

Transcript Time Machine

I recently did something kind of unusual - I got a copy of my college transcripts. It was sort of a fluke, in that I needed them in order to get into a program at this prison, but the fact is, I've actually been wanting to see them for awhile now. A few years ago, I discovered the power of reviewing old records when I got hold of some of my old cellphone bills. Looking through all the calls I made or received over 2 years was a time-machine experience... seeing forgotten phone numbers along with the days and times of the calls, all that brought so many memories gushing forth. I could suddenly recall lost conversations over specific stretches of highway or on some particular rainy night, some with people I'd almost forgotten I even knew. It was kind of amazing, really. That experience made me eager to see other old records as well, and now that I have these transcripts from my last college, I'm not disappointed. They cover 5 semesters over 2 1/2 years, and honestly, it's a little surprising to see some of the 21 classes I took during that time. I mean... well, I took some pretty interesting stuff 😊. "Psychology of Motivation"? "Environmental Hazards"? "Philosophy of Law"? "Sexual Ethics"? Seeing all that now, just like with the phone records, I'm flooded with warm, pleasant memories of professors ^{and fellow} students I hadn't thought of in years, and of classrooms, quads, and entire buildings I'd nearly forgotten. I "see" it all again now like it happened yesterday, all the class discussions, odd and intriguing individuals, awkward moments, or even just the specific snacks I'd buy between classes or the paths & routes I skated or biked to get from one building to the next on, say, Tuesdays and Thursdays, around 3 pm. 😊 The sights and smells, the squirrels playing in the trees that would warily approach to snatch one of the salty curly fries I often offered to share.

Maybe best of all, though, I'm now remembering stuff I learned, too. Lessons and facts I'd mostly forgotten, entire subject areas I was once conversant in but had lost touch with... just a lot of knowledge that's come back to me, not always completely, but at least such that I can now look it up and find I have a great head start on really understanding and committing it to memory. Seeing the classes I've taken reminds me of essays I wrote and the research I did for them. I really think seeing these old transcripts is literally making me smarter. It's an outstanding return on an easy and ~~long~~ ^{thoroughly} delightful trip down memory lane, all sparked by simply looking at a single piece of paper. Not bad, eh?

Next, I'd really like to get hold of transcripts from all the other colleges I studied at, see what those 96 credits worth of classes brings back to me. And... high school too! Can you imagine poring over 4 years of perhaps the most formative time in your life? What people, smells, experiences and feelings might that bring back to you? Well, I hope to find out. Wish me luck!

If anyone reading this has any similar experiences, I'd love to hear about them. Please share!

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