

Project Title: Documenting the CSUSB COVID-19 Experience

Interview Summary

In this recording, an interview is conducted by Daniel Carreno, a student at CSUSB on the 2020 Covid-19 experience at CSUSB. The Interviewee is Aaliyah Wilson, a recent graduate who experienced her last couple of quarters virtually on account of the school going virtual to accommodate the social distancing guidelines at the time. Topics discussed include her feelings toward the shift to virtual classes, how she reacted to being away from friends and family, the 2020 political, what she did with free time while she had been stuck at home, and her feeling toward us becoming much more dependent on technology as we advance through generations.

Interviewees:

Aaliyah, Wilson

Interviewer:

Daniel, Carreno

Interview Date:

10-15-20

Location:

Rancho Cucamonga, Ca

Interview Summary completed by:

Daniel, Carreno, 2020

Topic:

Topics discussed include Covid-19, Graduating, Conversion to online classes, Social distance & Isolation, and Black lives Matter

Keywords:

- Covid-19
- Tiger King
- Black Lives Matter
- Graduation

Comments:

N/A

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Media Format	Time (hh:mm:ss)	Topic Discussed
	00:01:35	Opinions on shift to virtual classes
	00:02:45	Handling stress in tough times
	00:04:00	Social distance from friends and family and Corona Virus
	00:05:50	2020 Politics & Black Lives Matter
	00:08:20	2021 looking great?
	00:10:45	New skills while stuck at home
	00:13:45	Major and plans prior to covid
	00:15:09	Feelings toward Csub reaction to Covid
	00:16:40	Interesting stay-at-home stories?
	00:18:50	Too much Technology?

Related Materials:

N/A

Full interview transcript can be found below.

Interview Transcript

Interviewees:

Aaliyah, Wilson

Interviewer:

Daniel, Carreno

Interview Date:

October 15, 2020

Location:

Rancho Cucamonga, Ca

Length:

00:21:33

Media format:

Audio recording

List of Acronyms:

DC = Daniel, Carreno

AW = Aaliyah Wilson

Interview Transcript completed by:

Daniel, Carreno, 2020

Start of Interview:

00:00:00

DC: Alright, good day everybody my name Daniel Carreno I'm a student at Cal State San Bernadino and I'm interviewing my friend Aaliyah Wilson on her experience uhh with Covid-19 at the university. So without further adieu we're gonna begin this interview right here. So, first of all, how are you?

AW: I'm good, how are you doing?

DC: I'm very good, so let's just start this off. So what do you remember about like those last couple of weeks before everything kind of like closed down? How did you react? Were you scared? Were you nervous? Were you kind of happy?

AW: I was honestly really scared. As soon as they started shutting down the schools or when they kept holding off when we would have to return to campus I thought that maybe they'd close the campus for good, but I didn't expect like you, know for us to go virtual with everything. I just thought I wasted like half a quarter you know for nothing.

DC: It was your last quarter to no?

AW: It was my second to last quarter.

DC: Oh second to last quarter? How did it feel like knowing that that was your last couple of quarters?

AW: It felt great you know, being a senior I just was getting ready to graduate you know so it was exciting, but when everything started happening it just felt you know like it was all going to be taken away.

DC: Right. How did you kind of adapt to everything kind of becoming virtual? How did you react to it? Were you kind of used to it or have you taken online classes before?

AW: I've taken online classes before. You know with like zoom it's different you know it's virtually really different from like the usual online courses, but I didn't struggle with it really at all. I was more nervous about the professors changing their curriculum to match a virtual setting. But other than that I was okay I wasn't too you know.

DC: Were your professors like, did they adapt to it well? Because I had, I'll admit no offense, but I had some of them who kind of weren't used to it

AW: Um, I had some professors who were like geared and ready to go, like it was very easy for them to change their curriculum over, but for some of the other professors it was like a little bit of a learning curve for them and you could tell.

DC: No yeah definitely, I mean especially the ones um, like I said no offense, the older ones but...

AW: Hahaha exactly

DC: They did need to adapt to a little bit. How did you handle the stress from work? From all the schoolwork even work or just generally in life during that time because obviously everything closed down, the gyms. How did you just handle it?

AW: Um, It was honestly really hard to handle because I work and I have my own rent. So um, just to have school taken away and then work taken away and switching over to like the virtual setting at home it was kind of depressing because I had to go back and um work on school, worry about my education but at the same time it felt like the world was just falling apart. Um so I guess the only way I really dealt with it was just by watching a bunch of movies and trying to relax as much as possible.

