

The ShermCast: Out with the Old and In with the New (S2E1)

Another season of The ShermCast! Returning Host Sam Yip is super excited to welcome Joe Blanchet as her new Co-Host and get back to uncovering the meaning of entrepreneurship. Our first episode of Season 5 features the Sherman Center's newly appointed Director, Ted Johnson. We talk about what's new in the Sherman Center, what's new on Northeastern's campus and what to look forward to in Season 5!

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Sam: Welcome back to the ShermCast, we're super excited to be back for a brand new season, full of new faces or rather voices and new topics. If you're new to the ShermCast, we are podcast dedicated to uncovering the meaning of Entrepreneurship in the Northeastern Community and the Greater Boston area, we focus on topics like sustainability, product development, and overall what it means to be an entrepreneur. If you've listened to the ShermCast before we are super excited to be returning for a new season and we're looking forward to some of the really cool things we have but for now, an update on all things Sherman Center.

I'm super excited to be back for another season of the ShermCast, for our new listeners I'm Sam, a second year Industrial Engineering major with a minor in Data Science and your returning host on the ShermCast. But even more I'm more excited to introduce my co-host Joe.

Joe: Hey everyone, I'm thrilled to be joining the ShermCast this year and I can't wait to share what we have planned this season. I'm a fourth-year bioengineering major with a concentration in biomechanics. On campus, I like to keep myself busy and I work as the lead for the presidential ambassador program, which works alongside the office of advancement. I also co-founded the first student internship program within the College of Engineering called Coexist. And I also kind of just joined the triathlon team. I've completed two co-ops in the medical device space and hopefully, by the time, you all hear this, I'll have a third co-op, ready to go. I might be new to the ShermCast but I've definitely been around the block and I'm really excited to chat with all of you guys and have fun in the audience.

Sam: So, we've got a lot of new exciting things happening on the ShermCast and in the Sherman Center but before we jump into what's new, we just wanna highlight a special research opportunity the Sherman Center is sponsoring, the research position is open to all majors and is available as a work study and/or volunteer position.

Joe: Basically, we're looking for someone who can help rethink our Student Center down in Hayden Hall. The research will be aimed at answering: "How do you design a physical Student Center to be more inclusive?" We're looking to focus on things like race, gender identity,

physical ability, mental ability, neurodiversity, learning style, cultural identity and anything else you can think of. The position involves research and characteristics of inclusive spaces, surveying and interviewing occupants and potential users, prototyping ideas, and assessing design cost and feasibility. If you're interested, contact our new director Ted Johnson at ted.johnson@northeastern.edu. Speaking of our new director, we're so excited to actually have Ted with us today. This is Ted's first time on the ShermCast, so Ted, welcome. Ted is currently the director of the Sherman Center, which is super cool. Why don't you introduce yourself?

Ted: Joe, thanks so much. Sam, It's absolute pleasure to be here. Hello, my name is Ted Johnson, I'm the director of the Sherman Center. I've been around for about 6 years, but 10 at Northeastern. And I've done a few things before that as well.

Sam: Ted, what is your role as director? What do you do?

Ted: That's a really great question, as director of the Sherman center it's my role to make sure that we have an inclusive, entrepreneurship community, that provides real hands-on opportunities for all of our NU innovators. And that could be undergraduates, graduate students, faculty, staff, alumni. Our community runs the gamut. It's my job to make sure that all of our programs, initiatives, ideas are impactful, they're growing and they're really fun and awesome.

Joe: Ted, even being new here it's pretty clear that we're all lucky to have you and that you're really impactful in your role and to all the students here, but I'm wondering, and I'm sure everybody else is, how did you end up at the Sherman Center? Where did you study? Where did you work before? What did you do before your years in the Sherman Center, while you were at Northeastern and then how'd you get started here?

