## **End of Term Reflection**

I was in the Navy for six years before returning to finishing my degree. My rate was ELT (Engineering Laboratory Technician), so I dealt with radiological and chemical controls on nuclear aircraft carriers. I decided to go back to school because I enjoyed working with medicine to provide radiation screening and helping others. Hopefully, I will continue my education by attending medical school out of this interest. This course affirmed my interest in biology. I find anatomy and physiology to be particularly interesting, so I was infatuated with Chapter Seven Interaction Between Cells and Their Environments. I loved learning more about the extracellular matrix. You provided information that I missed about collagen that helped me understand the differences between the types. Collagen is extremely important in providing strength to tissues in the body but also varies dramatically depending on the location. It is directly correlated to medical disorders if abnormalities in collagen formation are present. I like how you associate illness or abnormality with the course structure because it allows me to stay focused and excited for the next class to learn more. This bridged the gap in information that I was missing when discussing disorders with Dr. Stevens. I have no doubt that the information I learned in this class will help me excel in medical school as well as increasing my understanding of the human body. The more I continue in my education the more I develop an understanding that everything in biology is interconnected and useful information. This class has been one of the more difficult that I have taken since coming back to school, but I enjoy the challenge and the level of organization in the course. Thank you for teaching such an interesting subject with enthusiasm. I wish more of my professor were as energetic and passionate as you are.