



Guest: Divya Sharma, President University of Manitoba Students Union
Thomas Blumer, General Manager University of Manitoba Students Union

Title: Entrepreneurship opportunities by UMSU & UMSU Ventures

Note: Vocalizations such as 'um' and 'ah' have been removed from this transcript for clarity.

Introductory Montage

Co-created with The Centre for the Advancement of Teaching and Learning, the IDEA START Podcast explores all things creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship. Move your ideas to impact with the University of Manitoba community.

Introduction

JANINE

Today on the Idea Start podcast, we're joined by Divya Sharma and Thomas Blumer. Both are with the University of Manitoba Students Union. Divya is the president and Thomas is the general manager. And interesting fact, Divya is the 100th president of UMSU and the youngest president of UMSU. Let's start the conversation. Good morning.

THOMAS

Good morning.

DIVYA

Good morning.

JANINE

Thomas and Divya, welcome to the IDEA START podcast. We are delighted to have you both here today in our studio to learn a little bit more about you and to learn a little bit more from you as well, and the unique experience that you bring in representing students. So Divya, president of the University of Manitoba Students Union, will you tell us a little bit about that?

Tell us about the union. Tell us about your role as president.

DIVYA

Yeah. Well, first of all, thank you so much for having us here, Janine. Thomas, I have been talking about coming on this podcast for about a week now. We literally touch base about it every single day, and we're like, okay, we're doing this, we're doing this, and now we're finally here. So, thank you so much for having us.

JANINE

Happy to.

RAJEEV

Absolutely. Yeah, super excited as well.

Main Interview

DIVYA

Sounds great. So, in terms of answering to your question, first of all, you know, this year one of my favorite quotes that I've learned to really live out is and this quote becomes so prevalent in my life now where the quote says, don't tell me that the sky's the limit when there's footsteps on the moon. And I think that's what my role at the union's really taught me.

And what I'm usually taught me is that the sky's the limit in this role. And, you can really be what you want it to be because the opportunities are endless. And I think that fits really well with the theme of entrepreneurship, where it's a lot of problem solving, it's thinking outside of what could be even imagined and really making it happen.

with all the supports and the networks, you have in place. And I think that's essentially what my role is. And what UMSU is where there's so much you can do and there's all these resources, all these support systems, all this feedback from students and this, this really spirit of getting things done and making things happen for the betterment of students and making student life better, connecting people and just uplifting everyone as we navigate student life and soon experience as a student myself in my third year.

So, I think that's what really my role is. On a day-to-day basis, it's really unique every single day. So, and I joke around about this all the time with students and staff, we're all say, you know, I literally essentially eat, live, breathe, sleep UMSU. So, from the moment I, you know, wake up in the morning, the first thought is, I'm like, what's my day going to be like?

And then, you know, throughout the day and, you know, when we're transitioning, folks into this role, like one of the biggest things I told them was that this isn't like your typical 8:30 or 4:30 job like this is way beyond that. And like you can make it what you want it to be. So, during the day 8:30 to 4:30 I'll obviously do UMSU.

So, and then in the evenings we'll have events to go to or you know, other outside of the scope things that you'll do, to connect with students. And then, you know, this week, I think I've been going home like pretty late every night, and then I'll get home and I'll be like, okay, so what's on the calendar for tomorrow?

JANINE

It starts again.

DIVYA

It starts again and then and then it's starting to like, okay, I can sleep and like shut off. I mean, I'll like dream about, see, like, what can we get done tomorrow? And then once you get, I'll wake up and it's like, you know, and as I'm sort of finishing up my final term here, it kind of gives me a

little bit of this strange feeling that, like, what am I going to do when, you know, UMSU isn't here anymore.

Makes me a little bit nervous because, what am I going to do? What I can't think of all, So. So I'm definitely thinking about, like, the next steps for the time being. I'm so incredibly grateful that this, amazing organization is in place and, what it has to offer and just sort of speaking about the scope of this organization, it's absolutely incredible.

So, prior to me coming into this role, I had no idea that, UMSU was an \$18 million organization that's essentially fully run by a student of five student executive. And these are students who are really at the brink of it. And we have a board that's comprised of all the 26 student, you know, faculties and counselors to get that representation and that feedback from students on a bi weekly basis that allows for really natural feedback on a consistent basis. And then we learn about governance, like students actually get to practice governance. What the structures of a union are like. We have a board of trustees as well that allows us to, get that financial component in which I think is really really critical. And, you know, just this last month, we approved audits. And that's not something that students typically get to do until they graduate or get into, like their corporate job or whatever that be like. So, I really do think entrepreneurship is at the core of UMSU, because you get to learn so much. And I know that we'll get into this a little bit more, but we do have student businesses seven in total on different campuses.

