

Sarah Heavren 0:02

We are recording. The following introductory conversation in questions have been structured off but not copied from the suggested introductory script and questions provided by Indiana University as part of the Journal of the Plague COVID-19 Oral History Project. My name is Sarah Heavren, and I'm here with Chris Judge. Today is March 18, 2021, and it is 1:04pm. I'm coming to you from my dorm room on the campus of Providence College and Chris is speaking from his home. Chris, I would like to review the informed consent form that you signed for participating in the project. This interview will be part of a collection in the Rhode Island COVID-19 Archive, as well as the Providence College Archives and Special Collections. As stated on the release form that you signed, the Rhode Island COVID-19 Archive is a public digital archive project created and maintained by the Providence Public Library and the Rhode Island Historical Society in response to the COVID-19 public health crisis. The Archive seeks to document and share the lived experience of Rhode Islanders from all walks of life during the global health crisis. Any audio or video recording of this interview and a text-based transcript of the interview will be contributed to both the Rhode Island COVID-19 Archive and the Providence College Archives and Special Collections. Do you verbally agree to this?

Chris Judge 1:26

I do.

Sarah Heavren 1:27

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Chris Judge 2:12

I do.

Sarah Heavren 2:13

Do you have any questions before we begin the interview?

Chris Judge 2:17

No.

Sarah Heavren 2:19

So Chris, do you mind sharing what your occupation is and what your role is in the PC community?

Chris Judge 2:26

So I am the multimedia producer in marketing and communications. I create all the, a lot of the audio and visual things you see on social media, on the College's website. I also work with

athletics to help them produce their video board and TV broadcasts for men's basketball and men's hockey. I graduated in 2005. And I basically haven't left yet.

Sarah Heavren 2:59

So, do you live close by to campus? Are you a Rhode Island resident?

Chris Judge 3:06

I am. I live about 35 to 40 minutes away in Scituate, Rhode Island, which is on the kind of the west side of the state. So we're about 10 miles from the Connecticut border.

Sarah Heavren 3:23

So now to go back to last March when the pandemic was just starting, do you remember where you were and what you were doing when you found out that the college was going to switch to this remote format, that first students weren't going to come back from spring break and then, you know, what that meant for the College?

Chris Judge 3:47

So it's a little hazy at this point. I think I remember being home. The night before, the night when the NBA shut down and watching the games and flipping from channel to channel and finding out what was going on. There was a game that was on that PC alum Doris Burke was actually broadcasting there, and then the Jazz game got canceled. And that was, and then the next morning we were supposed to have a basketball--watch a friar basketball game at two o'clock and I've been a part of basically the athletics department and the basketball program since 2002. And so there's a little bit of an--there's a lot of an attachment there and waiting for that game and seeing what was going to happen. And our family is huge sports fans. So that's the lens that we saw all this kind of falling apart through. The Ivy League had canceled, and it was just a matter of time before the Big East in New York City was going to shut it down and when that was going to happen. I don't remember the last time I was like, the actual date of the last time I was in the office because part of my job in being the video guy is that I had to kind of document some stuff. And when Fr. Shanley wanted to put out a message, I was going back to campus and filming Fr. Shanley and trying to stay a little bit separated, but we weren't wearing masks at the time and it was--looking back now, I don't have specific memories. It's kind of all just a blur because everything ramped up that moment that everyone stayed home, and we all had to stay--work from home. And we go in every, a few days a week if that to get, to film things because we still had to get a class in for the next year. And part of marketing and communications is working with admissions to get students to come to PC. And then, and also work with IA to solicit donations, especially because we knew it was going to be, there was going to be financial hardship at the College by not having students come back for the last two months of the semester. So it's still a little bit of a blur. I don't have specific memories. I do remember going in and filming Fr. Shanley a few times whether it was for Friars Give or just messages of support to the student body and to the PC community at large.

Sarah Heavren 6:23

So would you say that you were doing more work at that point? I'm sure you're doing different work. But you know, as opposed to--there weren't athletic events taking place anymore. So did

you feel like you were doing more on the film side? Or was it just now ?you were working with different subjects.

