**Memorandum**

To: Dr. Lam

From: Kaitlyn Stockton

Date: December 9, 2015

Subject: Reflection on Project 4

This assignment was both enjoyable and frustrating. I liked getting to code and see what I could do. I had looked at many websites and had many ideas of what designs I could use with the information I had. However, I had to meet the needs of my client. My client is my former adviser, and I appreciate all he has done for me, but he did not like any of my ideas or any of the designs I wanted to try. For the home page, I had found images and even figured out how to make them in circular shapes, but he just wanted his name instead. I wanted to use Javscript and make some other awesome designs, but he wanted it to remain simple. I had created card sorts and site maps as well, but he asked me to change a few items. These examples are how most of the process went.

The previous website was not professional at all. The website – if anyone even looked at – was embarrassing for a college professor. It looked like someone made it within 5 minutes. I wanted to make Dr. Carney a new website, one that neither his students nor colleagues would judge him for.

I started by talking to my client and seeing what he wanted for his website. In my proposal, I listed the different items he wanted me to include. I then created audience profiles based on the individuals who would be accessing the website. I mainly focused on what different students would expect when they looked at their professor’s website. I also wrote an audience profile on what professors would expect – the latter is shorter than the former since I know what I expect as a student. The audience analysis did help. After completing these, I ended up agreeing with Dr. Carney on the Javascript option – he teaches many non-traditional students and many of them are not used fancy effects on websites. I then had seven individuals complete a card sort using the online program my team previously used. I received many great ideas from the card sort and figured out where some items would go. However, I then made my site map, and my client suggested I make or move categories around.

After the site map was completed, I began coding and designing. Throughout this process, I communicated with my client to hear his opinion. I changed many items in response to his decisions. I gained much more knowledge about HTML and CSS through this project. At first, I was used the “position:fixed” option in CSS, but then I realized that the website looked completely different on other screens than my own. I learned to use the “position:absolute” and percentages options instead. I believe this part worked out fine. I also enjoyed use “class” in HTML. I was able to code different items in CSS so much faster and easier.

I am not sure how I feel about the outcome. I had many more ideas in mind when I started working on the website. Some of the code looks like a mess as well since I had to make so many changes throughout the process. I like the website, but I feel like I could have done a lot more. I also keep looking at the website on different computers; it is frustrating to see the small little details that change from one screen to another. Even if it was aggravating at times, this project was a learning experience for sure.