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English 234

Campus Assignment II

I am a general curriculum major and I am planning on going into business next year. I am just a freshmen, therefore all my classes are around the main quad which is considered to be a south part of campus. Green Street is known as the bridge between South and North side of the campus. I live on the south side of the campus which is FAR-it's the farthest residence hall. FAR is located as far south as possible away from the main quad. It wouldn't be surprising if I said I've never been to the north side of the campus simply because I never needed to be there. All my classes are on the south side of the campus. The farthest I've been to north side of the campus is Transportation Building, where I have exams from my online class, but that is not the farthest building on north campus.

Thankfully to this assignment I got a chance to visit a part of a campus I've never stepped my foot on. I chose to attend a Computer Science lecture. The topic was about the natural ways of debugging complex programs, something I have neither idea about nor interest in. This lecture was at Siebel Center for Computer Science in 1404 at 4pm to 5pm on Monday, April 10th, 2007. The speaker was Brad A. Myers and he works at the Institute of Computer Science and Human Activity. There he has a group of people that work on various projects that involve studying human behavior while they are interacting with computers. I found it to be extremely interesting. He was giving a talk about one of their most successful projects that he had developed. It's called Natural Programming Human Activity. In this project the main goal was to better understand how programmers work and think in order to reduce their debugging time. More than half the time every professional programmer spends on debugging the program they wrote. This means

they have endless pages of code and the most tedious task is to try to find where you could have made the mistake. By developing new tools for different programming languages this group of computer science professionals achieved big success because the tools they made actually worked for most programs and provided solution to the error in a code in no time.

The main goal for the new way of debugging is to make programmers more productive by decreasing their debugging time. The major problem is that they waste a lot of time on surfing through the code to find their error. By developing Jasper Tool they have pull down menus that answer why something didn't happen or why it happened when it wasn't supposed to happen. This has greatly decreased the debugging time, because once the tool points out the line of code where mistake is, most of programmers are already able to identify where the error could have occurred.

I really liked the lecture because even though I was very tired I sat in the second row and I carefully listened to the speaker because for me any research which involves people and new technologies developed is extremely exciting. The speaker was interesting too. I thought that the lecture would be very boring since I wasn't interested in a topic at first but then I got very involved when the speaker engaged the audience. There were a lot of people and all of them were much older than I am. Some of them were married and probably were doing their Master's or PhD. Almost all of them had their lap tops with them and there were sockets to plug in your power cables under each chair. Chairs were very fancy and new. I noticed they had only one lecture room on the whole first floor and it was humongous. The room was overly spacious; you could fit a lot of students there. The tables were new. The whole structure has been renewed recently I guess. The whole building looked like it was just built in 21 century. Even the tables and chairs outside by the uphill loan were metal red and grey which is very trendy right now.

When I walked in I was amazed by the type of technology and modern design used inside and outside of the Siebel Center for Computer Science building. As I was walking down Mathews Avenue from Davenport Hall where my rhetoric class is and as I was crossing Green Street and getting into the north side of the campus it seemed much more quieter than the south part of the campus. On the north side there were barely any people walking outside and if there were, they looked like engineering and computer science geeks. The north side of the campus is very isolated from the outside world. It's all into the newest technology and it seems very lifeless and boring but when I entered Siebel Center I was stunned by the amount of technology in there. They had different projects and computer chips behind the glass; it looked like a mini exhibition. It was very interesting and then they had soft arm chairs and little sofas on the right side and then by the window they had little tables where people were sitting and studying. As I walked past little table area I noticed a little café on my left and then at the end of the hallway I finally saw the only and probably the biggest lecture room the Computer Science has.

Across from the café in the middle of the hallway there is a huge flat screen TV that is defaulted to show computer science department website. You can see different event and read the latest news about computer science. I thought that was extremely odd, because I haven't seen any big screen TV in any of the campus buildings before. I made a conclusion that the university allocates a lot more money to the computer science department than it does for English department because even teacher offices look new and very nice, organized. I thought that I entered some sky scraper in downtown, that's how renovated the building is. Even the chair of the math department doesn't have an office that looks like the office of teachers in the computer science building.

My trip was amazing, extraordinary and very educational. I enjoyed exploring new places.