So, the Bannatyne campus was the four Garry campus. And these are all, you know, employed, like we essentially have students employed there. And I think what's so critical about employment is that we typically towards the side of hiring international students because of the international working cap. They're not able to work as many hours off campus, but they can work as many hours, as possible on campus.

So, I think it provides them that opportunity as well. And then we have services where we roll out the U-Pass. This year there's 20,000 U-Passes that are active. And, we provide about \$9 million in revenue to the city, which I think is incredible. So not only do we help, you know, generate economy within UofM, but also outside of UofM, where we contribute to the province and the city of Winnipeg.

And on top of that, we allow for students to once again really practice and marinate within this, this incredible structure we have in place by being on committees such as the Finance Committee, Governance Committee, Judicial Board, and so many other working groups that are in place. We are doing a strategic plan this year, like what student is able to engage in doing a strategic plan prior to their first job.

So, you know, I know I've been talking for a really long time, but I think this and this isn't even all of what UMSU is, but I think this gives a flavor of what exactly my role is and why I'm, you know, doing new on a day to day basis and really being able to, work with students and obviously Thomas, which I know we'll get into, but that's a little bit about.

JANINE

Well that's great. Thank you Divya. Can I, can I can zero in on your experience now as the president. Could you like identify something that maybe brings you a lot of joy and maybe like a challenge in the role?

DIVYA

Absolutely. Well, the joy, I think is just being here, being on campus, being able to be, a full time student. So I'm taking three courses right now. But also at the same time, like operating and working with a union that that once again employs so many students. I get to work with, I believe it's 36 full time staff on a day-to-day basis and really working with them to once again, make student experience better and possible.

So I think that's the joy of my job. And I guess, like its challenges don't really feel like challenges when you love your job so much. But I think one thing that I've learned a lot from is, Thomas teaching me a lot of the HR pieces and how to like, you know, track performance. So full time employees and giving them feedback and that sort of piece, that I hadn't had a lot of, experience with prior to coming into my role.

And I think this year I've been learning a lot of that.

RAJEEV

Oh, wow Divya, that's amazing.

JANINE

The I think she's passionate.

RAJEEV

She is. Absolutely. And cheers. And, you know, the amount of learning you're getting and I'm so happy for you. I think this is phenomenal. And the kind of opportunities UMSU is giving you and I'm sure the rest of the team, it's phenomenal.

DIVYA

Yes, absolutely

RAJEEV

And, I'm glad that we have you as the president.

DIVYA

Thank you.

RAJEEV

So, that's perfect. So, Thomas. Why don't we talk about your story now a bit? And, why don't you start off by telling us, how did you land up in this role? Maybe a little bit of your background and, what's your role about? And like Divya said, we most people probably wouldn't know. I didn't know so much about UMSU honestly. And this was great. And so maybe you can talk to us a little bit about that.

THOMAS

Sure. First of all, thank you for having me today. This is a privilege. It's, for sitting together, you know, and just talk a little bit about the stuff that we love, love doing on a daily basis. And just to just to quickly say to Divya, I mean, I'm, I'm so happy that there's another person that dreams about UMSU as well, because that's what I do for the past 17 years.

I'm so engaged and I'm so, this is really where I poured my heart and soul in, on a, on a consistent basis. But so, okay, a little bit about myself. So originally from Germany. I'm, I'm here now for about, almost 26 years. And, my background, is business, is entrepreneurship, is management.

That's what I, what I studied and what I, what I, what I have my expertise in and I really embrace that. And, and part of that is really, for me, the, the biggest joy that I get is working with other people. I think this is where I, I excel in as well. And, and, and forging collaborations and, and partnerships is something that I truly embrace and enjoy.

So I came here, and my role really, to compare to how I'm working together with Divya and UMSU is mostly as a supportive one, like I'm here from year after year and one of the biggest privileges I've get to work with these extremely bright individuals. There's young adults who I trust in their absolute first steps going forwards, leaping into life and leaping into their careers. And, and I have really like I cannot say it enough that I am very privileged working together with these young individuals who are here, bringing so many ideas and so many things. And Divya talked about what she learned from me. I'm learning every year more about, life and what's going on in their lives, and just to sort of build out my experiences as well.

