

It is my pleasure to be asked to comment on Dr. Hassan's contributions to myself, LSBE, and UMD. I recently graduated from UMD with a degree in Human Resource Management and Healthcare Management. I had two courses with Dr. Hassan, both of which were challenging, yet still enjoyable. I also got to know Dr. Hassan better through the Outreach Committee where I served as a student representative. I know that he was an important part of my rewarding experience at LSBE and will continue to be a valuable asset to future students.

As a sophomore, I enrolled in Dr. Hassan's FMIS 3201 course, not knowing anything about him or his teaching style. Although this was a general class with a large quantity and variety of topics, Dr. Hassan always taught with a great deal of enthusiasm and passion for the subject so that the class did not feel as overwhelming as it actually was. However, I do remember having very difficult tests and had to commit many hours to studying for his exams. When I enrolled in Dr. Hassan's Medical Informatics class my junior year, I knew what Dr. Hassan's teaching style had been, so I was expecting a great semester with a lot of hard work ahead. This course is when I really got to know Dr. Hassan and realized what a commitment he has to both students and the university. When I took the course, it was the first time that it had been offered and the mix of students was from completely opposite sides of the business school spectrum. Half of the students were senior level MIS majors with vast knowledge of computer programming and information systems while the other half of us were junior and senior level Healthcare Management students with little or no knowledge of programming, but a deeper understanding of the business of health. From the start of the course, Dr. Hassan addressed the differences in knowledge and skills, but used the diversity to its fullest potential. He challenged us every day to contribute to course discussions and think outside the box to predict the problems we might face and the solutions we could make for them. Each night, I came out of the classroom feeling that Dr. Hassan had done his homework just as thoroughly as we had done ours by researching the topics he was unfamiliar with and constantly applying current situations and cases to our learning. He was also committed to making the course better by continually asking for our feedback on how the class was going and how he could make it better. Looking back on that semester, I knew that Dr. Hassan put every bit of effort he could into make the course what it was – a valuable learning experience for everybody who was a part of the course, including himself.

I had a chance to serve as a student representative on the LSBE Outreach Committee as a sophomore and junior. When I first started on the committee, I was quite intimidated by a room full of professors with incredible knowledge of their fields and numerous important items on their agendas. However, Dr. Hassan was one of those professors who did not look at me as a student, but as a person with experiences to offer. He was often the first to ask me what my opinion as a student was and make sure that the ideas being proposed were beneficial for the students they were meant to help. Not only did he make me feel included, but Dr. Hassan made me feel that everything I said was a valuable piece of input that could be used to improve LSBE.

Dr. Hassan is passionate about the subjects he teaches, but also compassionate in the way he treats his students. I remember towards the end of our Medical Informatics class, I realized that the project I was working on would be nearly impossible to finish on time and that I had made mistakes early on that were making the final product completely wrong. I was nervous to go in to Dr. Hassan's office and admit

that I didn't think I could finish the project correctly nor on time. Although I nearly had a complete meltdown in Dr. Hassan's office that day, he calmly reassured me that the project was not impossible and that he understood that most people in the class were also bogged down with other classes and stressful deadlines and so instead of having us turn in unfinished, lower quality projects, he extended our deadline to give just enough time to make them better. He gave me advice on how to fix the problem with my project, but also reminded me that one project was not the most important thing in the world and that keeping my sanity was more important than perfection on a project. When I returned home to work on my project later that night, I had a renewed sense of confidence and found myself having fun and wanting to put extra effort into the things that would make it better. I remember telling Dr. Hassan later on that I wished I had come directly to him earlier so that I could have had more fun with the project rather than been so overcome with stress about it. From this experience, I realized that Dr. Hassan cared about our quality of work rather than our ability to turn in anything we could finish on time. More importantly I found that a professor is capable of understanding the life of a student and respect that their academic and social life was not strictly restricted to his one course or one project.

Although the courses I took from Dr. Hassan were important to my learning in the classroom, I believe that his better qualities come from the passion he has for students succeeding in life outside of the classroom. Many times in class, he would mention how excited he was that one of his students had an interview at a prominent company or had landed their dream job in the field of their choice. I know that he wasn't bringing up these examples to take credit for their success, but because he was truly excited and proud of them for succeeding in their goals. Even after graduation, Dr. Hassan has contacted me to check up on how my new endeavors are going and give some words of encouragement to keep me on track.

I am extremely excited that Dr. Hassan has applied for promotion and tenure at UMD and sincerely hope that other students will have the opportunity to experience his teaching in LSBE. Dr. Hassan is a professor that I admire and respect for both his work in the classroom and his commitment to students outside of the classroom. He is a valuable part of LSBE and I know he will continue to be influential to every student that has the pleasure of getting to know him.

Sincerely,

Margaret Perko