Milestone: Anything is Possible!

Dr. Ryan Kasha, Ph.D.
Professor of Mathematics
Valencia College, West Campus
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

THINK"
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 of Science** degree in Mathematics (**magna cum laude**).
• Minor in Statistics (Certificate)
• **Master of Science** in Teaching Mathematics
• **Master 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 on **December 18, 2015**!
My Dissertation Defense:

An Exploratory Comparison of a Traditional and Adaptive Instructional Approach For College Algebra

by:
Ryan H. Kasha
Department of Modeling & Simulation
College of Graduate Studies
University of Central Florida
Teaching Career Background

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

Football
Basketball
Baseball
Swimming
Pool
Favorite Video Games
Favorite Foods:

Godiva chocolate truffles! 😊

And

M & M’s!
Favorite Food Continued...
Philosophies for Success:

• 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!
Teaching Philosophy & Belief:

**EQUALITY VERSUS EQUITY**

In the first image, it is assumed that everyone will benefit from the same supports. They are being treated equally.

In the second image, individuals are given different supports to make it possible for them to have equal access to the game. They are being treated equitably.

In the third image, all three can see the game without any supports or accommodations because the cause of the inequity was addressed. The systemic barrier has been removed.
Me and My Wife:
Me and My Dogs:
THE END

[Image of a chalkboard with a staircase leading to the word "SUCCESS", showing the steps:
I CAN'T DO IT
I WANT TO DO IT
HOW DO I DO IT?
I'LL TRY TO DO IT
I CAN DO IT
I WILL DO IT]