

Spring 4-4-2013

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Sustain Interview Project

██████████ (M) interviewed by ██████████ (G)

Interviewed on 4/23/13

G: So I'm here with ██████████. So, that's kind of weird, but it's just a way to keep our record. And really all we have to do is just have a conversation and I just want to hear-- the big picture question is what happened to you? Like as you look back literally what do you think happened? Was there any transformation? What happened? How do you think about it? Anything. There's no wrong topics.

M: I think that the first quarter of Sustain I was struggling with it just because I'd gotten used to college classes and yeah it was more like my high school but I just wasn't used to it at that point. So I kind of struggled through it and then I'm like a really shy person so socially I was sort of awkward. In the beginning like I usually am. (laughs) But I don't know once we got put in groups and like started working on projects I became more driven and had a growing support system, I think it became easier. And then second quarter I think I started seeing things a little differently and became more self driven. And started, I don't know, figuring out how to learn for me. If that makes sense.

G: How do you think you saw it before--how would you describe the way you saw it first quarter compared to the way you saw it second quarter?

M: Um, I don't know. I wasn't the biggest fan of it first quarter and--

G: Say more about that.

M: I just I don't know, I was struggling through my classes and I think it was because I was waiting for information to be given to me and to memorize it that way and to like kind of just look at the surface of things and not dig deeper but just get the grade. But then second quarter I like I don't know tried to go a little bit deeper and if I learned something I would try to go learn more about that just because I think it helps reconnect everything. And I think that's like one of the biggest changes I had from first quarter to second quarter.

G: Yeah. Has it had any kind of --or how would you describe the carry over? So what was it like to go back into your classes this last fall?

M: Um, it was kind of different. Like you didn't know anyone in your classes. So, I became socially awkward again. (laughing) And then--

G: I don't remember you that way for what it's worth.

M: But I think I kind of used the same strategy that I did in second quarter of Sustain. For one of my fruit science classes, she--for my first midterm I didn't do very well on it but like I could spit back the facts and then so second midterm I tried to ask why something was that way even though like for agriculture it's pretty straightforward but there's always more that you can learn. So like even if it wasn't in my notes I would like ask myself why and like go to her office hours and like talk to her and Google it or

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something.

G: Yeah.

M: And I got like an A- on my second midterm.

G: Wow, how'd that feel?

M: Good. Yeah. So, I don't know strategies worked. Carried over. Even though it was different kinds of classes and all that.

G: Any other thoughts--that's all super interesting stuff--any other thoughts about what it was like to move out of Sustain and then move back into the regular model?

M: Um, I don't know.

G: That's ok. Um, what do you think happened between the first and second quarter?

M: Um, I think my attitude changed. I think I was kind of stand offish in the first quarter and I almost dropped. I don't remember when--sometime toward the beginning. And I think I was getting stressed out because I was really into the um, working with the farm with my group--

G: Ok

M: And I think that was taking too much time but then I started to blame my grades on that and it wasn't that. It was because I was not putting my full effort into it. But like second quarter I think I was able to balance it better and realized I wasn't being fair or giving it my all. So.

G: What do you think made you know that?

M: I don't know (laughs)--

G: I mean I'm asking that like that's a big, that seems like a big internal shift.

M: Yeah--

G: To go from blaming to--you know what I mean?

M: Yeah--

G: I mean it sounds like you absorbed some responsibility there--

M: I don't really know. (laughs)

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G: You just know it happened.

M: Yeah, probably everyone around me helped me realize that. Because no one else was blaming Sustain. Everyone else was loving it, or at least that's the way I saw it.

G: Right.

M: So I guess it kind of helped me realize there was something else--

G: Super interesting and super nifty--what was the hardest part for all of Sustain for you?

M: Ooooo, um, I don't know. I don't know.

G: Ok. What--how was it socially?

M: It was good. I'm just, the beginning it was like, kind of weird just because no one really knew each other and lot of people in there were like, I don't know, but once we got put in our groups like obviously I found some of my best friends in there and--

G: And people you hang out with now?

M: Yeah, I still hang out with like everyday, like every second of every day.

G: So who besides ██████?

M: Um, I see ██████ a lot. I'm actually doing Sprout Up with him--

G: Oh, and ██████.

M: Yeah, and I'm in class with ██████ right now. And ██████ is in my sorority. So we hang out a lot. And I'm actually friends with people from Sustain this year too. Which is kind of cool because I stayed connected with it. I stayed and tried to help out. But I kind of got super busy.

