Is Data Analytics What I Thought it Would Be?

I registered for George Washington University’s Data Analytics Boot Camp thinking I would learn how to be a better researcher and learn to better analyze the research. I knew using a computer and specific software would be a part of the program, but I did not realize how much I would learn about visualization software and how to use the software to visualize information.

As I began my journey, my daughter was registered for Computer Programing for Engineers through UMD. Little did I know my course and her course would intertwine. We spent many evenings studying side by side, helping one another understand the logic within each software program, and helping one anther stay positive during the hard times. I greatly appreciate this unexpected bonding time.

My curious mind is learning how to use computer software I never thought I could and create visualizations I used to be in amazement of. Websites and apps, I would wonder how they were created, now I can create my own. I look back in disbelief of how much I have been introduced to and learned.

I am about six weeks from finishing this challenging course and I am thinking of the strangers I have come to know and collaborate with. I wonder if my classmates and I have become so close because we are learning in a unusual environment. COVID lock down has prevented classes from being held in person, forcing us to engage in an online environment which made me think it would be harder for all us to develop a student bond. The lock down has prevented or limited many of us from spending time with our family and inner circle of friends. I think the lock down created a longing to reach out and develop bonds with the strangers around us, unexpectedly giving us the perfect environment to develop a student bond. I have found that I look forward to class not just for learning something new, but to laugh and catch up with my student colleagues. I see some of the students developing a path to long lasting friendship. I am finding the homestretch bitter sweet.