Ted: Joe, great question and forgive me, if I kind of meander my way through this because I do feel like the entire career has been a bit of a meandering experience. So I've been with the Sherman Center, like I said for six years, I started as a program manager under the leadership of a former faculty member chemical engineer, Shashi Murthy, for some of our longtime listeners, they may remember Professor Murphy. And worked my way through a few different positions, assistant direction, assistant associate director, and now director, the, my role has expanded essentially with the expansion of the Sherman Center. As we've been bringing our new programs, bringing on new students, and donors and friends and partners. My role has been expanding, but I've done a lot of things before Sherman Center. I, I like to tell this story, you know, my, my first job ever was filling scuba tanks at a scuba diving shop, and I don't understand why they had a twelve-year-old on this high pressure cascade system with multiple tanks there, it could've just blown up the building along the inland there but a majority of my career has really, before education was either in the fitness place or the hospitality space. So I was a former personal trainer in New York City. I grew up at a huge fitness facility, it was the largest on the east coast, called the Atlantic Club down in Wall Township, New Jersey, where I'm from. Go Tri-State, tri-state area, folks. We've a lot of New Jersey Folks up here. And then, as I went to my

undergrad, I realized that I wanted to be a business. I wanted to be in business that supported others and Hospitality Hotel Restaurant Management and building experiences for people felt like a natural fit. Joe, I got to tell you I would have benefited from Co-op. I spent a good deal of time, you know in between semesters, during summers, going into industry and trying out the hospitality industry. I did end up working for Marriott International. I started out, gosh, on overnights in Princeton, New Jersey and seeing all of the strange and interesting things that happen in hotels and worked my way up to managing a property right here in Boston for if you're interested with the City Bank Arts Center, or theater or the Shubert Theater, the Charles Theater. The Theater District has an old historic property, call the courtyard Tremont and that was my property. I oversaw the rooms division, as well as our restaurant that we had there and yeah, I eventually figured out that hospitality was not for me, long-term. Would have been nice to know that before I graduated. But sure enough, it led me to look at higher education. I actually got the benefit of working with a wonderful career coach, when I was looking to make in industry transition. And a lot of what we worked on was really understanding myself. What did I want? What skills was I good at? Did I like to, what skills did I like to employ? And some of those teachings I utilize today with some of our Sherman students. It did lead me to looking at higher education, wanting to make an impact. That was perhaps a little less transactional than the fast-paced hospitality industry. I got a position here in the College of Engineering, about, almost exactly 10 years ago at this point. I was in our, what's called The Ark office. It's a backend business office that handles our finances, grants, HR, got to learn a lot about how the university works. I moved on to doing space renovations and project management for the Dean's office and then six years ago was tapped to come down and help grow the Sherman Center.

Sam: That's definitely a really long list of like positions and resumes and like you started off as a trainer, and then you went into hotel management and then ended up at Northeastern. You know, how does it feel to be director now? Excited?

Ted: I'm so excited. It's also really humbling; I do, I do admit. The center has grown to be to be so lively, so dynamic. We have so many different impactful or, at least, I hope impactful, opportunities for our product builders and entrepreneurs. And we've grown so much over 6 years but this is only the. Sam, this is only the, the foundation. We have some big plans about where we want to take the Sherman Center. Speaking personally, I will say that it's it feels really exciting to me to be challenged to set a vision, a new vision for the Sherman Center and be able to try to execute that vision with all of the skills and abilities that I've learned over the years.

Joe: That's, I mean Sam said it best, that's exciting and me personally, like I know that I'm excited to be here at this point. And I think that there's a lot of growth coming soon. And yeah, Sam and I are going to go over a little bit about what's new later but getting down to the nitty-gritty. What are you looking to change or improve at the Sherman Center, now that you're the man in charge?

Ted: That's a great question Joe. You know, the first, foremost I want to, I really want to see the Sherman Center scale its impact outside of the walls of our Boston campus. So, priority number one has been identifying areas of expansion to other Northeastern campuses. So I'm really excited because we have such support from our new College of Engineering team. Dean Gregory Abode, Dean Abode came in about March of this year and right from the get-go. He was really excited to sit down and talk with my predecessor, Professor Andrew Goldstone. myself, the Sherman family, and really take a look at and where could we go? What could we do? It's really feels really, really wonderful to not only have the support of college leadership, but also the excitement of the Sherman Center family themselves, so first and foremost, yeah, we're really looking to it to scale the Sherman Center. Internally, however, I also, I'm trying to identify more and more opportunities for students to actually help run larger pieces of the Sherman Center itself and make them developmentally valuable, make them, you know, worth people's time. I truly believe that the Sherman Center, all of his growth is really because of the community because of a lot of student ideas frankly and I wanna enable more of those ideas. This is truly a community effort and I want it to continue to be as well.

