the certificate programs and see if they would be interested in. Speaking with, um, first and second year students, or even their fellow classmates, if they're juniors and seniors, to tell them more about the programs, to get the word out about the programs, to share with them, how it's been helpful to them, what they found [00:32:00] useful in their professional endeavors or what they've just found interesting personally, as a bond through the programs. And so we're kind of hoping it will be a student to student kind of network or mentoring program. Um, and we're just building that right now and working to get approval through the appropriate channels.

[00:32:19] So hopefully that we'll be able to start this. Well, the second new initiative is our global business leadership speaker series. Um, we call it the G bliss or the GB LSS. Which is usually a spring program where we bring spring speakers to campus. And this year we're going to have them present virtually and they focus on being a business leader in the global marketplace.

[00:32:47] Right. And then it takes a whole variety of things. And we try to incorporate companies from lots of different industries so that students from different majors can feel like they're getting something out of the program, but [00:33:00] this year, all the speakers that come, we're going to have them focus on sustainability in business.

[00:33:06] And this is the student driven initiative because students are really wanting to know more about how to use business for good. And so we're going to have corporate leaders that are involved in sustainable. Um, business initiatives and CS are in keeping track of what's being done by their companies worldwide.

[00:33:29] And we're also going to tap into some organizations that monitor, uh, what businesses do in, in climate change and the environment in taking care of their people and human resources and interacting with. Their stakeholders rather than their shareholders, things like that, that, that students now really want to know about.

[00:33:51] So that one may get their jobs and they work for companies they're working for companies that they can respect and trust and feel like they're doing good work, [00:34:00] not just making money. So that's our second initiative, again, student driven and we're trying to engage the student org so that, um, we're, we're working with them to bring these speakers to campus and to get the information out to students and going back to do, you

know, And his international trips that he took through the MBA program for undergraduates, they often have the opportunity to study abroad and we encourage that.

[00:34:27] And actually global business programs provides two different scholarships to students that are studying abroad or interested in internationally focused conferences, that kind of thing. But there's oftentimes where students. Either can't study abroad or don't feel like they're fully prepared to study abroad.

[00:34:48] So we are piloting a new course. Um, it's called CQ for business and it's focused on building intercultural awareness specifically for [00:35:00] business and the global marketplace. But the things that we talk about in there can be applied across. Any sort of major, um, for all students and it's really being aware of the larger, the larger world, right.

[00:35:14] And that people that you interact with now are very different from you. They think differently. They feel they were brought up differently and trying to understand. Um, what your own biases might be and be aware of so that when you're interacting with others, you're doing so in a manner that is understanding and inclusive and curious, because we, we know that if you're curious about somebody or something, it really limits the amount of judgment you bring to those situation.

[00:35:46] So the more that you can. Um, be wanting to understand about this other person or culture or ethnicity, the more that you're going to be able to engage with them in a welcoming manner. So that's what [00:36:00] the course is about

[00:36:01] **Kayla Hogrefe:** [00:36:01] how can students gain access to the course or find out more information

[00:36:05] **Arminda Kamphausen:** [00:36:05] They can put in a permission number request for BUSN 1801. Um, and I will shoot them a permission number and they can enroll in the class. And this semester it's totally online. There's not even a set distance learning time. Um, but there will be, um, still some engagement outside of the, um, The Husky CT course.

[00:36:30] **Kayla Hogrefe:** [00:36:30] Perfect. And I can put the link to the permission number request form in the episode notes.

[00:36:35] So students know exactly where to go. Oh, great.

[00:36:37] **Arminda Kamphausen:** [00:36:37] Oh, good.

[00:36:38] **Emma Bjorngard-Basayne:** [00:36:38] This sounds so exciting. Uh, if students want to know more, where can they reach you or just get more information about the certificate programs and the different initiatives that you you've

[00:36:49] **Arminda Kamphausen:** [00:36:49] talked about? Sure. And we welcome their interests so they can contact us at [global.business@uconn.edu](mailto:global.business@uconn.edu). That's our email, or they can go to our website, which is global business, that UConn.edu and, um, find all the information there. Uh, of course a lot of the information lives on the undergraduate. Um, office website as well, because we work very closely together and we try to keep those things linked.

[00:37:20] Um, and then of course they are welcome to email me personally at my email. And it's just Arminda.kamphausen@UConn.edu. And you can find me on the undergraduate office staff page. Thank you so much. Awesome. Thanks

[00:37:33] **Kayla Hogrefe:** [00:37:33] Amanda.

[00:37:43] **Emma Bjorngard-Basayne:** [00:37:43] so that was our interview with Arminda. And one thing that stood out to me in particular, from what Junau is talking about was his emphasis on being constantly working on improving himself every day. I just found that very motivating and [00:38:00] listening to what he had to say. It seemed like those values were really embodied in the decisions that he made to intentionally engage with, you know, the certificate program, then abroad opportunities to really build opportunities for himself that led to where he's at right now, career wise.

[00:38:20] **Kayla Hogrefe:** [00:38:20] Yeah, I agree. Um, I was listening back to our conversation that we had with Junau. And at the beginning of the conversation, we spend a lot of time talking to him about his. Jobs and jobs that he has now in the roles that he's filled in his experience through the part-time MBA program.

[00:38:38] And for a second, I was like, Oh, maybe we spent too much time talking to him about these things, but really it drives home the point that the way that he's engaged outside of his classes, both in his undergrad and graduate program are a lot of what has enabled him to have these really niche roles in this really successful career.

[00:38:56] **Emma Bjorngard-Basayne:** And so I hope students You know, kind of make that connection, that [00:39:00] being engaged outside of the classroom and being intentional and strategic about the ways in which you engage, help you, you know, lead you down the path of where you want to go in terms of your career and the opportunities that you want to have.

Exposes you to different situations that, you know, you might be in, in a working environment. So you can kind of help you think about, is this what I want to do? Is this the type of experience I want my work life, you know, to include, I think that's like a very important point for undergraduates. To keep in mind as they are, you know, figuring out what they want to do when they graduate.

[00:39:34] **Kayla Hogrefe:** [00:39:34] I also definitely got a little bit of the travel bug, listening to Junau. Talk about his trips with the part-time MBA program, especially since we've been, you know, at home due to COVID and the things going on, but at least. Um, there's those opportunities that Arminda pointed out to our listeners, um, where students can engage in globally focused programming without necessarily having to leave their bubbles.

[00:39:59] So that [00:40:00] those certificate programs, the import export professional development program and the global business leadership series sound like awesome opportunities for students.

[00:40:09] **Emma Bjorngard-Basayne:** [00:40:09] And another thing that, you know, mentioned that was, you know, when you go abroad on these trips, right? For example, the people that you go with, you develop close relationships, or even just students within your major, you know, they, you spend time with and you take classes together with, and those are people that, you know, can help you in your career later.

[00:40:27] That's really something I think about myself from my college experience and that you're hoping that other students have as well and experience and engaging in these programs or being intentional about spending time with your classmates, right. Um, that can really help you down the line too.