

Mentor Me Assignment

Mary Briskin

Questions

Patrick Hoffmann

1. How might I get into User Experience Design?
 - a. What skills should I focus on?
 - b. Where (geographically) are the best jobs in the field?
 - c. What kind of lifestyle can be maintained in the field?
2. Do you think my degree's diversity will be an asset?
 - a. Is there anyone you know in the field with degrees outside of computer science/software engineering?
 - b. What kind of degrees do they have?

Aldo Ruiz

1. Why skills are you looking for in a co-op student?
2. How do you think that the field of computer science will change in the next 5 to 10 years?

David Tubbs

1. How did you learn about SEO?
2. Where might I find some good resources to learn?

Email

Patrick Hoffmann,

It was a pleasure meeting you at yesterday's networking event. I hope you enjoyed it as much as I did. You've given me a lot to think about with regards to a career in User Experience Design and I look forward to learning more about the details of this field during my co-op job this summer. Thank you again for volunteering and taking the time to speak with me.

Best regards,
Mary Briskin

Reflection

I was somewhat uncomfortable before the conversations got rolling. I never feel completely at ease when I'm wearing business appropriate clothing – probably just associated memories from past interviews. Once the talking began, however, it was clear that I had had quite enough practice with talking about my career, my sellable skills, and myself to carry a fluent and natural conversation about the topic. I felt quite proud at my ability to coherently and readily answer questions regarding the aforementioned. I may have the elevator pitch assignment to thank for that, and all those failed interviews too.

My strongest connection was with Patrick Hoffmann, as his field was most intriguing to me. I didn't have time to ask him all of my questions, but the ones I did ask brought more utility than I had hoped. He spent quite a bit of time telling me about the importance of certain skills, the best way to acquire them, and their many applications. Looking at what I have written, I now wish I could go back and take clearer and more detailed notes. I have a tendency to think, "Oh, I'll remember that" and then, inevitably, forget. Regardless, I will be looking into courses for User Experience Design throughout the remainder of my University career. I have been interested in UXD but have never known it in such detail. Now that I do, I feel that this is a field where I could truly succeed and flourish - through a combination of effort and innate skill, of course.

I learned what kind of questions brought out the best answers, I learned how to guide the answerers with clear and specific follow up questions, and I learned how to manage my time in order to hit all the stations that I wanted to. I thoroughly enjoyed my experience and look forward to my next chance to attend a similar networking event.