Joe: All right, that's awesome. And for our listeners just to make you guys aware of the tasks at hand here. There are eight Northeastern satellite campuses outside of our Boston campus across the United States. So, not only are we looking to improve our home base here at Northeastern, but we're looking to build eight new Sherman centers across the US. And I just think that's incredible.

Sam: I know, same, I remember when Ted mentioned to me that he was looking to kind of expand the Sherman Center, I was like, wow, that's a great idea because I love the Sherman community, I love the Sherman Center. And I think a large part of what makes the Sherman Community so great is one, Ted, just cause of how his leadership has inspired other students and how he runs things here but also the students, like he mentioned. We have so many student organizations o campus, within the Sherman Center and on Northeastern's campus, that is really student-led and that's kind of what makes it so great because it involves students and students run it, so I feel like that would already be 10 times better if we had generate like 10 different Generates or eight different Generates at our other communities or campuses, that'd be awesome. In terms of goals, do any of your ideas look to change or improve the Sherman Center relate back to your own goals or the goals for the Sherman Center? Maybe that's for the semester, this year or the rest of the time, you're director.

Ted: Gosh. Yes, they absolutely do my personal goal as a professional is to impact, positively impact the lives of others and more specifically to enable students, you know, basically all of our participants within the Sherman Center doesn't have to just be students, but to enable our participants to see themselves as leaders, whether you're introverted, extroverted, you know, regardless of, of where you come from. I want to inspire people to see themselves as capable leaders. And at its core, I do, I'd like to think that the Sherman Center in its programs have

expanded over time, kind of with that line of thought at the core of each program. So, yes, I, looking at other campuses and right now, we're specifically looking at the Roux Institute up in Portland, Maine, as the starting point. We're also really excited about Mills College in a huge announcement that was made by the university and President Aoun over this past week. But you know, our Sherman Center co-op and Generate in particular, will be kind of the first stepping stones, that, that will be throwing out there, casting into the other campuses as well as are our courses. Shoutout to Sherman instructor Professor, Mark Civic who's really leading the charge on expanding our courses. And offering more there but no, I mean, to kind of summarize this, I do. Yes, it's really trying to make people see that they can be more, do more, see themselves as leaders and if I can support them in getting there, that is absolutely my goal and it's the goal of the Sherman Center

Joe: Ted, this sounds like something you and I have talked about a little bit. You're looking to help us, become better leaders, but you're a leader yourself and you like to use a little form of leadership called Servant Leadership. Why don't you talk a little bit about what that is you implement that to your daily life and teachings.

Ted: You're absolutely right. Thank you, Joe. Yes, servant leadership is a wonderful, a wonderful theory of leadership that was developed by Robert K. Greenleaf. I'm not really sure when, I feel like it was the 50s or 60s or 70s, but really it is the theory that a leader is in support of those they serve. It is their job to push others into the spotlight, not to be kind of what we think of, as a stereotypical leader as the one in the spotlight, kind of leading the charge there. It's a, it's a theory of leadership that I did quite a bit of a diving into when I did my Master's in education with a, with a focus in leadership. But I really have to attribute like putting a name to this style of leadership to, really even hearing about it in the first place to a wonderful person that's in the College of Engineering and has been for a while now, Dean Richard Harris. He is someone that I met probably about 10 years ago and right from the get-go. We had a conversation and anyone who's listening if you've ever, even just had a few minutes with Dean Harris, you will, I feel like everyone walks out of his office and they're just like, "oh my gosh, like what is, what is this, epiphany that I just had?" I feel like I had an epiphany at this time, and he had really clued me in and said, "hey, you know, it sounds like what you're talking about is servant leadership, check it out." 17:50 I identify as introvert and one of the things that I really love about servant leadership as I feel like it is, it's a really low barrier-to-entry kind of way for someone like myself to see themselves as a leader, to see themselves as someone who can look around and use their skills to develop others and maybe push them up so that you know, they're in the spotlight like we were saying before. I, I'll say this, here in the Sherman Center I feel very very fortunate. I feel very humbled every time a student comes to me and is like, "Ted, you know, this is what's going on with me and I don't know what to do. And I don't know, can you, maybe you can help me out. Oh my gosh, yeah, let's see what we can do here." With our co-ops in particular, you know the Sherm Co-op is a program that's developed over time and now we have three separate versions of the Sherman co-op and one of the things that I tell anyone who's,