DC: No yeah, *Tiger King*, everyone was watching *Tiger King*

AW: Yeeesss, I watched the whole thing like in two days

DC: I feel like those whole like first couple of months are just a blur like with *Tiger King* and everything like looking back I don't remember much of it.

AW: Yeah Yeah its the same for me

DC: It's just because I feel like we didn't, or at least I didn't really do much at all I was literally just stuck at home.

AW: Yeah it was the same I just watch a bunch of viral stuff go down and watched *Tiger King*.

DC: How did social distancing and everything being virtual effect your life with your friends and your family?

AW: Um well, with social distancing I just didn't see my family for like months or like even some of my friends. I did see a couple of friends who live nearby but you know, we would do it in a safe setting or at home. And we were for sure that we were all clear, a lot of us got tested, and it was hard being away from my brother because my brother got Covid-19.

DC: Oh really?

AW: Yeah from working at Starbucks.

DC: Wow

AW: Yeah so that was really difficult because I couldn't be there to support him and my dad works at Kaiser Permanente.

DC: Was your dad safe?

AW: My dad was safe the entire time, yeah a lot of doctors and nurses I've heard havent really gotten it because they take those safety precautions and then wearing their masks and doing sanitary like uh, pretty much being very sanitized.

DC: Was it like severe for your brother? Or was it calm?

AW: Um well from what I can collect he handled it pretty well, and luckily his dad works at a really great hospital and he's young enough to still have insurance, so it was an easier one for him unlike how it is for some people.

DC: Yeah my uncle in Mexico it hit him hard dude...

AW: Really?

DC: Yeah he's like on an oxygen tank...

AW: Oh my god

DC: But he's fine now, he's getting way better now so. No, but yeah I've noticed that for some people it affects them like really hard, but then for others, it doesn't even like, they don't have symptoms but they have it anyway

AW: Exactly like my brother was more asymptomatic so he was okay, he quarantined for two weeks and he got out of it. So I'm really happy for him.

DC: And then How did you just feel about this whole, because this year just overall was just crazy...

AW: Uh-huh

DC: but specifically just about the political climate, black lives matter was huge, even just how the government just handled everything, you know the president like what are your thoughts on that?

AW: Oh wow okay so this year is insane obviously and it's not even over yet, um I have a very big opinion on what happening with our political climate um...

DC: Go off

AW: Haha It's a scary situation you know I am black and you know the black lives matter movement, it meant a lot and it made me really happy that a lot of people opened their eyes to police brutality and how the whole system has to change, and that you know that my people do matter. Um, and it's not just my people a lot of minorities get attacked by police officers every day or get set up. We all need to know about it but holy crap what a time for all of this to happen you know?

DC: Right

AW: With Trump being in office you know it's just ridiculous to see. They call us brainwashed or people who follow black lives matter brainwashed but I feel like a lot of people who follow Trump, no offense like I understand if you're a Republican that's fine, but I just can't see how

they can be or how they can just give in to this man like it just doesn't like, a lot of people who are in politics are very educated but yet they follow him because of their personal agenda. But it's really selfish and that's what makes it really scary, like taking healthcare away in the middle of a pandemic, if that happens we don't know what the death count is gonna be in a couple of months.

DC: No yeah definitely I agree with it being selfish because even if you don't believe it, or you're skeptical about the corona virus being not real or just being exaggerated. At the very least just wear the mask, follow all the guidelines just to be safe.

AW: Yeah

DC: Just don't be that dude without no mask whose all like "You guys are all being brainwashed!"

AW: Yeah exactly

DC: Like don't be that dude, even if you're right just...

AW: Yeah be mindful of yourself and your neighbor and like it's more respectful towards your loved ones. If you were to go out there without a mask on and get sick because you didn't believe in a mask actually potentially protecting you and your neighbor. You can get your loved ones sick and one of them could end up passing and that would be just heartbreaking for anybody.

DC: definitely that would, and um what do you see the next year being like? Do you see it as being hopeful or do you see it continuing to be like even more laced with depressing events?

AW: Haha I don't know and I wish I did, I'm a little terrified and I'm a little scared for what's to come but you know, I wanna say that I have a lot of faith especially with this upcoming election that will get people in there that actually know what they're doing and clean up this mess that we are in and if we get past this election and we get our trophy of hope, and the go-ahead for Trump to get out of office and people getting in there and cleaning this mess up then I'll be very hopeful, but for now, shook haha.

