



The University of Vermont

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING AND MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES
DIRECTOR OF STUDENT SUCCESS
402 HENRY MARCUS LORD HOUSE
16 COLCHESTER AVENUE
BURLINGTON, VERMONT 05401-0156
TELEPHONE. (802) 656-8858

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I thoroughly enjoyed my visit to Dr. David Feurzeig's "MU 154: Harmony and Form Lab III"! He has such great rapport with his students!

He was prepared to start his class on time. He was friendly, yet professional! (He definitely ran the show!)

I found most striking how comfortable the students were with him and with each other. Also, they were not eager to leave at the end of class. In fact, no student bolted for the door. I appreciated how he ended the class: he let the students know about five minutes before the end of class that they had time to tend to one more task. I liked that he respected their time: he started on time and ended on time. He also prepared them for what would be happening the following week in class.

The students critiqued each other. When they gave negative feedback, they always did so very gently. Actually, they seemed to inquire about what happened rather than assuming that they knew what the "performing" student meant. In most cases, the "on" student seemed more critical of herself/himself than the observers were. This may be due to the personalities of the individuals in the class. I prefer to believe that this is due to the tone and expectations that Dr. Feurzeig sets.

During the performances, students were full of smiles, comments, inquiries, and kudos! The students seemed to know each other's interests and strengths. Again, I believe Dr. Feurzeig expects positivity in his classroom.

Dr. Feurzeig had let one young man do his "gig" before class. I wondered if others had that option. (I am always concerned about fairness.) It seemed as though this must be the case, for there was open talk of the young man's early performance. The students did not seem surprised, nor upset, that the young man performed only for Dr. Feurzeig.

The students seemed to be comfortable with the sequence of events during the time they were together. There seemed to be a very natural flow to the class.

Dr. Feurzeig did some performing for the class, stating that he would only ask his students to do what he, in turn, would also be willing to do. Being fair to them and acknowledging the difficulty of the task seemed important to him. I admire this openness with students!

*Dr. David Feurzeig
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Dr. Feurzeig had adjusted the layout of the course based upon feedback he had received on mid-semester evaluations and due to the fact that it had been seven years since he taught it. It is commendable that he did a mid-semester check-in with the students in order to gauge his effectiveness with them!

Dr. Feurzeig always responded promptly to me. I trust that he does so to students, too.

Dr. Feurzeig's gentle sense of humor and mild-mannered demeanor made my visit that much more enjoyable!

We are fortunate to have such a caring and talented faculty member in our pool of excellent faculty members on our campus!

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Marie Rosebush

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*Director of Student Success, College of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences,
and Senior Lecturer, Department of Mathematics and Statistics*