G: I'm hearing that from a lot of people.

M: Yeah.

G: How did that role feel when you tried to help out this year? Did it feel like a good match for you or is there something you wish you could have done?--

M: Yeah. I wish I would have had more time to help. Because like when we first, our first meeting together, they were kinda in the same spot we were in with our group last year. There were just like a bunch of ideas and no real direction and like I don't know,

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everyone had great ideas, but realistically a lot of them wouldn't have worked out. So like it was kinda cool to hear them brainstorm and then help them figure out what path they should go on based on the time they had and all that stuff--

G: Yeah.

M: And, um, I don't know after that I was doing SLO Seed exchange.

G: What was that?

M: SLO Seed Exchange.

G: Oh, okay.

M: Yeah so I contacted some farmers and tried to get seeds and then kinda got busy, so. But it was cool to go back and see where and how much they were like us. Or are like us.

G: Yeah. How are you spending your time now? You're doing Sprout Up.

M: Yeah, I'm doing Sprout Up. I'm trying to be a SOAR leader over the summer so I have to do all of spring training.--

G: Tell me what SOAR is again?

M: It's the orientation program.

G: Ok.

M: But its only, I think you go for like a day. But it runs all summer.

G: Oh, ok. I see.

M: Yeah, so um. And because you get paid you have to go through a bunch of interviews. So basically you can go through 60 hours of training and not get the job.

G: oops.

M: Yeah. So, that's kind of stressful. I do that every Tuesday night and then we have things throughout the week. And then, I'm still trying to help with Sustain a little bit. And then classes. (laughs)

G: Do you think, had you always intended to do SOAR?

M: No. I kinda wanted to stay here over the summer. And ██████ was doing it and she was like, "you should try it, you'd love it, you should go through spring training." So we

decided to do it.

G: That's great.

M: Yeah. So we'll see how that goes. (laughs) Well, hopefully.

G: Yeah. Anything else on your mind about all of it?

M: Um, I don't know.

G: I want to ask you about a thing that maybe will strike...a thing I'm dying to ask you about. Now that we're all done, I'm wondering, and this is totally leading, which is why it maybe gets struck later from this conversation. I'm wondering what it was like for you-- what I remember is having a conversation with your dad. About your grades.

M: Oh, yeah.

G: Actually I don't think I had a conversation with him because I'm supposed to so I couldn't of had an actual conversation but what I know is that he had some things to say about your grades. And he did what looked to me like he felt like he was advocating for you.

M: Yeah.

G: And that's not how it was experienced but in terms of where his heart was--

M: Right.

G: What are your thoughts about all that, how do you look at all that now?

M: Um, I don't know, that's just kind of like classic my parents. Like (laughs) they're just like always really protective and supportive and I was stressed out first quarter so I would always call them and be like, "I can't do this, this is not working for me,"--

G: Ok, so they were receiving some of the blame, they were hearing you in that space--

M: Yeah. They probably really didn't know what to do like, realistically like there was nothing they could do, so--

G: Yeah. How was it to come back after that?

M: Um, I don't know kind of awkward (laughs)--

G: Well, yeah, I would imagine. When I saw you after I thought "I bet this is hard."

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M: Yeah. Yeah.

G: And there was no way to say, "Hey man, sorry that happened." But I looked at you and I thought, you're really brave, and I bet that this is hard.

M: Yeah, I don't know. Especially after I was thinking about dropping. It was even more awkward just because I could tell like people were so passionate about it and I felt like I was being disrespectful at some points. And I don't know, I'm glad I came back though, and I'm glad I finished it.

G: Yeah. I didn't continue to think that looking at you. Just when you first came back I thought "I bet this is rough." And then, it seems like you were brave.

M: Oh, thanks. (Laughs)

G: No, really. And that you did it. You just said, "Well, that happened and now ..." And I wonder about the relationship between that and the shift in you in all that. That's why it's totally leading. It's my theory. I'm no longer listening to Madison, I'm talking right now. But I just wonder about that, you know.

M: Yeah, it might have been one of the reasons why I like changed my attitude towards it.

G: Yeah, but I walked you right into that so I'm sorry.

(both laugh)

G: I think it might have been, but that's me.

M: Yeah.

G: I'm glad, I'm so glad you hung on, you know?

M: Me too.

G: I really appreciate your time.