

KAYLEE

Yeah, I work that network.

VANESSA

Yeah, that's awesome. We talk about that a lot on this podcast. And a lot of when we ask people for advice for future STEM professionals and things like that, a lot of it is work the network. So that's great. So you mentioned science communication, I happen to know that you have a, actually, I should ask you, would you call it a business or a project for SciCATs?

KAYLEE

Yeah, SciCATs is also sort of just like a network of folks who's really excited about science communication, and think that, you know, there should be more science, communication, science communication training, so it's not really a business. We all just sort of get together and design science communication training together and we are also facilitators of those training modules.

VANESSA

Nice. We're gonna put links in the show notes to SciCATs because the artwork is awesome.

KAYLEE

Oh, yeah, all that our work is done by Armin Mortazavi and all excellent, excellent.

VANESSA

Yes. It's really, really great. So, were you part of creating SciCATs, or did it just kind of come together? What inspired it to come together?

KAYLEE

That's a really great question. So, I was one of the founding members, but the creator of SciCATs was actually Dr. Jennifer Gardy. And I don't know, in the Vancouver neighborhood we all sort of know Dr. Jenn Gardy. So, Dr. Jenn Gardy then had a faculty position in the School of Population of Public Health at UBC and got lots of requests to give science communication training. She has lots of science communication experience had done a lot of science communication training herself, and sort of recognized this need for science communication training, but really couldn't be in all the places at once and thought, we've got lots of great science communicators in the city. What if we create a group of folks that can develop those training modules and deliver those training modules? And she brought my co-host of Nerd Nite, Michael Unger, and I on really early on sort of right at the beginning to develop that group. So founded by Dr. Jennifer Gardy, but right in there from the beginning.

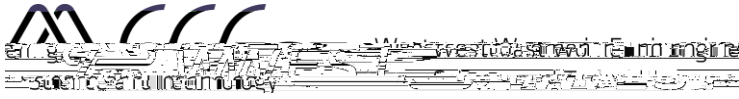
VANESSA

Very cool. That's super awesome. And actually, that's a great segue into my next question I wanted to ask about Nerd Nite and your podcast. Can you tell us a little bit about both of those?

KAYLEE

Yeah, so Nerd Nite is sort of my science communication baby. Nerd Nite has been going on in Vancouver now for over seven years. And Michael, and I co-founded it back in 2014, early 2014. And so, Nerd Nites occur in cities all around the world. There's over 60 of them in different cities all over the world with the basic idea of, let's get a bunch of people together in a bar to learn. Which, like, who doesn't want to learn with a beer? So we both really loved this idea. We'd both been to Nerd Nites, actually, in Edmonton, interestingly, but at different times. Very oddly. And when I moved to





KAYLEE

Yeah, that's an interesting question. I mean, there's so many, I've been thinking about this a lot lately about all the sort of crossroads we come to without even necessarily realizing it and how it puts us on the path to now. I've been really lucky. I've had lots of really supportive people. One of the big



VANESSA

Very cool. Congratulations.

KAYLEE

Oh, my gosh, thank you.

VANESSA

That's really awesome. I definitely admire people who get PhDs.

KAYLEE

It's mostly about staying power, really.

VANESSA

Yeah, fair enough, fair enough. Yeah, so you mentioned your aunt Sheila, which is a great story about somebody who inspired you to pursue STEM and that kind of thing. But were there other things that



year after my undergraduate to get some of the extra content that I might need to pursue graduate school. And so all of those things that helped me to get into my master's. So it took a little bit of time to juggle all of those things. But I think it's important to know that those rejections are things that I mean are so common, and we don't necessarily talk about them. We're so quick to talk about the successes and yeah, especially if you go on social media, you'll see success after success after success. And people are maybe a little more hesitant to share the rejections. But they're happening. And they're common. And unfortunately, don't always get the feedback for ways that you can improve but thinking about okay, well, what, what could I do next? What are some other opportunities for me? Is there somebody I know who can help me get to where I want to get? And that was an important component of that for me.

VANESSA

Nice. So I mean, with every challenge there can be a learning opportunity. And it sounds like that is definitely what happened for you. Yeah, that's awesome. Great. All right, well, let's go a little more into the positive things again. And you know, you're familiar with getting nerdy about things. So I'd love to hear what is your favorite thing about your field.

KAYLEE

I don't even know if I could pick a favorite. But so my field is this field of One Health. So One Health essentially says that your health isn't just about you. It's about the health of the animals in the environment. It's about the health of the environment. It's about how all those things are interconnected. So I think my favorite thing about that idea of One Health is that relationship piece, it's these interactions among how we move through our world, how we interact with everything around us, and how complex that is, and how broad that is, and that I find really interesting and very exciting when thinking about how to solve or come up with solutions for health issues.

VANESSA

So the pandemic must be really fascinating actually, for you.

KAYLEE

Yeah, I mean, if you take COVID, right, I mean, COVID has been linked, the virus has been linked to origins in animals, and we've seen transmission of the virus now to animals from people. And so that's definitely an example of a One Health virus or a One Health issue. And so, yeah, I mean, that's a great example, too, right there. This whole environment is a complexity of interactions, health policies, communications, and messaging, like all of those things are interrelated in our health. And so from that perspective, it is interesting, but I would like for the pandemic to be done now, please.

VANESSA

Yeah, I was gonna say it's very interesting how it touches so many different parts of our lives. It's not just a sickness or disease, a virus that makes you sick. It's also something that has affected so many things. And because of that, I am also really ready for it to be over.

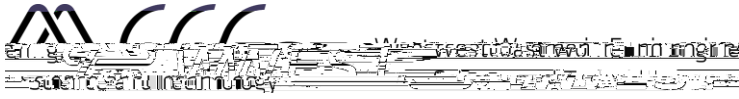
KAYLEE

Yeah, and I, and there are so many people who have who have lost loved ones, and so much. So you also see the severe consequences. And, how urgent it is that we come up with solutions that can help anticipate and manage some of these issues sooner.





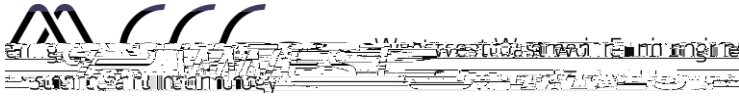




monetary. But I think it's a really important consideration and something that you do have to think about, like, that's your livelihood, and you're not going to always just to work for free, right?

KAYLEE

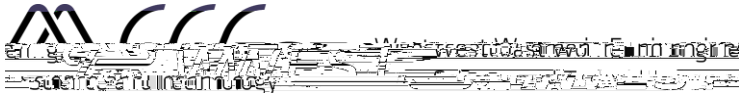
Yeah, I think one of the interesting things around pay is, it's totally fine to do things that are paid, for Nerd Nite, so much of the work that I do isn't paid, because I love it, and I feel strongly about it. But there is a problem with expecting people to do work for free. And yeah,



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short, and classrooms can come and ask questions. It's great. So, those are some really great initiatives,





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VANESSA

Awesome. Where can people connect with you? You have a few things going on. So feel free to share whatever you want.

KAYLEE

Sure, so people can find me on my Twitter @kaylee\_byers and you can also find me on our Nerd Nite socials. So we're @NerdNiteYVR on Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook so you can find anything