

Professor Benton,

This class has been dramatically different than any other class I have taken at JMU. I'll be honest when I saw that we were required to take a computer programming class I was less than thrilled about the whole idea. I love computers but learning how to program them didn't exactly sound like my cup of tea. I was pleasantly surprised when I realized that you don't have to be a huge computer nerd to actually do some programming and once you got the hang of it, it wasn't actually that difficult and could actually be pretty fun.

I may not know Visual Basic inside out and backwards, but I definitely have learned more than I thought I would. I came in this semester and knew absolutely nothing about computers work and I now have a much greater understanding. This class also made me realize how much work goes into our everyday computer programs, and had I not taken this class I would have never known. I certainly took for granted even simple things that my computer is capable of and had no idea of all the coding that goes behind them. I never in a million years thought I would be capable of creating such programs that I have over the past few months, even if they were simple. I am astonished at the progress this semester made not only by my team, but by all of my classmates. I know that for the most part many of us knew very little about programming and our end of the semester projects have been incredible. We all have you to thank for that!

As for grades I couldn't agree with you more that we are here at JMU because we want to be and we shouldn't be striving for just a letter grade but striving to leave here with more knowledge than we came in with. The day that you asked us, "What we do when we get a paper back?" and we all replied "Look at the grade and stuff it in a binder." It's a sad fact that we do all do this and for the most part don't try to learn what it was that we had missed. This testing in this class was a learning process and I feel that I got much more out of them than I have in other classes. Grades are important because we do need to get jobs after graduation, but in the scheme of life the GPA you receive will probably never be looked at again after your first job. This class has not only taught me how to program but I feel that it has also taught me some very important life lessons.

I know I have missed several class periods but I have completed all of the assignments and turned them in on time. I believe that I deserve an A because I do have a much greater knowledge for programming than I did this past January. If the purpose of this class was to come out with more knowledge of computers and Visual Basic than we came in with then I know I have accomplished this. I have a much better appreciation for programming and feel that I have learned a lot from this class and from you as a professor. Thanks so much for a semester that I will for sure not forget.

Sincerely,

Bridget Draper