



November 5, 2001

Shawna,

Let me re-introduce myself to you. My name is Helen Bingham and I was the "mature student" in your College Algebra 105 class the summer of 1999. I was the student who wrote you the poem...Need to take College Algebra 105? Shawna's the teacher to help your survive! Presently I am a college student at Westminster and I am majoring in Elementary Education. This week in one of my education classes, my assignment is to think back to a teacher who impressed me and was a role model in the teaching profession and then take a moment to write them an appreciation note.

I remember many wonderful qualities that you had as a college teacher. First on the list was that you were always kind and sincere in your mannerisms, be it explaining concepts, greeting us with a smile or simply asking after explaining a new concept, "Do you understand or have any questions?" You were super patient with all the members of our small class and would always answer what we deemed difficult, complicated, complex and very hard questions each and every time. You had a special gift for explaining, somehow you just helped each new chapter make sense. You took the extra time going over and over the mechanics of that amazing graphing calculator until we said we got it!

You were so fair on our tests, giving us credit for partial work. Helping us study for those test with awesome reviews. You knew how to motivate us and praise us. It seemed to me back then, that you truly enjoyed what you were doing. At that time you were taking classes at the University of Utah to obtain your Master's Degree. (Great example to all of us in the class.) You certainly went the extra mile calling me with my final grade on the scary nerve-racking final. It was truly appreciated!

I am grateful to have been in one of your classes. I not only learned Algebra concepts, but I learned wonderful teaching skills; the importance of being fair, showing patience and most of all to radiate a love of what you do. Teaching is a noble profession, it does touch the lives of people. I heard someone say that to be a teacher is truly a calling of not just the mind, but the heart as well. Thank you for being that type of teacher!

Sincerely,

*Helen Bingham*