Chris Judge 6:45

So we had finished our home seasons by that point. I believe, I think hockey was done with their, with the quarterfinal series at home. So the athletic stuff was kind of in the rearview mirror, it was just watching what was happening in the postseason for being the multimedia producer. It kind of changed a lot. We had to be able to start doing everything remotely. I--and this is where this whole thing helped me not--it's hard to articulate without sounding kind of like a jerk after we've had 500,000 people die at the hands of this disease--but my skill set was really helpful to have when everyone was working from home and trying to put together remote events and cobble together how you can film something, how I could film something from my bedroom or put together a show or a live stream from my house with people all over campus. And so I was in a very unique position through my position and my skill set to really contribute and to make a meaningful difference at the College in a way that we needed to get through those few months of uncertainty and unknown. One example is that we set up--because Easter was just a couple weeks later--we set, we got a computer from IT, set it up in the Priory chapel with a PTZ camera, which is like a basically a robotic camera that you can remotely control. And I was able to sit here in my bedroom and direct some of these Masses from the Priory chapel so that there was some bit of normalcy for people who couldn't go to churches and wanted to see their Dominicans that they're so familiar with, and at least have that one hour of escape to Mass. And then when we, when students over the summer and then when students came back, we transition that setup into the chapel where we had--we were starting to go in that direction, but it kind of accelerated our timeline and got the system up and running where now every 10pm Mass will be streamed even if we're not in a pandemic I imagine. And it's really been incredible to see how we've navigated and really use technology to come out of this for the better. Another example was we had to do some admission and some Friars Give stuff. So I--and commencement was another thing. We set up a camera in the Barnini Room and Harkins, and it was basically one camera pointed at a podium, we had a TV off to the side so I could video chat in and talk to people who were being filmed for the short commencement video that we did, and the, and a lot of other statements that had to be made or videos that had to be made. So it was just a lot of thinking on my feet and really just trying to cobble stuff together to see what we could do and make it look good.

Sarah Heavren 10:34

Yeah, so you mentioned all the live stream they had to do for the various Easter liturgies. And I've talked to a few people in Campus Ministry, and they've had nothing but good things to say about all the hard work that you've put in. But have you found that you've gotten positive feedback from people? You know, do people know that you're the person behind all this and you're the one pulling together, these live streams that mean so much to be able to connect the community?

Chris Judge 11:05

I'm a behind-the-scenes kind of guy to begin with. I'm not in front of the camera on purpose. I posted a few podcasts here and there. But mostly it's I like to just stay in the background. So when I get a shout out, it's nice. And I am, everyone on campus knows who I am at this point I've

been around for as long as I have going on. I mean, if you include as a student, I've been on campus now for 20 years. Or finishing up my 20th year. So a lot. Everyone on campus knows, but I'm not going out there to toot my own horn or anything or--but yeah, that's the recognition. That's all the recognition I need. And seeing Facebook comments and Twitter comments during a Mass or during a live stream or during a video where people reflect on what it means to them to have that is, that's really where it hits home.

Sarah Heavren 12:11

And you've also mentioned your you were trying to do a lot of this from your bedroom, you know, not even on campus. So what was that like trying to coordinate this new, you know, format of live streaming Mass and these just various different, you know, live streaming things that you wouldn't ordinarily be live streaming? And now trying to do it remotely on top of that, too?

Chris Judge 12:37

Well, a lot of the stuff is stuff that we would, that we've live streamed in the past, maybe it's like the commencement Mass or the commencement award ceremony. Yeah. And so those things have been done in the past. I mean, the scale of events went up because we had to, there was no in-person stuff. But, and I think I just lost the train of your question. Sorry.

Sarah Heavren 13:07

Just like what was it like trying to work from home, essentially.