So, and, and I'm doing it with joy and this. Yeah, this is really, in a nutshell, who I am.

JANINE

Thank you.

RAJEEV

That's amazing. And it's, like I said, I didn't know so much about UMSU, so thank you both for kind of educating us. And I'm sure a lot of our audiences were, you know, share my view. So, this is wonderful. And, Divya I thought I'll probably take the queue next and kind of talk to you about, how is it that, you know, UMSU and the board and, how do you kind of listen to the student voices, and understand what are the concerns?

What kind of inputs are you getting? Is entrepreneurship, amongst the issues that you are representing at all? And what are the mechanisms in place for, both listening to these, issues and concerns or let's say, inputs and, how do you address them? What's a what's the mechanism for that?

DIVYA

Yeah, absolutely. So, I think this role is really a lot about problem solving and listening to people and really having that like human aspect, but then also having that, almost business and entrepreneurial thinking, in terms of figuring things out together in a collective way. So, one of the ways, as you mentioned, is from the board. So, during board meetings, sometimes we'll go into closed session where people will share their grievances or, you know, what's happening at their faculty or council that we can help solve.

And, particularly in terms of representing student diverse voices, we do have, seven different community groups that, represent some of the underrepresented groups here on campus. So that would include, you know, the Women's Center, the 2S LGBTQIA plus Rainbow Pride Center. There's the indigenous community, the black students community, the racialized community, the accessibility community.

And then, there's one more. So, there's about seven. But I think I think having them on the board is really, really helpful. So, prior to every, you know, board meeting, we'll try to connect with the community reps and they'll tell us, you know, here's some of the arising issues. So, for example, one of them is getting more scholarship chips for folks from their community.

So how do we work with, whether that's the senate of UofM, where we approve, like the terms of references with them, or is it something that we do with certain offices, whether that's donor relations or the financial aids in office, which is something, Thomas and myself and our VP student life is navigating right now. And it's really about sometimes like portfolio management. So, like I said, we're a five, person elected executive, and each of them have a role. So, we have a VP university affairs, VP external affairs, finance and operations and then student life. So for example, this morning our VP Finance and operations, had to go talk to the engineering students. You know, the engineering Students Council.

And, they were able to figure out some finances and, and, you know, she was really running around to really shows like these folks are passionate about getting their finances in track and working together in a way that supports students the best. And of course, finances are a huge part of all of this. So each year, each community group, you know, gets a sum of money to organize events for their community.

And in a way that's problem solving, because how do we get communities to come together on such a diverse cap is, and how do we make sure they feel like they're at home? And I think so the community that I missed earlier was the international students community. And one of the biggest, you know, hurdles that we're experiencing right now is getting international student health care for them.

And that's a lot of feedback that we're hearing. So, one of the functions of our union is advocating to, all the levels of government. And we had a meeting with the mayor the other day. So earlier this week, we met with the mayor and council, Janice Lukes, and we talked about some of these issues, once again, including things like transit and the U-pass contract, the negotiation that's coming up next year.

So, another piece of our role was, negotiating contracts with folks and, getting student businesses, in place at the union. And even once again, the U-pass contract is such a huge contract to look at. So just like building up to that and then running campaigns with the city. And, one of the conversations that we talked about with the mayor was around entrepreneurship and how do we, you know, get students to stay in this wonderful city and more importantly, is wonderful province, because oftentimes, we'll see, you know, students leaving, going to bigger cities like Toronto, Vancouver. But what can we do to make sure that students stay here at the core in their home, to grow our province? Because this city has so much potential?

And I think we see that at UofM specifically because, you know, when they were here, on campus, we talked about how, UMSU represents about 27,000 undergraduate students, which is, you know, a huge, huge population. And that's bigger than the whole town of Beausejour. And oftentimes we represent more constituents than, city councillors or even individual MLA. So, it's a lot of folks to, you know, get together to address concerns. And I think that's really, really critical. But, in terms of the entrepreneurship aspect, oftentimes students will come to us and they'll want to table. So, we'll give them space for free of cost. To table and University Center. And they get so much, exposure from that where they get to launch sort of their, business ideas or, you know, share things like jewellery or art and things that they're really passionate about.

And one of the really cool things that I recently saw pop up was an AI, Calendar Manager, which was actually done by two students at Asper. And we, UMSU gave them, like a couple gift cards to really attract students to their table. So, it's supporting entrepreneurship in those ways as well. And I think that's the beauty of our union, where we try to make things work for students for the betterment of students in many ways, including entrepreneurship.

