

Introduction:

This is life invented. Invent the life you want to lead. Invent the life you want to lead. Be creative, be challenged, be the solution. Go Broncos.

Narrator:

Welcome to the life invented podcast presented by Santa Clara University. From campus life to what it means to learn in the Silicon Valley, we explore how to be a Global Citizen in an era of change. This is: Life Invented.

j:

We live in a global society, and no matter where you are currently in it, it's hard to deny: our world is getting smaller each and every day. We're all connected, and the decisions we make here and now are impacting the lives of communities in regions across the world. It's a beautiful day here in Santa Clara, and on this episode, we'll explore what it means to be a global citizen. We're talking the participants of the Leavey School of Business's "[Global Fellows Program](#)" a nine month leadership program at Santa Clara University. This unique program is working each year to foster global citizens, and nurture competence, conscience, and compassion in Santa Clara students. We're joined by program director [Tanya Monsef Bunger](#), and recent fellows, Nick Kikuchi and Onno Ho who share how they have left no path untraveled. Let's go!

Okay folks, so good to have you here on Life Invented, we're gonna start with you Tanya, so please, dish yo deets!

Tanya Monsef Bunger:

So my name is Tanya Monsef Bunger and I am a proud Santa Clara alum from 1986, I'm a Gen X-er, and I am a product of Silicon Valley, but I come by way of a global family. My father is

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Tanya Monsef Bunger:

The program was actually founded in 2008. Santa Clara incubated an organization called the [Global Women's Leadership Network](#), and we trained women from all over the world and it came out of this idea that "hey, we have this great network of people all over the world, let's send some of our students to go work with them". So that's actually how that started. The students go and work abroad and they work in everything from working in an orphanage in India, a woman who is fighting against female infanticide and feticide. In India, over 5000 girls a year go missing, so she's working to address that issue. We're working in the Gambia where a woman there is actually trying to change a generation and have women actually step up into society and so she works with young girls there.

j:

Fellows are the change-makers, the go-getters, the leaders of their communities. The Global Fellows Program recruits exceptional students who are engaged, contemplative, independent, compassionate, innovative, and curious. Nick, you've gone and you've been a Global Fellow, when you hear that, how does that resonate with the reality of what you've experienced.

Nick Kikuchi:

I think that's pretty much as perfect as you can get. You know, when you're on this fellowship, you're in a developing country, you're in a place that you've never been to before most likely, you're gonna find some new challenges, you're gonna face obstacles that you would have never anticipated. I know for me it was my first abroad or international experience, so it was really really eye opening for me. You know, that whole idea that the United States is the best country in the world was kind of something that I just grew up with because I had never been anywhere else, and so having the chance to see you know what other countries have to offer, how different people work, how different business types, how their goals are really affected by where they grew up or their culture is something that really just changed my perspective about everything. Being able to go after you know anything and any opportunity that you want is something that I really saw come to life when I was on my Fellowship.

j:

Onno, what about you?

Onno Ho:

I was looking for more of a meaningful service experience and a meaningful project. In high school, after doing those four different service projects I kind of thought about the impact I was making, and realized that a lot of the stuff I was doing could have been easily done by the people there, like was the work I was doing, was that for the benefit of them or the benefit of me having intrinsic happiness, like "oh, I went and helped these people"? So, I applied to these-- my specific program, because I wanted to see more of a long term impact and I wanted to see the actual effect on the people I was helping. So when I was in Bolivia I was working for this company, they're an ethical and sustainable manufacturer-- like artisan manufacturing firm, and

a lot of their workers are artisan women who did a lot of knitting and a lot of different kind of practices, and the boss was talking to all of her employees and realized that all of their kids were failing math and she came to the conclusion that there's no way these kids are all inherently bad at math and created this after-school tutoring program through using Khan Academy. Through using Khan Academy we were able to track the statistics of these students who were coming back year to year to see them improve, and so that was the main project I was working on which was really rewarding because you could track progress, see that these kids were doing well and doing better in school. They'll come back and bring back their test schools from school and you can see that. It doesn't only help me, motivates me to see these kids do well, but also I can see it benefit their own lives

j:

In our society there tends to be a lot of conversation around the war on apathy and the ability to increase empathy for various people and causes around the globe. Nick, how has Santa Clara University nurtured in you the idea of being a man for others.

Nick Kikuchi:

You know, it's funny. I've had this conversation with my mom actually. She'll mention how different she thinks I've become in college, and I think a lot of that is because of how the University has kind of instilled these different values in me. I know when I was in high school, a lot of the focus was getting a job that will get you money, like "money, money, money", that was the biggest thing; money was used to measure success, and coming to the university a lot of the things that they talk about is vocation and fighting that thing that you've passionate about that will bring about the biggest social impact, the biggest change, and so seeing that transition between where-- I originally chose to be an engineering major because of the money, and now I want to be an engineering major because of the innovation, because of the change, and the impact that it can have not only in the country but across the globe, and seeing that change in my perspective and how I think about things like howate thi%o

life and moved somewhere completely remote-- she said she would watch the monkeys, see what they ate, and she would do the same, make sure she didn't get sick, and then would do the same. And so, just seeing how differently we've been raised, or have grown up, or just our

going to give, and so how do we balance that reciprocal relationship that that is our biggest challenge, or students here at Santa Clara are very very intelligent and passionate and they have a very long to-do list and they have their own way that they do, and then they'll á ll h