

KENNESAW STATE UNIVERSITY ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

SPSU ORAL HISTORY SERIES, NO. 13

INTERVIEW WITH AUSTIN CLAYTON

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Southern Polytechnic State University Series, No.13
Interview with Austin Clayton
Conducted by Kathleen Harper
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Location: Atrium Building, Southern Polytechnic State University

KH: As a start, would you like to tell me a little about your background?

AC: Sure. I was born in Georgia—Paulding County, just one county over—in Dallas, Georgia. I played sports throughout childhood, soccer mostly. I went to elementary school over there. I went to North Paulding High School. I was [in] the first graduating class from the high school (it was brand new). I played varsity soccer from there, graduated with honors. SPSU was really the only place I applied. I'm in a fraternity on campus, Sigma Alpha Epsilon. I'm currently the president of the fraternity. I don't know what else to really say.

KH: What is your major?

AC: That's a good one. I'm actually a business administration major, and I'm minoring in industrial engineering technology.

KH: And what does that entail?

AC: For business, for me, a lot of it is more so the finance side of things. Industrial engineering, most of it for me would be more of the logistics side of things. So finance and logistics—they're different, but they can work together in some ways, and that's what I'm really trying to get at. I've actually applied for a co-op [cooperative education] for business and industrial engineering for financial systems for a company. It's actually getting me to where I want to go.

KH: Why did you choose Southern Poly?

AC: A big reason was because my family had a lot of background here. My mom worked for the school for twenty-eight years. Both of my older brothers actually went to school here: one went for his industrial engineering degree (but he actually didn't graduate and he works for Marietta Fire Department now), and then my other older brother graduated with an Information Technology degree and ended up working for the school for about three or four years (and now he works for Kennesaw State University for their IT department). There's just a lot of background in my family with the school and Marietta. My dad also worked for [the] Marietta Police Department. Just the area—I knew the area, it was close to home, and it meant a lot that I went [to Southern Polytechnic]. All of [my family] went here. That was one of the main reasons that I had chosen Southern Poly.

KH: When did you start?

AC: My first semester was the fall semester of 2011.

KH: Would that make you a senior?

AC: Yes, I am a senior now.

KH: [Will you be graduating in] four years?

AC: Depending on if I hear back on this co-op or not. That'll be the ultimate factor, so it may push me back a couple semesters.

KH: You said that you were a part of a fraternity on campus?

AC: Yes.

KH: How long have you been with them?

AC: I went through their recruitment my second semester, so since the spring of 2012. I've held three positions within the chapter. I was secretary the semester I got initiated. I had to go through the pledgeship process, and that was my spring semester of 2012. By fall semester 2012, I was the secretary. [In] my spring semester of 2013, I was our new member educator, so I was in charge of the new members and their education process. Then, this past spring is when I became president, and I'm still president until December.

KH: What was the new member education? What education was it about? Was it educating about the fraternity?

AC: Yes. Half of [the process] is about the history of the fraternity (who founded us, what were we founded on, etc.), and the other half is teaching people about the business world, and then teaching about our values. Our creed is called "The True Gentleman," and that's a big part of what we actually do, what we teach, and the process of the education. A big piece of that is teaching them about that, and then our values, and then we teach them interview skills (how to dress for interviews, how to dress for day-to-day jobs, business casual, business formal, things like that). It's half history, half everyday life type stuff.

KH: What has been your favorite position so far?

AC: Probably president. Being in charge always has its benefits, but it's also been the position that's definitely helped me grow the most out of the three. Being president of something can definitely help you find out what you're made of, who you really are, and what you need to change about yourself. So it's definitely been my favorite.

KH: As president, do you have a lot of interactions with other organizations and the school itself?

AC: As president, you're kind of a big face because if something big happens, or if they want to know what's going on with your chapter, you're usually the first person they come to. In that case, you always need to know what's going on with your chapter. You need to be the one who's always making good face with other chapters on campus (the sororities,

the fraternities, and things like that), so you need to make sure you always have a calm disposition, basically. I definitely know more people on the university level because of it, and people definitely come to me whenever they have questions, not only about my chapter, but Greek life in general.

