

What's Next? podcast

Mohamed Alsaif

[Snip-it's from Podcast] Mohamed: Basically, all of my all of my favorite projects have been with international students and class projects, course projects, all of them were with international students, I got to understand all of their cultures and ethnicities and what the differences between my culture and their culture was very interesting...

[Bouncy theme music plays.]

[Introduction] Welcome to the What's Next? podcast. Let me just start off by saying. Not everyone has the same background. There is no road-map for success. Life begins at the edge of your comfort zone. Leaning into your curiosities. It does suck when you grow up. We're all still figuring out who we are. You can't just sit back and be silent. Black lives matter. It is the little stuff that makes the biggest difference. Do you have another hour? [Laughs]

[Bouncy theme music fades.]

Cody: Hello, Beaver Nation, welcome to the What's Next? podcast. I'm your host, Cody Stover. Our guest today is a recent Beaver grad completing his degree in industrial engineering in 2020. And he now is the co-founder and creative director of Sting's Hive a Creative Incubator. He was also an international student at OSU coming to Corvallis from Saudi Arabia. And we are very pleased to have him on the What's Next? podcast. Mohamed Alsaif, welcome to the What's Next? podcast.

Mohamed: Hello. Hello, everybody. Thank you Cody for that wonderful intro. It's amazing to be here.

Cody: Yeah, of course. Could I ask where are you joining us from today?

Mohamed: I'm joining you from my hometown in Saudi Arabia called Safwa.

Cody: Ok, excellent. I think you're probably in your evening now, and I'm just having my morning coffee, so, so glad we could connect and do this episode.

Mohamed: Yeah, I'm actually glad to see the time difference is huge, but time management is key. So I like how it's not that it's not too late for me.

Cody: Yeah. This is a great, great overlap for both of us on the time zone wise. So I have to ask to start off. I want to get into all that you're doing now, but what brought you to Corvallis, Oregon and Oregon State in the first place?

Mohamed: Oh, that's a long story.

But it started out when I wanted to visit the United States, but then that changed into studying there for university. And I was speaking about all the engineering programs and out of Colorado State, Oregon State and Washington State, I figured that Oregon is at the coast and I loved hiking at the time. So Oregon State was the right choice and I made it.

Cody: So and I want to know, too, like what was that experience like for you as an international student diving into an American university? How was that experience for you?

Mohamed: To start off my experience was I was not as I was as shocked as most people would be. I grew up basically watching Western content like TV shows, cartoons, movies, listening to that kind to listening to English music. And that's where all of my experience like of watching America grow and watching Hollywood and watching all the artists that gave me some conversations to start off with the citizens there and everyone in the States as soon as I came over to Oregon State.

Cody: I know you graduated in industrial engineering and that you now are part of a creative incubator. Much more on the creative marketing design side of things. Did you come into your college experience on that engineering path or did you always kind of know, like, hey, I want to do more of this creative stuff? Talk to me about that journey, I guess.

Mohamed: Well, I came into Oregon State University as an electrical and computer engineer to begin with. I took like freshman year and sophomore year classes. And built up my pro-school GPA, because everyone loves pro-school.

And I decided that at some point on the road, I decided that electrical engineering wasn't exactly the major for me. It wasn't what I planned it out to be. And I decided to change my major to industrial engineering. I wanted to do engineering, but at the same time, industrial engineer gave me an access to business engineering. So I actually did business classes, accounting and marketing classes as well. That experience was amazing, like the smooth transition from electrical and computer engineering to industrial engineering. Really like figure out my life and manage it well to I didn't have that much stress. I had in electrical and computer engineering and I felt more comfortable and handling business, so. In the midst of all of that, I actually.

Remembered that I have a lot of creative experience from middle school and high school, even way back then in elementary school, and for me and my siblings and my mom would play around with, like colors and paint and me and my dad would mess around with photography as well. So I guess that's where my creative roots started from. And I continued doing that. And in college by like doing photography in the beginning just with friends. And then I switched to landscape photography. I took a lot. I went to a lot of hikes. In 2018 I planned out the whole year's hiking trip.

So we went to Multnomah Falls, we went to Angel's rest and we went to so many other waterfalls and there was an amazing, amazing year for me and I took a lot of landscape photography. I switched into portraits to try to learn more about that field and to meet new people honestly. I wanted to network and to meet different people, models, designers, fashion designers and other photographers and cinematographers as well.

