Andrew Panetta

The time I’ve spent teaching seniors and learning about the struggles and they face in day to day life has had a tremendous impact on the way I view older adults. There have been few classes that I have taken at Pace that have had an effect that I carry with me outside of the classroom. I often find myself talking about The Hallmark and my experiences in teaching my older adult.

I took this class as a requirement to graduate. As I searched through the list of AOK I classes available for my final spring semester, I stumbled across Intergenerational Computing. I really only liked the computing half of the course title, and was more concerned about the intergenerational portion than anything. The first day of class was jarring as it became clear that the requirements of the course sought to remove me from the comforts of the classroom and instead implant me into the life of an older adult with whom I had never met. The work load seemed immense and the idea of working with a complete stranger was so overwhelming that I considered dropping the class all together. Luckily, I decided against giving into my fears and give the course a fighting chance.

One of the major factors in deciding to stick with the class came from my work experience. As a certified Apple Personal Trainer, I knew that I not only possessed the skills necessary to succeed as a teacher, but that I had a chance to actually make a difference in someone’s life. What seemed at first like a massive burden, quickly turned into a magnificent opportunity.