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## Program Reflection

As I stop to catch my breath here near the close of my program, I find myself reminded of a quote by Henry Reed, Ph.D., Director of the Edgar Cayce Institute for Intuitive Studies, as he contemplated the work of Edgar Cayce, “As we abide in sleep, intuitively resonating with the sum of all our experiences - this life and beyond - we gain refreshing perspective on our efforts and have an opportunity to remember what we know.” Thus reminded that we are forever changed by each experience we have and that reflection upon each of those experiences is a good thing, I now kick back to ponder this instructional technology program and how my experiences in it have contributed to my view of the world and my place in it.

Geologist, teacher, library media specialist, technologist, and learner—I am all of these things. The role I value most, however, is my role as a learner. I am always willing to learn something new and, no matter what path I find myself traveling, there is *always* something new. When I began my program courses in the summer of 2006, I found that the general overview to technology and its place in learning and living offered by AIL 690 more or less matched my then view of the world. My knowledge of how technology could truly influence learning was superficial at best. But I learned, and as I learned, my knowledge base grew. In AIL 600 I proudly constructed my first independent website and marveled at the new Web 2.0 tools that were just beginning to appear. Now, I find myself amazed at how much this new technology has grown and changed and managed to find its place in learning and living—and especially making a special place in *my* teaching and learning.

I particularly enjoyed my courses that explored the world of distance education, electronic learning, and multimedia tools. In AIL 602, AIL 604, AIL 605, and AIL 606, I was able to explore new applications, new techniques, new tools, and new ways of learning. These courses completely changed the way that I viewed the instructional design and delivery of my own courses that I teach at Alabama State University and, indeed, changed the very way that I teach. AIL 601 contributed significantly to my knowledge base here as I explored the multitude of instructional design models available.

I must admit that AIL 603 Networking was my least favorite class, not because it was not well taught, but because I am just really not all that interested in hardware and how you put it together. I just want to use it to learn.

My favorite course was CAT 689. Having the opportunity to design a complete research study from inception to article was a vast help to me in my career as a fledging university professor. My experiences in this program have led me to believe that I have found my calling as a scholar. I can imagine no greater pleasure than spending my life learning. Once again quoting Henry Reed, “Dreams seem to have a will of their own.”