



10 Aprilie 2015

Draga Domnule Profesor Dragomirescu,

Sper ca aceste randuri sa va gaseasca bine si sanatos. De foarte mult timp imi propusesem sa va scriu pentru ca voiam sa va spun ca ajutorul primit de la dumneavoastra in timpul studentiei mele a avut un imens impact pozitiv in viata mea profesionala si personala.

Pentru ca au trecut multi ani de la terminarea masterului (2003) si ati avut sute de studenti in acesti ani, e probabil ca numai numele meu sa va sune cunoscut; atasez o fotografie „de familie” din decembrie 2014, care sunt convinsa va ajuta la „deschiderea sertarului cu memorii”.

Intr-o zi m-am gandit sa dau o cautare pe Google sa vad ce apare daca pun numele meu. Am fost foarte placut surprinsa sa gasesc prefata cartii dumneavoastra „Elemente de ecologie numerica si modelare” (2009) in care aparea numele meu ca „valoroasa studenta”. M-am simtit (si ma simt) foarte onorata, dar in acelasi timp mi-am spus ca trebuie neaparat sa va scriu cateva randuri sa va multumesc pentru tot ce ati facut pentru mine la nivel personal dar si pentru ceilalti studenti ai dumneavoastra. Cu toata sinceritatea va spun ca nu imi amintesc in detaliu contributia mea la carte, insa imi amintesc in detaliu alte amanunte care m-au impresionat profund. Ne daduserati o tema (sa fi fost anul 3, deci in 2000 cred), un referat si, cum nu aveam calculator personal la acea vreme, imi faceam referatul in sala mica, unde erau calculatoarele si dumneavoastra obisnuiati sa lucrati la un calculator langa fereastra (imi e asa de clar de parca era ieri). Apoi, pentru ca eram incepator, nu ma descurcam prea bine si aveam nevoie de ajutor sa imi tastez formulele; de nenumarate ori va ridicati de la lucru si veneati sa imi aratati solutia la fiecare „problema” pe care o aveam. Apoi, pentru ca era o atmosfera tare prielnică de studiu si pentru ca stateam in camin



Dear Professor Dragomirescu,

I hope you're still healthy and doing well. I've wanted to write to you for a very long time because I wanted to tell you that the help I got from you during my college years has had a huge positive impact in my life, both professionally and personally.

It's been many years since I got my Masters degree (2003) and you've taught hundreds of students throughout these years, so it's likely that you won't remember my name; I will attach a family picture from December 2014, which I'm sure will help you bring up memories and remember me.

One day, I thought of looking my name up on Google. I was curious to see what will show up if I search my name. I was surprised, in a very good way, when I found the introduction of your book from 2009 called “Numeric ecology and modeling elements”, in which my name showed up as a “valuable student”. I felt very honored, but I also felt like I needed to write you a mail to thank you for all you have done for me personally and for all your other students. I don't honestly remember my contribution to the book in detail, but I remember other details that have profoundly impressed me. You have given us some homework in my junior year (2000), a report. At that time, I didn't have a personal computer, so I had to do my homework in the room where all the school computers were held and I remember you used to work at a computer near the window (I remember it so clearly, it feels like it was yesterday). Then, because I was a beginner, I wasn't doing very well and I needed help with typing the formulas; countless times you got up from your computer and you came to mine to show me the answer for every “problem” I had. Then, because the computer room was a very good studying

fara conditii, veneam la dumneavostra si imi faceam si celelalte referate (imi daduserati si cheie). Asa am invatat sa lucrez cu calculatorul, avand implicatii majore in anii viitori. In plus, imi amintesc cum, de nenumarate ori, imparteați pana si pachetul de acasa cu mine. Gasesc foarte impresionant cand, pe langa faptul ca va faceati meseria de profesor foarte bine, va straduiati cat puteati sa ajutati studentii. In toti acesti ani nu am mai vazut pe nimeni care macar sa va egaleze, nici nu se pune problema sa va depaseasca. Am multa, multa admiratie si respect pentru cine sunteti la nivel personal si la nivel profesional.

