

Carpe diem: the first week in Silicon Valley

After the first week spent on campus at NASA in Mountain View, Silicon Valley, I can just affirm what I hoped would become reality. During the opening ceremony, we had a pleasant surprise: Larry Page, Google's co-founder was on stage to tell us that, if he were a student, he wanted to be with us to the Singularity University ("SU"). Not bad to start the super-intensive 10-week program ...

After an initial period spent approaching all the subjects, we will be ready to work on the five theme projects chosen by the school (energy, food, space, upcycle, and water). By the way, I was forgetting that we also received a gift from SU during the first week, a DNA test that is produced from 23andMe, one of the first companies involved in providing genetic testing here in Silicon Valley.

This means that in a few weeks I will have the possibility to know my genetic profile and learn the percentages related to the probability that my body could develop a disease in the future. I thought I would wait another few years before undergoing such a test, but the opportunity to have it now is too appealing, and I will definitely accept the results once they will be ready.

Everything began with great expectations, including our pictures with the faculty, which portray us in front of a building of the main campus.

The video of the opening ceremony is breathtaking, seriously: check it out (<http://singularityu.org/gsp-10/2010/06/gsp10-oc-highlights/>)! Listening to the words of our instructors was so inspiring that we cannot do anything but follow their advice and not only try to change the world but do it for real. The director of the faculty is a NASA astronaut who took part to several space missions and he is the first to tell us that to get what you want, you must fight, fight and fight. He submitted more than ten applications before being taken by NASA...

Life here is exhilarating, we are 80, we have collected more than 190 degrees altogether, and we still have a great desire to learn and enrich our lives. We are in class from 9 am to 10 pm, and then we gather in the lounge to talk, discuss, think about our future, business opportunities, and chances to stay in touch to continue grow together. Every night we do not go to bed before 2 am, but we always do it with a smile, knowing that the next day we will learn something new and exciting ...

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