

## May 2004 Graduates' Meaningful Experiences With Faculty

Comments	College	Theme				
		Quality Learning Experience	Took Time To Care	Knowledge of Subject	Cares About Lives of Students	Concerned About Students' Careers
Quite frankly I have trouble with questions which as me not to name influential faculty members. Dr XXX, Dr XXX, Dr XXX, Dr XXX and Dr XXX, are all first class human beings who give selflessly to their students. Each of these faculty members took the time genuinely get to know me and conveyed the message that while it is important to take your work seriously it is more important not to take yourself too seriously. They are first class professors and people and it is a shame that not every JMU student has a chance to get to know them.	A&L	X	X	X		
One particular professor went out of his way to help me academically. He was always available to answer my questions, help me with papers or just to clarify the information in question. He really encouraged me to do the work out of love for scholarship and not just to earn a grade.	A&L	X	X			
He made me think about concepts in ways that I never had and also showed me how to be more positive. She gave us enough independence that we felt that we were in charge, which gave us confidence for the work we hope to do someday.	A&L	X				
Cared about enriching our lives, more than just giving us material. Wanted to make sure what we were learning was relevant to our lives. Opening my eyes to a completely way of thinking about the world. Challenged me to stretch myself to the limits and became a better writer	A&L	X				
Yes, one professor in particular impacted me in a number of ways. He showed me through his teaching what i wanted to major in and instilled excitement with me and the rest of his students about the material and the major. He guided me through three years of college and we are still in touch today. He is honestly a good man who opened my eyes to a career which I am thoroughly enjoying.	A&L	X				X
You could tell that he honestly loved the subject that he was teaching. He related well to the students without losing our respect. It is so rare to find a teacher that cares and who won't let you slide. So many of my teachers let me scrape by all the while shaking their heads and wondering why I wasn't living up to my potential. The teachers that had an impact on me didn't let me do that. They challenged me to live up to high standards and when I started to slide they pulled me back up. That's what I will remember about them.	A&L	X				
The faculty members that have had an impact in my life all knew who to relate to the students and how to relate their course content to real life.	A&L	X			X	

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Certain members of the history department taught me valuable lessons on hard work and dedication. They also taught me new ways to see the world, ways to evaluate it, see it from other perspectives, and then put all those things together to form my unique view. This was extremely valuable to me because along with evaluating the world i was able to see how i fit into the world and what i could do to improve it.	A&L	X				
The entire English department and certain members of the French department made my education at JMU valuable by nurturing a sense of truly learning rather than simply finishing assignments.	A&L	X				
XXXX - he was hilarious, realistic, generous, understanding, and made geography incredibly interesting (a subject I typically wouldn't be all that interested in).	A&L	X				
Yes, she helped me individually and was always there to talk about my future. She was very honest but fair during critiques in class.	A&L	X				X
This faculty member opened my eyes to a political system that is fueled by money and the way that influences our lives as citizens of this country. This professor gave a balanced look at the positives and negatives of our current political processes and helped me form my own idea about improving the system.	A&L	X				
This faculty member not only taught the literature material, but gave us the full scope of reference for where the writers were coming from. When we read the pieces, we began to see them with the laughter, pain, and irony that the author himself had.	A&L	X				
There were several music faculty members that helped me to find who I am and what is important to me. They were always encouraging while pushing me to take new steps and have the courage to take on new adventures.	A&L	X				
"The professor at JMU that made the biggest impact on me as an art major said, ""It's not about making art. It's about living artfully."" Those words will linger in my mind forever. I believe that sometimes the information that we memorize, process, analyze and are tested on is only have of what we learn while in college. The other half is simply how to BE. When a professor taps into that aspect of our lives as students, he or she is an exemplary teacher, sensitive to the whole of each student. This particular professor was not the only one who exhibited this quality, but he was a cut above the rest. By graduation, I knew I was leaving with a meaningful friendship."	A&L	X			X	
There were so many who just kept it real, they tested the waters shook things, got me thinking outside of the box and conformity but helped me remained balanced and learn how to play both worlds each in its proper time!	A&L	X				
I would have to credit the entire sociology department...they have inspired me!	A&L	X				