Casatorita in 2003 (cred ca l-ati cunoscut pe Silviu), am venit in Canada in 2006, in orasul Toronto, provincia Ontario. Spre norocul meu, in Canada am gasit un job de asistent la Ontario Institute for Cancer Research, insa departamentul de Bioinformatics. Asa ca m-am gandit sa combin experienta de mediu/ecologie cu cea „health care” (lucrasem ca asistent de laborator inainte de facultate). Ca urmare, m-am inscris si am fost acceptata in 2011, part-time, la Masters of Public Health la Universitatea din Toronto, sectia Occupational and Environmental Health; am pastrat jobul de asistent full-time in toata aceasta perioada. Cand m-am inscris nu stiam prea bine ce fac (decat ca voiam sa fiu altceva decat asistent responsabil doar de treburi administrative) si am avut surpriza sa descopar ca de fapt era epidemiologie si implicit o gramada de biostatistica.

Asa ca, avand cartile dumneavostra, m-am pus pe treaba si iata ca am terminat cu bine partea de curs (10 cursuri in total), iar acum lucrez full-time ca practicum student (parte obligatorie a programului de master) cu speranta sa termin la sfarsitul lui august. Cu aceasta ocazie, am avut oportunitatea sa vad cum sunt profesorii la o universitate cotate (global) pe locul 20 in lume. Spre surprinderea mea, nu am intalnit inca profesorul care sa faca ceea ce ati facut dumneavostra si nici la calitatea predarii dumneavostra. Cine intelege bine, cine nu, oricum nu e timp sa explice sau sa se straduie pentru fiecare student. Fara sa fi stiut biostatistica

environment and my dorm room wasn't, I started going there for homework from other classes too (you even gave me a key to the room). That's how I learned to work with computers, and it was something that really helped me in the following years. I also remember how you used to even share your lunch with me. I find it very important that you weren't just doing your job as a teacher very well, but you were also trying to help the students as much as you could. In all these years, I've never seen anybody else who could be as good as you, I won't even mention better. I very much admire and respect you for who you are, both personally and professionally.

Married in 2003 (I believe you met my husband, Silviu), I moved to Canada in 2006, in Toronto, Ontario. I was lucky enough to find a job in Canada as assistant at the Ontario Institute for Cancer Research, department of Bioinformatics. I had the idea of combining the experience of ecology with health care (I worked as a laboratory assistant before college). I applied and got accepted part-time at Masters of Public Health at University of Toronto, Occupational and Environmental Health section in 2011; I also kept my full-time assistant job in this period. When I applied I didn't exactly know what I'm doing (only that I wanted to be something else, not an assistant who's only responsible of administrative work) and I was surprised to discover that it actually was epidemiology and that implies a lot of biostatistics.

So, having your books, I started working and I finished the classes part (10 classes in total), and now I'm working full-time as a practicum student (mandatory part of this Masters program) hoping that I'll finish by the end of August. I had the opportunity to see how good the teachers are at a university that's ranked (globally) #20. I was surprised that I haven't yet found the teacher that can do what you did or who taught like you can teach. They don't take enough time to help each student understand what they need to. Hadn't I known that much about biostatistics from you, I couldn't have made it. It made me think a lot about how you helped me.

pe care am invatat-o cu dumneavaoatra, nu as fi facut fata. Date fiind intamplarile, de sute de ori m-am gandit la dumneavaoatra.

In paralel, in iulie 2013 s-a nascut si fiul nostru Nicholas. Fiind si mamica, am devenit si mai ocupata, inasa pana acum le-am facut pe toate cu bine (parintii nu sunt cu noi, asa ca nu am avut ajutor foarte mare). Suntem fericiti cu totii, avem tot ce ne trebuie, mai putin timp liber, inasa banuiesc ca nu poti sa le ai pe toate. :-)

Cand aveti timp, as fi curioasa sa stiu ce faceti si care sunt proiectele la care lucrati. Nici nu-mi vine sa cred cum a trecut timpul. Bebelusul pe care il stiam eu ca fiul dumneavaoatra e acum adolescent. Sper ca dumneavaoatra si familia sunteti bine si va transmit pe aceasta cale cele mai alese ganduri, multe multumiri pentru tot si urari de sanatate.

Cu drag,

Renata

P.S. Daca mai predati biostatistica, am foarte multe carti in format electronic si bucuroasa le pun la download daca v-ar folosi.

In July 2013, our son, Nicholas, was born. Now that I'm a mother, I'm even busier, but so far I've managed to get things done (my parents are not with us, so we didn't get much help). We are all happy, we have all we need, except for free time, but I believe you can't have it all. ☺

When you have time, I would like to know what you have been up to and what projects you're working on. Time passed so quickly. The baby I knew as your son is now a teenager. I hope that you and your family are well and I would like to thank you for everything.

Regards,

Renata

P.S If you still teach biostatistics, I have many electronic books and I would be glad to share them to you.