42 Interview: Jose Ramon Aleman

Tell us more about where you are from and what you were doing before 42:

I am from Panama. I lived there for 20 years before I moved to Florida to start a new life. In college, I studied Mechatronics Engineering, let's call it a mixture of mechanical engineering, electronics and electrical engineering and automation and automation engineering A and a little bit of CS. I finished receiving my bachelor's degree in 2015 and then I decided to pursue an MBA. After I got my MBA I was still known as a tech guy. I had a lot of knowledge about electronics, computers and programming.

What led you to pursue a career in technology?

When I was a kid, I loved tinkering and taking stuff apart and seeing how they work. Later, I got into computers and I started to learn how to build websites. A lot of people asked me to do websites, and at first I didn't know a lot. I had built some in the past, during high school with WYSIWYG where(what (what you see is what you get) editors. After finishing my bachelor's, I decided to freelance and I started to build websites for different clients and companies, because getting a job in my field of study was impossible at that time, there were no positions to work as a mechatronics engineer. Later, I decided to found a startup with some friends. of mine. The startup was inspired by Yelp, but more localized to small businesses and small places to visit in different countries. There are plenty of good places people don't know about, so we wanted to solve that issue.

Why did you decide to attend 42 instead of a traditional college program?

I wanted to pursue a masters degree in computer science but decided not to after I realized how expensive it is to study for that type of degree in the U.S. Instead,. I was taking a lot of online classes, trying to build up my skill sets. The next year, I traveled to Panama for a few months to see my family and friends. A very good friend of mine. Being there, my best friend told me about 42 Silicon Valley. At first, I was skeptical because after moving to the U.S. and seeing the high cost of college, free tuition and free dorms didn't seem real.

At first, when I learned that the school was not accredited, I felt that I might be wasting my time. But during the piscine, I realized I have met so many people from different countries, I have made so many friends, and have learned so much. When I found out I passed the piscine, that was probably one of the best days of the year. my life.

What are your goals, and what ways do you think 42 will help you achieve your goals?

My goals first I would love to actually make a social impact. I really want to help my country; especially the tech area because there are a lot of small gaps in the education system. Panama has a lot of creative, smart and people that are very creative. There are very talented people who are proud of their country, so if I make an impact I want to do it there. Also, I would love to make an impact here in the U.S.t America as the education system isn't perfect.

As of now, Right now I am a co-founder of a startup, Easyworking, that with a very good friend of mine, founded early this year. t with a friend of mine. We pretty much want to change the hiring process, and improve the learning of new technologies, especially coding related how people get educated in Latin America.

I want to make an impact because being here in Silicon Valley is not something a lot of people can do, and I am thankful for all the opportunities I have had in the past. Actually I would say 42 has given me a lot of opportunities to network with people, make a lot of connections, make a lot of friends, learn about different cultures, and be outgoing and more adventurous. It is very exciting to see how it helps you grow and change your perspective on life. You know a lot of things are possible if you are dedicated. I will always be thankful.