

[Alexa Rogers:](#)

I'm Alexa Rogers. And I'm sitting here with Miss Judy Weekley. She funded a scholarship that I was able to receive for the past three years. And we're gonna talk about our experience. I just want to start by saying thank you one more time. Because you've impacted me, not only financially, but the best part was getting to make a relationship with you. And connecting with you over the years. The foundation dinners ... I think that's what it's called ... Would always happen at the end of the semester. Where you're just beat down. You've got all those group projects. And finals are coming up. And it was just so nice to take a night to talk to you, and catch up with you. Hear about your grandkids, and your life. And just the travels and everything you had gone on the past year. And it just, I don't know, getting to know you was so nice. You have one of the most beautiful souls I've ever met. And I love talking to you.

[Alexa Rogers:](#)

And it would just put things in perspective for me those nights. 'Cause I would look around, and realize how blessed I am. Because there's thousands and thousands of students here. And then, as well ... Don't cry. No. It's happy. But I would just look around and feel super blessed. 'Cause there's thousands of students. And there's just a few handfuls of us in there. And then, just put it in perspective. And I would look at you, and realize this degree just isn't for me anymore. It's for us. It's teamwork. So you just helped me get that driving, motivating force to push me through the end of the semester. So basically, long story short, you've helped me a lot over the past few years. And I hope the next recipient feels very similar to that. Don't cry. You're gonna make me cry.

[Judy Weekley:](#)

Where's my Kleenex?

[Alexa Rogers:](#)

Goodness. Okay. So I just have a few questions. 'Cause I am not good at interviews. So we'll see how this goes. When I talked to the foundation's committee people that first dinner, I actually wasn't gonna be able to go. I had a test, I had a night class. And they actually ended up emailing my professor to get me out of it, so I could go.

[Judy Weekley:](#)

Did they?

[Alexa Rogers:](#)

And I can't imagine not meeting you. But I just remember them telling me, she's been considering this for a long time. And so, this is super important that you're there. You're the first one. So I was just curious were there any deciding factors that pushed you towards making this commitment? Like this is why I'm doing it.

[Judy Weekley:](#)

Well, the main reason I did it was my husband, Bob, who passed away, he believed very strongly in education. And I just felt it was a fitting way to remember him, to help someone else. It wasn't easy when we were married and going through school. He worked full-time, and went to school full-time. And graduated in four years. Which wasn't easy.

[Alexa Rogers:](#)

I bet.

[Judy Weekley:](#) And money was very tight. He actually only bought one book during four years.

[Alexa Rogers:](#) Oh my goodness. I can't imagine.

[Judy Weekley:](#) That was a lifesaving book. He was a great note taker. And he had wonderful professors. And he loved the library. And he just felt like this is something he really wanted to achieve. I know how hard it was for us. And if it could make it just a little bit easier for someone else, I just know he would've loved that. And he'd be just absolutely delighted with you.

[Alexa Rogers:](#) Oh. I wish I could've met him.

[Judy Weekley:](#) Your smile is just wonderful.

[Alexa Rogers:](#) Thank you.

[Judy Weekley:](#) You just light up the room. I've been blessed many, many times throughout my life. And you are a blessing.

[Alexa Rogers:](#) So sweet. Oh, cry.

[Judy Weekley:](#) Yeah. Okay.

[Alexa Rogers:](#) Oh goodness. Is there anything you would say to someone who was considering making a scholarship? What would you tell them is the greatest impact that you've had from this?

[Judy Weekley:](#) Oh, just knowing that it's helped. I wish more people would do this. I really believe that you all are our future. And what a wonderful investment to make. As I said, I've been very blessed. And I think it's always a blessing when you can give something to help someone. So I would encourage anyone that is possibly thinking of it, it would just be a wonderful thing to do.

[Alexa Rogers:](#) Do you see this scholarship continuing? How many students would you like to reach throughout this scholarship program?

[Judy Weekley:](#) I would like to see it continue throughout my life. And I hope my children will continue on with it when I'm gone.

[Alexa Rogers:](#) I'm sure they will.

[Judy Weekley:](#) So, I hope it reaches many, many. And I hope they're all as delightful as you.

[Alexa Rogers:](#) Oh. I'm sure they will.

[Judy Weekley:](#) And deserving.

[Alexa Rogers:](#)

I'm sure they are. If you could do anything differently when you were creating the scholarship, would have changed anything? Or done anything different?

[Judy Weekley:](#)

No. I don't think so. A lot of people wondered why I didn't do it for basketball. Because that was one of Bob's great loves. But the degree that he got was, enabled him, even though he didn't go on to be a coach as he had planned, it enabled him to get the job with General Foods that he would not have been able to get without a college scholarship. Or without a college degree. So no, I wouldn't change it. As it stands now, it goes to his county, my county. To those schools. And you were a delight. Because you were just right there in the middle, where Bob and I met, in Hugo. So that worked out great.