Chris Judge 13:11

You know, working from home, it's okay, it's a blessing and a curse. It's really nice. And today's an example that I can walk out of my, walk out of this bedroom that we ended up turning into an office with an IKEA desk and some IKEA drawers. And I built a brand-new computer during the pandemic. And that part of it is great having this cool setup. The other thing is I can go downstairs and see my kids. I have a seven-year-old and a three year old. The seven year old is at school every day, but luckily, thankfully, but I can, when I go down to get lunch or I go down to fill up my cup of water at the fridge, I get to see the family that normally would not have happened I would leave at, whenever, 7:30-7:45 in the morning and then not get home until 5:30 or 6:00, and now I get little touches here or there or when, or the kids will just come in and barge in and it's fine as a couple minutes here and there, and that's really the best part of it. The downside is not being where all my equipment was or where all my stuff was and not, and having to figure out different workflows that I wasn't used to. And I love that that's part of what I really like to do. Even when we are in-person, it's trying to figure out ways to get things done in a smarter, faster way than normal. And as a--I think in a lot of the things I've done at PC, that's where I kind of shine. Trying to--when we, so we broadcasted 12 games 10-12 games on NESN and this year, and if you compare what we've done on TV with our resources, it's really incredible, I think, what we're able to do, and show the world compared to what other schools and TV companies in general are doing. And that's because we've come up with creative ways. And it's, and that's the fun problem-solving part of all of this and was, like I said earlier, it's hard to say there's something fun about a pandemic. But the challenges that I was able to tackle is what's fun to me. It's engineering solutions for problems is where I really enjoy what I do.

Sarah Heavren 15:49

Have you gotten any new equipment, throughout the pandemic to help with the live streaming? Are you just working with what you have, and now using it at a larger scale?

Chris Judge 15:59

Yeah, we're kind of just using what we had. I had put together a three-camera broadcast setup that we had used in the past at events like when freshmen would--freshmen have gone through it for years now, at Peterson, the Forever a Friar event during orientation, where we would have the, we would take shots of the students put them on the screens, and we would record the whole thing. And I'd have multiple cameras, and I would be able to move all those cameras and direct the show at the same time. And, and we've basically taken that technology that we had and been able to, with the help of IT, really scale it up to a point where we can stream from anywhere at this point.

Sarah Heavren 16:49

Have you had any major technological problems that you've encountered?

Chris Judge 17:05

If I'm having trouble thing about it right now, I would have to say no, but I'm sure something came up. But I'm always quick to think on my feet. And if something's not working, we'll find a way around it and always having, trying things. I don't do things right for the first time, live. There's probably a time when I was younger, where I would try and like, ride that line where Oh, yeah, it's going to work. No doubt, definitely, it's going work. And now I'm a little more experienced and a little older and realize, no, you have to practice these things, you have to set them up in advance and make sure they're going to work. But I can't think of anything right now where--the thing that, the thing that bothers us the most is probably when you have like an outage, like a Zoom outage or a Microsoft outage, but there's nothing we can do about that. And so we've been pretty lucky. I can't think of a time where we went to stream and it just didn't work or we've had audio issues here and there. But I'll go in and I'll go fix those if I'm not in charge of the stream when it's happening. I'll take text messages and phone calls from anyone at any time, for the most part. And we're fixing stuff all the time. So if Fr. Peter is having an issue during a Mass, he will text me or call me and I will either remotely log in and fix it or walk them through it. And that's happened a bunch of times, where they can't get the overflow working downstairs in the chapel, and I will just I'll either log in or I'll walk them through it and we'll just try and figure out what the problem is. And they've been incredible. Fr. Peter Martyr and Fr. Patrick Briscoe have--the way they've stepped up to really bring Camp Min into this age has really been incredible, whether it's the Zoom talks that they have or the Zoom meetings that they have and being able to livestream all these Masses. I haven't--the only time I do a Mass is if there's like it's more of just a routine Mass. So for most routine Masses, I know father Peter is trying to train some Camp Min members to stream. But him and Fr. Pat have done most of the Masses. I'll go I went in for an accepted students mass a month ago and that was it. They've really been able to take up the mantel and provide to the students the best experience we possibly can get through live streaming and through that Torch app. The things that are, things that are offered through that Torch app now, I don't know if they would have been there. I know we started planning before the pandemic for that app. But some of the things that are in that app now for students is

really incredible. And it's all based on their hard work and what they've done to get us through this.

