Alberto Wu

CCSF Class of 2013

SFSU Class of 2015

7/1/16

I guess I want to ask you how you even knew about CCSF to begin attending.

Actually, my sister recommend for me to go to City College. At the beginning, I was looking for a cheaper general college to take some of my regular, general classes. So City College was kind of cheaper among many of those and I also know it is a pretty good school because my sister went there too – so that is why I chose City College.

What year did you arrive at CCSF and what did you think once you arrived? Did you have an idea of what you wanted to do?

At the beginning, not quite, because it was my first time in college, so I was deciding between doing business or studying medicine to be a chiropractor. But then I realized that I like the business classes more than the science classes, so I decided to study business. Yes.

What was your experience like at CCSF? How did you involved and engaged?

Actually, it was fantastic and I like it because I especially enjoyed and joined many organizations such as ABG (Alpha Beta Gamma) and AGS. I was more active in ABG because it was a business honors society, so I like it because I make new friends and I was able to meet professionals and do extra activities.

The best part I enjoy about being in ABG is that there would be some fundraising activities, for example, I tried to organize the car wash, seeing the costs involved, the customers we had to serve to make a profit and the volunteers – kind of making money was kind of fun for me.

Also, the classes I enjoyed and actually, your class, the general business inspired me the most to take more risks. I remember taking the honors project and so I actually went to Las Vegas and invested in some real estate for the first time. I did put $50,000 and buying real estate, but I got $1,000 back, but I had to pay for traveling and stuff, but the experience was good, so I really didn’t spend money on that.

Susan: that was your honors project, right? I didn’t ask you to spend $50,000 on your honors project, right? So, it was kind of fun. I didn’t lose any money and make a little and the experience as more valuable. And the other classes kind of helped me with my background, for example, accounting, so thanks to my accounting classes, I remember a lot about how to run my new business, so it is all very helpful.

What did you think about while at CCSF – your options for a four year school?

I had an idea to go to SFSU and I did some research comparing UCs to State Universities and did an analysis of the cost of a four-year college, and realized that going to a state university would be way cheaper and that I could use that money to invest in some business. So, instead of spending $40,000 a year, I spend only $20,000 and save those $20,000 for something better.

So, that was a good economic decision. I finished school without any loans. Yes.

How did your CCSF experience compare to the one at SFSU?

Actually, it’s about the same for me. Back at City College I was very active with student organizations and working with people – and then it helped me have the courage to do the same at SFSU – and I actually did the same as I did at CCSF because I more committed to a degree and networking because I know that networking is very important to find a better job after graduation. So, not only having a good GPA, but also networking.

So then after I go to SF State, I join Ascend (for accountants) right away. I was still putting the professional events sponsored by Big Four companies and it helped me network with different people, and eventually, my social skills have improved. It helped me network with people who were working at First Republic Bank. So, after graduation from SFSU (2015) CCSF (2013). IT was kind of hard for me find a job the first month because I am still an international student.

I came from Venezuela with my student visa – and it was kind of hard. Every decision I make has an impact on the future. At the end, I tried to study Ba WITH A concentration in IS because it is more related to IT, and it will give me a better opportunity to work in the U.S. with a stem program, which is why I chose that degree. So, after graduation I networked with people from First Republic, and I met the VP of marketing and other managers, and they gave me a good referral to the IT department, so that is where I actually get a job through connections. I really didn’t apply for a job, but the connection that I had helped me go to the job. At that time, I didn’t ask for a sponsorship, because I wanted to just prove my potential. So, at the end of November, we wanted to open a business here in this are (mission and 23rd). We visited many businesses, ask about the price, see how their sales are, look at their accounting books. So this one, this one over here the Fresh Meat Market that we acquired – it is actually doing pretty good. So, I would say that last year they made $2.5 million in sales and right now next month at the beginning of next month, we are going to go to $1 million itself and in December, we should be close to $2 million a year and I hope for at least $2.5 million in sales. We have been able to break even every day and pay all of the expenses and I still have money to we have been able to pay off some of the loans that we took. I bought it from the previous owner of the business – he owns the whole building. His name is Ken Siu. It is an Asian guy from China. He came from China a long time ago. He sold it because he wanted to retire, and we are paying $11,000 a month for rent. WE are able to pay for half profit.

What’s your role? I am pretty much the manager and I control inventory and I help with the IT part of the business – social media, marketing and sales. Actually, pretty much everything. I try to focus on stuff my parents cannot do – like talking to customers in English. They’re not really proficient in English so I deal with that part and also try to minimize expenses dealing with banks, point of sales, merchants and providers. There are 6-7 people working. They are all residents and citizens (including m parents) and I am the only non-citizen working here.

Did your education prepare you for that? Did you dream that you’d be doing something like this? Was it your goal?

Yes, opening a business was my goal -- even with studying in college.