So during that, we started a thing called dam diverse. So dam diversity is a platform for under, for representing under hurtfulness. So what we would do is basically schedule a photo shoot or a photo session and talk about the persons and meet up with the international students and underrepresented communities here. I mean, they're in Corvallis, in Oregon in general. And we would give them a shout out on our page. The whole idea was to have the individual write up their own story and all we would do is post their story and promote them on social media.

We felt we felt like a lot of people deserved a bigger voice, their voices heard and the bigger platform. And that's what damn diverse panned out to be.

Cody: Yeah, thanks for sharing that and for anyone listening to if you're a safe place to do so, you can look up their page at damn diverse on Instagram. That's a dam. And then diverse. And it's filled with stories, pictures and stories of these folks that Mohammed is describing. Mohammed, what I guess what was the origin story of damn diverse. I know you spoke a little bit about right there and kind of how did you see it evolve or over your time working on the project?

Mohamed: Well, that's an amazing question, because the beginning of damn diverse. Included three friends, three international friends from different countries, and we felt like our voices aren't being heard enough within the community.

So we decided to create a platform for all the underrepresented communities to like. They let their voices be heard because there's a lot of I would say a lot of Oregon State University students, international students are very, very talented, very creative. And I don't feel like they we don't we didn't feel like they got enough credit in the community. So we wanted to give them a boost. We wanted to promote their content, their story in whatever way. And it began with me and the founders, Gursharan Kaur and Ali Ibrahimy, all of us are from different countries, from England, from Saudi Arabia, from Iran. We all got together and thought about this idea because we as well came from a group of international students, like, I'm not kidding from every part of the world. We had people from Pakistan, people from India, people from Germany, people from Belgium, like from Europe, from South America, as well as those from the Middle East. So having all the international group or international individuals in one group communicating under one language it builds a strong tie.

Cody: It's amazing to look through, scroll through this page and see so many faces and so many stories. What was kind of, I guess, the impact of this page? Did you see it grow as your time at OSU? Talk to me about that.

Mohamed: So within the first year or a couple of years of damn diverse, we started in twenty seventeen, by the way, in case I didn't say in the beginning. We started in twenty seventeen. And over the course of the two years, it went very good like a lot of people

loved it. We had great feedback. We helped build communities in OSU for it to reach out to each other to basically. Communicate with each other whenever needed, we really helped people meet other friends as well. The biggest thing about this, though, one of our biggest impact is the creation of 3D, which is dam diverse dance with the help of Isadora Acosta. We created a dance team within dam diverse, that represented all the women of color. And you would see, I think it was and there were several shows in Portland and OSU and one of the dam sheets magazine fashion shows as well. there was a performance by them, an amazing performance. And that was one of our biggest impacts that is still alive at OSU and run by different leaders time after we all graduated.

Cody: Yeah, I was I was going to ask, is this page are these projects still live that they're still going on?

Mohamed: Yeah, there's not there hasn't been.

Ever since covid started its been kind of hard to build that community once again. But the legacy is still continuing. Hopefully, you know, a few.

Cody: Yeah, so encourage folks to, if you're listening, go follow along at those pages, too, and we'll post some of those links in the bottom of the show notes here. But yeah. Mohammed, thanks so much for sharing that. I want to jump into some of what you're doing now. But before we kind of finish this topic of things you were doing at OSU, beyond dam diverse to, is there anything else that kind of pops up in your mind relating to your experience at OSU that was kind of like an especially important thing or especially formative. What else kind of shaped your time at OSU?

Mohamed: The internationals, to be honest, completely straight. The international people I met in OSU are by far the best experience I've had at OSU. I went to visit my friends and cousins at universities. And I see I see many of them lacked diversity in their towns and their universities as well. So I'm very grateful to have met all the international people. And OSU there is the most comfortable to speak with. And in my classes, all of my favorite projects have been with international students and class projects, course projects. All of them were with international students. I got to understand all of their cultures and ethnicities and what the differences between my culture, their culture is very interesting. I learned to speak some words and other languages and honestly, it

helped me a lot to become who I am today. I think Oregon State University should encourage more internationals to come through to come to OSU and enroll because the international population at OSU is unbelievably good.

Cody: Yeah, that's wonderful to hear. And this sounds like a beautiful experience of people from different backgrounds and cultures all coming together.