Sarah Heavren 20:23

Do you have a staff that works under you or do you primarily do a lot of the work by yourself?

Chris Judge 20:30

I have one student worker who works with me, Christy McSweeney, and she's incredible. I've, she has a daily job to do, which is to post the daily reflections from the Dominicans called Virtual Veritas, which we started when the Dominicans--the Dominicans wanted to start this when we first went into quarantine. And we're, we continued to and are at currently 366 episodes. So we just we literally just past one year of Virtual Veritas. We posted a short reflection, homily, whatever you want to call it every day, and we just did 366. So that's a, that's really an incredible milestone. And she's been integral into keeping that going when I don't go to campus. I try to stay home three days a week and go in twice a week. So when I'm not making it into campus, she's been unbelievable to go around campus and get photos and videos, whether it's, we need photos for the website of students hanging out on Slaven lawn or photos of social media for that really nice spring day we had last week. She's been really great to have in our department.

Sarah Heavren 22:00

So when I was talking to some people in Campus Ministry, like Fr. Peter Martyr, and I was talking to Sherry, and they were talking about how you did a lot of work to put together the version of Lessons and Carols that happen this past year. Have there been other projects like that, that other departments or areas on campus have asked you to assemble.

Chris Judge 22:25

So, one part of homecoming this past year, we obviously we didn't have an on campus homecoming like normal. We did a really great project about the history of Harkins Hall, which, with Joan Branham, from the College of Arts and Sciences--she is an art historian and has this whole presentation that she normally does and can give a tour of Harkins. And for homecoming this year, we were asked to make it virtual. And I think that presentation that we created will stand the test of time and be probably something we should have had all along as a definitive history of Harkins, or at least a very good in-depth talk on the imagery and the symbolism all over Harkins, whether it's the statues on the outside, the small symbols that are really embedded in the facade that you don't even notice unless you go up and you really look at it. We did some really cool stuff with time lapse with gigapixel photos. And I think that's something that will definitely stand the test of time. We, I was one of the first people to help this place get through the whole, like Zoom unfamiliarity, uncomfortableness, and now we are doing Zoom events for alumni all the time. And we started that started back--time is a blur--but we started training on Zoom webinar over the summer and trying to figure out how we can do these large scale events, and how we can do certain types of things in those large scale events, whether it's pulling in cameras, or switching cameras and things like that. I did a lot of that, just messing around and testing here in my bedroom. Like I, there's a point where I had four cameras around me just trying to figure this stuff out and see what is possible and what isn't. And I was really, that was one of the plus sides is now we have all these options for things that we could do in the future,

that if we want, if we want to have, we're going to have a big on campus event for a reunion or whatever, do we now--now that we have the resources--do we offer that virtually as well? And getting through things like that, that we never even thought twice about is really the best part of what I've worked on the last year or so is figuring all this stuff out.

Sarah Heavren 25:15

Do you think--you were just starting to allude to this and also when you were talking about live streaming the Masses--do you think there are going to be certain things that now are just going forward guaranteed going to have an online option for, you know, regarding events and things like that?

Chris Judge 25:33

I hope so. I'm sure there are plenty of people who either aren't physically able to not financially able to come back to campus and take part in, things that the, we now have ways for that to happen. Even more than just live streaming, whether it's a Zoom webinar, where we can bring people in live, and ask questions, or who knows what's going happen with Commencement this year, but if we need to bring in a speaker over Zoom, or we have to bring in a speaker remotely over--we had that we kind of knew we could do those here and there with Skype, or whatever. But now, we're at a point where that's just second nature, it's not going to be that difficult. And, and this is going to be--this isn't necessarily directed towards Providence College, but another thing that's come out of this is, in my town, I was filming and live streaming the town council meetings before the pandemic started. I would just set up in front of the, in the high school, and just move a camera around and we would just live stream. When the pandemic hit, they asked me if I knew Zoom and how to work it. And I've been the digital moderator for almost every town meeting in the town of Scituate since the pandemic started. And I don't think that's going to go away, I think there's going to continue to be a virtual option for municipal meetings going forward, and so that people can have their voice heard, even if they can't get to the high school auditorium, or they can't get to the council chambers. I can see that going forward in a similar way as to a lot of these events.

