

## **Getting to know me!**

### **Part 1: Tell Me About Yourself**

My name is John Patrick F. Narvasa, and I prefer to be called Patrick or Pat. I live in Koronadal City, South Cotabato, but I'm currently staying at the Sagana Dorms. One unique thing about me is that I self-reflect a lot. It's like I see deeper meanings and patterns that only a few can recognize. But to be honest, my observations might not actually be true, yet according to my gut feeling, they somehow are. Because of that, I tend to be detached and reserved since, most of the time, all I do is to ponder. I do this because everything in life is connected in some way, which leaves me intrigued and questioning everything when I'm zoning out.

This constant reflection ties into my experiences growing up. A fun fact about me that people might not know is that I am a minister's son and an only child. This unique upbringing has shaped my perspective in life, especially since we move a lot. It's as if life constantly spells it out for me that friends really do come and go. While this reality can be difficult since I could easily get attached to some people, it has also reinforced my independence and ability to adapt that aligns with my nature.

My introspective nature might create an assumption that many people might consider this as "overthinking," but I see it more as a leisure activity (because it's fun for me) although this type of self-ruminating activity can be a double-edged sword, as it can be exhausting like playing the devil's advocate against myself for the worse and it can get to the point that I start having mental breakdowns which can be also described as "overthinking". But on the other hand, it helps me through hard times because almost everything has a silver lining, even the worst possible scenarios in life. It also helps me appreciate everything and learn a lot, even the simplest things in this grand canvas called "life" which fuels my desire to learn not just as a student in a classroom but also as a lifelong learner.

With this perspective, my goals for this semester are to develop both the soft skills and the fundamental knowledge necessary for my program. I believe these are essential in preparing myself for the job I want to have in the near future.

### **Part 2: Your Learning Journey**

To begin with, this was the subject I was really looking forward to learning since this subject contains all the necessary and fundamental frameworks of how to tackle and solve problems that can be very difficult. It can also be very mentally stimulating when I learn this subject as it will reinforce me to keep pushing myself and make the programs that I would like to make at some point in the future.

I plan to apply what I learn in this class (DSA), along with what I learn from Intermediate Programming (IP), to start solving some problems on LeetCode, which can be very useful for job interviews. Also, I aim to create a diverse array of personal projects that I would be eager to develop, ranging from simple to complex programs, as a sign of my passion for the world of computer science. The challenges I expect to face specifically in this subject will involve exposure to some complex puzzles and patterns, where we must find the most optimal solution to solve them. I will overcome these challenges using my sheer curiosity and determination to explore the ins and outs of every topic.

### **Part 3: Personal Favorites**

My favorite hobbies are more on the musical side. I compose music for 5 years and also do beatboxing which I have been doing longer for 7 years (started at the age of 12). But overall, beatboxing would be my favorite hobby since it is the one that introduced me to composing and also considering the fact when making music, everything starts on a simple hum or percussive sound that is being produced by a human that will eventually turn into a fully fledged song (an intuitive bridge from imagination to reality) and that is why I can see the beauty of it. But in the first place, I enjoy it initially because I think it's cool to imitate instruments and some synthesizer sounds with accuracy that can make someone easily impressed or even to the point that they wonder if the sound is coming from a human.

My favorite subjects are along the lines of critical and logical thinking; philosophy, psychology, science and mathematics come to mind. But out of these, I would say mathematics is my favorite subject as it is a very broad field and this subject can be utilized as a tool that is proven to be very helpful in order to further understand and comprehend the universe and can also practically solve a lot of problems in life. This subject connects to my goals because it involves a lot of pattern recognition, and by recognizing it, it can help me develop efficient ways to program, make an optimal approach for solving a problem so I can enhance my logical thinking skills.

The professors who really caught my attention currently are Sir Marc Laureta and Ma'am Yumie Pasiol. The approach they take on the system of our academics is professional. Besides professionalism, they also have good humor although it's not for the weak. Still, it's my cup of tea. I guess it's their way of connecting with their students while staying true to themselves.

What I can least learn from them is that in life, I must remain persistent and stay determined on where I am traversing in life right now as a student in CS. We might experience hardships here and there during this semester, but amidst all the feeling of discomfort we must acknowledge that this very discomfort also signifies growth (as long as that discomfort is en route to the right direction). In the world of computer science which is constantly evolving, we need to constantly adapt to the new changes. This isn't just about surviving in the field, but rather about embracing the journey of being a lifelong learner.