An Introduction to Your Professor

Dr. Ryan Kasha, Ph.D.
Professor of Mathematics
Rough Beginnings

• Eye Disability (Right Eye)
• Poor hand/eye coordination
• Did not talk until age 5
• IQ pegged at 43
• Classified as mentally retarded with several learning disabilities in language development, reading, reading comprehension, and speech
• Went to Headstart Preschool
I was 5 years old and graduated from Headstart Preschool Program.
Future Prediction

• Professionals stated that I had a bleak future.
• Would be lucky to get a G.E.D. and would have a career flipping burgers.
Future Career Choices

Think Outside The Bun

Taco Bell
Actual First Part-Time Jobs

Dairy Queen

Taco Bell
Schooling

• Went to special elementary school until 3rd grade
• Was not mainstreamed until 3rd grade
• Repeated Kindergarten twice and did similar work for following years until I was mainstreamed.
• Was behind my peers in 3rd grade
• Was pulled out for extra help with learning disabilities.
Schooling Accomplishments

- Made mostly A and B’s in 4th and 5th grade with first 100% on math exam.
- Worked very hard in middle school; took 3 times longer to complete work.
- Was made fun of and had social challenges in middle school.
- Made straight A’s in 8th grade.
- Great feeling of accomplishment.
- Earned 2nd place in county algebra contest.
High School Years

• Major turn-around during high school years
• Continued with “A” fever pattern
• Participated in extracurricular clubs and activities including honor societies
• Examples include after school tutoring, Kids In Distress, Latin club, Spanish Honor Society, National Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta (Math Honor Society), Civil Air Patrol
High School Years Continued

• Graduated from International Studies Magnet Program High School in 3 years
• Wanted to graduate with best GPA I can earn for myself
• Was hoping to graduate in top 10% of my class
• Learned that I would be salutatorian while another student would probably be valedictorian -- our GPAs were very close!
Became Valedictorian
College Years - - FAU

- Earned Full Scholarship to FAU (Florida Atlantic University) in Boca Raton, FL
- Earned Bachelor’s of Science degree in Mathematics (magna cum laude).
- Minor in Statistics (Certificate)
- Master’s of Science in Teaching Mathematics
- Master’s of Education in Educational Psychology
- Education Specialist degree in Curriculum and Instruction with a specialty in mathematics.
College Years Continued

• Gained a variety of teaching experiences
• Taught elementary, middle, and high school
• Was a mentor and volunteered at outreach community center
• Was inducted in Phi Eta Sigma, Phi Kappa Phi, and Golden Key Honor Society
This article was published when I graduated college with my Bachelor’s degree.
More College Years - - UCF

- Further education at University of Central Florida (Orlando, FL)
- Master of Science degree in Modeling & Simulation from Institute of Simulation & Training (IST - UCF)
- Certificate in Instructional Design for Modeling & Simulation (IST - UCF)
- Master of Science degree in Industrial Engineering
- Doctorate of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Modeling and Simulation; Dissertation topic focused on the comparison of 2 instructional approaches in College Algebra with artificial intelligence
Teaching Career Background

- Taught secondary mathematics (high school) for 2 years in South Florida
- Taught at Broward Community College for several years
- Been teaching at Valencia full-time since 2004!
Volunteer Work
Secret: How Professor Kasha really learns math!!!
Sporting Experiences
Favorite Foods

Godiva chocolate truffles! 😊

And

M & M’s!
Favorite Food Continued…
Favorite Video Games
Professor’s Philosophies

• If you think you can, you can! If you think you can’t, you can’t. Either way, you are right!

• The journey of 1,000 miles begin with a single step. Have big goals, but work at your goals step-by-step.

• Patience, time, and perseverance will accomplish all worthwhile goals.

• If you love your work, you will never work one day in your life!
Some Personal Slogans to live by…

• People who judge you don’t matter, people who matter won’t judge you.

• If you put up 23 pieces of paper on a wall, 100 pieces of paper of wall, etc., something is bound to stick to the wall.

• When you get frustrated, it is okay to take breaks; just don’t ever give up!
UCF graduation ceremony: CFE Arena
December 18, 2015 - - Ph.D. hooding

THE END