Sarah Heavren 27:27

Do you think--because based off what you're just explaining, you know, definitely having the virtual option creates more opportunity for people to participate. But have you gotten any, I don't think backlash is the right word, but people who are critical of having the online component and not seeing it as a complement to an in person event rather than a replacement? Does that make any sense?

Chris Judge 27:55

Yes, and there's always going to be there's like that. Now, when you watch sports on TV, there's always a difference. Can you hear that rattling? Or no? Okay. This has been a thing in sports for forever. Is it better to watch it on TV? Or is it better to be there in person. And there's always going to be a disconnect if you're watching on a screen, if you're on Zoom. When you go to a game in-person, there's still nothing like it. When we beat Villanova a few years ago on Valentine's Day, there was nothing like being at the Dunkin Donuts Center when something like that happens. People won't like this but I was at the at the Super Bowl that the Giants beat the undefeated Patriots and would it have been fun to watch it at home? Sure, but I wouldn't have

gotten the same feeling at home watching TV as I did when I was in the stadium going crazy. It's, there will always be that distinction and going to an event in person is always still going to have that edge over watching it on a screen, at least I think, and as someone who produces or directs the games down at the Dunkin Donuts Center, I really hope that's true. Because we try and put on a show at the Dunkin Donuts Center that you can't get at home. You get, you get a play by play announcer yelling and screaming when something happens. But when you're at an arena and we start blasting the music after a huge basket and the crowds jumping up and down with the beat and everything's going crazy, there's still no replacement for that.

Sarah Heavren 29:47

Do you think once things start to open up again, and as the vaccine continues to be distributed and PC life returns to more of an in-person format, you'll go back to going to work in-person, five days a week?

Chris Judge 30:03

That's great question. I hope not. I kind of like what I, my little setup here. Even if it's, if it's one day a week where I stay home, or two days a week, that would be great. I do want to get back to the office with other people. I go in twice a week, and there's nobody in the office. It's the worst, you walk in, the lights are off, you have to turn on the lights, there's no one to talk to you when you walk in it. It's awful. But like I said earlier, it's also nice to be home and not be bothered by other people. So in a year, next year, this time, or two years from now, at this time, both my kids will be in school full-time. And so it might be nice to just be here with nobody around, and put my head down and edit a video for eight straight hours or whatever it is. While at work, you might get hit with a phone call, or you might get hit with someone knocking on your door. So there, it might be nice to have that balance. But no, I need people to come back to the office. Definitely. It'll also be good for me doing my job and not having to film people with a mask and be far away and not film someone on Zoom, doing an interview on Zoom, I'd rather have them across for me with the camera set up over my shoulder pointed at them. And we can just talk and not have to worry about does this person have their mask on? Do I have my mask on? Do I have a double mask on? And we can just get back to hopefully how we used to do interviews and how we used to make videos.

Sarah Heavren 31:55

Are you hopeful that maybe that would start happening come the fall semester or that it would still be a little ways out?

Chris Judge 32:03

I think so. It sure seems like that. I was on a meeting last, yesterday where it sure sounds like we're trying--that's the optimistic direction. And everything you read in here, I mean, we maybe we do have to wear masks when we're in close quarters. But it seems like, it sounds like we're going to be back in-person in the fall, and hopefully that's how it is.

Sarah Heavren 32:40

What have been the greatest challenges that you've faced through the pandemic?

