

IDIS 491V: Summer Internship Journal

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Submitted to:

Bill Callison
Dr. Ben Lawton



Following is a journal logging my work and learning experiences in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania from May 11 to May 17. During this week I was involved in several aspects of the production of a major event. This event was the graduation ceremonies for the Wharton College/University of Pennsylvania. My undertakings in this event are organized by day below.

Wednesday, May 11th

7:30 a.m. - late evening

We (Mike, Quinton, Jess and I) began early in the morning by loading up our personal belongings and those things Bill Callison requested from Elliot Hall. These included our Sony DV camera rig, DV decks for recording purposes, monitors to be used as prompters during the ceremony, and wireless equipment to be used for a shot of Penn's campus. This was a day of travel. We left Purdue around 8 a.m. and arrived at our hotel in Philadelphia about 12 hours later.

Thursday, May 12th

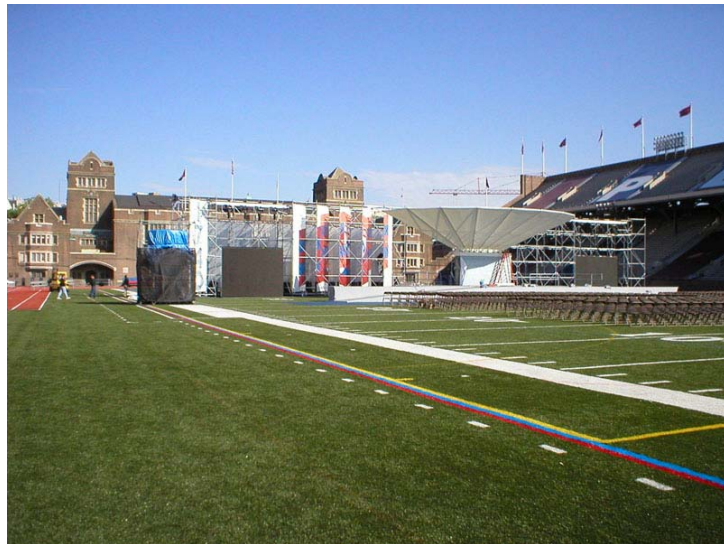
6:45 a.m. - 5 p.m.

This day began at Franklin Field, the site where all ceremonies would commence. At this time Mountain Productions had already assembled the stage for the most part. We unloaded and stored away our equipment in the morning hours, as well as a boom camera jib and staging and lighting equipment which arrived that morning. We also received and unloaded LED video screens from another truck. These belonged to Large Screen Video, or LSV, who would be in charge of running these large LED walls. We assisted stagehands in assembling the LED walls. We then assisted Cameron Brown in powering these screens, connecting them together in a "daisy chain" to allow analog information to travel through the screens in the correct order, and addressing these screens according to the chain we just created.

Friday, May 13th

6:45 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.

On this day we would be receiving our digital video truck, which contained more of the equipment we would use inside the stadium, as well as more workers to get the truck up and running and help establish the relationship between truck and venue. Immediately we began unloading more cameras and cables. In the morning hours we ran tri-axial video cables to all parts of the venue, as well as electrical and audio cables. After getting all the cable to its proper place, we began to build cameras. In the front of house were our two sports lenses capable of 75x real zoom. The other Sony D-35 handheld cameras were built in their places, one just next to the stage and one stage right, halfway between the stage and front of house. After building and testing cameras we tested any other connections, like audio feeds or headsets, or teleprompters on the stage. Frequently we would assist Cameron Brown of LSV in calibrating his LED screens and optimizing their visibility in Franklin Field. The latter part of the afternoon was spent with Barry Otto of Moo TV. Several of us assisted Barry in using microwave technology to create a wireless connection between Penn's campus and our truck. We used two sets of satellites, transmitter and receiver to establish this connection. We spent hours trying to get our dishes in the right place and get the best signal possible from our DV(digital video) camera to the top of a building and back down to our truck. This technology was to be used to get shots of the students as they made their way through campus toward Franklin Field.



Saturday, May 15th
7:00 a.m. -10:00 a.m.

Only final preparations were made this day during the morning hours. The rest of the day was ours.

Sunday, May 16th
6:45 a.m. – approx. 10:00 p.m.

This was the first day of Penn's many graduation ceremonies. The first began about 9 a.m. and the last ending late in the evening. I spent this day behind one of the sports lens cameras at the front of house. It was important in these ceremonies to listen closely to the directors in the truck. The directors informed us of the

order of events, who would be the next speaker or presenter, and other information that dictated our camera position, movement or technique. This is especially important when your camera is being displayed on the LED walls on each side of the stage. Different slideshows were submitted by Penn students for each of the ceremonies, and these were displayed on the video walls by our staff in the video truck. Emily, another Purdue student, was in charge of that job. This was the longest work day of our entire trip, lasting almost 16 hours. There were short breaks between sessions in which we could eat and drink, but the ceremonies were long and hot.



Monday, May 17th

6:45 a.m. – 9:30 p.m.

This was the second and final day of shooting the graduation ceremonies. Just as the day before there were several ceremonies for each individual college within UPenn. This day the activities ended earlier, however, and we began to tear down the venue about 6:30 p.m. It took close to two hours to strike down and load all our equipment back up, just a tiny fraction of the time it took to prepare this venue. We again took the time to assist LSV and 4Wall Lighting in getting their luggage, loading it back up, and sending it out via box trucks. Our work was done at Franklin field when each of these companies had their equipment out. The massive stage would not have been completely torn down at the end of this day.

Tuesday, May 18th

8:00 – late evening

This was another day of travel. Upon returning to Purdue late in the evening, we returned all the equipment we used as well as the digital recordings of the events to the video department.

This has been, to the best of my knowledge, a completely accurate description and order of events. If any dates or times of events differ from that of other students, it is due only to the amount of time that has passed since this exciting and work-filled trip.



I would like to add that I learned a lot about the inner workings of a live event such as this one while in Philadelphia. I had the opportunity to work alongside and have active conversation with people involved in video, audio, staging, lighting, electrical, and many other facets of the production. This allowed me to ask questions about each area, and see the answers in action. My experience with MooTV, Large Screen Video, 4Wall Lighting, Mountain Productions, and the University of Pennsylvania was invaluable. The trip was crucial in fostering a closer working relationship with Bill Callison, as well as my fellow students. The more experienced video students taught me just as much during this week as the aforementioned companies and their staffs. I would like to thank all of these people and groups, as well as the department, for allowing to take part in this trip and class.

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P.S.

Dr. Lawton:

Please feel free to contact my by phone or email if you would like to discuss any of the aforementioned things. I did my best to include the most important aspects of the trip, but I would be happy to answer any questions about it. Thanks for your time.

Jay White