

ALLEN A. MCBRIDE

Camp Mac
2671 Cheaha Road
Munford, AL 36268
(205) 362-6617

Dr. Maghsoodloo –

I know you worked with thousands of students over the years, so I do not expect you to remember me. I graduated in IE/Computer Science in 1979.

I was in your Engineering Statistics class for two quarters. It was definitely not the easiest class I ever took. It definitely was the most memorable.

You taught the material, and you expected the class to learn it and be equipped to solve problems that didn't always have answers that were easily apparent.

I used my degree to develop a software system for my family's summer camp in the Talladega National Forest. We used that DOS program for 30 years and still use portions of it today. I did not follow an engineering path – I spent most of my time building, repairing, working with staff and campers and teaching Horseback Riding. But the ability to think and solve problems is something I still use every day. I always enjoyed that challenge – and you helped equip me to better meet it. Thank you.

I have always wondered about something that happened in your class. You likely wouldn't remember, but after 40+ years, I decided I had to check.

My first quarter in your class I needed to make like a 97-98 on the final to get an A. I decided to try for it, and my average ended up at 89.56 or something. It wasn't 90, so I did that work and kept the B I would have had. I talked with you about rounding it up, but you saw it otherwise and that was that.

The next quarter, almost unbelievably, I found myself in a similar situation. I had to score like 97-98 again to get an A, or I could just take a B. Once more, I decide to work and study and take the final. This time my average was like 89.47. I knew I was going to get a B again. You had made it clear the quarter before you would not round it up, so I didn't even ask. I left campus and went to camp for the summer resigned to my grade.

My grades came in the mail a few weeks later, and I had an A in your class! We never saw each other after that, and I was, honestly, scared to ask for fear I'd end up with a B after I pointed out there was possibly an oversight.

But I was never comfortable with the idea that you had made an oversight. It was not your nature.

So, I have to ask. After almost 45 years – was it an oversight? Or did you decide to round me up since I had gone through the same process twice?

Whatever it was, thank you for your service to Auburn students for a lifetime. You have had an impact on so many over so many years. I am honored to be among them.

With respect,