who's interested in the opportunity usually to their surprise is "I'm not interested in the launch of your Venture. I'm not interested in, that's not success for me. What is success is that you develop as an entrepreneur that you get to use this opportunity this concept, your venture as a tool for your development, that you get to see the good, the bad and the ugly of being an entrepreneur, that's growth, that success to me. And I'd like to think that there's a spot of servant leadership in that, in that philosophy for the co-op Joe.

Joe: I definitely think there is. Sometimes the process is way more important than the outcome and the process can be repeated over and over again but that outcome only happens once so, you know, I can definitely relate to that and also going back to your point about Dean Harris. He's the type of person, he's the epitome of, when he talks, people listen.

Ted: Absolutely.

Joe: If you have a chance get in his office and pick his brain about some things, definitely take up that opportunity.

Sam: Ted, you mentioned about the Sherman Co-op and how you were saying that what's important to you isn't the success of a venture but of the growth of the actual person and that reminds me of when we first talked to each other. You were like, "okay, like I don't really care about that, like, how much the ShermCast helps you do this or do that, you were more concerned about like, how I would grow as a person myself and I'm grateful for the opportunity you gave me because clearly, it is working very well. I wanna talk about something that more recently in the past year you have been focusing on, with the Sherman Center, the Rethinking the Sherm Effort. If you could explain to the listeners what that is and kind of why you think it's something that's really important.

Ted: Absolutely. No, thank you for bringing this up. The Rethinking the Sherm Effort came about in, gosh, just last summer, May, June, when we were seeing an incredible amount of over racial violence across the United States, in particular. And this was certainly, this was certainly I think a reality check for a lot of people, myself included and, and it really spurred a lot of, a lot of questions from students, a lot of emotion. It was a very traumatic experience for a lot of people and really, there was an outcry of well, what do we do? You know? What can I do? What do we do? What does our community do? It was questions that, these are questions I think were asked in communities across the United States in all different settings but certainly on college campuses. And as you know, as a leader within the Sherman Center, it was, it was important to me to, to make this a community effort, to make us a community discussion and to have a response and plan B, more than just words, to be more than just a statement. The Rethinking the Sherm Effort was basically a small group of students that were heavily involved with the day-to-day of the Sherman Center came together with center leadership, faculty and staff and created a statement that is a, every semester, every program that comes in, it is read. Most of the time out loud by me to participants and it's, it's basically here's the statement, here are action

items that we're working on each semester. It's, it's updated every semester Sam. And it basically says, hey, you're entering into a community where we are rapidly changing, we are trying to make the content of our community, more inclusive, the environment more inclusive. While we were originally looking at this from supporting BIPOC members of our community. We, it has expanded to being more inclusive of gender identity, of race, religion, nero diversity. Basically, you know, everything that we're taking a look at for this new undergraduate research project, which was advertised earlier. Thank you so much. This has been a really really tough effort. It's been a really wonderful effort. And one of the like, I feel like I'm already seeing the dividends of some of that hard and emotional work, that went in during that summer, with regard to, you know, Generate teams and REV teams. I'm told, you know, I was just told by a REV venture today that "hey one of the reasons why I came here is because one of the first things that you talked about when you were advertising our REV opportunity was, you know, hey inclusion is important, your mental health is important, heres not only the statement also, but the action items were doing, so I'm really excited about this effort over the next week or so, you know, any of our Sherman committee members that are listening should keep an eye on slack, we'll be making a big call for ideas and involvement and anyone with an idea big or small, can come in and contribute to this effort in any way that they think we can just be more inclusive to anyone that comes within our doors.

