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1. **Where did you grow up?**

I grew up in Bergenfield, NJ, a suburb of New York City. I went to college in Cambridge, MA, right outside Boston. After that I went to graduate school in Toronto, Canada.

2. **What do you do (i.e. what career or field are you in, what is the title of your position)?**

I am a Professor of Computer Science & Engineering and a Professor of Genome Sciences at the University of Washington.

3. **How did you choose your career? When did you first know this is the career you wanted?**

I think that I chose to be a professor within the first week of my first year of college, which was way back in 1970. I was immediately captivated by my first computer science course. But long before that, I knew that mathematics and teaching both appealed to me. I have an older brother who taught me whatever math he was learning, so I often learned from him years before I got the same material from my teachers.

4. **Did your family support your decision to pursue your career?**

Yes, my parents were very supportive of my decisions, and were particularly happy about my choice of an academic career. They were big believers in education.

5. **What is the highest level of education you have?**

I received a Ph.D. in Computer Science from the University of Toronto in 1978. But education doesn't stop when you leave school. The delight of working at a university is that I can continue my education every day, and it's free!

6. **What is the highest level of education reached by other members of your family?**

I have one older brother who also has a Ph.D. in Computer Science and is also a professor. I'm sure this isn't a coincidence; I have always admired him and followed in his footsteps. My father had a university degree, but my mother never had the opportunity to attend university and had to emigrate and go to work right after graduating from high school.

7. **What is the salary range for a person in your position?**

I don't know the full range, but a senior professor might expect to make about $150,000 a year.

8. **What do you like most about your job?**

The flexibility is one of the most appealing parts of my job. I can choose to do research on anything I like, provided that it is computer science. About 15 years ago I decided to completely change my area of research and start working on applying computer methods to problems in molecular biology. I knew nothing about biology at the time. It was like going back to school and learning a brand new subject. There was no problem finding experts at the university who could help me learn this new subject. And everyone in my own department was completely supportive about my change in direction. There is quite a bit of freedom in my teaching too. There are certain topics that I must cover in my classes, but how I teach them and what extra topics I teach are left to me to decide.

9. **What do you like least about your job?**

There are administrative tasks that are part of my job. For some of these, I don't feel as qualified or as excited as I do about my teaching and research.

10. **What's an abbreviated day in the life of your job?**

My days of the week are somewhat varied, but on a typical day I might teach my class, hold an "office hour" during which students in my class come to ask questions and get help with their work, meet with one of my graduate students to discuss research, attend a department faculty meeting, and then listen to a visitor from another university present a seminar. In between, there are always messages from students and colleagues to read and answer.

11. **In one to two sentences, how would you say you either use bioinformatics in your work? If you don't use bioinformatics directly in your work how has bioinformatics impacted your career field?**

My research and a part of my teaching are all about bioinformatics. In my research, I develop new methods in bioinformatics.

12. **Do you have any recommendations for students who are interested in entering your field?**

Get a good background in biology, math, and computer science. These all play an important role in bioinformatics.

13. **What are your favorite hobbies?**

I like spending time with my family, traveling, and playing games.