

Project Title: Documenting the CSUSB COVID-19 Experience

Interview Summary

Interviewees:

Priscilla, Segura

Interviewer:

Michelle, Curtis

Interview Date:

October 6, 2020

Location:

Zoom Virtual Interview
San Bernardino, CA

Interview Summary completed by:

Michelle, Curtis 2020

Topic:

COVID-19 experiences, Virtual Schooling

Keywords:

- Add keywords that describe the topics discussed/covered

Comments:

Additional thoughts, impressions, or points that should be documented

Interview Index:

Media Format	Time (hh:mm:ss)	Topic Discussed
M4A	00:20:20	

Related Materials:

Short description of related interviews/material if available

Full interview transcript can be found below.

MC: Awesome, we are recording.

PS: Awesome.

MC: So, what do you remember about when the day when umm campus went virtual?

PS: Umm, so I remember it was, it was um around the time actually of finals week, or it was around finals week. Umm, and I was super excited because I was like okay cool like, we're gonna have finals online, and then, I barely knew about COVID, to be honest, umm I was hearing some things, to be honest like oh a lot of people have died this is a very dangerous um it's very dangerous. To be honest, I didn't think much of it, I just kind of, like okay like be cautious right wash your hands umm. But yeah, so I didn't think much of it. Umm, I do remember in March having our finals be online and being super excited like, okay, cool. We're gonna have finals online. So I actually had; I was in a long-distance relationship at the time. And once again, this is pretty much like when COVID wasn't like, you know, stressed. It was kind of like, "oh, this is kind of happening." So tickets became super cheap on like to purchase, so I ended up purchasing a ticket for like \$30 to go visit my boyfriend in Michigan, cuz finals were online, and I finished early. So I was like, oh hey, I'm gonna fly out and see him umm all I have to do is wear a mask. So I ended up going on the plane, wearing a mask and then um, yeah, I flew out to see him and pretty much after that about two to three days later umm he told me, he was like "Oh hey, I lost my job." <laughs> And I was like "what?" and he was like "Yeah like I lost my job." like umm they ran out of pretty much like they had to lay off a ton of people because of the parts like coming from China and like certain areas, so they

laid off a ton of employees. And that was also the same when I found out that California and other states were gonna go on lockdown, and I didn't know what that meant because I had never been in a global pandemic before I didn't know what that meant! So we ended up driving across the country back to California. Umm, to quarantine ourselves because I was scared that I wasn't going to be able to get into California, didn't really know what lockdown meant. Umm, I was just hearing that everyone has to stay inside, and no one is allowed outside, and super confused. Yeah, I ended up driving across the country, and you know, staying safe and social distancing. That started becoming a thing and actually just kind of wearing the mask, but that's what I remember in March. That's what I remember; school ended up going online, and yeah.

MC: That's big! <Laughing>

PS: Yeah, I know! <Laughing> a lot different from other people

MC: Yeah!

PS: Um yeah.

MC: So, how are you staying connected now to the campus community?

PS: Uhhh, staying connected from the campus community is a lot different than it used to be.

Um, obviously, everything's online, so um. I still go on like virtual zoom get-togethers that they do, like I attended a study abroad workshop cuz I am interested in that in the future. Umm, I have participated in like a few of the... I forgot what it's called.. like the wellness and recreation center, they had a few like campfire sitdowns where like it's a virtual fire, and it's like you sit around the campfire, and you like to talk about how quarantine has been and how life has been. So I've done like a few things like that, but um beside like actually like you know like being online, I haven't had any interaction

with any campus activities or anything. I barely know my classmates. I'm lucky when I get to meet cool classmates and get to like zoom with them and be like, hey, we should zoom later. Umm, right, so yeah, I mean, I haven't really had much of the activities as I used to on campus. I'm still trying to stay involved in little ways.

MC: So, what has it been like teaching or learning virtually or working virtually as well?

PS: I've taken online classes before, never a full, you know online class I've taken like one before, and that's about it. Um, so to be fulltime online is intense! I feel like I am constantly staring at my computer screen. I'm constantly getting emails at 2 in the morning on a Saturday or a Sunday from my professors or GroupMe or classmates. I feel like there's no break, and I feel like honestly, just learning the material I I feel like I have to motivate myself to do the work versus when we're in person. I really enjoyed coming to class and watching the professor be so passionate about speaking. Whereas now it's like, "Hey, watch my lecture!" Heh, heh, and it's like ahh, not as exciting! <laughs> Um, but they're trying, and it's it's it's just not my my preferred way of learning. Yeah, when it comes to working online, I also work online. I work for a community college, that has been also difficult. We communicate through emails, and we communicate through teams, and you know, have to zoom all the time, and it hasn't been fun you know, calling students from home or zooming with them, trying to trying to do work at an office at home like um it would have been nice to have a fax machine or a copy machine that you know I don't have accessible to me. So it's like finding new ways to do things. But yeah, it's been 100% different. Um, I stay in my pajamas a lot!