What, in your opinion, can OSU and all of the listeners do to continue to foster that that opportunity, that experience and that kind of sense of community? Like is there things in your opinion that that are like the most important things that we continue doing or start doing more of?

Mohamed: With OSU, I really like their annual events they do. I like their student organizations and associations as well. They really fund the student associations. I worked as a volunteer, as a volunteer photographer at the Ettihad cultural center. They have an annual event called Ettihad Cultural Festival, where they bring all the countries, all that has countries in the Middle East, North Africa as well. And they put and they like give them a platform to promote their culture, you know, to showcase their culture and their food and their festivities as well. So I joined E.C.C. International as a volunteer photographer and 2016, I think, and as well as 2017 and that show or that event is really helpful for the community, like I worked my way through Saudi Arabia for the Saudi Arabian students, through Palestine to learn more about them, as well as to learn about all the other Middle Eastern countries being seeing it. They're represented. That helped me. Share stories about all the other cultures and my community here.

Cody: Yeah, I think I speak for all of Beaver Nation when I say thank you, Mohammed, for bringing projects like dam diverse forward and also being an advocate for international students and making sure that these communities are strong. So, yeah, thank you. And I also forgot to mention on the air, too, like big congrats for graduating in 2020. An incredible accomplishment.

Mohammed: Thank you. It's a strange feeling, but not everyone can say Beyonce wished them happy graduation.

Cody: So true that. How was that?

I have to ask you, do you finished your last graduate in spring of twenty twenty, I'm assuming.

Well, how was that last few months like virtual. Right. So are you in Corvallis during that time?

Mohammed: Actually, I was in Corvallis for the beginning of spring term when we heard the news about COVID at the end of winter term. I was like I was contemplating whether to come to whether, come back to Saudi and finish my studies or finish it there in Oregon State. But after all the statistics, I went back home and finished my studies there, here in Saudi Arabia. And the experience was just. Very weird because my last term involved two class projects, and I had to me and my teammates also very good friends. Me and them had to Zoom each other at specific times because some of us are like another in another country. And we had to fix up the time zones as well. And communicating with each other digitally virtually is different than physically, definitely different than physically. So the community, the physical feeling of having of working with the friends, working in groups is very different. It's very weird to study and work on your own and stay in your room about class and take class in there and then talk with your friends about it on the phone and not like between classes or are on a lunch.

Cody: Right. Those little easy like ways to just grab someone and have a conversation don't really exist anymore.

You have to be so intentional with saying, hey, let's get on a video call or let's get on a phone call.

Mohammed: It feels like you need to set up appointments to hang out with your friends.

Cody: There's nothing spontaneous anymore.

Mohammed: Yeah. So, yeah, it was kind of mentally dragging about that. But then graduation came, graduation morning. I was so happy I could wake up and tell my parents that I graduated.

And so I showed them all the work that I did and they threw me a surprise. They threw me a graduation surprise party. And like all of my family members recorded something and recorded something and edited the video and I had to watch it like in front of all of them. And it was always much needed. That's what I can say. It was a much needed love form for graduation.

Cody: Yeah, that's wonderful to hear.

I think like at least in my college experience, you think in the back of your head you're like, this is all this work and all this is going to culminate and it's going to be, you know, I'm going to have that one picture at the end of me standing in the stadium, like with my cap and gown, like with thousands of people all around me. And I'm going to be there graduating. And I think I always had that in the back of my head that that was going to be the quote on quote, end to my college experience would be that photo. But I guess for a lot of 2020 grads if that was their similar thing, if they thought that would be the end of their college career, like that wasn't necessarily the quote on quote photo that they got at the end. But it's wonderful to hear that your family did some creative things to commemorate that day.

Mohammed: You're very right.

I actually I had a plan I had the whole after graduation ceremony planned for my friends and family to spend it very nicely and to have a very fun time.

But sadly nothing worked out. So but

Cody: You had to adapt.

Mohammed: Actually yeah. It's actually sad. I kind of photos that prior generations, you know, I have it.

So someday I wish someday there is a reunion with all my friends and all of us would wear our cap and gown with and take pictures with each other throwing up in the air. That's an amazing moment too.

Cody: I hope that happens too. I hope when we finally it's safe to do so again, they'll be we won't be just celebrating one class. We'll be celebrating all the classes whose graduations were delayed by the pandemic.

Mohammed: Yeah. Yeah. I heard everyone got invited to next years graduation ceremony.

