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My life took a lucky turn, just two subway stops on the redline to Harvard University. My part time college job in the accounting office of the Cambridge Marriott became my full time work after graduating with a BS in Mathematics from UMass Boston. I started slowly at Harvard Extension with a calculus refresher course taught by a wonderfully clever professor who pretended to be a student until the class started. Soon I was taking computer science courses, spending a lot of time in the Science Center learning to code in many languages. That led to a graduate certificate in computer science and a programming job.

The Dean of Harvard Extension at that time was the one and only Dean Michael Shinagel, a true pioneer in education. His speech at the Harvard Extension 100 year Anniversary Dinner and his autobiography brings to life the challenges faced by the founders and champions of our school. Harvard Extension has continued to grow and mature. We have much to celebrate.

Last May, I attended the glorious event of Alumni Weekend at Harvard. It was a celebration of learning, accomplishments and diversity. The welcoming atmosphere turned strangers into friends. The weekend of listening and learning was inspiring. A banquet at Annenberg was the perfect ending to a memorable weekend. Kudos to the planners and all those involved in last year's Alumni Weekend.

Now I am back at Harvard Extension enjoying an online course in finance with the very talented Professor Bruce Watson. My next class will be statistics and then maybe data science. Who knows where it will take me?

I am excited to be considered for a volunteer director of Alumni Weekend. Please let me share my appreciation for our alumni community. I am interested in knowing what you look forward to and what could be added or removed. Let's keep this wonderful tradition alive and well.