Chris Judge 32:51



It's interesting. I consider myself really lucky. My wife does not work, so she can stay home with the, she stays home with the kids. And when we went into lockdown last March, homeschool wasn't hard for us. I know it was really difficult for a lot of families out there, especially where both parents work. We are very fortunate to be in the situation that we're in. I think the biggest worries for our family are our parents. My mom had a double lung transplant three years ago. My dad has had heart pressure like blood pressure and cholesterol issues for a while. And my wife--my in-laws are both cancer survivors. So that's that has been the hardest thing is like, do we go see them? Can we hang out with them? There was a time where we would meet my parents and we would find a park halfway, because they live in Connecticut, we would go find a park halfway through and we pick up takeout and we just set up two tables like we're tailgating at a sporting event just so we could see each other and talk to each other but no hugs until very recently when they, they've been vaccinated. So that probably was the hardest part for at least for me. I don't want to speak for my wife, but that was the hardest part for me because I just, I just kept grinding. I put my head down and just worked and got through it and whether it was making videos for students to understand what campus is like or understand what the Civ program is like. I just put my head down last March and just work through it, and if it's the second Thursday of the month I did a town council meeting if it was the third Tuesday I did a planning meeting. I just kept myself busy. And whether that's good or not, that's, I'm sure I'll reflect on that at some point. But like I said, we've been, we've got really good kids who haven't had issues adjusting or anything like that. We even, we did a Disney World trip last August with masks on and socially distant from everyone and eating all our meals outside and it was great. And so I think we've tried to keep a little bit of normalcy as much as we can, like, we don't go out to Chili's like we used to, we don't go out to a chain restaurant here and there, we don't, we don't even eat out anymore, until we're both going to be, until at least the two of us are vaccinated. So I, whenever I think about this, and I see other people struggling. I just realized how lucky we've been to get through this and not really have the struggles that a lot of families have had during this. I mean, we haven't lost any really close family members, or friends. So yeah, I would just say lucky is how I look at it.

Sarah Heavren 36:20

Have you thought at all about how the different videos that you're making and the live streams that you're doing are in some way helping document the pandemic?

Chris Judge 36:36

It's an interesting balancing act because I think some of the things we do on social media just to keep people abreast of what the College is like. Yes, that documents social, for social, for history. This--we've had this conversation non-stop for the last year--do we show people what the College looks like under normal times? Or do we show them what it's like now, under the impression that this is not, this is only a one-year thing, and hopefully, come the fall, everything should be back to normal? And this will just be a blip. And I'm still don't know where I fall on that. A lot of stuff, because we haven't been able to film with people, the normal way we would is recycled from previous years. A lot of the classroom footage, whether it's me not feeling comfortable, I feel comfortable but whether it's students or professors not comfortable with someone coming into the classroom to get footage, we go back to stuff we've had in the past. Some of that is out of necessity. But another part of it is we want to show what Providence College is normally like and we're going get back to that normal at some point. And almost, we

had this conversation last week about a social post talking about I don't even remember what the topic was, but do we show a campus photo with students with masks on or do we go through our photo database and find something where they're just, the kids are spread out without masks on? And it's a really interesting conversation and maybe in three years or four years, five years, we'll look back and be like, did really matter. It was just one year, like should we, like should we have been using that imagery? Who knows? I don't know if there's, there's not going to be a right answer. And that's something that we thought about a lot.

Sarah Heavren 38:54

What aspects of PC life do you miss the most?

Chris Judge 39:02

I think just seeing people around campus. I mean, I during normal times I would take my, I would take my wagon if people see me around campus, pulling my wagon around with my camera equipment and I'll run into four or five people and just pick up a conversation and see how people are doing, and you don't get that now. Even when you go down to Harkins, everyone is locked in their offices, like closed up, doors closed, even if they're, even if they're in the office, they just got their door closed because we don't want to have people in too close quarters and have people come in and go and it's definitely a little different. And I hope that's what we get back to where changing between classes, even now like when I am on campus on Wednesdays and Fridays, class change used to be one of the coolest things on campus because you'd see people everywhere. Whether it's like 9:20 to 9:30, that 10-minute period where everyone's getting out and getting into class, and you just see people everywhere now, even now, it's not that busy around campus when you walk around. I don't know if you notice that as well. But there's definitely less people out there, and for me at 38 years old, been around the college for 20 years, like, there's a lot of people I've known for a long time, faculty and staff that I haven't seen in a while, and if I have seen them, it's been in a box on a screen. And it's not nearly the same.