Cody: Oh, is that what's happening. Yeah, that's OK. That's going to be a full crowd.

Mohammed: Yeah it's going to be very full. Reser stadium is going to hold a lot of people.

Cody: Hey, listeners, this podcast is proudly supported by your local Toyota dealers as the official vehicle of Oregon State Athletics, Toyota is a proud partner of Oregon State, both on and off the field and congratulates all OSU alumni for their accomplishments and achievements. Visit your local Toyota dealer or Toyota.com to find the perfect vehicle for you.

So talk to me about what you're up to now or what you've been up to since graduation. I know you kind of have taken this dive into this new organization called Sting. Talk to me about that. Talk to me how this all came to be after you finish your time at Oregon State.

Mohammed: So prior to graduation, that's when Sting started. It started in 2019, August twenty nineteen. And the idea of Sting Hive was to be an incubator, a creative incubator for all creatives, photographers, videographers, models, makeup designers, fashion designers, musicians, artists, painters, all these type of creative

Cody: Across the board.

Mohammed: Exactly. We wanted them all to have a community. We wanted to build a community specifically for them to network, to collaborate with each other and build something nice for the future. Our slogan was is to build a build a better world for creators. And what we want to do is to. Taken as many participants or volunteers and stings hive, and in the long run, hopefully within the next five years, we want to do internships, we want to funding donations, and we want to also do scholarships as well.

And the plan now in the short term is to continue running workshops for our creatives. So anyone, anyone in sting hive we would show them, we would give them workshops about any creative aspects from knowing how to work the camera, knowing how to model that type of stuff. What Stings Hive was in 2018, we were focused on photographers and videographers and models and makeup designers as well.

We did two events and 2019 and I think in the beginning of 2020 as well, where we would meet up, where we would do a photo meetup where a bunch of models and a bunch of photographers would meet up together and collaborate and take pictures of each other, taking really sick pictures. And if you go on our page on Instagram or our Website, Sting Hive.com, you would see that a lot of our photos were taken and those events. We did an event in a studio and a photo studio in Portland, and we had around we had around 50 people come there in the studio and we had two bloggers and videographer and bunch of models and photographers. It was an amazing time for everyone that that came to those events. We are hopefully going to do some more, like after all the precautions have been figured out because photography like a photo meetup, this kind of like very fun to do, but also risky.

Cody: Yeah, wow, that that's incredible, and yeah, hopefully we're back to a place where we do more of those. So if I'm understanding correctly, too, like you're the creative director at Sting's Hive, does each person have kind of their own specialty or I guess like, is this a place like if somebody wanted some design work done, is this a place where they can come and contract with one of you to do it? Or is it more of this as a collective to create this community around people who have different skills? Or help me kind of wrap my mind around that.

Mohammed: It's both, actually. We're trying to fit and help build and build and help the community. But at the same time, we want to boost our boost our business in terms of services. So we do offer creative and marketing services like marketing as an SEO search engine, search engine optimization, as well as email marketing. And from our creative services, we do brand identity. We design your logo. We're going to do a photo shoot for you, a video as well, or build a developer website, design a website, design an app so those type of services are trying to promote. Ever since COVID started, we took a huge, huge shift into our idea where everything has to be digital. So all of our meetings to all of our events, October, we just had Hive festival events that were just

done, which included every weekend we would have performances and workshops done by participants outside of Sting Hive, and it was a success. A lot of people showed up to our Zoom calls and participated. We're really, really thankful for that. But ever since covid hit we shifted digital and we're offering creative services, marketing services as well, and basically figuring out workshops for our community.

Cody: That's wonderful. And, yeah, I'm just scrolling through on the site, too, so those listening stings Hive.com, as Mohammed mentioned, is the place to check out some of that work and check out each of these individuals who makes up the collective. But also, Mohammed, I want to know more about you, too. Like what's your specialty, your focus and the kind of design work that you do? Is it. I know you mentioned photography has been a piece of it. Do you also do like the UXUI side of things like, as you mentioned, like everything is going digital? Talk to me about your specialties.