KH: I noticed there was some work done with the Atlanta Pet Rescue. Can you tell me a little bit about that?

AC: Usually we go down every semester, with usually about ten to fifteen guys, and we do whatever they need us to do. For the most part, though, we'll go down and help break things down, like cages, tents, and things like that. That's really the most part of what we do. The actual Atlanta Pet Rescue is in charge of everything else going on, but for the most part, we usually just break stuff down and help them clean up afterwards.

KH: Do you work with any other organizations?

AC: Well, I was on Student Government [Association], and then (not necessarily with organizations) I've had a multitude of campus jobs. For Student Government, I actually started that my spring semester of freshmen year, and I was on Student Government that semester, the next academic year, and then the following academic year, so until this past April. My first semester was actually because one of the council members transferred to Kennesaw State University. I was one of the people shortlisted to take their position, so I was eventually voted on. That was my first semester in SGA. I was just a regular council member, did day-to-day stuff, and then just voted at meetings—things like that. The next year I ran and got elected, and I was chosen to be the internal affairs chair, which in that case, I did organizational renewals and the actual process for application for new organizations. Then, if any organizations had any discrepancies, they came to me to help alleviate things. The next year, I ran again, and that's when I became president and the whole consolidation happened.

KH: You said you had a multitude of campus jobs, and I noticed one of them was through Resident Life.

AC: Yes. I had two different jobs through Resident's Life. My freshman year I was—and this is a position they don't have anymore—a desk assistant. It was not the same level as an RA [Resident Assistant]; it was just a step below. Basically, what you did was you would have a weeknight where you would sit at the desk at either of the freshman dorms. You would be there in case someone needed something, or they were locked out of their rooms, things like that. They could count on you being there. That was mostly what we did as a desk assistant. We had the occasional programs and events, but we didn't do as much as RAs. Then, the year after (my sophomore year), I applied to be a Resident Assistant, and I was a Resident Assistant in the lower level of the freshman Hornet Village. As a Resident Assistant, you do programs, you help handle any roommate discrepancies, things like that, and really make sure everyone's comfortable, and they have a good experience when they're living on campus. Those are the two things I did with Housing.

KH: Are you still an RA?

AC: No. My sophomore year was my last year with Housing. I had decided it was time to move on to different things and find a different avenue and learn from different experiences.

KH: Did you work for any departments?

AC: Yes. I worked for both our Student Life department and for our Campus Services department, and then I was also an orientation leader. I was an orientation leader my first summer after being in school here, as well as my second summer, and then this past summer I actually interned for Student Life, and I was the lead staff member for orientation. I helped run the staff and then a good bit of the logistics, while orientations were actually going on. This last academic year, I worked as a Student Assistant for the Student Life Department. I didn't really have any specific tasks. It was really more so just day-to-day, whatever they needed me to do at the time that I was there and the day that I was there. That lasted for a year, until I wasn't allowed to have more than one job anymore. They maxed me out at twenty hours a week now. Then, my freshman year, when I first came in, I started out as one of the guys who went out and wrote tickets for people. I've done that since I've actually been at school here, and I still work for them. I don't necessarily go out and write tickets anymore, but I do handling. When people want their IDs printed, when people want new decals, or people have a complaint or customer service issue, they come in, and I'm one of the people at the front desk in the office. I've done that since August of 2011. I'm still doing that.

KH: Did you have any interaction with *The Sting*?

AC: Yes. When I was SGA President, I had a very good bit of interaction—[*Sting* editor Randy Brown Jr.] and I talked a good bit. They became a really good organization under Randy, and the year that I was president [2013], they actually won the SGA Organization of the Year award. I had a good bit of interaction [with the organization]. The period when I became president, they actually started coming to meetings and videotaping every one of our SGA meetings, so people would be more aware of what's going on. It's [this time] also when they switched over their format from a newspaper style to a magazine style, which was pretty cool. I had a good bit of contact here.

