

Interview with Greg Burnop

for HUM 2504: Introduction to American Studies, Prof. Emily Satterwhite, Fall 2010

Occupation: Leasing Consultant, CMG Leasing, Blacksburg and Radford

Time and Place: October 13, 2010 at 12:30-1:15 pm, CMG leasing interview room in Blacksburg, VA

Interviewer: Sarah Woldekidan, senior Interdisciplinary Studies Major from New Carrollton, MD

SW= Sarah Woldekidan

GB= Greg Burnop

SW: Ok, alright can you umm tell me your name and your age please?

GB: Greg Burnop and I'm 27.

SW: And your job title and the name of the organization you work for?

GB: I'm a leasing consultant for CMG Leasing.

SW: Okay and umm, can you describe your family background and where you grew up?

GB: I grew up in uh Blacksburg and both my parents are self-employed.

SW: Alright and what kind of business do they run?

GB: They run a office supply and furniture business...

SW: in Blacksburg?

GB: in Blacksburg

SW: Where did you go to school?

GB: I went to elementary, middle and high school in Blacksburg and I also went to Virginia Tech.

SW: So you just stayed in Blacksburg your whole life? You must really love it! (*laughs*)

GB: Haha yea, it's a pretty nice town.

SW: What degree did you get from VT?

GB: I got a bachelors in property management.

SW: Okay, umm what about siblings?

GB: I have two younger sisters, one went to Virginia Tech and the other went to Roanoke College and played volleyball there.

SW: And they?

GB: They work in Roanoke, one works for a marketing company and the other works for the VA.

SW: What's the VA?

GB: Veterans affairs

SW: Oh ok, are you married or in a relationship?

GB: (*laughs*) No im single, never been married.

SW: So do you live by yourself?

GB: Umm no I have an apartment and some roommates.

SW: Oh okay, umm so tell me about your job? Uh, how did you come about having this job?

GB: I umm had heard, I umm, actually saw on the paper that they were hiring and so I umm called the human resources department and filled out an application

SW: Umm

GB: And turned in a resume

SW: Okay and what's the typical day at your job like?

GB: Uh its phone rings pretty good, umm, people come in a lot and it stays pretty busy.
(*whispers*) Do you want to like it check to make sure its...

SW: Yea the numbers are going

GB: Alright

SW: (*laughs*) okay umm and how many hours a week do you say you work?

GB: I work about 40 to 43 hours a week

SW: Okay and how long have you been working here or when did you start working here?

GB: I started working here in May of this year.

SW: Okay umm can you describe to me the best and worst things about your job?

GB: The best thing about this job is that you get to deal with a lot of different people, umm and, and deal with a lot of different situations and the worst about the job is that it gets really, really busy sometimes and really hectic.

SW: And umm what are those times where it gets kind of crazy, is it seasonal or?

GB: Yea its pretty much umm, the whole summer is extremely busy

SW: What are some difficulties about your job?

GB: Communicating with residents and my co-workers can be hard sometimes just cuz we don't always understand each other.

SW: Umm if you could change one thing about your job, what would it be?

GB: Uh, make more money!

(*Both laughing*)

SW: Okay, umm what's your dream job?

GB: My dream job is a job that I can work from home, majority of the time and I'm making enough money to be able to save money.

SW: So how does VT affect your job?

GB: I wouldn't have a job if it wasn't for Tech (*laughs*) Most of our students are residents.

SW: So uh what would you say is the difference between Radford living and Blacksburg life?

GB: Its pretty packed-in in Radford and it definitely has less students.

SW: Okay and umm how would you say that your work affects your family life?

GB: Umm I would say that it umm it affects it umm, it actually helps a little bit just with communication cuz I have a lot umm of stories and situations and stories that are interesting to talk about I guess but on the other hand I'm tired a lot so I guess that affects my family life too.

SW: So what are your expenses to come to work, meaning gas money and clothes??

GB: Well since everything is pretty close in Blacksburg I don't fill my tank up often and I go to Radford only a few times a week and we dress pretty casual here so I shop at places like TJ Maxx.

SW: Okay umm how do you relate with your co-workers?

GB: Pretty well, we all get along pretty well, umm cuz we all have to deal with the same, same stuff and the same stressful situations, it's kind of like a team environment. Its more of an in office relationship so we eat lunch together too.

SW: Well were you ever mistreated?

GB: Well when I first started I had a lot of work to do but that's about it.

SW: Okay, so umm can you tell me about some of the craziest, a craziest thing that happened on the job?

GB: Yea umm it was probably, it was a couple days ago and a father of someone living here came in here and he had gotten towed and he was threatening everybody and being very aggressive and it was an extremely uncomfortable situation for about 20 minutes

SW: Okay so what do you think is important about your job?

GB: We help people live because shelter is very important. Umm it feels good to know that we can help people with a necessity.

SW: What advice would you give someone that would like to work in leasing?

GB: Umm I would say that you need to have a good attitude and to not let the hectic part of it get you down.

SW: Is this a temporary job for you?

GB: Umm no, it's a full time job; I think this its like a transition period for me to move up.

SW: Would you like to move up to a higher position?

GB: Umm not really, I wouldn't want to manage other people.

SW: Umm so okay, would you say that the amount of work you put in is the amount, is worth the amount you get paid?

GB: Yea I would say so, I think it balances itself out cuz its really busy, umm during certain times but during the other times, its not really that busy so...I think they both compensate for each other and its not a one man show so its pretty level pay, every one contributes something.

SW: Okay so umm would you want your kids to have your job?

GB: Uh I think it's a good job I guess, I would want them to work wherever they want to work.

SW: That's a good way to look at it, so what about your health coverage here, do you pay a lot out of pocket?

GB: Umm we have Anthem Insurance so I don't pay that much out of pocket. I really just got my health package since im pretty new here but I went to the doctors once and paid about 60 bucks and about 20 to 30 dollars for meds.

SW: And has umm interacting with people always been something you wanted to do?

GB: Yea in some aspect, umm you know sometimes its, its I like talking on the phone better then I like interacting in person but other times its, its more interesting to interact in person instead of on the phone so...it really depends

SW: So did you look up to anyone growing up that made you want to work with people?

GB: My parents were good role models for me, they introduced me to real estate and how it is a good investment.

SW: And where do you see yourself in about five to ten years?

GB: Uh hopefully making more money and having some more responsibility, umm

SW: Staying with this company?

GB: Yea possibly staying with this company

SW: Have you ever wanted to start your own leasing company?

GB: I have, umm, its definitely something I've thought about doing especially now since I've, I'm experiencing working in the field, ya' know, its, its something that definitely crosses my mind

SW: And umm in our class, we've been talking a lot about the American dream

GB: Mmhmm

SW: What do you think, what are your thoughts about the American dream?

GB: Uh, I think the American dream is just being free and independent and being like a positive member of society and contributing to society in a positive way.

SW: Do you think your living the American dream?

GB: I think I am, I think I'm definitely headed in the right direction to live it even more

SW: So is there anything you think I might have missed? Anything about real estate?

GB: Umm I don't think so, I just talked to a few people about the real estate industry and I am really interested in getting into it. I don't think it's that difficult and I might not have to work that much. I really just think its always going to be around because people always need a home and it's a great investment.

SW: Thank you so much!

GB: Thank you!