Mohammed: Yeah. So I don't have a certain specialty. I'd rather try and learn more about every creative aspect. So I started off with photography and then I learned a bit a bit of videography. And then slowly I started learning how to do posters like graphic design. I jumped more into that and I started taking actually courses and graphic design and Adobe suites software like Illustrator and after effects. After graduation I started a lot of opportunities here in Saudi Arabia where they have workshops and courses on these creative aspects. So I always thought of myself as a creative person. So I always wanted to see how it is to build a creative arts from scratch. Right. So I started taking courses from different websites, from watching different YouTube videos. And I started learning about after effects, how to do motion graphics, I started learning how to draw on Illustrator, I even downloaded an application on the iPad called Procreate and I learned how to draw as well. So I would say I took advantage of my time and I tried to get creative from every aspect possible.

I learned how to design an app, design a website. I can do product photography, purchase a product at home just to give me this, to keep me more knowledgeable. And in Lightroom and another Adobe software where you can edit photos. And to this day I am just trying to seek out as many creative platforms as possible that I can learn from. I learned SolidWorks, even though that's an engineering software. I learned how to draw both on and engineering parts as well. Another software would be premierpro and Sigma, Sigma as a tool for designing websites, and I just try to attract as many creative

aspects as possible on the site. I would also work on marketing or marketing courses like currently I'm enrolled in a business analytics course where they're teaching us how to market our content and basically analyze our business data. So all of that is really interesting and to what I am today, considering I'm a graduate in industrial engineering, I am trying to seek out courses and skills from creativity as well as marketing and promoting and advertising.

Cody: Mohammed, as you're as you're talking about, all of these things are connecting for me a little bit in my mind of when we were in the earlier in this episode. When you're talking about you're starting industrial or starting in computer and electrical, I believe if I remember right. And then you were talking about how Industrial gave you the opportunity to learn more of the business skills, too. And you really liked that. And then I'm hearing you talk about all these different things. And the key word I keep hearing from you is learn. I think it's incredible that it seems like at each stage of your journey, you are just always seeking out these opportunities to learn and add something new. And I think sometimes, like when we all enter the real world, it's so easy to think, OK, I've done this or I've got this degree and now it's time for me to just work and then the world to learn suddenly falls from the vocabulary. And so it's amazing to hear at each stage of your journey. It seems to me, at least from an outsider looking in, that you kind of seem to embody this lifelong learner mentality. Would you say that that's like right. Or are you always looking for those opportunities? And I guess what advice would you give for folks who maybe are afraid to go into something new?

Mohammed: You're absolutely, absolutely right Cody. The one thing I like about myself that I maintain that learning is learning a skill after graduation. I never want my education or my learning experience to stop at OSU. That's like my responsibility right after that right. So I went ahead and said, I'm going the industrial engineering route. I also went ahead with the creative process. Are learning more about this, more about this stuff. And one thing I always tell my friends and cousins as well is that learning should never stop because you're not learning. After graduation you have the chance to learn whatever you want, not whatever the school gives you. You're going to be giving you're going to learn about time management. You're going to learn about handling your finances. You're going to learn about whatever field you want to get into. You can learn about anything from anywhere and in any way you like. Some people don't like learning through reading books, but they would rather listen to a podcast about this. About a

book. So there's so many different ways of learning. So my message to everyone listening to this is learning is a amazing concept that you need to hold on to after graduation.

Cody: Yeah, thanks so much for sharing that. I'm definitely guilty of falling into the or you sometimes hear people who have been out of college for a while say, if I were to go back to college and do it again, I would study this instead. And I'm definitely guilty of saying that, like maybe I found a new interest or something. And I would say if I would have done it again, I would have done this major. And I think like as you're saying, that it's like that's such a that's such a wrong way to look at it.

Like if you're thinking, I would have done that, why not just do it now? Like, why not learn that thing now? There's no nothing that says.

Mohammed: Exactly. There are so many opportunities to learn and there are so many websites that you can actually get certificates for, like certified paper about your learning experience. And honestly, from what I've heard, employers can today's employers, they tend to see your performance, your current performance, rather than what you only did in college. Like what are you doing now as well? Are you seeking out education at your expense as well? Are you what are you learning now that is going to improve you tomorrow? You know what I mean?

Cody: Mm hmm. Mm hmm.

I think it comes true also when you get into like a job interview or something and, you know, you've got your resume all perfectly bullet pointed with your major and the related work experience. And then you also have something at the bottom that's maybe completely different, like maybe it's an international experience or it's like you were did something in cooking or you did something, something else.

And then you realize when the job interview person asks, hey, I want to talk more about, you know, this cooking experience you had or this international experience. And you're kind of thinking, oh, wait, like I was so focused on just all the things that I want, the bullet points, I wanted to meet their criteria.

