

## My Teaching Years

Although I had been a graduate teaching assistant for many years before, my actual teaching career began at Glassboro State College (now Rowan University) in 1972. when I took a position to replace a professor who had become ill. I began by teaching courses in mathematics such as advanced algebra and calculus. My wife Joanne began teaching at the college as well. Soon, I began to teach various computer courses, something I had never done before.

I soon realized that the way one teaches is just as important as what one teaches. To a great degree the education of a student is a partnership between the professor and the student. Realizing that after a student graduates and seeks a job in the real world, that they must essentially sell themselves to an interested listener, I began many classes requiring the students to write a resume about themselves. If they had not decided the type of career they wished to pursue, I asked them to pick a likely choice and use that as the basis for their resume. This became a regular homework assignment which I collected and analyzed with them . My goal was to foster a relationship of mutual respect between me and my students.

As time went on, I began to teach only computer science courses. Many of these courses could be taught in a project-oriented manner. By that I mean, toward the end of the class, a major project was assigned, teams were chosen and each team picked a leader. The team would then meet and divide the project, one part for each student. Students would work on their parts, and the team would get together and assemble the parts into a complete solution . This would then be tested and debugged. Finally, each team would fully document their project.

Since each faculty member was expected to advise a certain number of students to guide them through their education on, I came to know many of my students personally. To this day, I maintain contact with them and follow their careers. To name a few: Rosanne, Jon, Rudy, Paul, Ted, Debbie, Sue, John and Dayton. There are many others. Some became teachers, some joined major companies in various capacities, and a few started their own businesses. Their success is my success, and to this day, it is very rewarding to see the results of my teaching!

After teaching several years, it became apparent that, in addition to a major in mathematics, a computer major was also needed. As a consequence, several faculty members got together at our of house and began to develop a master plan for a major in computer science. Over the next few weeks this proposal was refined considerably. It was then submitted to the state for approval. After approval, the major was established and the department name was changed to Department of Mathematics and Computer Science. Eventually, the two departments separated. Today, the major in computer science is a dynamic program with a large student enrollment.

As I think back over the years of teaching, many faculty members come to mind. In math and computer science: John Sooy, Fran Masat, Don Stone, Seth Bergmann, Tom Osler and Jack Cimprich. In the Music School, my good friend Bert Greenspan is someone I speak with regularly today. Marvin Creamer in the Geography Department sailed around the world without the use of navigation instruments was a good friend and is the subject of another memoir. Joanne and I frequently played Bridge with Rose Glassberg, the head of the local branch of the American Federation of Teachers, and Muriel Onni from the Romance Languages Department,

In 1982, as I was about to leave my teaching position, the idea occurred to me that it would be very interesting to bury a time capsule to be opened in fifty years. The math computer science club

undertook this project. A 6 ft long piece of PVC sewer pipe of diameter 12 inches was purchased, painted, Filled with nitrogen gas and a drying agent, capped at both ends and buried six feet down. It is to be opened in the year 2032. I plan to be there!

This is about all I can think to say at this point, so I will close this memoir!