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Welcome

A Student's Perspective on Learning Programming

Duke UNIVERSITY

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0:03
I'm here with Aleis Murphy, who finished her Undergraduate Degree at Duke last Spring, did an internship at IBM this past summer, and is going to be a Master's student at Duke this fall. So Aleis, you've been programming since high school. Why don't you tell us a bit about how you got into programming? >> Sure. I actually took my first class, AP Computer Science AB, the last year it was available,

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in my sophomore year of high school. My mom was actually a computer science major in college and my dad was a stats major. They own a website company. So they told all of my sisters and I at least give computer science a try. It's definitely worth knowing even just the basics of Java and if you like it, you can pursue it. If you don't, you don't have to, but it's good to know. And after my first class, I was hooked and it's been history ever since. >> So what got you hooked on computer science in your first class?

1:06
>> I think when the first time that I was looking at it, it just seemed like everything I was exposed to was just so over my head almost. It was just like, I remember thinking to myself, anyone who understand this, anyone who can explain this like it's easy is a genius. And then I had my first moment of just getting it and I knew that I was one of those people. So every time I have one of those aha moments, then I remember how exciting it is to get a program running right. >> So to wrap up, we have lots of people out here from a variety of different backgrounds. Do you have any word of advice or wisdom for them as they delve into the field of computing? >> Yeah, I guess, the biggest point I would have is just that a lot of people think of computer science as something that only a computer scientist needs to know, or someone who's going to have a hard coding job. But honestly, computer science is in every field and can benefit really anyone that takes it and knows about it, which is probably the coolest thing about it. It really is in every field and advancing every subject. So anyone can benefit from learning computer science. >> Okay, great. Thanks.