KH: I found a few SGA update videos on YouTube. I thought those were pretty cool.

AC: Yes.

KH: Are you still SGA President?

AC: No. I passed that torch along back in April. So right now Alex Harrington is SGA president. He was the vice president two years ago [2012], and then he was the secretary in the fall of the last academic year [2013], until our vice president left because he had found an internship that required him to be full time. Then, last spring, Alex Harrington became the vice president, since the secretary was next in line [to become VP]. He's the president now. As far as I know, this is his fourth year on SGA. He was on the same year when I came on my freshman year, and that was his sophomore year, and he [had been] on a full year then. This is his fourth year.

KH: When did you first hear about the consolidation?

AC: The day it was announced. I was walking into the Student Life office, and that's when Ron Lunk [assistant to the vice president of Student & Enrollment Services for Student Life] asked me if I had heard the news. I'd said, "No, I don't know what you're talking about," and he'd showed me a news article on his phone. When I read it, that's when I learned. It was on Friday, November 1st [2013]. I had no idea [about the consolidation] until it actually happened.

KH: What was your initial reaction?

AC: The initial reaction was a lot of confusion. I didn't want to make any type of assumption. As soon as that was announced, Dr. [Lisa A.] Rossbacher had said she was going to make an announcement, so it was more so confusion. After she made the announcement, it was a lot of different emotions. It's hard to see something that you've been a part of for three years just go away. Some anger. Some sadness. Those were the three initial reactions, which were probably what most students felt as well.

KH: If it helps, confusion was very widespread on the Kennesaw campus as well.

AC: I imagine, after talking with Katherine Street [KSU SGA President 2013-14]. We had met a couple days after the announcement, so she had talked about it as well. A lot of the KSU students were confused. That is what I had heard.

KH: What led you to work with the protest?

AC: Well, as SGA President, you have to act as the voice for the students, and it's what the students wanted. So I was going to do my best to give them what they wanted. Originally, I wasn't too involved whenever it first started, but it spread basically like wildfire. All the students getting involved had enormous support, so I definitely wanted to get involved and do whatever I could to really help them and make sure they got what they needed. Eventually, it kind of got me in trouble with the University System of Georgia, because technically I was supposed to be the one acting as [SPSU's] representation to the University System of Georgia, and then you had people calling them (senators and things like that), and they weren't really too happy about it.

KH: How did you participate?

AC: At first, I was watching to see how it would develop and to see what kind of support they needed, but eventually it was to the point where we were going to be talking in front of the Board of Regents, and I was the one who had to do that. That was the biggest thing. It had actually never happened with any of the other three consolidations. None of them were actually able to talk to the Board of Regents. That was probably the biggest contribution. We went in there, and we had speeches ready. It was me, one of our alumni (from our alumni board at the school), and then the student that was actually in charge of Keep SPSU True: Eric Cooney. We went in there, and we gave our speeches. That was the biggest way acting as a face, a representation, of what these students wanted. They wanted to know why it was happening, for what reasons, what could be

done to stop it, but [the board members] all voted [for consolidation]. That was probably the biggest thing.

KH: Were you down in Atlanta for both days [November 12 and 13, 2013] during the vote?

AC: The Wednesday [November 13] is when we went down, and they voted that day right then, so I didn't go back the second day.

KH: Did you think they would vote unanimously in favor?

AC: As much as it pains me to say it...yes. I think if the government's going to say they're going to do something, then they've already made up their minds. It's unfortunate that way, but that's just how I believe it is. They're not going to go back on something they say. It's the government. If they were going to outright say that, then I think their minds had been made up for a while, or else they wouldn't have made the announcement. Honestly, to me, I feel like they were wanting to save face by letting us come talk, and that was the biggest thing that I thought.

