

January 20, 2010

Dr. Webbink:

This is a note of appreciation, but just the short version. You taught a class through the University of Maryland University College years ago. The class was the Psychology of Women, or something close to that. You would have no way of knowing that you had a profound influence on me personally. I am sorry it took me about 24 years to say thank you.

There were lots and lots of things you said in teaching the course that were meaningful, but your influence was more about some things you shared about yourself at the time.

By your example, you made me believe in myself and believe that I could do what I really wanted to do. And I did! You had an important role in this, even though it is only now that you know how you did it.

There aren't many things that I am 100% sure about in my life, but I am totally sure that most things that have gone well in my life have a direct or indirect connection to your influence.

So, I don't believe I ever talked to you directly about this at the time -- so it wasn't that, but you must have presented some "knowledge" in that class that made me want to listen and watch closely.

My purpose in writing is twofold: I wanted to finally say thank you, even if this email is mysterious. Secondly, I want to point out what you probably already know..... you never know where, when, or how you can positively influence a person in ways that can make a huge difference in an individual's life.

Yes, you were an inspiration to me. That is just the word I wanted! My writing to you today was one of the best things I have done for myself in quite a while. Your writing back to me has felt like a special gift, too. So, thank you for today as well as your inspiration all those years ago.

Thank you so much.

Elaine