RAJEEV

Wow, that's super impressive.

JANINE

Yeah. Thank you for that.

RAJEEV

I just had a follow up question on that, though. You were talking about these communities, these seven communities. So, the representatives of these communities, are they also elected every year or.

DIVYA

Yes.

RAJEEV

How does that governance work?

DIVYA

Yeah. So, they're elected every year. Each year we have elections in March. Which is, you know, it's one of the most exciting times of the year because students are so incredibly engaged during that time. And I talked about that tabling aspect in UC and, people will think about like, innovative ways to get students to their table, whether that's through food or like having games at their table or like last year, I saw this really cool thing where they would like scan a QR code and like, you'll like, you'll put in your name and then you'll win a little prize in or you'll like spin the wheel.

So, in that way, even I see like entrepreneurship really come through. And then they'll like go to different, you know, different buildings and like really mapping that out in UMSU itself. We, I believe we give like about a \$400 budget to students every year to each candidate that wants to run their campaign. And I think, you know, work dealing with money in that way and then, executing a whole campaign.

Well, like to be an elective, elected member and then hearing student concerns while you're tabling, I think you really provide students the opportunity to grow and put their name out there and experience entrepreneurship in a whole new way.

RAJEEV

Oh that's amazing.

JANINE

Yeah. I have a question for you Divya, some of this context around, tabling and like, maybe starting, like, your micro business getting started on campus. What if anything, do you hear from students about, like, entrepreneurial thinking to maybe address social challenges or environmental challenges or other causes that students are interested and passionate about? Do you hear that?

DIVYA

Yeah. We do. We certainly do. And I know that sometimes Thomas & I get emails about that were, you know, students are like, we want to get one of the things that we actually got earlier this year, getting e-scooters on campus to like, make sure the commute is because the campus is huge. Right. So, we actually got a full proposal about it. And then our VP University affairs

worked with that individual to submit a proposal to, the university. And now the university is looking into it. So yes, these things are very real. And sometimes students will come in and just talk to us about their initiatives and how can we make things possible.

Another thing that we, I think did, specifically were working on things like economic reconciliation, here at UofM. And I think, one of the ways that we do that is looking at blanket ceremonies for the board, another way we do that is, this particular month, we're doing, Indigenous Students month, and our indigenous students wrap was able to put together gala, which is going to take place in Marshall McLuhan Hall, this coming Monday, actually. And she, you know, really was able to organize an entire event, around that. And then throughout the rest of this month, there's going to be activities where we're going to beating and, like, folks are going to come in and speak about, you know, what they're doing. And I think it really helps, provide that ecosystem for students to be heard, be represented, and really, see themselves in that position to do something for their community.

JANINE

Yeah, yeah. In fact, we use this phrase often. What, like moving ideas to impact. And, those are some good examples for sure.

RAJEEV

And these are great opportunities. I just hope, you know, all the students who are listening. Yeah, already know about them. But if they don't, I think this is phenomenal. Right. And, they should probably reach out. And the fact that a student reached out with the e-bike idea and you supported and that's phenomenal. That's great to know.

JANINE

Okay. Maybe we can transition a little bit here. Thomas I'm going to put you in the hot seat. We would love to learn a little bit more about UMSU ventures. Can you share with our audience a little bit about what. What is that about? How did that come to be?

THOMAS

Sure, absolutely. I'd love to. So sort of, the beginning of that, the UMSU venture was, was sort of a brain fart, as you will. It was something that I, just before Covid we recognized there, there was a lot of students, which Divya already explained, who are interested in really getting into and get started in entrepreneurship or getting started their own business or have just an idea and they just don't know where to start.

And often I think some of the educational pieces are sometimes a little bit, a little bit out of, out of reach for some of these individuals because they're not necessarily coming from the regular disciplines that you would expect. That, entrepreneurship is coming from, like, you know, the first thing when you, when you talk about entrepreneurship or business, the first thing that

comes to mind is, is thinking about Asper and thinking about business schools and management.

And this is often not the case. This is just often it's just ideas that students have, or have a hobby and they're so passionate about it that they are, just a little bit stuck in this phase where, where we're going are going to bring this next or where how am I going to expand that? Or how am I going to go and take this out, out of this sort of idea phase into an actual practice?

So, what I visited for many years now already is, giving student businesses, tabling opportunities. So, there's, there's tables that we provide, and a particular time of the of the year where we just going to have students approaching us and they can rent a table in the UC center, which is of high traffic area, is about 10,000 people going through, on a daily basis, sort of crossing through the building just because of it is very central as the name it, entails.