MC: <Laughing> I do too.

PS: I really do. But I also enjoy it, there have been some benefits. I also don't have to commute, which has saved me on a ton of gas and a ton of sleep. Umm, but those are honestly the only two big things I hardly socialize, I think, with any of my coworkers or, like I said, very rarely with some classmates. It's not, it's not the greatest but managing. Ohhh, she's so cute <laughs> sorry. (Referring to the interviewer's cat that walked across the camera)

MC: Um, so how as the closure of the residence halls, campus services, or buildings affected you?

PS: Thankfully, CSUSB has still offered housing um; I actually live at the University village, so I was fortunate enough to be able to stay even during when cCOVID – 19 was happening. Um, I had a legitimate reason to stay. Uh, back at my home, there's a family of twelve. Sometimes thirteen, it makes more sense for me to be quarantined by myself honestly at the University Apartments, so um, I was fortunate enough to stay. I don't have any roommates. I live alone; this is the first time I've ever lived alone. Um, that as a whole has been interesting, you know being along and managing, how do you live alone? Um, and then when it comes to resident halls, I don't get to use the gym, I don't I'm pretty much in my actual apartment all day like if I go in the halls, I have to wear a mask, social distance, you know no ones allowed over, so it's kind of a really a different way of life than it used to be. You know, back in February it used to be you know go go go and now it's very slow.

MC: Yeah. Um, so how are you handling all the stress?

PS: Stress? Uh, I'm not handling the stress very well, to be honest. I don't think anyone is, um we are online, that's stressful. I don't know what my future looks like in terms of career-wise; I don't know when I'm graduating. I do, but I don't. It's very up in the air and

confusing, and on top of that, uh, you know when I get stressed out I it's not like I can just go out or see my friends or walk around, you know so easily on campus. It's, you're stuck at home, and there's a lot of food, and I've been stress eating, and I've been you know and happening to deal with my mind and being alone and the mental health state. So I mean, I'm trying to manage my stress, and I've trying to, you know, talk to people when I can and socialize online or through the phone as much as I can, but uh yeah, managing stress has been difficult for me. I've never had stress like this before. Um, so yeah, I mean just trying to meditate helps throughout the day, that one has been helping me, uh yeah, I don't think I'm managing it as well as I used to.

MC: Okay, < Laughing> I mean, I'm having the same issues here. Uh, but so, um, how are you feeling because everything is so up in the air, like what do you feel about that?

PS: Um, honestly similar how I'm pretty sure how you're feeling. It sucks having uncertainty, I mean, and to think about it and dwell on it a lot is is overwhelming, and I hate overthinking, and when you can't help it, you just overthink and um, it's made me question a lot it's made me kind of be like "When are we going back?" You know, on campus, when am I gonna work again, when am I gonna be able to see my friends again. Um, when am I able going, when am I going to be able to do back in February? Um yeah but even in school terms, like you know, I miss going to school. It's hard to do online, so uh yeah.

MC: Yeah, I know exactly how you feel. Um, so, um, what does your like role, what technology are you using now because everything is virtual and like did you have to learn it like learn new stuff?

PS: Yeah, so uh, definitely going online. I'm not that tech-savvy. To be honest, I know the basics to be honest, but uh not only has school technology changed but as well as my work technology. Um, so I, I knew a little about Blackboard. I mean, obviously, I didn't know much on it because I knew how to find a syllabus. But I didn't really know how to submit my assignments at first, mind you, because I didn't really take online classes; I only took in person, so it was pretty much just submit it in person, but yeah, I had to learn how to you know create a thread, and you know put that document on Blackboard and how I would be able to do that effectively. So yeah, I had to learn how to use Blackboard I had to use, especially since I can't go to the writing center, as you know, cuz we don't have that available right now. I started using Grammarly and trying to like figure out you know how can I edit my paper without an editor present. I have also learned how to use zoom; I didn't know how to use Zoom at first besides, here's the link, click the link. So now I know how to become a host, make someone a host all of those great things on zoom that we have. Share a screen, really great. So I had to learn those things for school, especially the online learning environment. You know I have a class where we meet every Friday online through Zoom, and we have to raise our hand, and I was like, "How do I raise my hand?" So I had to learn Zoom, so that's been a big thing. When it comes to working, we still use Zoom, so I had to learn how to do break out rooms. I also had to learn how to use Teams, Microsoft Teams I didn't know that Microsoft Teams was a thing until the global pandemic hit. Um, so I had to learn how to call students on teams and um save files and documents through teams and communicate with my coworkers on teams. Which is actually funny because it reminds me a lot of texting. To be honest, the platform itself is a lot of similar to texting, so I was just, it was funny because that's how