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Yes, several professors I had really made an effort to make learning an active process for both the student and the professor to learn from. Also, when the faculty members are passionate about their subject that passion will trickle down to the students.	A&L	X				
There were two faculty members who not only provided for intriguing discussions in the classroom, but were genuinely interested in what was going on in my life. They were teachers, but also friends.	A&L	X			X	
Made it clear to me that I was a serious student and had an outlook much clearer than many of my classmates.	A&L	X				
He taught that the world doesn't always work left to right or right to left. Sometimes the most important lessons be learned in non-sequential order; one cannot plan for the things life is going to teach a person, but only use each experience as a step along the road to wisdom.	A&L	X		X	X	
Yes. she encouraged us to critically evaluate the media we consume and analyze the impact it had on our lives as well as the lives of others.	A&L	X				
He went out of his way to serve as an instrument of learning--asking imperative questions, getting to know me and making what I was learning personal, being enthusiastic and knowledgeable about his content area.	A&L	X				
Yes, there are many. mostly in the art department. allowed self exploration in my own design. creative and positive suggestions.	A&L	X				
He was able to teach me without a strong partisan lens, meaning, he gave a well rounded discussion of topics. He expressed all points of view (or as many as possible) which is more like real life than just giving one side of an argument.	A&L	X			X	
Being a history major has really opened my eyes to the world around me and I don't think that was because of any one professor I had but input and insight from all of them.	A&L	X		X		
made me feel welcome in the classroom, inspired me, encouraged me, provoked thoughts	A&L	X				
I would once again thank all faculty at JMU for their devotion to education and their strive for a better future. Over the course of my four years, one faculty member made an unforgettable impression. This person taught me to never stop learning, that people are like apples... once a person ripens... the only thing they can do is rot from that point on.	A&L	X			X	X
Acknowledged me outside of class/on campus; welcomed office visits, even if questions did not pertain to major; thought for themselves, and not what the rest of the university might think; had real world experience; was very challenging; was PASSIONATE about what he/she was teaching.	A&L		X	X		
One of the biggest benefits for me was having a couple of faculty members in particular from my department who met with me and had candid discussions about my career plans. It both forced me	A&L		X	X		X

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and challenged me to take a serious look at how my academics were contributing to my career plans and goals.						
Yes, there were several faculty members who made a tremendous impact upon my college experience and, perhaps, my future goals. I found all of the professors to be very understanding and accommodating -- they wanted every student to learn as much as possible. As a student with a disability, the professors at JMU helped me to realize that I COULD still accomplish the same sort of goals as others.	A&L		X			
The Faculty that stand out to me treated me as a colleague, not a slave. They took an interest in my personal and my academic life. I always felt of them more as guiding friends than teachers. They taught me the most. Now that I am living the epitome of the real world, I realize that many of my more demeaning faculty in no way conveyed a sense of the real world in their classrooms.	A&L		X		X	
I was lucky enough to get to know a member of the faculty as a prof. and as a coach...she was my role model and was always willing to talk with me about any career decisions/issues I needed.	A&L		X	X		X
"The most influential faculty members I have come into contact with, have been the ones who have generally cared about myself and my well-being. They have taken the time to know me on a first-name basis, or else have been generally concerned about the students on a more personal level and have been very understanding, rather than adopting a formal ""never-go-off-the-syllabus"" sort of approach (now I do not imply that they should be disorganized, however)"	A&L		X			
This faculty member took an active interest in getting to know me. She made herself very available to her students, and understood the importance of having time to de-stress, while also maintaining high expectations from her students. She realized, and told us so, that we had other classes besides hers, and that sometimes our schedules can get out of hand.	A&L		X			
Took time to get to know me	A&L		X			
above all, didn't pass me on to someone else, took the time to not only listen, but to help as well	A&L		X			
This faculty member essentially introduced me to the major in which I am currently looking to begin a career in. Even though I could not change my major, this faculty member worked with me and afforded me many opportunities to encourage me to pursue this industry after I had graduated.	A&L					X
Introduced me to the possibilities of the field that would become my major. A second teacher just proved that you can be a success in a field you love.	A&L					X
I have had a couple of faculty members who had a great impact upon my life. The reason that they made an impact was because they got to know me on a personal level and really seemed to take notice and have a concern for my life. Whether, it was a high up position or someone else, they all had	A&L				X	

