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Prof. Jean Coppola

CIS 102 Reflection paper

      Intergenerational computing has been one of the best experiences in my college career. I have always known of the struggles of the senior community; however this course has truly opened my eyes to the reality of the situation and has changed my views on common misconceptions. I really got to know my two seniors and really enjoyed spending time with them; on some occasions they told me about themselves, their personal lives and who they were back in the day. I was also just as easily able to open up to them and tell them about my problems and how I was planning to address them; we honestly developed a grandmother-grandson relationship in almost no time at all.

The class started and I was excited from the get go, my friend had told me about the class and how even after it was over he still continued to see his senior because they became so close. I went in with high expectations and a lot of enthusiasm, for the first couple of classes our professor; Jean Coppola who was really amazing and an incredible help throughout the whole semester, was giving us the basics of the class and how we would go about completing our course objectives. Two weeks into the semester we all headed to the hallmark senior center for our orientation and to meet our seniors. The orientation went really well, we all got to meet and interact with all of the seniors involved in the class, and then we had to choose two for the semester. I managed to snatch Gertrude Panem; one of the most amazing seniors at the hallmark and the most awesome 100 year old anyone will ever meet, from the clutches of another student by making eye contact with her and calling shotgun before we officially started choosing. Her and I didn’t get a chance to talk that much that day because she left early, but I always still excited that I was paired up with her. My second senior Edie Barth was unable to attend the orientation; her and I got paired up because no other senior was without a partner. The first day of lessons was an exciting one and I was fully prepared to teach Gurt everything I knew about computers, she came in really eager to learn and that only motivated me even more. After my first hour I went to meet with Edie for the first time and I was somewhat scared that she would turn out to be a crazy old lady. It was to my delight to find out that she was so incredible, teaching her the computer was a blast and I enjoyed proving her wrong after she would claim that she’d never get the hang of it. After the first day I looked forward every Monday to that class because of the amount of fun I was having.

I learned an incredible amount in this class and it taught me hands on how to work with seniors and gave me a lot of teaching experience. Throughout the whole semester Edie and Gurt got really good at the computer and their skills improved tremendously. The class’s success and overall feel is due in no small part to the professor who is fun, understanding and wonderful. I highly recommend this class and I really hope other students have as much in it as I did.