[Alexa Rogers:](#)

Worked out perfect. And coming from someone in that county, it's super, super grateful to have this. Because we are a lower income, compared to some other areas around us. And our community does a great job raising money when we're seniors, to give out scholarships and stuff. But it only gets you so far. So to have something your Sophomore, Junior, Senior year, to help you carry through. I was very, very thankful for that. 'Cause Freshman year, gung-ho. Got all the community scholarships. Was ready to go. And then, Sophomore hits, and you're like, "Oh." So it was nice to have that to help me through the rest of the time.

[Alexa Rogers:](#)

What was your greatest take away from this experience?

[Judy Weekley:](#)

Meeting you. No doubt.

[Alexa Rogers:](#)

Well, I'm honored. That was lovely.

[Judy Weekley:](#)

No. Really. When you give a scholarship, you hope it will always go to someone deserving. In which I'm sure that they do. But the first time I met you, my first thought was, "Boy. Bob would have absolutely loved her." And so, that's really the greatest thing I've gotten from it. Because I know you'll do well in whatever you choose to do, the rest of your life.

[Alexa Rogers:](#)

Thank you. I know it was nice for my family to get to meet you. 'Cause I talk about you all the time when I'm home. And I talk about how amazing you are. And how nice you are. And then, for them to be able to put a face to this woman who's helping us so much. They really appreciate it. So that goes both ways. Getting to meet each other, that was awesome. Do you have anything to ask me? 'Cause I don't have anymore questions.

[Judy Weekley:](#)

What are your real goals for the future?

[Alexa Rogers:](#)

To help people. That's why I started going to school. I studied psychology 'cause I wanted to help kids who were in rough places. That's what my end goal was. And I started a graduate program for it, for counseling. And I wanted to do play therapy. And then, I realized only a select group of kids are gonna get this help.

And those are usually higher income, you know, those types of students. Which is great. And it's a wonderful resource for them. But I wanted to be more hands on, the first step.

[Alexa Rogers:](#)

So that's why I'm backtracking, I guess, a little bit. And I'm going for my teaching certificate. So hopefully, I can reach the kids every day in the classroom. So even if I can't teach them that day, I can love on them. You never know what's going on at home. So just to help people. And I think if we pour that love into the kids, then our future generations are gonna be much more loving, and accepting. Make this world a better, more loving place. So that's my goal.

[Judy Weekley:](#)

What a wonderful goal.

[Alexa Rogers:](#)

Thank you.

[Judy Weekley:](#)

And you are right. I love working with kids. And I love to do charity work. But the young ones have always been what I really enjoyed being around. And they give so much. And we get so much back. My son asked me one time, he said, "Mom, you never get paid for all of this." And I said, "Oh yes, I do."

[Alexa Rogers:](#)

You do.

[Judy Weekley:](#)

Just in a different way.

[Alexa Rogers:](#)

Every day, I just wish everyone could have the soul. I work with two year olds. And I wish everyone could have a two year old's soul. Because ...

[Judy Weekley:](#)

Isn't that the truth?

[Alexa Rogers:](#)

They're so loving, and accepting, and forgiving. These kids can forgive you within less than ten seconds. And I'm like, I just wish that everyone else could do that. Make it a lot easier.

[Judy Weekley:](#)

Do you plan to stay in the Springfield area?

[Alexa Rogers:](#)

I do, for a while. Probably for at least five, ten more years. But I would eventually like to get a little bit closer to home. Just make it easier, get closer to my parents. That'd be nice.

[Judy Weekley:](#)

Well, wherever you go, you'll do great. I know that. What has been, say, your greatest experience, here at Missouri State? What have you enjoyed the most?

[Alexa Rogers:](#)

That's hard. Over four years, I enjoyed a lot of things. I got a lot of experience from organizations on campus. I got to meet a lot of people. And there was just a lot of opportunities. I love the bonds that I've created, just through all of the activities I'm involved in. And they last a lifetime. I know I'm gonna keep in contact with you.

[Judy Weekley:](#) I hope so.

[Alexa Rogers:](#) I know I'm gonna keep in contact with some of my professors. So just, I think, meeting people. And just experiencing a different culture. Because back home, we're kind of ... Not all the same. But we all have very similar lifestyles, and values. Things like that. So it was nice to come here, and immerse myself in all of these different cultures. People come from all over to come to school here. And you just get to become, I feel I'm more accepting of people. Just because I've been able to experience all of the different cultures, religious practices. I had some classes that definitely made me go out of my element, to observe different religions, different ... just like, they put some very uncomfortable situations, that I never would have put myself in. I mean, in a professional manner. Just kind of out of my comfort zone. So I think I'm able to relate to people more. And that's super helpful.

[Judy Weekley:](#) Don't you wish that more students would get more involved, and really make an effort to meet, because you do have to make an effort to make friends when you come to a new school.

[Alexa Rogers:](#) Yes. That is what I tell every Freshman, or any new student, transfer student that I see. Is because make friends, get involved. And I always tell them, "You have the support system back home. That's never gonna change. But you need it here." 'Cause you've got friends who are going through similar stressors, similar life experiences. So it's nice to have that immediate support system that you can rely on, as well as the phone call away back home, who can give you the pep talk to get through the night. But, yes, that's what I always tell everyone.

[Judy Weekley:](#) I'm just very, very proud of you. Love you, Dear.

[Alexa Rogers:](#) Oh. Thank you.