And, so the exposure is there. And so students are really going to have an opportunity to sort of test drive some of that, that the ideas, which is really kind of cool. So we had this then and we you're watching this and we had this space available, which I thought would be a phenomenal idea just to really put it a step further, like really not just having them do this for a day or for a week, but giving it this for a couple of months, like giving them actually their own space and really, letting them or facing them with some of the, the unique challenges that is included in, opening an own space and a business and thinking about from, from, from end to end, what do they actually need to actually to do this? And it's in a, in a very low sort of, stake environment where we're not expecting students to pay for the space that the space is, is given for free to them. The only thing that we are doing is they have to do a proposal to us.

And I propose lunches to lay out, a few and ask a few questions of just to really sort of see, that they have thought this fully through and then not just coming up with the ideas just like, you know.

RAJEEV

Yeah, that's important.

THOMAS

Exactly, and so this is, this is how it started. And then, just this past year or this. Yeah, we actually finally were able to had, had had executive teams been really behind this and been really strongly behind it, we were able to execute it. So, we renovated the space. And we, we put it out there and sure enough, there was, there was a lot of students who were actually really interested in this.

And, and we started the process and we knew that we actually were on something here. At the same time, that's when the university started this entire and, and wonderful sort of movement, on campus. And this is also when Rajveer and I actually met in this and then later on, with you as well. And so it started just it started falling in place.

A lot of these, these, these, these, these elements that we with there were very disconnected at the, at the beginning started to sort of come together. And our approach was just really to, to, to, to come to the ground where students obviously are operating and, and really give them an opportunity to, to, to, to get a chance to do this without sort of the, the big scare of, of, of making a big investment and make a big time investment or a big, investment in terms of monetary, because often the ideas are phenomenal.

Like I said, I'm, I'm in a very unique position, obviously, like working together with these amazing executives that coming year by year. And, and they're really the brightest and have the sort of the ideas they're bringing and, and maybe learning from. But yeah. So this is really how we started or the, the whole venture idea and, and and it was very successful.

Like there was just so many folks were interested and continuously being successful, successful in, in, in getting in there and we are, having somebody in there right now and it will be turning I think in the next month or so, we're going to be looking for the next students who would be like to be in there. So that's sort of in the in the short way too.

JANINE

Yeah. Well, that's great. Thank you. So, it's a physical space.

THOMAS

It's a physical space.

JANINE

And it's provided like by students for students.

THOMAS

That's right.

JANINE

And yeah, I love that allowing people to start with where they're at.

THOMAS

Exactly. Right.

JANINE

Absolutely. And use that to learn.

RAJEEV

And ten-thousand footsteps a day. Wow. That's quite a lot. And I'm sure these students who get that space, you know, would be thrilled, with that kind of footsteps and visibility. And I think that's a huge opportunity for any student who wants to promote their business. Yeah.

JANINE

What was the, the first business?

RAJEEV

Yeah.

THOMAS

What was the first business? Great, you asked! Well, it was, a business that was really, it was about like handmade jewelleries. And it came with a phenomenal story. It's it was designed in a lot of ways so that there was, mental health was in, in sort of the center of things. As we all know, the, coming out of COVID, we have we recognize that there is a huge, increase in mental health issues. And we're trying to sort of dealing with all of that. And this individual has had this phenomenal idea to, to create jewelry that also had some, some, some elements in it. It was designed that there are, for example, there was rings who potentially who have like a, like a fidget spinner on it, like something that sort of has not only like to the aspect of, of having a, a piece of jewelry, but it, it was functional.

It was functional and in a way. And, and it was yeah, it was just very well designed. And it's the story behind this was just very unique and, and, and sort of had, Tommy in there, and, and executing his first business for us was just a godsend. Like, he really, made it possible to really display how what is possible. And it was it was a very successful.

RAJEEV

Yes, yes. And those designs were great. I bought some for my wife.

THOMAS

That was very attractive and very functional, that's for sure. Yeah. Oh very good.

RAJEEV

So, Divya, let let's just bring you in on this UMSU ventures thing, you know, how do you think the, UMSU ventures kind of plays into building that entrepreneurial mindset for, for students. How how do you think it's important?

