

Exploring the Teaching Experience of Audio Engineering Faculty During the COVID-19 Pandemic

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Abstract

In fall 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic created a sudden transition to emergency remote teaching for faculty and students in Audio Engineering Technology (AET) degree programs. This qualitative study explores the experience of AET faculty who used synchronous and asynchronous video tools to deliver studio and live sound reinforcement education during both spring and fall 2020. This study utilizes the Community of Inquiry (COI) theoretical framework to explore the teaching strategies of AET faculty in response to the pandemic. Qualitative data analysis was performed and responses were interpreted through the three COI elements of teaching presence, social presence, and cognitive presence. An online survey was conducted with twenty-five full-time audio engineering faculty, and five follow-up focus group interviews were conducted. These focus group meetings provide additional details about the teaching strategies faculty used during this shift to emergency remote teaching. The results of this study add to the body of knowledge around creating communities of inquiry in AET courses. This study also provides findings, recommendations for future research, and important implications for AET departments and faculty who want to build effective communities of inquiry for their courses, whether in-person or online.

Keywords: remote teaching, audio engineering technology, Community of Inquiry, COVID-19

Nathan “Adan” Adam is an award-winning audio & video producer, TedX speaker, and university professor. As a professor of Cinema, Television & Emerging Media at Belmont University, he has taught thousands of passionate students about the power of new media technology. Featured on MSNBC’s Tonight with Deborah Norville (~820,000 Youtube views) he has engineered and edited projects including the orchestral score for “Peter Pan with Cathy Rigby”, along

with tracks, TV episodes and radio spots for national artists including Vince Gill, Paul Franklin, Bill Medley, Collin Raye, Debbie Boone, Earl Scruggs, Neal McCoy, the Oak Ridge Boys, Rhonda Bennett, the Grascals, Jim Stafford, Larry Gatlin, Clay Cooper, Barbara Fairchild, Mickey Gilley, Dusty Rogers Jr., Moe Bandy, Carrie Tillis, Buck Trent, Les Brown Jr., and many others.

As an educator, he has worked with the GRAMMY Foundation, Belmont University, and the University of Southern California’s Pop Music program to coordinate and teach audio engineering for over forty GRAMMY Camps around the country, alongside sponsors from the Best Buy Foundation, Journeys, Hot Topic, the Boys and Girls Club, the GRAMMY Museum, and Converse RubberTracks Studios. In addition, he has hosted discussion panels alongside GRAMMY-winning artists and producers including Shannon Sanders (India.Arie, Jonny Lang, John Legend), Dave Haywood (Lady Antebellum), and many others. Nathan has co-authored two books including the internationally distributed “Pro Tools 9: the Mixers Toolkit”, and the “Multi-Platinum Pro Tools” book and DVDs. As a video professional, he has served as post producer and editor for series including the Telly Award winning “Learn and Master Guitar”, for Legacy Learning Systems, selling over 70,000 courses to guitar students around the world. He has also served as Post Producer and editor for 140 Episodes of the “Presley Country Music Jubilee” TV series for RFD Networks, which air in thirteen countries and are viewed by an audience of over 500,000 people per week. He is co-founder of Multi-Platinum.com and the co-owner of the Walnut House event complex in Murfreesboro, Tennessee.





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