KH: Have you participated in any of the consolidation committees?

AC: Yes. I was a part of the [Expanded] Consolidation [Implementation] Committee when it started in November until June of this year [2014]. That period was when Alex Harrington became SGA president. I was transitioning him into it. He was coming to meetings with me at that point. Then Katherine and I decided to step off the committee and let Alex and Eric [Johnson] (current SGA President at KSU) start taking over our roles as the main representation. I was also a part of the SGA consolidation group, and then we also did the same thing. When Katherine and I were not on SGA anymore, we transferred that responsibility to the next SGA presidents.

KH: Do you think you would participate in any more consolidation committees or events?

AC: I don't think so. I'm more so focused right now on either a) graduating or b) getting a job. It's that point in my college career. It was bittersweet leaving all of it behind, but I knew I had to do it. It was that point, so I don't think I would, unless they really, really asked me to, or wanted me to. Then I would give input, but I don't think I would actually volunteer for another one.

KH: How often did you visit the Kennesaw campus?

AC: For the consolidation meetings, we went back and forth. So one meeting would be here, one meeting would be up in Kennesaw. I would say every other week I would be up at Kennesaw doing some sort of consolidation-related thing. Before that, I'd actually only been to Kennesaw twice. So, really every other week.

KH: Do you think you'll come back after you graduate to visit? At least, this campus?

AC: Depending on what happens with my job. I might actually still be in school next fall. If that's the case, my major will actually take me up to Kennesaw and here, because my major will end up being at Kennesaw for business, and my minor will be here for industrial engineering. I'll still be at both campuses, but I think that when I graduate, I'll

try to do something to stay involved with the alumni—try to get on the alumni board or something like that—because I have a passion for this school. It's done a lot for me, so I think I would definitely try to get involved after I graduate.

KH: What do you hope will be preserved from Southern Poly after the consolidation? Traditions?

AC: That's a good question. I would say a lot of the long-standing traditions. For the Greeks, they have Goat Night. From what I hear, I don't think that's actually being preserved. Then bathtub races, things like that. Really, just the everyday culture of SPSU is different from Kennesaw, and that's one of the biggest things I'm hoping just doesn't change. I don't know how much of Kennesaw's population would end up coming down here, or how much we'd really intermingle, but the culture at Southern Poly is definitely different, to say the least. I'm hoping it stays that way. I know it will be one university, but it really is a unique and diverse thing that Southern Poly has. I really hope that would stay the same.

KH: I agree. It just feels different. It feels quieter.

AC: It is much quieter. Like you said, you can't walk in Kennesaw without bumping into someone else.

KH: What would you say to any incoming freshmen with engineering, industry, or any sort of degree that Southern Poly specializes in, even if it will have the Kennesaw name on it?

AC: I would say don't take it lightly. It's definitely not high school anymore, and what you put in is what you going to get out.

KH: Have you interacted with the Marietta community through SPSU?

AC: Not necessarily, no—not through SPSU. It is a link, but [I've interacted with the community] mostly through the fraternity, if anything. We've really been involved. But directly through SPSU—student government-wise or orientation-wise, or anything like that—no.

KH: Are there any long-standing plans to change the hierarchy, or to merge SPSU organizations with the Kennesaw [equivalent] organization—Sigma Alpha Epsilon [or others]. Do you have any opinions on that?

AC: Well, I know when we talked about it in the main meetings, if an organization [exists] on both campuses, or they're similar, they will merge, but if they're different, they're basically going to stay the same, which is good. That way, those organizations can grow bigger and have more resources than they would've originally had. But on the Greek side of things, I know a lot of the Greeks aren't happy about it, just because the culture is different. A chapter down here isn't going to be the same as the chapter up there at all. A lot of the chapters down here feel like they're not getting a say because Kennesaw is a bigger university, and that's all their national fraternity headquarters is looking at. I know a good bit of the chapters down here are going to end up losing their charter, so it's them having to conform to the Kennesaw chapter. I know that's going on. Also, the