DC: And one just kind of bonus question. How did the closure of the whole campus services affect you? Because I don't know about you? but I love going to the library just because for some reason I can't focus at home, it's incredibly difficult for me to focus at home so it was definitely bad for me when the library closed down.

AW: And you work, you work a lot and you go to school and when you come home that's your place to decompress. That's your place to come and relax after a long day of doing what you gotta do. So when you're there all the time you just want to relax and do nothing so when the campus closed down it's hard, especially as an extrovert I feed off that energy. I love being around people with a common goal in mind and it just pushes me forward and being at home it was just you know... I just didn't really have that much ambition or I wasn't really outgoing so it just made it really difficult to focus.

DC: Same here, like I need to be around people with like... like I feed off the energy like I need it and just being at home all I want to do is just lay in my bed and do nothing. Like I see the due dates getting closer and I'm just like "naahh Ill do it later"

AW: Yeah, and you're like "wow episode three that looks more interesting" haha. Yeah I totally understand that.

DC: What role has technology played in the pandemic for you? Did you acquire any new skills? Or did you get better at any of your current skills?

AW: So funny story actually when we actually started getting out stimulus and money from EDD, I decided to build myself a PC.

DC: Nice

AW: yeah just to make a nicer workspace in my room because I'll I had was a Mac laptop at the time um and I bought a desk, built it in my room got a chair and everything and it just made a nice comfortable setting where I can actually sit down and focus in my room, unfortunately, my TV is right in front of it haha.

DC: Same here

AW: Yeah, but I learned a lot about building an actual PC, it was my first time doing it. Um yeah, I used the internet on my phone to look up what parts I would need, I went on Reddit and found out a lot about like different parts that are more effective and how much memory you need. It was a really good experience, and I also got even more familiar with websites that are like geared for searching for careers like Indeed, I feel like that's something that I briefly brushed upon in high school but I never went back to, but I actually took the time to like look into it and it's made career searching a lot easier even though it's difficult to find a job right now.

DC: We both work at the same spot and we did close down did you try and work anywhere else? Did you just wait it out? Were there just points where you were just like “wow this is taking too long I should just work somewhere else”?

AW: Well before I got my bachelor’s I just said bucked down and wait it out because I wanted my next job to be my career or something that’ll aim toward my career that’ll be for the rest of my life. It sucks because with the pandemic my first plan was to teach overseas and that’s not possible now um and then work from there but now it just feels like I’m stuck in limbo. You know I just really don’t know what to do so I went on Indeed and I went on, there’s one that Cal State San Bernardino offers, its called handshake. I applied to a lot of like tutor positions, teachers assistant positions, but it’s not looking too great because not a lot of people are really hiring but I’m trying.

DC: No yeah and it’s all virtual, what are you gonna be a TA virtually?

AW: Exactly, exactly

DC: I don’t really know how you’d do that though..

AW: I guess I can get proper training on running a virtual class, but its, I highly doubt we are gonna be in this situation or I hope not for a very long.

DC: What is your major?

AW: Linguistics

DC: And you wanna teach it overseas and stuff?

AW: Yeah so my plan was to teach English overseas in foreign countries.

DC: I remember earlier in the year one of my professors earlier in the year, during the spring quarter, telling us that this is a great time for I guess us, people who want to teach later on in our careers, we are like adapting to like this technology. So if this ever happens again we are gonna be ahead of the curve doing everything online. Even after the pandemic, I feel like there’s gonna be a lot like this isn’t gonna go away as far as everting being online. So looking on the bright side it’s definitely going to be a good thing.

AW: I definitely agree with you there it’s gonna be positive in a sense that we’ll be more advanced with actually working online but it’s also a little scary because I hope it doesn’t take away from our in-person social skills or our in-person abilities to teach or like how we need to do

a live class or if you'll be making as much money as someone who would be teaching on campus. So I hope it doesn't take away and only gives.

DC: How did you feel about how the school kind of reacted to everything?

