

CAMERA STUDY

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Domain of Interest:

For this project, my primary domain of interest was the “family man”. I chose this area because not only was I interested in the family life of such a participant, but also his work life. I wanted to see how the participant’s day panned out from his perspective. Jeff McClaine was the participant in this study. I asked Jeff to take pictures of the things that make him a family man, the ways in which he interacts with his family, friends, and his workplace. I also told him that the focus was to illustrate the idea of a family man, both at home and work. Jeff’s daily activities came through his pictures with flying colors. From photos of his family to objects and people at his workplace, I feel that I learned a lot about the “Family Man”. The pictures which Jeff provided show not only things he interacts with on a daily basis, but also the things which he values most in his life (such as his family, living a healthy lifestyle, and being successful in his career.



What was asked of the Participant:

I asked the participant to take between 10 and 15 photos with his digital camera which would illustrate him as the “family man”. I made sure to emphasize that this included his life in the workplace as well as his family life at home. After he gave me his photos, I then prepared some of the questions I wanted to ask him during our interview.



Interview Questions Asked in Response to the Provided Pictures:

1. What activities do you like to participate in with your children?

He currently coaches his son's (Cameron, age 7) basketball team. His entire family takes a lot of walks almost daily. They also like to visit the local parks, particularly the brand new Cascades Park.

2. How much time each week do you and your children spend exercising and/or participating in sporting events?

Cameron plays basketball and Jeff is the coach of his team. Emi does gymnastics and also plays soccer (age 4) she is in kindergarten and really loves dolls.

3. How important is it to you that your children win the Presidential Award (the patch which is pictured above)?

Cameron will win because he is extremely competitive like his dad. Emi isn't as competitive. She is only four; she likes to play with dolls. 😊 Although Jeff is confident that his children will most achieve the Presidential status because of their physical fitness, this isn't something which lends to pressure on his children.

4. *Could you describe the environment at your workplace?*

“Very dynamic”. Employees at PC generally stay for two years only. “It is nice to get to know the students, yet there is no institutional memory involved.” Jeff said that this makes the job “fresher”. He went on further to say that he is always kept up to date with the current state of things (technology, pop culture, the college life, etc.) He is able to work with a number of different people, yet it isn’t one of those jobs where he will be working with the exact same faces for 30 years.

Jeff really enjoys all of the travel that comes with the position. The administration team at The President’s Challenge goes to a number of conferences each year (at least 10) and they get to travel all over the US. There are also times when they get to travel abroad.

5. *What types of activities do the employees of The President’s Challenge have to look forward to each year?*

Employees at the President’s Challenge take a trip to Kings Island every summer. There is also an end of the year picnic in the Spring where they grill out and play some football or wiffleball. Jeff said that one of the highlights of the year is the holiday dinner which has a catered meal. Everyone really enjoys this because they get to dress up and have a more formal setting to gather.

6. *What values do you want to pass along to your two children?*

Jeff would like to teach his children to not judge others, always give your best at something and never quit, and a strong sense of dedication. He said most importantly, he wants his children to have fun!

7. *How many marathons do you run each year?*

Jeff has run 2 marathons per year for the last 3 years. He has a total of 7 marathons under his belt. He also plans on running another this year, the Chicago Marathon in October.

8. *How much time do you spend each week exercising?*

Jeff runs every morning, 40 miles per week (7.5 minute mile), about 5 hours total each week.

9. *What is the significance of the turtle picture?*

The limestone turtle in the President’s Challenge office was a retirement gift to the old director of the President’s Challenge in 1997, Dr. Wynn F.

Updyke. When he passed in 2003, his widow gave the sculpture back to IU. It still resides in the President's Challenge headquarters. The story of the turtle is that one day there was a turtle crossing the road so Updike got out of his car, picked up the turtle, and helped it across the road. He was amazed to see the turtle attempt to cross the road again. He really admired the persistence of the turtle, so they had the statue made for him. The limestone sculptor was Schiefer from "The Touchables" company in Martinsville. This sculptor also did the bears in front of the Bloomington Library. He really promotes interaction with his sculptures.
<http://www.scican.net/~schiefer/>.

Most Interesting Insights:

The thing which sticks out mostly from our interview was the role fitness plays in Jeff's life. Not only does he spend each of his mornings running on the road training for marathons, next he drives (or sometimes rides his bike) to work at the President's Challenge. When Jeff leaves work, he either is going to coach his son's basketball team, take his kids to play at the park, or go for a walk with his family. Another interesting insight was the story about the turtle in the President's Challenge office.



Possible Design Implications:

Even though my initial focus was on the family man, all of my design ideas arose from the exercise and fitness habits of the participant. We actually spent some time after our interview talking about design implications which would help him as a marathon runner. Some of those ideas were:

1. Jeff and I discussed a product known as “Champion Chips” which are small microchips placed on a runner’s shoelaces. Here is a link for more information: <http://www.championchip.com/chips/>
We discussed the ways in which this technology could be changed to improve the experience of a marathon runner.
 - Jeff wanted a way for his wife to know where he was located at any time during a race. There are only about 10 handheld machines (RFID readers) for about 30,000 runners carrying the chips. A possible solution is to have statistics of runners in real-time on the internet so family members and friends can keep track of their loved one running. This could also be used to give family members and friends an estimated time of arrival at a certain location so family members could visit the runner during the race.
2. During our interview, Jeff told me about a friend of his (pictured below in the blue) who runs with him in the wintertime. It is not uncommon for this man to have a longer beard. Jeff said that he always wishes he would have a camera when he is running so that he could take a picture of his friend’s beard which becomes a long icicle in the intense cold air. A second design implication is a camera which a runner could carry easily. Most runners do not like to carry anything with them. However, something almost all of them have is a watch. If a camera could be imbedded in a wristwatch, runners could easily take pictures while they run in marathons.
3. A final design idea is to have a video camera which could be embedded in a sweatband for a runner’s forehead. The main justification is to let the runner show others, “This is what I saw when I was running.”