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a great impact in my life. I will take what they taught (verbally/non verbally) with me.						
Not so much. I learned something from every professor I had and they each have their own qualities that I can appreciate, but I have to say that I was disappointed. The lack of guidance from an advisor made getting through the JMU system difficult. I didn't even have one for a couple of years. I had never been to college before I was a freshman here, so I didn't know what to do or what to expect. I partially hold this aspect at fault for my taking 5 years to graduate.	A&L			X		
This particular faculty member was honest about the job market in my field but at the same time willing to go out of her way to help me in any way that she could. She was honest about the reporting I did in class and made helpful hints to help me gain more experience	A&L					X
Not only were they available to talk to me about schoolwork whenever I needed to, but they took an interest in me personally, and, although they didn't make special allowances for me, they still treated me with respect when I had personal problems and made personal decisions that conflicted with schoolwork	A&L				X	
She took my aspirations seriously, and even though she may not have recommended that path to me, she showed me the way necessary to achieve what I wanted to achieve.	A&L					X
SMAD professors take you under their wing. They challenge and push you but they are also understanding and supportive. I could not have asked for a better experience.	A&L			X		
I had two professors who were particularly helpful. Both of them listened to what I planned/wanted to do and then gave me their opinions. What was so helpful was that they told me what they felt would be most helpful to me, whether or not it was what I would want to hear.	A&L			X		
Two teachers I had at JMU encouraged me to pursue my dream career regardless of the considerable time and effort it would take to achieve my dream.	A&L					X
The faculty members who had the most impact on me while at JMU, were all people who not only taught by the book, but people who also showed me what life could be. They were the ones who led by example outside of the classroom and showed students the real reason we were at a university. These people inspired me, challenged me and also became my friends.	A&L				X	
I had a few professors who possessed these qualities. They were just overall enthusiastic about my major and concentration. They also had a lot of hands-on experience before they were professors within the field. This helped with networking and my attitude about my major.	A&L			X		X
Made my academic advising sessions more pleasurable and a positive experience.	A&L			X		
Through out my 4 years at JMU, numerous faculty members on several occasions reminded me how important is it to follow your dreams. To pursue a career that you really enjoy.	A&L					X

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Yes, I have a few favorite faculty members that always went out of there way to help the students. The faculty members I am talking about are those that got to know each and every student and knew the students interest and hobbies inside and outside the classroom. The one professor I will always remember was very encouraging and always gave students the extra push we needed to believe in ourselves.	A&L				X	
The faculty member showed an interest in my life beyond their classroom.	A&L				X	
He was very excited and interested in musical details and the lives of the people who wrote and played the music.	A&L					
suggested i participate in grad school here and then awarded me a full scholarship and a teaching assistantship.	A&L					X
He taught me that actors are as important to textual analysis as critics.	A&L			X		
The faculty member helped me think about the things around me, to get out of the box and realize that the opportunities are out there just waiting to be pursued. Another faculty member made economics fun and easy to understand, turns out he helped me choose to pursue a minor in economics.	BUS	X				X
Wouldn't accept work that was below my abilities.	BUS	X				
Dedicated to teaching and showed enthusiasm for the subject	BUS	X				
I had one faculty member that was outstanding. They gave us a lot of information that could not be found in a textbook. They applied all of our concepts to things that were useful to us in the real world once we left college. Also they made sure that we did a lot of hands on projects which was great.	BUS	X				
I had an amazing professor who really steered me into a career path by explaining her career and how she got into advertising. She was very open-minded to new and innovative ideas and encouraged the class to explore their creativity to find new and interesting explanations to problems.	BUS	X				X
A history teacher as a freshman made his students feel like they could communicate on the same level as their prof. He was very inspiring.	BUS	X				
related things in the class to real-life issues that either impact me now, or will impact me in the future	BUS	X				X
There was a faculty member who cared more about teaching me how to program than the grades received. I think that was very helpful	BUS	X				
My professor had helped me to communicate better with other people.	BUS	X				
Dr. XXXX proved that Accounting can be exciting. He always added enthusiasm to the class. Furthermore, he made us want to learn the material for ourselves, and made us want to work hard. While there was a lot of work in the class, looking back I can see that it was worth it.	BUS	X				
One of my favorites made the toughest class the most fun. He took the time to gauge how fast we	BUS	X				

