

Project Title: Documenting the CSUSB COVID-19 Experience

Interview Summary

Interviewees:

David, Gonzalez

Interviewer:

Nathanael, Gonzalez

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Nathanael, Gonzalez, 2020

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This is a interview/oralhistory of a senior in the year 2020 documneting his experience with COVID-19 and attending classes.

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- Virtual Classes

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Interview Index:

Media Format	Time (hh:mm:ss)	Topic Discussed
Audio Recording	00:20:11	School and family life during the COVID-19 pandemic and lockdown

Related Materials:

N/A

Full interview transcript can be found below.

Nathanael: All right, David, so this is an interview to document your covid-19 experience and your feelings throughout it. So if you'd like to just start with introducing yourself, where are you from? Where are you living right now during or during your covid-19 experience? And you're major.

David: Ok, my name is David Gonzalez. I'm a senior at is B and I'm majoring in English Literature Track and I'm living with my parents at home.

Nathanael: Oh, all right. So let's just get started with this. What do you remember about the day in March when CISSP announced her announced response to go virtual due to the pandemic? And where were you at the time?

David: I think I was an English 311 which is like I was in class in English 311, which is a linguistics class, I could be wrong. Don't quote me on that. I was on a point as I was in class and we were in the middle of discussing some thing that I don't remember because it was not an interesting class to me at all. But the TA interrupted the professor to tell them that an email had come through telling us that finals were going to be the last week where we had a show in person and that the next quarter would be virtual to start with, and that they would let us know when it was safe to come back, which obviously didn't end up being the case at all. But I remember thinking I remember thinking, well, that explains why two of my professors already canceled our final. I was wondering what exactly this professor is going to do, and he ended up coming up with a spot that which we wanted to we could show up for the final. If not, he'd give us one online.

Nathanael: And did you really expect to send a pandemic to last as long as it did?

David: No, I told I told someone "man this pandemic is not going to last for months that I don't know about you, man. I went through Ebola. I went through I went through the other one, the swine flu. And a man I lived through the summer of the shark. This is this is this is not going to last. Everyone's overblowing this. We're all going to be all right. But, you know, let's make the most of it what we can do. We're going to get an extra week of spring break." Yeah, that didn't end up becoming the case, obviously.

Nathanael: All right, uh, how do you stay connected currently in campus, community, you know for your assignments and you're in contact with your professors?

David: Well I'm on blackboard most of the time. These emails to get in contact with some professors, Microsoft teams with others, some professors have Zoom office some professors and Zoom office hours and stuff, others through email. And that's pretty much it. Oh I'm on groupme with some with some students to talk about any assignments I might miss.

Nathanael: All right. And what has been your what is what is your role been? What role has technology played during this pandemic and have you to acquire new skills to effectively use those from those days, these new technologies, technologies?

David: Well I downloaded Zoom which I never used before? Zoom is a weird, weird little video thing, and I don't understand why we zoom looks pretty terrible. I mean. But other than that, it's pretty straightforward for me, since I'm an English major, I don't have any real I don't have a lot of technology I need to use other than Microsoft Word. Oh, wait. No, I did have to use. Google slides, which I've never used before,

Nathanael: So there was some unfamiliarity with it. All right. And what is it what is your new workplace workspace look like now that, you know, we're all stuck at home?

David: Well, my house is under construction and I don't have a desk, so I'm mostly in my room hunched over my bed. It's not fun man and it hurts my business, my back after a while, and so I try to move around, but it's really hot outside, so I can't work outside either.

Nathanael: All right. What's it been like learning, teaching and working virtually from home or working? Working or teaching or work, learning, teaching or working virtually from home. What has it been like?

David: Ok, well, this only learning applies since I don't work from home or teach, it's been different. Not all of my classes have zoom classes, and so I have Zoom lectures on them, so some classes are like just do these readings and participate in a discussion board. Some of the classes are like just. Just do an essay or so some of them are like face to face I end up doing. I end up having a lot more work to do in general, not just because I'm taking more classes than usual, but I have to. I have to. I have to do a lot more whriten, (David got tongue twisted here) whriten is not a word, written work for a lot of classes like. Just like just this weekend, I got. I've got an essay due today, an essay due tomorrow. I have another short response, short response on my shorts. I wrote a two page assignment to Monday and something another two page assignment due Tuesday, which I don't think would happen really for me in a non online environment. So that that's that's not fun. That's that's that's kind of a bummer that that's the learning and learning online has has its disadvantages. And personally, I've had to do a lot more work since having to switch over to zoom.

