Over the course of the Computer Science program, I’ve learned a lot more than just syntax and frameworks. This experience has helped shape the way I approach problem-solving, communicate with others, and think critically about software, data, and systems. The capstone project really tied everything together and gave me the chance to see how far I’ve come since starting this journey.

Working on the Event Daddy app as my main artifact let me pull from almost every corner of the program. I enhanced it across three categories: software design and engineering, algorithms and data structures, and databases. Each enhancement challenged me to dig deeper, refactor and rethink, and apply best practices to something that once started as a simple school project. That alone gave me a ton of confidence in my abilities.

Collaboration is something that’s always been part of my job, but the CS program gave me structured ways to think about team environments, how to write clean code others can read, how to use version control effectively, and how to communicate in code reviews or documentation. Even when working solo, those skills made me a more thoughtful developer.

Communicating with stakeholders has also become second nature. Through assignments that required documentation, proposals, and code review videos, I’ve gotten better at translating technical decisions into plain language. That’s a skill I’ve already used on the job, and it’s something I’ll carry forward in any role.

In terms of technical depth, the program helped solidify core concepts in data structures and algorithms—which, before, I only understood at a surface level. I now see how efficiency and structure play into real software decisions, and that’s something I brought into the capstone by refactoring how events are sorted, stored, and retrieved. Similarly, the database work taught me more than just how to write SQL, it taught me how to think about data integrity, relationships, user scope, and app lifecycle.

Security wasn’t just a one-and-done course either. Throughout the program, I picked up a security mindset, learning to think about data exposure, user authentication, and risks even in a relatively small mobile app. Using SharedPreferences to track login state and limiting access to user-specific data are simple examples, but they reflect a growing awareness that will serve me well in bigger systems.

The capstone gave me a chance to reflect on and showcase all of this growth. The Event Daddy app isn’t just a portfolio piece, it’s a visual representation of the skills I’ve built and refined throughout this degree. By taking something I built early on and improving it with real-world tools and practices, I’m able to demonstrate not just what I can do now, but how far I’ve come.