Joe: That, that's awesome. And I think that the world needs a lot more of that, us, Northeastern, everybody. So I think that's awesome and to our listeners, if this is something that you think that you would like to get involved with come stop by the Sherman Center, get in contact with Ted. We'd love to have you, we're always looking to expand the team. So, yeah, awesome thank you for that insight Ted. Lastly, I'm new here, I want to get to know a little bit about the best parts of the Sherman Center. So why do you love the Sherman Center? What's your favorite thing about working here?

Ted: My favorite, oh my gosh, Joe. This is a tough one, this is the toughest question. Okay, so my favorite part of The Sermon Center, absolutely has to be the community aspect of it. The and honestly the fact that when you walk in the front door of the Sherman Center, you have to pass by me and I kind of have like a captive of audience every time somebody walks in, where I get to say hello, and ask somebody how they're doing. I admit that being in a global pandemic for the last year plus and especially when we were remote, made me realize how much I missed and personally benefited from that, that in person interaction, you know, asking someone how they're doing and really meaning it, you know, and you know, trying to it to find out more about how folks are doing, where their mental health is at, how I can help, like the communities piece of the Sherman Center I think is, is seen for a lot of our members currently it's seen on slack. But for any older members that are alumni that are listening, you know that sitting in the Sherman Center, lobby as we call it, a co-working space where you may have a Generate product builder sitting next to a co-op who's developing their own venture and all the sudden like they start talking and maybe there's an opportunity to collaborate. We've had instances of that and it's so

cool when that happens. I will say that how quickly we move down here, how quickly things are changing, how quickly student ideas can just become straight-up full programs of the Sherman Center is also a really fun time for me. Generate was famously, you know, conceived from student ideas, all of our workshops have, originally came from student ideas, they were actually student led workshops, the core DNA of the Sherman Center. FORGE, a new initiative that is rapidly developing, completely student devised, completely student-led and even REV. Our venture, early-stage venture program. It was recently, over the last, I'd say over a year-and-a-half completely revamped based on feedback from past REV ventures and in past Sherm co-ops, so I don't know if anyone, if anyone is listening, if you're a part of the Sherm and you have ideas, I, we want to hear it because we might be able to make that idea, a reality that impacts others.

Joe: Ted, I gotta say you have got me hyped up to be a part of this team for this semester. I am so excited to be here and be talking to you guys in the audience and Sam too. This is really cool.

Sam: I would 100% agree with everything that Ted has said and Joe has said. The Sherman Community is so awesome. I learn something new every single day, I meet somebody new every single day. I feel like there's constantly new faces, old faces coming in and out and I always get to learn something new about the Sherman Center, about a venture or about anything really. And mostly that's all thanks to Ted, for creating this awesome community. But Ted do you have any final thoughts, or things you wanna plug? Any highlights? Events, activities?

Ted: Absolutely, our, the Sherman Center has grown because of all of our students with ideas, all of our student participants, we're completely donor-funded buy just the really the goodwill and love of every and anyone who wants to provide resources for students. So thank you to everyone who has given to the Sherman Center, even if it's just in time. I see a lot of things are happening in the Sherman Center, this fall it's incredible. You already heard about undergraduate research, definitely contact me if you're interested. We have some really great workshops that Noah Joseph, shout out to Noah, our lab tech, he is providing a whole bunch of equipment, trainings, we have a team leadership, workshops. We have a wonderful venture series on Fridays, with alumni coming back and talking about different topics for their ventures. FORGE, keep an eye out for FORGE. Josh Batra and team are doing some beautiful things there. Keep listening to the ShermCast and I will say I'm personally as a listener, I'm really excited Joe, to have you on the team. I'm excited to see your development over the course of the semester and Sam, veteran coming back to the ShermCast, really excited to see you grow as well. Thank you so much for having me on. This is awesome.

Joe: Thank you Ted, thanks for being here. I know you got to get going, but I appreciate you taking the time out of your day to talk us, share some insight, really helpful.

Ted: It's my pleasure.