Nathanael: Do you feel like it's affected you negatively then?

David: Yeah, kind of negatively in the sense that I end up doing more work.

Nathanael: All right. As has the how is the closure of resident halls, his residence halls, campus services and buildings affected you if they have in any way?

David: I mean, I don't live on campus, so they don't affect me at all, really. I don't take advantage. Advantages too many on campus services, I suppose. Not having the library in a

quiet place to study my is a little bit of a disadvantage, but I wouldn't use it if I was on campus anyways.

Nathanael: All right. And how do you handle the stress we've been all experiencing during this covid-19 experience?

David: I sleep. I sleep a lot when the stress doesn't get there, because when the stress gets to me, I don't get any sleep. I spent like a week not sleeping at all because I was too stressed out. Other than that, I play a lot of video games, basically, anything that reminds me I'm not in school or in the real world is what I do. So anything that involves me being able to escape that I don't read as much anymore. I did in the summer, but trying to read or trying to read right now is just the worst thing in the world because I have to read so much.

Nathanael: You want to explain you want to explain what you read during the summer to keep you busy, because covid-19 did kind of start in between the summer.

David: It started it started in in March. That's when covid-19 started. And then we got off or we got off classes, but then June. So over the summer, I was when I started reading again for fun, which is not one of the now, but over the summer I was reading a lot of Star Wars novels because, you know, I'm a special kind of nerd.

Nathanael: All right. How is quarantine, isolation and social distancing affected your life from relationships with your family and friends?

David: It hasn't affected me to that, I'm a huge and introvert and I'm not outdoorsy at all. So staying inside and not doing anything is just like the best thing in the world for me. I'm very happy to do that. It's affected other people I know I like my little brother.

Nathanael: Care to elaborate on that.

David: Yeah, he's nuts. He, he, he, he refuses to open doors unless I do it for him because I guess he doesn't care if I get sick. Really. He's a hypochondriac. So every 10 minutes he's coming up to me saying, "hey David, do I have COVID" like why "I touched the grass." No. No. How would that give you COVID. Or he'll be like, Hey, David, I touched the dog. Yeah, do I have covered that, that that's not how that's not how this works kid. That is not how this works. Or I can't even go outside and touch touch the car because you'll think someone's been, I guess, licking the car door handle that. I don't know about you. I don't think that's an epidemic facing the United States. Well, my mom and it's affected my mom because she cannot stay indoors. She refuses to stay indoors. She does not like being cooped up in here. And with construction, that's even worse because now, like half of the house was unavailable for like a month. And so that that that that's another thing that I got to keep out of. Like, Mom, please don't go out. Please don't go out to crowded places like she wanted to go for her for her birthday. She wanted to go out to to to San Pedro, the fish market. And me and my older brother ended up going with her. Thankfully, we didn't go out because there was a pet. What is wrong with people? Why do they have to go out? My dad it's affected my dad because. No, it hasn't affected that too much because he he was off

work for like three weeks, which I secretly think he loved, even though he said he didn't. He says, no, I want to work for a living. Yeah, I know him. He does not. But he still has to go to work nowadays. He works at a car dealership. So he has to talk to a lot of people. And I'm about 90 percent sure he doesn't wear his mask properly, but I don't think he cares too much if he's not sick. So who gives a crap? Oh, yeah, my older brother, I forgot to have one. Oh, wait, I mentioned him earlier, so it's been a long day. My older brother has to work from home and he's the biggest slob in the world. He dresses like he's a teenager and not like one of the cool teenagers. He dresses. He wears the readiest t-shirts ever. The collars are all stretched out. Some of them have paint marks or marks I really rather don't want to know how he got them. At the very least, he puts on pants. You know, that's not something I can say for everyone.

Nathanael: All right, David, so how are you? Tell me how you're feeling, given the uncertainty of these times right now.

David: Not fun to be like not knowing when I'm going to be able to, like, go out again. Not that I do too often, but like, when can I go out and be sure that I'm not going to die? So that's not fun. I'm feeling like, why, why, why do we have to do this? There's other countries that are basically. Been able to stop the massive infection rate. There's other other cities that are doing better than in Riverside that there's just like it's not fun to not know what's going to happen next. Then again, I only plan out my days like I laid out my life like one week at a time because I don't have that much I don't have the luxury of planning that far ahead. But it's it's not I don't think anyone likes not knowing when life is going to return to normalcy.