Sarah Heavren 40:39

Have--you maybe you mentioned this earlier when you said you built a computer--but have you discovered any new hobbies or pursued any new interests?

Chris Judge 40:51

So I got a 3D printer for Christmas. So that's been a fun hobby. And yeah, I built this new PC as a part, mainly as a, to fulfill my gaming hobby, but also to, to do work on. Now with all these meetings that I do a week, if I'm on, I'm on two to three Zoom meetings at night a week for the different towns I work for. And then editing at home. I used to have this massive, like 15-pound laptop that I would trudge back and forth with and I just figured, you know what, let's really just build a computer, and I'll figure it out with the taxes and figure it out. And that's, that was really fun. I don't know--and part of it was the thrill of the chase because some of these parts are hard to get. And that was kind of fun in December trying to track down these parts to build this really awesome computer that is super fast, and it can do all this stuff that I normally don't--well, that's not true, to do a lot of things that I wasn't able to do before. And now, the other hobby being the 3D printing, that's been a lot of fun. I've built a maker, kind of like a maker space, in our basement now where I can build computers, I can do 3D printing, I put a TV on the wall, so we can hook up computers to it. And that's been a lot of fun in itself as well. So I would say that's

the biggest thing. I've always been a runner, so I've been, being able to work from home, it's a lot easier to go for a run at lunchtime and take a shower at home because locker rooms aren't open at school right now. So that's been a challenge. But so yeah, then the new hobby is definitely the 3D printer and just tinkering. And I can't show you now but I've got like LED lights all in the computer and around the desk and, and I'm going to start tinkering more with electronics and things like that.

Sarah Heavren 43:02

So what have been the things that have kept you grounded through the pandemic?

Chris Judge 43:13

Getting woken up every morning at like, 6:30 to 7:30 by the kids, like you don't--I hate to be that person because it's kind of annoying when you hear people talk about their kids and talk about parenting but like, that's the most grounding part about it is that no matter how down you might be like this little guy runs in and he's all happy and wants to play basketball or wants to do something and you just, you can't help a smile and then end up playing with them or, or this morning when my little guy wanted to play video games, and all right, we can play one race and then you got to go because I got to get back to making this video. And so like that stuff is really, really where it's at and has really kept us where, kept us kind of normal as as much as we can.

Sarah Heavren 44:16

Is there anything else you want to talk about that we have not covered? Do you have any words of advice or positive messages?

Chris Judge 44:27

What this has taught me and taught me about other people is how you have to be adaptable. You can't just get stuck in your ways and expect things to always work out. I had an interview with a student from New England Tech who wants to get into the media business. And I told him that, not just because it's a pandemic but to be successful, you always need to keep learning. Just keep learning no matter what. Whether it's a new video technology that I came across during this or figured out how to have audio going in the computer and out the computer over different connections, it's always about continuing to learn and be adaptable. And those are the most two, the two most important lessons that I think anyone can take out of this, whether it was our seven-year-old coming home from first grade last year and having to do first grade on the computer for four months, for three months or four months. He had to adapt, and kids are really good at adapting. Adults get set in their ways and don't, and can sometimes get caught flat-footed. And this pandemic, I think, has taught people that you can't just rest on your laurels, you have to figure out like you have to be able to learn to, you have to be able to learn Microsoft Teams, you might not like it. But continuing to learn and adapt is the key and that was the only way we got through this, if we've gotten through it at this point, which seems like we're close to.

Sarah Heavren 46:30

Well, thank you, Chris, for taking the time to meet with me and talk about what the past year has looked like for you.

Chris Judge 46:36

No problem. Thank you. This was a, it was nice to actually kind of look back and do something that I haven't really done because I've been kind of just nose to the grindstone and continuing to go, so this was, this was really nice. Thank you.

Sarah Heavren 46:52

Thank you. This has been Chris Judge sharing his pandemic experience.

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