AW: Uh that's hard

DC: Answer it the best you can

AW: Yeah

DC: You don't need to say anything you don't want to say

AW: Yeah I understand that, well for Cal State San Bernardino I feel like they took the right precautions um they started up school I believe a little bit later than the other universities. Um I still think they responded really well the only thing that they responded really slow to was graduation, it was really just up in the air like even our professors didn't know what they were gonna do with that. Other colleges were doing you know virtual commencements and ours was just like "well were are not gonna do it but here you can buy some stuff and spend it with your family.". But now they offered an online commencement and they're going to be doing an in-person commencement next year so it took a while for them to plan that but yeah

DC: They didn't the virtual one they haven't even done that yet?

AW: No yeah they're gonna be doing it in December and you can sign up for it by October 21.

DC: So they are gonna do the in-person one?

AW: They're going to be doing an in-person one next year

DC: Next Year?

AW: Yeah and the virtual one will be the end of December.

DC: No yeah at least you get to walk

AW: Yeah

DC: And get the diploma because all those years putting in that work and all of a sudden you can't graduate because of the pandemic

AW: Yeah

DC: That's good though. And Um any interesting stories like during the pandemic with like your friends or anything? Did anything crazy happen?

AW: haha I mean I guess on the account of being bored you know we missed the outdoors so we'd sneak up to mountains sometimes and there was one time where we put the tent up in our living room haha

DC: haha

AW: We just filled it up with pillows and blankets and watched T.V haha from the inside of a tent

DC: That actually sounds really fun I kind of wish I would have done that, just bring the outdoors to us

AW: haha yeah in the best way we can

DC: What were your feelings throughout the whole time? Did you feel or anything?

AW: Yeah just really really nervous, really scared it was kind of hard going grocery shopping and being around people knowing that they probably feel the same way being around me. So it's just very thick air and just ignorance you know we don't know anything that's going on, we don't know what's gonna happen, I'm scared but hopeful I'm more relaxed now

DC: Did your, I mean me personally y feelings toward it I was scared and nervous early on, but I'll admit as it kind of went on the fear kind of did go away a little bit as I stayed inside. Did your feelings towards the pandemic change throughout the year or did they stay the same?

AW: It stays the same or I guess now I'm just fed up, um there's moments of numbness though I read about you know how a lot of people are experiencing moments of being numb to what's going on politically or the pandemic we kind of just shut things out its kind of like a defense mechanism to protect us from depression and anxiety and all that fear. Yeah but now I'm over it, I'm kind of afraid but I'm angrier than anything else that this is still happening.

DC: Ok so do you think that because everything is online right now that we been using too much technology during these times, because personally sometimes I'll get notifications from my

phone telling me that I've been on for like 9 hours and like "Oh my god" I get so shocked and scared and I don't know do you feel like maybe we've been using too much technology?

AW: Uh yeah absolutely luckily for me I try and spend time away from social media, I still go on there because I wanna be informed, that's my way of informing myself on what's happening out in the world. I limit my usage but still like I'm playing video games all the time watching TV all the time so I'm using way more than I should and I fear it will make people more socially inept. We are already climbing towards you know an area where the generation is a little more socially awkward and inept and I think it'll make it worse and it makes it worse for me. I'm already an odd person and now when I talk with people I don't know the boundaries anymore you know I'm a very touchy person but I can't touch you and it's like wow I wonder if they're mad at me because I didn't hug them, haha you know

DC: Yeah I get you

AW: It's a little hard but I spend a lot of time online when I'm talking to somebody

DC: Have you seen, it's on Netflix, I think it's called "The Social Dilemma"

AW: No I haven't seen that

DC: It's literally about how this upcoming generation of kids uses too much social media and how it's like effecting how they interact with people and studies like that are barely coming out because I guess our generation, because we're both the same age we're both 25, 24. I don't know about you but I grew up with MySpace, so we grew up with it so we don't really know how it affects us.

AW: Yeah yeah

DC: But this upcoming generation they are definitely gonna get

AW: Yeah they're definitely gonna get the worst of it because they're embedded into it from the moment that they can talk

DC: yeah the little kids got iPads and stuff, but we'll see. I'm going to be teaching them someday so we'll see

AW: So maybe it is a good thing then that you're adapting to new technology and that you're able to use it in an advanced way because with the youth you don't want them to be better at it than you. You wanna be able to keep up with them so maybe it's for the best. Hopefully, you can teach them about other things.

DC: We have a lot of hope for the kids and on that note, I'm gonna end this right here thank you so much, Aaliyah, I appreciate you doing this interview you didn't need to do this I appreciate you greatly you're the best thank you

AW: Thank you

End of Interview:

00:21:33