Greeks might actually be losing the houses [or] they might be able to keep those. They haven't had a final decision on that or anything yet. I don't see why they would. I think it's dumb if they would lose their house. As far as general student organizations go, I think it would probably be a good thing, but Greeks on a case-by-case basis. As far as hierarchy for the school, I'm really not even sure how they're going to make it work, what they're going to do, if they're going to have just an associate vice president of this campus, or a director, or whatever. I'm not sure how they're going to make that hierarchy work. By the time I left, it wasn't even in the discussions. I'm not really sure. I don't know.

KH: Will Sigma Alpha Epsilon stay?

AC: Yes. We don't have a chapter up there at Kennesaw, so we'll stay the same. It will actually be an opportunity for us to grow, so we can actually start recruitment up there as well. We can have recruitment on two fronts, on two different campuses. It'll actually be beneficial for us, as well some other chapters who don't have their chapters up there. I think it'll be good for those chapters.

KH: Has the fraternity worked with organizations other than Atlanta Pet Rescue?

AC: Yes. We recently just did the Greyhound Dog Rescue. We did that two Sundays ago, and we had two of our members go there and help them. Our main philanthropy is Children's Miracle Network, so any donations we have, or any events we have usually go towards that. We've also recently worked with a local philanthropy that means a lot to us called Cole's Commanders [Cole's Cystic Fibrosis Family Foundation]. It's basically for cystic fibrosis, and we've done a couple of spirit nights at restaurants for that to raise money. One of our fraternity brothers' girlfriend's little brother had cystic fibrosis, and he passed away about two weeks ago. He was only seventeen, so we've been trying to do a lot with that lately, trying to donate money, and just garner support for that. That's probably the biggest thing we've really been doing in the past couple weeks.

KH: Do you have any other events lined up?

AC: I believe Saturday, we're going to have a couple of our brothers going to a pet's soup kitchen. I'm not exactly sure who it's with, but I know that it's this Saturday. We also I believe every other Saturday have a couple of our guys that go and help out with Wilshire [Park in Gainesville] tennis. They go out, and they do not exactly teach them how to play tennis, but help them with anything they need. They'll go and pick up the ball, things like that, really just helping out the staff members that are there, and they go and volunteer for that as well.

KH: From what I read, it seems like a relatively young chapter.

AC: Yes, we are very young. It's weird to think that I'm actually one of the older guys, considering I've only been here for three years. It's weird. It feels like yesterday I was getting initiated. We just got fifteen new guys, and then last year we got seventeen, so that's thirty-two of our forty-five man chapter is actually a sophomore or younger. We are a very young chapter, and I think there's only about five or six seniors. It's interesting to see.

KH: Was the chapter created in 2008, or was the fraternity?

AC: The chapter. The fraternity was created back in 1856.

KH: Oh, wow.

AC: Yes. We've been around for a while. We're the oldest southern antebellum fraternity. Our chapter got on campus back in 2008, which six years isn't really a long time, because I know some of these chapters have been on campus since the 1960s, which is crazy to think about, too.

KH: Do you know why it was brought on?

AC: The founders of the chapter looked at all the other fraternities on campus and really didn't like the values that they stood for, or wanted something better, so they founded Sigma Alpha Epsilon. They decided that's what they wanted to stand for, and they liked the values and the things they could bring to the table.

KH: What has been your favorite part with the chapter?

AC: I don't know if I would have an exact favorite part, but the experience that I've gained, and how much it has really helped me grow, is probably the biggest thing that I like from it. Everyone changes from high school to after they graduate college and everything, but it's just affected my life so much and helped change me for the better (I believe), so that's probably my favorite part of actually joining. There're the social aspects of it and everything, but at the end of the day, the professional and personal growth is the best part of it for me.

KH: Do you think you'll participate as an alumnus?

AC: Definitely. I have no doubts that I'll be involved with our chapter's alumni association, doing whatever I can to help the chapter still stay around.

