Ty Marking 949-274-0522

Mr. Gula

July 19, 2017, Greenleaf

Noon – 2:00 pm

Interview Mtg. #1

Interview Meeting Report

Preface: My mentor, Jim Gula, and I meshed very well together. Most of the two hours we spent talking about everything from how people in a small town in Europe commute to the downsides of Window’s versatility in environments such as hospitals. I enjoyed hearing what Mr. Gula had to say and his insights so greatly that I only briefly directed the conversation back to the set interview questions. While many were answered naturally in the course of the conversation, some were never touched on. I hope you can understand that I valued the surprisingly accurate insight and wisdom my mentor had over the answers to some of these questions. Thank you for matching me with such a great mentor.

**Part I: Introduction and Qualifications**  
**Mentor’s name** Jim Gula, Consultant, Software Engineer  
**Job description** Mr. Gula is mostly retired, the only work for money he does is some intermittent work on the accounting system at the hospital his wife worked at. His main project is a simple accounting program for isolated electrical grids in developing countries that could allow the poor in places without electricity to have a grid set up and buy power when they need it. His goal is to make it simple enough to run on almost anything and intuitive enough for anyone to use and manage it.  
**Educational Background** Jim Gula went to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and received a master’s in electrical engineering and computer science. He now wishes he had continued to a P.H.D.

**Career History -** **Tell me about your career path, how did you get to where you are today?** Jim Gula has worked at many places from Intel to Western Digital often as a manger in product marketing or as a manager for engineering. He has been involved in many of the developments and advancements in computer hardware. **Part II: Describe your job**: This section isn’t very applicable to Jim as he is retired and working primarily on projects of his own without pay.**What is a typical day or week like?** Jim is retired so he doesn’t have a set schedule, he can work when he wants to.**What is the salary range for this type of job, entry level to the top?** NA (retired)**How much vacation time do you get? How much do you take?** 6 months of vacation bi-annually.  
**Who else do you work with?** He sometimes works with the hospital his wife works at   
 **Part III: Personal Feelings and Goals**  
**What are your feelings about this career?** Jim seemed to enjoy his career, he tried teaching but did not enjoy deciding a student’s education fate by failing them or letting them pass when they shouldn’t.

**Do you wish you had chosen anything else? If so, what?** His only apparent regret was not getting a P.H.D. but other than the Jim seemed quite happy with his career. **Where do you hope to be in 10 years?** While I didn’t ask this question because I didn’t want to bring up his age, I think Jim would be quite happy to still be working on his own projects in 10 years.  
  
**Part IV: Advice**  
**What kind of personality is best suited for this career?** Jim said that it is rather necessary for someone perusing his career to be ready to put their nose to the grindstone, especially in college. He said you really have to love it and be able to deal with being stuck for long periods of time and having to grind though a project. **If you were hiring, what would you look for in an employee?** Living and working through the development of the hardware and software of computers from the very early days to now, Jim said that anyone in the computer science field cannot be specialized as their language or process will rather quickly become obsolete. He said that he likes employees who were adaptable and had a wide range of computer science skills and languages mastered.  **What are the three most important things I can do as a high school student to prepare for a career like yours?** Focus on diversity rather than looking for mastering a single language or type of application.

**Is there a burn out factor in this career? If so how do you handle that?** There is definitely a burnout in this career especially in college, Jim said he put his nose to the grindstone Freshman year in college and grinded through the burnout. **Did you ever have a mentor? How did it help you?** Jim said he had some great teachers but no real mentor.

**Part V: Other items of interest  
Did you enjoy high school? What was your favorite subject?** Jim said he enjoyed high school and enjoyed math and logic courses.**What person has had the biggest influence on your life? What lessons did that person teach you?** Jim said no one in specific had a larger than expected influence on his life although he said the combined encouraging attitude of his teachers helped him peruse his interests. **What formative experience occurred in your life before the age of seventeen that had an influence on your life going forward?** Jim said there was no specific formative incident. **Why have you volunteered to mentor a student?** Jim said he has volunteered to be a mentor to students because he enjoys software engineering and likes to pass on his experience to the next generation

**Part VI: For Fun  
Do you have any hobbies? What do you like to do in your free time?** His work is his hobby, he also enjoys city planning and urban development. **When you were my age, what did you think you’re going to be when you grew up?** Jim knew he was going into some tech field but did not know what in specific.

**What’s your favorite book? Movie?** His favorite book is Hornblower by C.S Forester  
**Part VII: Contact Information and Scheduling  
What is the best way for me to contact you to set our meetings and** **how much notice would you like to have?** Email for scheduling and texts for confirmations or changes works best **Do you travel with your job?** No (retired)