

Capturing the History of California Polytechnic State University's College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences

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Introduction

The objective of this senior project was to capture the history of California Polytechnic State University's (Cal Poly) College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences (CAFES). The importance of this topic lies in both the legacy and future of CAFES. Many individuals at Cal Poly are not familiar with the agriculture program's history. The makeup of this population ranges from current agriculture students to administration. In order to continue the CAFES legacy, history must be captured, recorded and documented. It is critical this history is preserved to educate and share with future generations, current students and faculty. Carrie Isaacson graduated in 2012 from the agricultural science major. She conducted the first series of these historical CAFES interviews.

Methods

The first step in preserving portions of the history of CAFES was by identifying interviewees to provide valuable history, insight and information. The main goal was to select retired faculty or within months of retirement, that had been at Cal Poly for an extended length of time. Some of these selected faculty members were students at Cal Poly, who returned to teach and take on leadership roles within CAFES. The next step was to provide a list of open-ended questions. The purpose of using open-ended questions was to encourage more elaborate responses, which would in turn provide explanations, examples or additional information (Payne, 1965).

The equipment used to conduct these interviews included a Canon Mark 5D III camera with video capabilities, a Sirui tripod to mount the camera, and a Tascam voice recorder with boom mic. The purpose of using these specific pieces of equipment is to guarantee the end product would have both high-quality audio and visual. It is important the video and sound is of the highest quality possible. This will guarantee the end product will be enjoyable as well as informative by means of immersing viewers in methodical environments, which intensify their aesthetic sense perceptions (Seelig, 2010). If both high visual and audio quality is achieved, the video will remain significant and withstand the spans of time.

Results

Each of the interviewees provided treasured information with regards to CAFES, how the college has evolved throughout the years, and their hopes for the future. The passion that each of these retired faculty members possess for CAFES, Cal Poly, and agriculture was evident and successfully recorded with video and audio files. Each interview conducted was approximately 30-45 minutes in length. The videos will be saved electronically and archived through Cal Poly's Brock Center for Agricultural Communication as well as being shared with the Robert E. Kennedy Library archives.



Canon Mark III EOS 5D



Tascam Voice Recorder



Interviewing Dr. Joe Sabol

Conclusions

The author met all objectives of this project successfully. It is strongly recommended this project continue in order to properly preserve history and information regarding CAFES. It will be beneficial to use the interviews to educate incoming students, potential donors, and even administration at Cal Poly. These interviews may also serve as a reference and reminder about CAFES programs, their importance on campus and within the agricultural industry. It is critical the Cal Poly population begins to understand the importance of agriculture programs on campus.

References

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