Sam: That was surprisingly Ted's first time on the ShermCast and I hope that we are gonna be able to have him back for more episodes and more seasons but I wanted to mention something that Ted actually runs as director of the Sherman Center, he runs the operations team which kind of in turn runs the Sherman Center and we've got a few different positions on a team that are actually filled by Northeastern students. On our operations team we've got Andrea, returning to work on our newsletter which is called the Sherman Gazette which everybody should subscribe to because that's kind of how you stay updated on what's happening in the Sherman Center whether it's events, activities, workshops or highlights and overall students. We have Lisa, our community leadership council lead, that works with our community council, making sure that Sherman Center is inviting, welcoming and inclusive and kind of making sure that our community is the Sherman Community. And we also have our new photographer Nhat, who is taking some awesome photos of events and workshops and things for our website. .

Joe: Yeah, so and the other new member of the team is me, Joe. We, Sam and I, the ShermCast is a part of the operations team so these are all people that we work closely with and as we've mentioned we have some new positions that we're looking to fill, those positions include the social media manager, a web designer team, an operations and development lead and maybe a couple other, so if you're interested in applying or have any questions, feel free to reach out to us, reach out to Ted, we'd be happy to talk to you about what we have going on here.

Sam: And now moving onto kind of more updates around Northeastern, so Joe since you're a fourth year now, you've been on campus, let's see pre-covid, post-covid now and through covid. And you know, what is, how is campus different? Or is it different?

Joe: It definitely is although things are getting a little bit back to how I remember them. It's crazy to think that I'm now a fourth-year. I'm doing four and a half so I'm graduating next fall. Sometimes, I still feel like I'm in my second year and unfortunately, covid kind of took some time away but it's alright, making the best of what we got. So yeah, what I remember from my first two years here was, campus was packed. There was always stuff going on, I always saw my friends walking from class to class and it was a really great environment to be in, like everybody was doing something awesome, people were hanging out on campus, going places, it was really cool to see. When covid hit, we all had to go home and we were lucky enough to be able to come back to campus in the fall of 2020, but campus was dead. For anybody listening who was here, you know what I'm talking about, nobody was on campus, very few people had the opportunity to still go into class and people were keeping to themselves, you know, like we were not sure what our safety looked like outside of our own space, but moving into this semester, it, it seems like Northeastern's back.

Sam: I can totally attest to that, I mean even though I'm not a fourth year, I feel like the differences between last year and this year are very different and like you mentioned, Northeastern is very lively suddenly, you know there's so many people walking, maybe too

many. There's more events, you know, there's more things happening around campus and it's definitely different for me to see because I didn't have most of these things when I started last year, it was certainly much quieter there were less people and I feel like I'm kind of feeling like a first year, so, so hopefully in the near future, things will pick up and we'll have, you know, covid will be over, more people will be vaccinated.

Joe: Yes.

Sam: The mask mandate will be over.

Joe: Trust me, you'll grow out of that first-year feeling real soon.

Sam: You know and then we are also talking earlier about Northeastern's, you know, policies with covid, with masks. Last year, you know, we had a covid test weekly so you had to do it, what was it?

Joe: Every 3 days

Sam: Yeah, every 3 days, and now it's once a week which is still a lot but it's for the best, you know? Keeping everybody safe and I think Northeastern has done a great job of that. We have some of the lowest, you know, positive test rates out of all the universities

Joe: Across the entire country I'd venture to say.

Sam: And it's also not just with Northeastern but in the Sherman Center, you know it's so different being apart of the Sherman Community last semester, it was still an amazing community on slack and online with Ted and with the other returning operation team members, but it is a different experience to be in the actual center in Hayden Hall with so many other, you know Sherman Center members, whether they're in Generate, Forge, or REV, or on the ShermCast with you.

Joe: Right, and I'm brand new to the Sherman Center, so getting to come into the space and work is really, really cool. And I've already met a bunch of people on the operations team and then other people doing a bunch of other stuff. I think that this community is awesome because you walk in and everybody's looking to say hi and introduce themselves and get to know like who I am walking in and the team's been really, really welcoming, so that's cool and I think that's, that human to human interaction is something that we missed out on during covid, so it's good to be back into the swing of things, no more virtual meetings and zoom fatigue. We actually get to talk to people and make those connections that we were able to have before and I think people are ready to make new connections because like I said, we were lost out on a year-and-a-half of being able to do that. So I'm really excited for all of the things to come this year and then in the future, back and better than ever.

Sam: And speaking of the ShermCast, you know Joe, what are some things we're gonna talk about this season?

