**Informational Interview II**

For the informational interview, I made an appointment with Ji Carl Yang, who is a PhD student of Professor Jiawei Han at University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign and worked as an intern in Snapchat Inc. I find his experience in both fields very helpful because as a computer science major. We talked for about an hour after class and he actually gives me lots of valuable information and suggestions that I can follow.

First of all, we talked about the internship since my first paid intern position will start at this summer. He says that the interns will be assign to debug (fixing previous errors) at the beginning and then those that are doing a great job can be asked to implement some small-scale features or modules. After the interns are familiar with the works enough, they can finally start to work on crucial projects.

Then we discussed the income and working experience. As he says that my income is not one of the highest among the interns, maybe because I'm going to work for a bank instead of a high-tech company. The banks are not likely to offer engineers as much as those who work for tech companies, since other departments may not be comfortable with it and cause the company some legal risks. But generally speaking, the working environment for software engineers are quite comfortable, we can basically do everything in the office where there are air-conditioning and drinks supplied. In addition, the companies will offer employers with equipment like laptops and mobile devices that are required to do the jobs.

Carl then told me that in order to get promotion, being an efficient engineer or analyst is not enough, I still need to learn how to be more social and able to display the work I do to the supervisors and how to be a better communicator to understand what my manager really needs me to do. It's very important to listen carefully first and think and express at last with full set of consideration. It is also important to become one of the company when in work and after work.

I used to be worried about the possibility that I don't know the specific technology that I'm supposed to use in work, and Carl says I don't really need to worry about that. The companies tend to offer new employers with training and orientation to make them more easily become part of the company and start working as soon as possible. Also, freshman engineers sometimes will be assigned a mentor who can guide them and answer their questions.

Our conversation is comfortable during the whole time since we have already known each other before by working together in the same project, so we basically covered all the topics in my plan and the experience of this informational is pretty impressive and make me even more passionate and look forward to my intern position to start. And the personal experience he shared with me about his research also make me want to have a try being a scholar. As a result, I may apply for a graduate school to pursue a MS degree in CS and consider taking a job then.

Thank You Letter:

Hi Carl,

Thanks very much for your time and information today. After our conversation I feel like my path is much more clear and finally some decision of career can be made. The experience will be done as soon as possible and I'll email you when it's done.

Have a great day!

Best Regards,

Lanxiao