they document that we're online. They document when we "clock in" is when we say, "Good morning!" They could see when we say "Good Morning!" when we take our breaks, so if I say, "Hey, I'm going on lunch break, can anyone cover the zoom room?" Umm, that's when they clock our breaks, and then uh, you know when you're leaving, you know it's like, "Good night everybody, see you tomorrow!" So they see pretty much when I said good night uh yeah, so that's been a whole learning that type of technology and software. Um, and it's just funny because if I text my coworker, they can't technically use that as any type of documentation that I'm actually online. I actually have to go through that software the Teams to actually tell them like, hey, I'm here on time, and I'm taking my breaks. So that's been cool and definitely something that I'm happy I learned more about. Excel sheets, I knew a little about excel sheets, but now I have to be extremely familiar with them cuz now they have to, you know, save all of our data and information, so that's been a whole nother software. So I feel like it has made me a lot more tech-savvy. Um, it's made me appreciate the tech world and how it really has brought us together a lot in some ways. Um, so I could definitely see the social network aspect of it. There's about twelve of us on a team, and we're all on Zoom like, "Hi guys, we're from home, but we're working. So yeah, it's been an interesting, an interesting way to work; I never thought I would work from home; I always heard people say, "Oh, I work from home." And I'd be like, oh, you're so lucky you get to stay in your pajamas all day. Now I get that experience, and I'm like yeah, I'm in my pajamas all day, but I do miss the social aspect of it. I do miss going to work and saying, "Hi, guys." Like I miss, "How's your day going?" You know I don't get any of the interaction at all, and if I do, it's extremely depressing. It's very much like, "Oh, you know, just getting through the day."

And I'm like, oh yeah, I'm there. But uh yeah, I think I would. I definitely miss working on campus. I miss going in and seeing everyone's faces; however, I do love being in my pajamas. I do. I love that. I think comfort is amazing, but uh yeah, that's the only real main thing from working at home, that I. Like I said I save a lot on gas um but yeah no uh the technology point of work has been interesting I never thought I would have to work from home and yeah I get that experience now.

MC: Yey! Sounds like pajamas are a big part of your working experience, and I heartily approve.

PS: < Laughing> Yeah, no, the pajama part is great. Um, like I said, I love not being at work at 6 six in the morning. I had to clock in at seven, so that means I had to leave San Bernardino to get to San Jacinto or Hemet took me an hour drive an hour commute there and back, so I would have to get up by 5:30 and leave by 6:00.

MC: That's harsh!

PS: Yeah, it was harsh, it was a harsh day, and I worked a lot, and I would get off at 7:00 and be home by 8:30, so I don't miss the commute, but I I do miss like I said, the social aspect of everything. Yeah, overall, I uh like I said, it's changed, I've just been I've been mind blown on how this year has played out, it's been an experience.

MC: An experience is a good way to put it.

PS: Yeah, it's it's been an interesting experience.

MC: And thanks for letting me talk to you about all this stuff.

PS: Yeah, of course.

MC: I really appreciate it.

PS: I'm glad you were here to listen to me and socialize with me!

MC: Awe, that's sweet!

MC: Hey social, social, socializing over zoom.

PS: Yes

MC: Alright, thank you

PS: Yeah, of course!

MC: Okay, bye

PS: Bye.

Interview Transcript

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Priscilla, Segura

Interviewer:

Michelle, Curtis

Interview Date:

October 4, 2020

Location:

Zoom Virtual Interview
San Bernardino, CA

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00:20:20

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Digital, M4A

List of Acronyms:

MC= Michelle Curtis
PS = Priscilla Segura

Interview Transcript completed by:

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Start of Interview:

00:00:06

End of Interview:

00:20:17