



KTA *COFFEE BREAK*

OLEG ZAITSAU, PE

ELECTRICAL ENGINEER

*"I'm a person who loves to help,
whether it is work or personal ..."*

INTERVIEW BY AMY TALTON

AS OLEG DESCRIBES HIS EARLY LOVE OF SPORTS AND HIS MANY YEARS IN TRACK AND FIELD, I BEGIN TO GET A GLIMPSE OF THE DEPTH OF HIS DRIVE AND DETERMINATION. HE CAUSALLY MENTIONS THE 30+ MILE RUNS REQUIRED AND HOW YOU HAD TO "KEEP PUSHING YOURSELF" AS IF ANY TASK IS SIMPLY A MIND OVER MATTER EXERCISE. IT IS SOMETHING THAT HAS BLED INTO OTHER ASPECTS OF HIS LIFE. FOR ALL HE HAS ACCOMPLISHED IN LIFE, INCLUDING IMMIGRATING TO THE US ON HIS OWN AS A YOUNG MAN, THERE IS NOTHING BOASTFUL IN HIS MANNER. HE IS THE OPPOSITE, QUICK TO DISCUSS HOW THANKFUL AND BLESSED HE FEELS. KTA IS CERTAINLY THANKFUL TO HAVE HIM ON THE TEAM.

Q: When did you decide you wanted to be an Engineer? Why?

Oleg: It wasn't a decision made in my early school years like some. When I was still in Eastern Europe, I was studying Physical Education because I was very involved in track and field. For 7- 8 years I did triple jump and long jump. When I immigrated to the United States, a friend of mine inspired my interest in engineering. She was a computer engineer, so we would talk about engineering and I was very inspired by it. Engineering was a fresh start for me in the United States. I went to school at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, VA for Power Engineering.

Q: What was your first engineering job?

Oleg: It was a solar company called Sun Edison. I was designing solar power systems.

Q: If you weren't an engineer, what would you be?

Oleg: I would definitely do something related to acting. I enjoy participating in plays.

Q: Greatest achievement so far?

Oleg: It took faith to immigrate to the US when I was 17 by myself on my own. It's a blessing to say that I've done it. I feel very fortunate.

Q: Name a person you look up to?

Oleg: I'm a Christian person, so I look up to Jesus. My dad is a huge inspiration as well. He's an amazing person and I feel like everything I have and what I am today is because of him and his dedication to his family. He has been a great example to me.

Q: What is your favorite hobby/ or passion in life?

Oleg: I love to sing and act. Acting is a very big passion of mine.

Q: Favorite project you've ever worked on? Why?

Oleg: One of my favorite projects was doing an Arc Flash study in Chicago. Not because of the technical aspect so much as getting to travel and see the amazing city of Chicago. If I had to name a technical project, it would be a solar project in California where they had solar panels lining a hill to power the water treatment plant. Renewable solar energy installed in a beautiful place like that was a sight to see.

Q: What part of your job do you enjoy the most?

Oleg: The part I enjoy the most is working with other team members. Not just looking at the computer all day, but the human aspect is my favorite. I enjoy the moments that you need to collaborate with an architect and figure things out.

Q: Best thing you've ever eaten?

Oleg: My wife's Honey Cake is the best thing. It's a traditional Eastern European dessert.

Q: Favorite place you've travelled?

Oleg: The Grand Canyon is my favorite out of all the places. I went with my wife before we had children, but I would like to go back and take my children. It's so beautiful.

Q: If you could choose a superpower, what would it be?

Oleg: Speed, like the flash guy. I would be able to do things quickly and have more time to spend with my family.

Q: If I gave you a million dollars what would you do first?

Oleg: I would definitely pay for my kids' school and get that out of the way.

Q: What do you see as the key to work-life balance?

Oleg: You must know when you have to say "no". I'm a person who loves to help, whether it is work or personal, and sometimes it's hard to say no to things. It helps my balance to prioritize things.

Q: Goals for the future?

Oleg: I would like to continue to develop my technical skills, and design a project significant to the world. Whether it's a healthcare center, or another facility that makes a positive impact. A world-changing project, whatever that is.