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were learning and how much we could take in during one class, then he adjusted his lectures. He was truly one of the best professors I had at JMU.						
This faculty member made the issues we learned in class continue to affect my now. I am constantly bringing up things that I learned in her class.	BUS	X		X	X	
I had two professors in the business school that made me want to make a difference, they made me want to choose my major. They showed so much love for the subject and thoroughly enjoyed helping the students.	BUS	X				
Taught students in a very interactive way...we were treated as equals and our opinions were taken seriously.	BUS	X				
Made me think about concepts in different ways -think outside the box.	BUS	X				
taught relevant material, things that students felt we would actually need to use in the real world.	BUS	X			X	
There are only two professors I had that were very helpful and would do anything for their students. They would treat like a friend and talk to you at your level.	BUS		X			
He taught me that it is not all about the money. He also would schedule coffee with students just to get to know them	BUS		X			
Yes, I had many faculty members shape my ways of thinking within myself academically and in my life. Each showed an interest in my life & cared about all the students they taught. They offered help in anything that we needed and never backed down on a question, advice, etc...	BUS		X		X	
Took a heavy interest in teaching myself and others, opened his doors to anybody for anything.	BUS		X			
I wouldn't say these 2 faculty member impacted me as much as the above description, but they did show me the importance of my major and how well it relates to the real world, personal and business.	BUS				X	
I feel that the Jmu faculty took a person interest in my success as both a person and in my career. From high school you can only have so much direction, it was nice to get some leadership.	BUS			X	X	X
i really enjoyed to hear stories that occurred during professors experiences in the real world. Relating stories back to the material.	BUS			X		
The faculty member helped me to learn the importance of looking at the big picture. The fact that although something may come across as insignificant, it really will have a huge impact in the future.	BUS				X	
taught about personalities and how that impacts relationships	BUS			X		
told instances in their life that was then related to the topic being discussed which made everything clearer	BUS			X		
A few different marketing faculty members shaped my future career. In their classes I was challenged to think for myself and interact in group settings. My teachers listened, gave wonderful advice, and	BUS					X