But like, really, this person interested in me as a whole person, not just one specific little chunk of bullet points.

Mohammed: Yeah, definitely. Definitely. Definitely. A couple of employers ask me questions about my skills and then focus on any of the of the experience I had in college courses. So it's crucial to actually have those maybe a small thing from your resume will spark their interest. I applied for a graphic design job before and they saw that I did photography and they asked me more questions about photography than graphic design. So you never know what my spark their eyes. So what I usually do is I try to fit in a little bit of everything I do just so just so the employer understands that I'm the multitalented kid. So I can do that. I can I have passion for creativity. So yeah.

Cody: That's so valuable to have that diverse range of skills. Um, yeah, I, I'm curious to know. So the name of this podcast is What's Next. And so some of the theme behind that is you've kind of you graduated this past year. Things are starting with Hive or things have continued to run with Hive. And you're and you're taking these new courses. So we've been asking our guests all this question. What is next for you? What do you what do you think the next couple of years hold? Or what are some maybe personal or professional things that are kind of in your mind is like this is my next step.

Mohammed: My next step is to have my own job. I have a lot of entrepreneurial ideas that I know that could work. And within the next two years, hopefully all of them will become some sort of success to be happy within every minute of my day. So hopefully two, three, five years from now, I wish to remain like motivated, optimistic and looking forward to the next day.

Cody: Thanks for sharing that. That's wonderful. I wanted to mention to one last thing here before we get into our fun sections is that I've worked a little bit in the creative space, in graphic design and those sort of things. And one thing that sometimes can happen is I've noticed that it is very competitive or, you know, there are sometimes folks who are always trying to get ahead in that sort of thing. But I think the beautiful thing, just as you've shared this whole story, too, is what you brought to the creative spaces. Like you said earlier, the sense of community as you were describing Sting's hive in your own personal and professional goals. I keep hearing that you want to keep helping, you know, create positivity, create optimism, bring other people up, share other people's

stories. And so I think I just wanted to mention I think it's beautiful that that is such a focus of your creative journey to.

Mohammed: Thank you. Thank you Cody. It means a lot to hear it from other people, we hopefully want the impression of them dam diverse to continue like this. That's our mission statement, to represent to promote underrepresented communities. And for stings hive, we want to build a community for creatives.

Cody: And one more time, what are the best ways that if folks want to follow along with both you personally in your work and stings hive, is the website and Instagram? Could you tell us those pages that that would be best for them to follow?

Mohammed: Yeah, definitely. So for a Dam Diverse you can follow us on Instagram at Dam Diverse, Dam Diverse, and for Stings Hive well we have two accounts. One for the community, for the Hive, as we say, at StingsHive. And the other one is Stings.Hive.LLC that pages is for our professional work, for work we've done with clients. And if you want to follow me personally, my Instagram account is @alsaifmo96. And I have a Instagram account within that Instagram account called the ISF Designs where I promote my work, my graphic design work.

Cody: Awesome. We'll make sure to throw those links in the show notes to so folks can click through to if they're having any difficulties finding those. But, yeah, thanks for sharing those.

[Bouncy theme music plays.]

Ally: Hey Beaver nation, I'm Ally and I'm a 2015 OSU grad and part of [OSU Next](#). Figuring out your journey post college in these times can be tough and it sometimes can seem like there's a lot flying at us all at once. We started the OSU Next LinkedIn group to be a place for Beavs to support Beavs. Whether you're looking for tips on negotiating your first promotion, hoping to connect with others in your area, or simply trying to stay sane while working from home. We're here for you. Join us by searching OSU Next on LinkedIn. Now back to the show.

[Bouncy theme music fades.]

Cody: So now we're going to hop in and wrap up this episode with our, our few of our fun segments. So this first one is called Give Some and Get Some. So I want you to imagine that you just won ten thousand dollars and you get to donate half of it and spend half. The caveat is that the first half, the first five thousand you have to spend or you have to donate to a charity cause or organization that you believe in or support. And then the other half you have to use on something fun. So, Mohammad, what's your response to that, that question?

Mohammed: Well, for the first five thousand I donated to a charity fund here in Saudi Arabia called the Young Youth Leadership Program, where they take out kids from elementary schools around the around the country and they help them with a business and entrepreneur project management courses, which towards the end they would pitch their ideas in a shark tank type of panel and get funding for their projects.

Cody: That's incredible.