DIVYA

Yeah. So, as Thomas said, like, first of all, just the amount of traffic that goes through UC and where that particular space is it's such a high visibility space, right? When you walk into the University Center, it's right to your left and you'll see it and it's so visible. And we actually had folks, come in from, student union in Ontario and they, you know, they're looking at getting their own building. So, we gave them a little tour and they were just so amazed when we showed them the, entrepreneurial space. We even show, like anyone who comes, including like, government officials and we, you know, we do a whole tour of the building and, they are just so amazed by how much UMSU does. But secondly, like that particular space, because it's such a huge, hub for innovation, I personally really like going there.

I think right now there's a student business where, you know, they're doing like slimes and food slimes, which I think is really, really cool. And, students will go in there and people are so excited when they walk in, you see, like the student who's, inside that room who, who's like, who has the business say their face lights up when someone comes in, and it's just so exciting. So, the people are so impressed by that space. And I think it really allows for students to visualize it. I think that's really key part of entrepreneurship, to be able to visualize and see your dreams come true. I think that space really offers, for that to happen in real life.

RAJEEV

Totally. And and you think kind of these, experiences in entrepreneurship, would help these students build for their life in terms of the skill sets. And you know, maybe help in their career. What do you think about that?

DIVYA

Yeah, absolutely. So, one of the things that I love about UMSU is how many people always just want to come back to it and be involved and give back and, they like, I know a couple folks who've, like, graduated over this past year and they'll always just want to, be involved in, in some capacity, whether that's sitting in on some of our board meetings or like wanting to be part of UMSU in some sort of a way.

So, I think when you think about opportunities like this and, why students want to come back, it's because of how great they are and how hands-on they are. And I 1000% guarantee like people use these beyond, you know, just their university experience. Like we'll review some resumes and things like that. And, and always UMSU is up there.

And you know, like, even for my personal experience, like, I've learned so much over this last year, like, I will use every bit of it moving forward. Whether that's the connections, how to handle like the day-to-day situations, the managerial piece that I'm learning from, Thomas, the people skills and, sitting on committees, governance, and, and so much more like it's just, it's beyond words how much people get to learn from the entrepreneurial side of things at UMSU

JANINE

Yeah. Yeah. I just I really want to commend you for this whole initiative. When I look at the research about some of the ways that you build an entrepreneurial culture and an entrepreneurial mindset in folks, one of the things that always comes up is providing folks with relatable models, relatable models, right? Not necessarily Elon Musk, but to see students doing it is actually a really important step in motivating others to say, hey, could that be for me too? Could I give that a try also, and access the supports that I might need to be successful in that way? So, thanks for making that visible on campus. Love it.

RAJEEV

Absolutely.

JANINE

Okay. Last question, Rajeev & I ask all of our guest the same last question and so maybe you can share your insights with us. So, what advice would you give to folks in the UM Community who are maybe considering or are on the entrepreneurial journey.

THOMAS

Get involved.

JANINE

All right.

THOMAS

Get involved. Get involved. You know, seek out these, these opportunities and get involved. Ask lots of questions. Yeah. Get involved. Like, there's there's so many opportunities. I mean, I'm speaking of from point of from, UMSU students who have an enormous, option or like a possibility to, to get involved in a, in a very large way as, as Divya as the, the, the, the proof of that.

Like get involved.

JANINE

Love it.

DIVYA

Yeah. I'm going to end this off with like a quote there once again really like I love quotes, but this one I really like. So, it's, it says that willpower and action equals impossible dreams. And I think that it's so beautiful in that sense because oftentimes, like, students have ideas, but then there's sometimes a free to put it into action, because, you know, this, this, it's this whole web of a huge

university. How do you even start? But I think it's really about, that first step, that action piece that like taking leadership in your own life and really stepping up to the challenge. And like Thomas said, just getting involved, putting yourself out there and then like achieving the impossible quite literally. And I think from my own experience, like I've been coming to this campus since I was in grade five, and I knew I really wanted to be here because I think it's such an amazing just ecosystem where literally there's so much that's possible. And I think when you tap into that, it's it's truly like incredible. So, like Thomas said, get involved. Make yourself more action oriented and just go for it.

RAJEEV

Go for it.

JANINE

Thank you.

RAJEEV

Thank you so much.

JANINE

Divya, Thomas, thank you for joining us on the Idea Start podcast today.

RAJEEV

Wow. It was a wonderful conversation. I totally enjoyed it. And I'm sure our listeners did too. So, thank you so much for coming.

DIVYA

Thank you. Thank you for having us.

THOMAS

Yeah.

Outro Montage

RAJEEV

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