KH: Do you think you'll stay in the Metro-Atlanta area after you graduate?

AC: That's a good question. I guess it just depends on what kind of job I get, but I'd definitely be open to moving somewhere else, so it's not out of the question that I would. That's really just kind of a toss up. Fifty-fifty, whatever's thrown at me type of thing.

KH: Is there anything you'd like to add? Anything you'd like to include in the interview? It can be about anything. I just noticed that there was a Tweet [on Twitter] (I'm behind the times) about Save SPSU, and you were speaking for it and all of that. You said you were representing the student body, and that it got you into trouble with the University System of Georgia?

AC: Yes.

KH: Did you feel a personal drive, a personal passion for saving SPSU?

AC: To be really honest, at first I was kind of lacking in it, but the students had so much passion, and so much drive. It was hard to believe that so many of these students cared

that much, and I'm not saying I didn't care about the school, but it was really something to see so many students cared enough to take out so much time of their day and take everything out of the way to try to do what they can to save it. Like I said, I was observing at first, but after observing and seeing what they were doing, I had a lot of passion. Then I put out of my mind that they were going to vote unanimously, that they already know that they're going to do it. I put that out of my mind, and the day when that happened, it was disappointment, because we had prepared and done stuff for two weeks. It felt like they had accomplished so much, and the student population had done so much just to be let down just like that. I don't know.

KH: I know quite a few professors [of SPSU] rescheduled classes so that students could go down [to Atlanta].

AC: To the protests, yes. I had heard that as well. We actually paid for the Marietta Trolley to go down there too and take students down there. It was just awesome to see how many students actually went down and took time out of their day to show that they really did care. Then, at the end of the day, we all just get our hearts broken like that.

KH: Well, you definitely made a statement. Everyone remembers SPSU [students] fighting for their school, and I think that's admirable.

AC: Yes, and there's going to be more consolidations, too. [The USG is] trying to cut back to what I thought I heard was nineteen universities, and when we merged, there were thirty. There's going to be more, so I can only hope that students at other universities see what the students at Southern Poly did and have the same kind of resolve and spirit for their school, and at least not just let it happen without having a say. That was the biggest thing for a lot of it. Students were angry that they didn't have the input for any of it. So, yes.

KH: How did you get the trolley?

AC: We actually used Student Government money to pay for it, so students could go down there. It was student activity fees that go into the Student Government budget.

KH: Was it just for that Wednesday?

AC: Yes, because that was the only day that we were actually going to be down there. The other days weren't actually involved in our consolidation at all.

KH: Did you speak to anyone else down there besides the Board of Regents?

AC: Afterwards, I know two newspapers talked to us. I believe it was *Marietta Daily Journal* and *AJC* [*Atlanta Journal Constitution*]. I talked to Dr. Rossbacher, not extensively, and then some of the students outside afterwards. Dr. Rossbacher just wished me good luck. She wasn't going to publicly speak out against it. She still had a job to do. And then most of the students were appreciative of Eric and I going in there and speaking for them and talking on their behalf.

KH: Did you approach them directly, the Board of Regents? Were you a part of the agenda?

AC: Yes. We were the second item on the agenda. I was not the one that got us on the agenda. That was the students of the school. Their consistency of them fighting is what really got us on there. They owe themselves a lot of credit for that as well.

KH: What happened during your part?

AC: So me, Trent Anderson, and Eric Cooney had spent a good bit of a week coming up with the speech, getting our facts together, everything we could to show why this wasn't a good idea, why it shouldn't be, and putting that into a speech format, so that we could talk, because we had a time limit. At that point, each one of us said our bits and pieces of the speech, and that's right when they voted actually. There was something else, too. Right after we gave our speeches, there were international students silently protesting at first for the HOPE scholarship, and then right after we gave our speech, they started talking and protesting non-silently, pretty openly, in the middle of the meeting, so they actually disrupted all of it. Then, it took them about fifteen to twenty minutes for them all to get escorted out. Then, they finally voted. We were sitting there for twenty minutes, just waiting for what they were going to say. So that was really the gist of it.

