FIVE WITH A FALCON: Elliot Zopatti, Technical Theater (COMM '24)

[*Five With a Falcon* theme fades in]

Mckenzie Calvao (Host):
If you could, could you introduce yourself for the podcast?

Elliot Zopatti:
Yeah. My name is Elliot Zopatti. I am a senior in the communications media major with a concentration in technical theater.

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Mckenzie Calvao (Host):
So tell us a little bit about your career at FSU.

Elliot Zopatti:
Yeah, so I've been an RA for the last three years. My first few years I was in Russell Towers and this year I've been in Simons.

I was also a peer mentor for two years and I was also a building manager for a brief period last semester. So I've been all over the place. I've done, a lot of jobs on this campus. I can never escape.

Mckenzie Calvao (Host):
Fantastic. So where do you find a sense of belonging at Fitchburg?

Elliot Zopatti:
I would say from mostly my friends. I met a lot of good friends through being an RA.
And then I got kidnapped into a friend group, which. You may or may not be a part of but it's been, it's been really fun. I've met a lot of really awesome people.

We have a group chat with like 23 people in it now or some nonsense, that's like the expanded universe of our friend group. And those are the people who I love the dearest on this planet.

So it's been, it's been really nice to be able to feel like I found my people.

Mckenzie Calvao (Host):
Absolutely. Yeah, that's awesome. So what is your greatest accomplishment been here so far?

Elliot Zopatti:
So, I'm in the honors program here, and as part of the honors program, you do a thesis project. Typically in the end of your senior year, but I did mine one semester early because of the Communications Media Internship program.

And the project that I did was making a documentary called The Little Girl in the Photo is Me. And I am not a film student, so it was a really hard endeavor. I took three different film classes trying to learn the basics of, how a camera works, how to use DaVinci Resolve,

which is the editing software that we use here, all sorts of different stuff about how to make a project that I would be proud of.

And I ended up submitting it to Visions, which is the communications media showcase they do every year here and also presented at the Undergraduate Research Conference. And I ended up winning Outstanding Visual Arts, I think is what it was called. And I was really proud of that. And I keep getting people who are like, your film was so great.

Like walking up to me on campus and it's like people, I don't know, but they recognize me from the project because my face is all over it and it's a little scary, but it's been really nice.

Mckenzie Calvao (Host):
That's so nice that people just come up and say that to you too. Oh my god.

Elliot Zopatti:
It's also, it's like, it's not even just students, it's like other faculty.

Mckenzie Calvao (Host):
Wow, that's awesome though. So, in what ways have you grown or transformed during your time at Fitchburg?

Elliot Zopatti:
All of the ways. I am a completely different person than I was for my freshman year. I was the Fall 2020 class. So my freshman year, I basically never left my dorm room except to go to class and go to the dining hall.

And now I barely spend any time in my dorm room because I'm always trying to spend as much time as possible hanging out with my friends and participating in different clubs and stuff.

So I would say that the thing that I have definitely improved the most on is like my social skills because I was very much an introvert before college and I just needed to find the people who I connected with in order to become more extroverted.

[*Five With a Falcon* theme fades in]

And now there are times where like, I am kicked out of hanging out with my friends because I have been there for too long. And like, that's not something that I did in high school. Like I always was like, okay, I'm done. Goodbye. But now it's like, no, I never want to leave. You're also lovely. I love you so much.

Mckenzie Calvao (Host):
That's fantastic, though. That's such a wonderful thing to have. Well, thank you so much for joining me today. And thank you for listening.

[*Five With a Falcon* theme fades out]

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Davey Apollon:
Hello. My name is Davey Apollon. I'm a senior at Fitchburg State University. I'm a Comm Media major, and you are listening to the Perseverantia, the Fitchburg State Podcast Network.

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