Gurjus Singh

CS61A Scholars

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Faculty Interview

On Wednesday, October 28th, 2015, I was blessed enough to interview a faculty member named Professor Sequin. I chose this professor because he had a flexible time schedule and also because of what he was doing his research in such as graphics and Human-Computer Interaction. I also chose this professor because the fact he was a CS professor. Before the interview took place, I thought that the professor would be very intimidating. I wasn't really prepared and wanted the conversation to just flow on by having a normal conversation.

When I first went into his office I was a bit nervous and thought going into the room on time would be better. I also thought he would be kind of suspicious about the questions that I asked. He wasn't like that at all and I thought he enjoyed talking to me. As I looked around the room when I first went in, I saw many weirdly shaped objects. He was sitting near the computer when I came into the room. I asked him many questions and he was friendly enough to talk about his life story.

From what he told me, Professor Sequin was born in Switzerland. When he grew up, he was interested in Science and Mathematics. He participated in this Mathematics Contest which lasted 2-3 weeks. During the interview, Professor Sequin showed me this book which kind of defined what he wanted to do. It was called Symmetry by Hermann Weyl. Professor Sequin also was interested in Physics and wanted to be the next Einstein. He was interested in the Cosmos, integrals, and Particle Interaction. Later he found out that he wasn't really that smart enough to do these fields, so he became an Applied Physicist and studied Electronics, which he went on to

earn a P.H.D. in. He later went on to work at Bell Laboratories where he helped invent Charged Couple devices. In 1973, he helped to invent a chip which was 50 times larger than today's chips. He also invented the Compact Res T.V. Camera, which helped him to win the Nobel Prize for CCD Principle. This also earned him to come to Berkeley for 1 year. After 1 year he told Bell Laboratories that he was planning on moving to Berkeley permanently. After he moved to Berkeley he helped develop the RISC Chip. He also helped to develop the micro-processor at Berkeley. During the interview he mentioned term called "soar" which is small talk on a RISC Chip. Later when Berkeley was planning on building Soda Hall, he helped to develop an Interactive building walk-through on the computer. In the mid 80's he focused his involvement on the machine which is involved in Mechanical Engineering. He used his machines to make models which were geometrical. Later in the 1990s, after he got involved in making models that were geometrical, the first prototyping machines came out. These machines allowed people to design the models that they wanted on a computer and then print them out. He printed out 300 models on the prototyping machines.

During the interview Professor Sequin stated the process that people used to create these models. He said it involved, "Capturing shapes inside the program, and then it involved changing the parameters of the program to make dozens of more models." Professor Sequin was involved in many Math and Art conferences. One quote that he said during the interview was, "Everywhere there is structure; there is Mathematics." Some conferences he mentioned were BRIDGES and Joint Mathematics Conference.

At the end of the interview, Professor Sequin mentioned that today's Cad tools aren't that great. He said that "when you use the present day Cad tools, you have to type in a lot of Coordinates and he suggested for future Cad Tools to have better user interface". He also

mentioned that in 2004, he helped with the snow sculpture in Colorado. One surprising thing he did was he gave me some advice after the interview by saying, "This is the time to find what you're good at". He told me that had spoken at CS scholars before, so he knew a little about it when I mentioned I was in the program. Overall the experience was exciting and I learned some Cad terms which I had no idea about, which will open my mind further to career opportunities that I didn't know existed. The advice that I would give to anyone shy about going to office hours are that there is no reason to be shy. You build a long-term skill that will benefit you by interacting with a faculty member. You get to interact with people in office hour, and by going to office hours you more prepared to socialize in the real-world without having that nervous feeling. I think this conversation will have some good repercussions because that person will remember me down the road, if I do decide to take his class, because of how I interviewed him out of all of the other faculty. It might benefit because he might consider me for research opportunities, since he will remember my face from the interview.