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wouldn't settle for anything but my best.						
Made college applicable to real life.	BUS				X	
Gave me great advice on choosing my major that helped me achieve my goals and be where I wanted to be after school.	BUS			X		X
Acted as a professor, as a resource, and as a friend	BUS			X		
Pointed me in the direction of a career path that I enjoy	BUS					X
I can think of a few faculty members that have especially influenced my life and they are all members of the accounting faculty team. Students in other programs always complained to me that no professor would meet with them or were just very hard to reach if needed. Not only did many of my upper class accounting professors make themselves very accessible, but they also went above and beyond. There were three in particular that would meet with me just to talk about and help plan my future, and even after not being in their class anymore would stop me throughout the business building or send me emails to find out how i was doing and discuss subjects that were earlier talked about while i was a student of their class.	BUS				X	X
One faculty in particular taught philosophy to forty or so of us and by the end of the semester we all knew each other's names and where we stood on numerous issues. He got us talking and sharing to such an extent that I feel I got so much out of that class, not from the books, but from my intellectual classmates.	EDUC	X		X		
I had a American philosophy professor who changed the way I very life. He opened my eyes to the positive side of everything, he lived his life with vigor and love- which i now strive to do	EDUC	X			X	
This particular faculty member was outstanding in all ways... Always willing to help at anytime.	EDUC		X			
This professor made me feel like she had all the time in the world for me. Every time I went to her office, she was willing to talk to me, help me out, or give me feedback even though I knew she had tons of other things going on.	EDUC		X			
He talked with his students, not at them. He invited us to his home and welcomed us into his life not only as his understudies, but also as his friends. To this day, I am extremely grateful to him, and I miss him greatly (he has since moved on to a different college).	EDUC		X		X	
Virtually every faculty member (those TEACHING the courses, not those just on the staff) in the Early Childhood Education department had an impact on securing my decision for my future career. One professor in particular was incredibly knowledgeable and was so excited to share her experience and knowledge with us. Every day she read us a story. She's probably the best reader you will ever encounter. She was full of ideas and made class exciting. Bottom line-I hope I can be as successful	EDUC			X		X

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of a teacher as she was when she taught children.						
He taught me how to think outside the box and he took extra time outside of class to explain the concepts I was having difficulty with.	ISAT	X	X	X		
Yes I had one faculty member made the class environment fun and exciting to learn. He taught real world applicable concepts rather than just theory or code packages	ISAT	X				
was thoroughly interested in students understanding and enjoyment of class	ISAT	X				
Supported a learning environment that enabled students to think freely. The faculty member was down at our level.	ISAT	X				
Inspired me to excel and made me think outside the box.	ISAT	X				
A particular faculty member instilled a strong sense of responsibility in myself and my other classmates. This was done by not putting any values on the syllabus, but letting us choose how much we felt each project should be worth. We ended out the semester giving 2 and-a-half-hour presentation in groups of two. We all felt like we had accomplished a great deal after that. We all felt like if we could make it through the class, we could make through anything. The professor indicated a strong faith in all of us throughout the entire course.	ISAT	X				
Enabled me (along with many others) to open our eyes to the world not through a text book but through real life situations which will follow us for our lifetime.	ISAT	X			X	
Life is full of chances- learning from decisions you make in your lifetime and being able to accept failure but knowing you will succeed in the end	ISAT	X			X	
I had several professors at JMU that inspired me to do great things both in an out of the classroom. They taught me the value of a hard work ethic and encouraged me to shoot for my dreams.	ISAT	X				
Dr. XXX has the best attitude I could ever imagine. He goes into each and every class with an open mind and a genuine love for the material, students, and interaction.	ISAT	X		X		
They pushed me to try things that I was hesitant about, they constantly encouraged and supported everything that I was doing so that I felt like all the hard work I was doing was worthwhile. They really took the time to notice and acknowledge to effort that I was putting in. They also gave their personal opinion and where they thought I could do better and where I needed to grow in order to be a better person as a student, an individual and in the workplace.	ISAT	X			X	
How one can work within any profession to promote social change.	ISAT	X				
There are several people in the philosophy department that helped me to better logically understand and put words to what it is I have been thinking and feeling for several years. With this wisdom I am fit to truly support my ideals.	ISAT	X				

