Rachel Buurma: How do you think about what it means to live a good life? A life that you're happy with, and I'm particularly curious about how and if you thought about that before college? How you were thinking about that in college, and how your ideas about what it means to live a good life or a success life have changed since college? I know that's a big question.

Marissa Davis: It is indeed a big question, but fortunately or unfortunately one that I've thought a lot about, and in fact is one that my understanding of success, my definition of success has really evolved over time. Growing up, I'm one of three girls, my mother for most of my life was a single parent so for me at that time I think growing up the idea of success was to largely economically, socially, be in a better position than my mother, my grandmother, a lot of my family members. Because the idea is that their sacrifices paved the way so that I could actually have a better life.

When I think at that point even before college when I thought about what success looked like it was being able to have a great job that paid well. To receive all the accolades and accomplishments that would come from doing well either in school or in whatever job I would take on. Then when I got to college, at least the first half of it was a similar kind of thinking. My goal here is to do well academically so that I can then get the right kind of job that I would need outside of college. Or to get the right grades that I needed to ultimately be a strong candidate for graduate school, so that at least at that time I could go to a good law school, become a great lawyer and be well regarded for the work that I was doing.

At that point it was public interest law that I was interested in. Then several years after college it was a constant journey of thinking that in order to be successful it rested a lot with all the things that I could do. Then there was a point that I realized that just doing things was never sufficient to actually find proper full meaning in life. That in fact, for me the way I see what success looks like now isn't really all the things I can do, but rather it's really understanding fundamentally who I am, and accepting the fullness of who I am, and offering the best of those pieces of me to things that I do so that it isn't that I'm starting from a place of just trying to do certain things well.

It's that because I am feeling good about myself and that I understand and acknowledge the wholeness of who I am I have no other option but to let some of that out and some of the things that I end up getting to do is just like an extension of me wanting to express the fullness of who I am. That is at least how I see success now, and I think when I am ... When there is, I wouldn't say necessarily happiness. I think happiness is kind of a fleeting thing. It's more finding peace with who I am. It paves the way for a lot of other opportunities.