Nathanael: All right. Since you kind of mentioned countries being the being in better shape than we are in certain cities being in shape, it kind of goes with our next question, which is, what do you recall about the political climate, particularly things like Black Lives Matter or our current president who is right now might not be in office due to the election in a couple of weeks and one did this add to your covid-19 experience?

David: Well, I read a lot more about politics than I did before. I remember a time when I didn't know what Obama had done that day because it just wasn't news. I miss a normal president. No, not not even that. I align with my political ideals, which nobody does. But it's really hard seeing someone so massively incompetent up there. In the podium, like watching him lie through his teeth, through the debate or the town hall. That's not fun, watching him just disavow black lives matter because he doesn't care that that's not fun, having to see people, you know, going out there during the middle of a pandemic and having to march up there because their rights as citizens still aren't respected. Black, black lives matter. It sucks. It sucks that people are out there protesting when they when they shouldn't have to. So that's not fun.

Nathanael: Since since you mentioned a protest, actually, do you worry that the protest is going to increase the rate of covid-19? It's going to put us back to square one in a way.

David: I mean, that where we were from a story that's going to happen. But I understand why they're marching and why people protest. So so I can double edged sword protesters important. But, you know, be careful when you're doing it, I guess.

Nathanael: And what do you think people are going to say in the future once they kind of look at the situation that we're in right now?

David: When I was well, that was the beginning of the end, wasn't it? Pax Americana ends with an orange man.

Nathanael: 2020 was really kind of a year, wasn't it? All right. How do you feel now that they're actually down since they actually announced recently that classes are actually going to cancel for next semester?

David: Well, I mean, my workload is probably going to be about the same. So that's not fun, but it's for the best because I wouldn't want to go back to school without some guarantee that there's a vaccine at least, and we don't know if there will be any time. Despite, you know, the orange one's (Donald Trump) claims. As for going to get around to walking because I'm going to grad- I'm probably going to graduate this year. That's not something I really cared about, you know? I don't really like being around people as is so the last time I have to do that better. But I know my mom really wanted me to walk. It's going to be a proud moment. You know, one son graduate in computer engineering, the other an English. That there's something to say about that, so that that sucks for her and I do feel bad for the people who really do want to walk, because I know it's a special moment for a lot of them

Nathanael: All right, so is there anything you miss, everything about being in school now that you're in virtual classes?

David: A lot of workload. But I do miss lectures because it's just not the same as being in class through Zoom or anything like that, it's lectures are stale for me that way. They just don't give me the same way. I don't really pay attention the same way, kind of drifting around. Yeah, oh, I kind of miss Einsteins because I like getting getting some getting a lunch and just being able to, like, quickly get around to that. So yeah, lectures and Einsteins.

Nathanael: So lectures and food is mostly what you miss.

David: No not food, not food, it I don't miss any of that or food on campus. I don't know about you, but Taco Bell. Pizza Hut, not not not the epitome of great food design science, but, you know, it's different. So I got that call.

Nathanael: All right. So I got two more questions here for you. Is there anything you'd like to share by your covid-19 experience that you have not mentioned yet in terms of how you in terms of how it affected your work work wise?

David: Well, I got like I got I'm not laid off, but I don't think I am. But I was I can't work because I worked at a bowling alley as a glorified janitor and now I don't work. So that that's that's something I mean, I didn't I hated my job as is so that it's nice not having to work. But I know other people really depended on the on the work. So I feel bad for them. I do I do know that I was able to buy some things I probably wouldn't have otherwise, like I got me a cool, cool new watch. I got my Ratto Captain Cook in green, which is just just the coolest.

Nathanael: You want to explain what a Rato Captain Cook is?

David: Yeah, it's a it's a it's a it's a Swiss watch with an automatic movement in it. It's not the best, you know. Rato is not a Rolex or anything, but it's it's something I want to be able to get for myself where I with the low hours I was working at the bowling alley, I was.

Nathanael: All right, last and final question, since we are coming into the end of our time here, if if you're if your future self is going to could I hear this oral history of you in this interview, what would you say to yourself and about this covid-19 experience now that it'll pass in the future.

David: Go on a diet because you're not going to get any exercise this way at all? Like I thought I thought during my job, I used to walk no no joke for an eight hour shift, 20 miles. And that was I used to work. Two eight hour shifts at least, and another six hour shifts, so that that's a lot of exercise I'm not getting. So, yeah. I should have exercised, and I blame you can blame me for any heart problems you have later on in life.

Nathanael: All right. I appreciate the for the interview there. Thank you.

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