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This faculty member pursued outside attention to my project and had enough confidence in me to allow me to pursue it myself.	ISAT		X			
Guided me and listened to me so that I could figure out what major I wanted to be a part of.	ISAT		X			
"This certain professor taught the majority of my classes during the last two years of school. She was also my advisor. Not only was she my professor and advisor but she also played the role of ""mom"". She definitely takes care of me and the other students in the PHETE program during school and outside of school. Since I know that my professor really truly cares about me and the profession we are in, it has helped me instill passion and enthusiasm toward my future."	ISAT		X			X
provided ongoing support and encouragement	ISAT		X			
She was always very helpful and available. She went out of her way to help me when I needed it and always had great advice and suggestions.	ISAT		X			
I had a faculty member that helped me think out my career path. We would have monthly talks/debates.	ISAT		X			X
Yes, this faculty member was supportive and encouraging in and out of the classroom. I could count on her for anything, whether it was advice or extra help in the classroom.	ISAT		X			
My professor gave our class his home phone number (as do most) but he really truly meant that. He was our professor because he loved teaching and loved what he was teaching and that showed in the way he acted towards us.	ISAT		X			
Yes, I never really went to talk to my academic advisor for any advice. Instead, a former professor of mine was able to answer all my questions and give me advise about decisions to make concerning my education.	ISAT		X			X
One professor always reminded our class to 'be a risk taker' I have always remembered that line and try to live by it each day.	ISAT				X	
Was encouraging and extremely helpful and optimistic	ISAT				X	
An ISAT biotechnology professor had a tremendous impact on my learning of complex protein visualization software and nuclear magnetic resonance. I feel her genuine desire to teach and ability to break down difficult concepts into real-world physical objects and knowledge of biochemistry helped.	ISAT			X		
I was treated as her equal while being encouraged to grow as a nurse, as well as a person.	ISAT				X	
The faculty member made me think about how I live my life and evaluate myself as a person.	ISAT				X	
Was always interested in how my college career was going whether I had them for a class or not.	ISAT					X
They have impacted the way I view the world. I was given more ways to view particular situations and how I can deal with them. I feel that I am not as one-track-minded as I once was. I can come to	ISAT				X	

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situations and view things from both sides and make well-rounded decision.						
Yes. This faculty member was very supportive in class as well as outside of class. I went to her with questions about my career choice and life choices and she provided a tremendous amount of guidance.	ISAT				X	X
All the anatomy professors were wonderful teachers and excellent motivators.	ISAT					
Being a friend to me and offering any wisdom they have about life, which may mean going above and beyond what a professor has to do.	ISAT				X	
I had several faculty members that made my life at jmu much more meaningful. they were there to help answer futuristic questions, they helped me overcome certain hardships, and offered to help me in the future with recommendations and whatnot.	ISAT				X	X
Basically, the way she treated each of us as individuals, she cared about us, she was more of a parental figure than professor. But she is also incredibly smart and a great teacher (not an easy push-over).	ISAT			X	X	
Showed an interest in my personal life and genuinely seemed to care about my well-being. Treated me as more of a person with equal footing versus a student with inferior capabilities.	ISAT				X	
He had an incredible impact on my college career. He also pointed me in the right direction while giving me great advice along the way	ISAT					X
The faculty members I think of that had such an impact took time out of their schedule to get to know me beyond the classroom, helped me with work and were willing to help me with difficult issues beyond the topics of their class. They were supportive, concerned and caring individuals.	S&M	X	X	X		
Challenging me to utmost potential and showing me how much I can do when I really work at something.	S&M	X				
He forced me to look at the world from another perspective. I know look for ways things connect to each other, how one thing affects another. I learned to see how I affected everything around me, and how to teach others to do the same. In opening my eyes to the world I opened my eyes to myself as well, and grew as a person.	S&M	X			X	
Yes. Some of the faculty I interacted with on a daily basis left a strong impact on me. They gave me opportunities and choices...and guided me in the right direction when I came to them with difficult questions.	S&M	X		X		
She took time to make me feel special. She always listened and was always willing to help.	S&M		X			
One particular teacher was very dedicated to his job and his students. He was enthusiastic about teaching and was genuinely concerned for all of his students in issues other than those dealing with	S&M		X	X	X	

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class. He was understanding and was easy to talk to and was willing to listen if i had any problems.						
The faculty member could relate. He was younger, had a good outlook on life, and thought very highly of JMU. He took time to care about the students, not just the curriculum.	S&M		X		X	
Helped me figure out who I was and to have confidence in the person I had become.	S&M				X	
this faculty member taught me to be myself and make my own decisions	S&M				X	
Provided guidance through three years of undergraduate research	S&M			X		