KH: So you were in there when they voted?

AC: Yes. We left about five minutes after they voted.

KH: So it was unanimous?

AC: Oh, yes. It was unanimous.

KH: There were no abstentions at all?

AC: No. The only discussion they had was somehow retaining Southern Polytechnic State in some way or fashion, and then they had asked if that could happen. As soon as someone said yes, then it was basically a unanimous decision.

KH: What did they mean by "retain"? Did they mean the name?

AC: The name, in some fashion, whether it be on one of the schools, which is how it is now—it's on the engineering school—or if it could be on some portion of the degree—some form or fashion the name still be involved with everything, because a lot of students were worried about their reputation and the reputation of their degree being hindered by not having Southern Polytechnic State University on it. To the Board of Regents, that was the biggest thing, so whenever they figured out that it could be retained in some way, they decided to go ahead with it.

KH: How else do you think it will be retained, besides the name?

AC: In the next couple years, people will still talk about it, but down the road, it will just be probably part of the history books, part of the history of Kennesaw State University. The engineering school will obviously have Southern Poly on it, and it'll be on their degrees, but other than that, it'll just be part of history, really, unless they plan to do something else. I haven't really been involved as much.

KH: That's part of the reason why we have these interviews, so it doesn't just disappear into the wayside.

AC: Yes.

KH: Do you think they'll keep the colors?

AC: Probably not. I they'll probably change over as soon as January. Whenever the name actually changes, they'll probably start working on changing everything else for the first full class of next fall.

KH: I know everything is finalized in August, so they have to figure everything out by then.

AC: Yes.

KH: Do you think there are any parts of the school that are behind? Or do you think everyone's keeping up?

AC: When I was on the committees, a lot of stuff that the smaller committees were doing, they almost couldn't do yet because they had to wait for it to be talked about in the main committee. I don't know exactly if that's how it's still working out or not. I don't know if they've fixed that communication issue, but for the most part, most people were keeping up with everything and making sure they were staying on top of their tasks. I know for the Student Government one, we were still on top of everything. A lot of it was doing what we need to do, and then waiting for the approval or denial from the upper, expanded committee. Then, in the expanded committee, there'd be discussion about what they wanted to do and everything like that. That would be the only reason anyone's behind. For the most part, I think most of them have an idea of what they're doing now, especially now. It's been a year now, so I hope they have an idea of what they're doing.

KH: So you think, depending on the job, you'll be here another semester, or another year?

AC: Yes, possibly another semester. At least until the end of fall, because right now, if I don't get it, I'm set to graduate this summer. Then if I do get it, it's full time, so I'd actually be pushed back another semester.

KH: Which are you hoping for?

AC: The job. Definitely the job. I'd rather graduate later and have experience with a job, than graduate with no experience at all.

KH: What's the company?

AC: Shaw Industries. I applied for a Financial Systems position.

KH: Nice. Hopefully you'll get it.

AC: I know. I'm supposed to hear back before the end of tomorrow.

KH: Oh, that soon.

AC: Very soon. Yes.

KH: Was there anything you'd like to add? I know I asked this before.

AC: No, not really. I'm not the biggest talker.

KH: That's all right. At least I could get this [interview] from you.

AC: I noticed you had a good bit of research there. How'd you find all that out?

KH: I feel like I could've done more. Google [is what I used].

AC: Google, really?

KH: Yes.

AC: You Googled me, and all that came up?

KH: Quite a bit, actually. A lot of these are questions that I came up with.

AC: Okay.

KH: It's amazing what's out there.

AC: I know. I've never Googled myself.

KH: I stayed away from [social media] though. I respected that privacy.

AC: [laughter] Okay.

KH: Well, thank you for sitting down with me.

AC: No problem.

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