



Last semester, I had the pleasure of having Lauren Schultz enrolled in my Intro to User Experience Design class. Although User Experience may have been a new concept, Lauren took to the content immediately given the strong design background she had already developed while serving as the editor of the award-winning Brunswick High School yearbook. Even before she had graduated high school, Lauren was attending design workshops at colleges and mentoring younger students to ensure the yearbook was a success. Long before she came to Kent State, Lauren was cultivating her skills in design thinking.

As a first-semester freshman, Lauren transitioned beautifully to the demands of college life. While some students take a while to get acclimated and adjust to the more aggressive expectations of college, Lauren seemed to hit the ground running and was immediately outperforming many of her older, more-experienced peers.

From the start, Lauren impressed me with the quality of her work and her diligence. Her assignments were thoughtful, creative and reflected mature insight not always seen in all incoming freshmen. Most impressively, Lauren earned the highest grade out of both sections of my class (60 students total). She missed just one point all semester and earned a 99.5% as her final grade.

In addition to generating high quality work, Lauren was very diligent. On the rare occasion she could not be in class, she would let me know in advance and inquire about the best way to catch up on anything she may have missed.

Lauren excels beyond the classroom as well. When she is not in class she is interning at Mimi magazine. Mimi has 16 papers distributed to many cities and over 250,000 households in Ohio. In this capacity, Lauren is designing ads and collaborating with the production staff to better understand how design works in a professional setting. This kind of experience is incredibly valuable and she is, no doubt, growing as a result.

Beyond her academics and her internship, Lauren is also active in extra-curricular activities. She is a member of the Franklin Advertising Club and User Experience Club. Through these organizations, Lauren gets additional insight into the field of design and has countless opportunities to learn from others.

In my experience, I have found Lauren to be an exceptionally capable student. She has impressed me in a variety of ways and I am happy to provide a strong recommendation on her behalf.

Sincerely,

*Monica A. Ralston*

Monica A. Ralston  
User Experience Design Faculty  
Kent State University

School of Information (iSchool)