Mohammed: That said, that would be the charity and for five thousand dollars, just for fun. To be honest, I always look forward to the future, so I actually save twenty five hundred for the future or for investments and like in my businesses and the other twenty five hundred, I would, I would actually like to spend on myself and my family like buying everyone presents. I always want to buy presents. My family members, they deserve it.

Cody: I should have known by your responses in this first half about how you're helping bring other people up, that when I asked you this question, which can be easily to be selfish, whether you are going to say I'd spend other people, some wonderful, wonderful answer, there.

Mohammed: It's all about the community itself, but the vibe you have with the community, if you and your group or you and your family enjoy your time together, then that's what I that's what I look forward to, actually.

Cody: Yeah, that's a beautiful call out. And you have a beautiful perspective that you have. This next segment is called My Quarantine Thing. So during these covid times, people from all over trying something new or they're doing something a little bit

differently, like getting a puppy, cutting their own hair for the first time or trying a new hobby.

Is there kind of a thing that stands out in your mind that is been your quarantine thing?

Mohammed: My quarantine thing is actually; I have two things. One would be swimming every week. I try to swim at least three times in the pool. And my other thing would be reviewing movies, I've been so into movies lately.

Cody: Old movies, new movies, all of them?

Mohammed: Old movies in general, my favorite director now is Quentin Tarantino. His movies are amazing. I love his concept in movies, his style, his directing is just a different than other movies, and that's why I love it. So I've been like this binge watching a lot of movies of famous directors. And me and my friends, we would sometimes sit down with each other on the call or together in the living room and just discuss about, like how the movie is, what the concept is about. And they have different meanings, that type of stuff.

But that would be that would be majorly my quarantine thing, Yeah.

Cody: That's awesome. That's a great thing to have during these times, to kind of jump to these other worlds, these movies. So that's really cool to hear. This next and final section here on the What's Next podcast, it is our 45 second trivia challenge, so I will put forty five seconds on the clock here and I'm going to hit you with OSU trivia. Mohammed, are you ready to?

Mohammed: Lets go for it!

Cody: All right. Name a Corvallis restaurant or other business.

Mohammed: Local Boyz.

Cody: What year was OSU founded?

Mohammed: In the 1880s

Cody: Close, well, not quite, though.

Mohammed: 1886?

Cody: Oh really close. What's the campus newspaper called?

Mohammed: Can you can you repeat that

Cody: What is the campus newspaper called at OSU?

Mohammed: I don't know.

Cody: Name a cultural center at OSU.

Mohammed: Oh, my God, the the long native house.

Cody: Yeah, name of professor you had

Mohammed: Vector

Cody: All right, right at the buzzer. Ok, you got three there and yeah, the Native American longhouse, you said it basically just switched around the two.

Mohammed: Names are so bad

Cody: But you got three.

Mohammed: Oh, good.

Three out of four. Do I win anything?

Cody: Which actually is tied.

Well, there's still one more episode to be recorded here. But so the leader is at five right now, but there's like four different guests tied at three. So you're tied at second place with three with about four other people. So good effort. Good. Those are hard questions there, especially the founding. No one's got that one yet. That's a tough one.

Mohammed: Yeah. I don't, I don't remember. I know it's in the 18th century. I know that for sure. It's in the late 18th century.

Cody: Yeah, OSU was founded in 1868, which you said 1886, which was so close because the last year was a flip flop.

But anyway, great job there. Well, we'll all study up and then come back, for the finals. All right, Mohammed.

Well, I appreciate your time so much for coming on here and sharing all of your journey from your time at OSU time with doing damn diverse and then now with your new project, Sting's Hive and all that's to come as you continue to learn and perfect your skills and just continue to create this community. So thank you so much for sharing all that and for taking the time to come on the podcast.

Mohammed: Yeah. Thank you so much Cody for giving me this opportunity. It's been amazing and it's so wonderful to meet you. And I can't wait for to see the reaction on this episode.

Cody: Yes.

We can't wait to share it. And you have put your story out there. So and to all our listeners out there in beaver nation, we'll see you next time.

[Bouncy theme music plays.]

Cody: Hey, listeners, our goal at OSU next to the alumni association is to build community, and that includes creating connections and sharing these unique stories with the rest of Beaver nation. If you found this episode of the What's Next? podcast valuable, you can help us achieve this goal by writing a quick review, leaving a rating

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[Bouncy theme music fades.]