Joe: We have some really awesome guests coming on, some Northeastern alumni, some CEOs, we also have some student run ventures coming on to talk about what they're doing and their companies that they're starting as students. I think that's that's incredible because classes alone are enough to handle at Northeastern but now they're going on to set up their careers moving forward beyond Northeastern. Also, we have a special guest coming on sometime during this season, not gonna say exactly what that is, but I just want to let you guys know you should be really really excited, someone from the start up in Boston is coming to talk to us about some absolutely revolutionary tech.

Sam: That's definitely something I'm looking forward to as well. But don't wanna leave you on too much of a cliffhanger there. Yeah the Sherman Center and community has so much to offer and I'm really excited about the season, we have Generate and REV and Forge in the Sherman Center. We're looking to have a few of them represented on the ShermCast. For those of you that don't know, Generate is the Sherman Center's student-led product development community, so they work on a lot of like what they call "client" ventures, they have so many cool products that they're working on with engineers, with software people, with project leads, excetera. We have REV ventures, which is our Resources for Engineering Ventures. They are an awesome community as well and group of people, they work on their own individual ventures, which they found on their own and the Sherman Center is a great place for them to help develop those and help them create and grow into their final stages. You know, and last we have our emerging Forge, which is similar to Generate, another product development kind of community. They are working on a diverse user-centric community that teaches product development and entrepreneurial skills to students that are interested in tech. So if anybody listening is interested in those three different communities, you know, we have a slack channel that is really, really awesome in helping with that.

Joe: And you know, you'll get to hear more from these communities throughout our season, so stay tuned for more but Sam, you know, we're talkin about students starting their own companies. The ShermCast is really based around the topic of entrepreneurship and defining entrepreneurship in our community here at Northeastern. But I'm curious, what does entrepreneurship mean to you?

Sam: You know, when I think of entrepreneurship, I think of a lot of different things but I don't think I fully understood what I thought, what I knew was entrepreneurship until I started working on the Shermcast. Last season I talked to our other co-host Izzy about, you know, what entrepreneurship means to us, we talked a lot about Amazon, we talked a lot about Jeff Bezos and kind of what we thought was entrepreneurship. But entrepreneurship means to me, you know, the idea of making an idea, a dream, you know, prototype a reality, whether that's, whether

you're Jeff Bezos and you, you know, start out of your garage and now you are a billion-dollar company or you're like Generate, you know, there's so many, you know, communities and people that are working on entrepreneurship and, you know, working on their ventures and making their dreams a reality and that's kind of what I think entrepreneurship means. How do you envision entrepreneurship, Joe?

Joe: So yeah that's awesome and I think that at the heart of entrepreneurship, you got it. Everybody's looking to capitalize on their dreams and to, you know, they say, if you do what you love, you never work a day in your life and I think that that's the full embodiment of entrepreneurship. But for me personally, you know, I'm a little bit older, I'm a little bit closer to graduation and moving on to the next stage of life. So, I've grappled with this thought over the last couple years, especially throughout quarantine and everything and for me entrepreneurship is about starting something. I don't know that that means you start a company or bring a product to market, but it's all about like, being a self-starter and going for what you believe in and making whatever that thing is a reality, and make that come true. And so that's what I'm looking to do here on the ShermCast. That's what I'm looking to do through my experiences with co-p and, you know, and we'll see where it takes us, right Sam?

Sam: Exactly, yeah, I'm super excited for this season where we're going to talk all about entrepreneurship so by the end of the season hopefully we'll have an exact definition of what it means.

Joe: Yes, when we figure out what that definition is we'll make sure to bring that to you guys. Thank you guys so much for listening to today's episode. Sam and I are super excited for everything we have planned for the ShermCast this season, but until the next episode, make sure you check us out and drop a follow, @nushermancenter on Instagram for updates. Check out the Sherman Center's website, northeastern.edu/sherman to view our calendar events and make sure you subscribe to the Sherman Gazette, our newsletter that goes out bi-weekly. We'll be back in about 2 weeks for our next episode. Make sure you subscribe on Apple podcasts or Spotify, wherever you get your podcasts. Make sure you give us a like as well and we'll see you next time on the ShermCast.