Brandon Martin

Mrs. Candela

Advanced Web Design

June 8, 2015

**Brandon’s Journey of Rock!**

**Introduction**

An amazing guitarist under the name of Jimi Hendrix once said "Music doesn't lie. If there is something to be changed in this world, then it can only happen through music." When I first heard music of my liking I thought nothing of it, but it changed me as a person. I felt like I had taken the next step into my life and started to wake up and realize my responsibilities as a human being. With these responsibilities I gave myself goals to improve my overall outcome as a person. In my Web Design class, when I was required to create a website based on three of my bucket list goals I accepted promptly as it would improve my coding skills and conclusion as a person. I would have been a fool to reject this offer because progression would have only been a thought, now I realize it was a kick start. With the use of my new knowledge of coding I could now not only achieve my three chosen goals but I could conquer them and share them with the great minds alike. Goals you really care about can spark innovation, recreation, and further interest. Therefore, I chose to go to more concerts as usual, meet some more of my idols from some of my favorite bands, and learn how to play a few songs on my bass guitars. With effort and prosperity I studied and planned my plan of action for each of these goals which one was completed and can further grow upon itself.

**Page 1: Index**

The Index page of my website was used to catch the eye of many viewers and basically trap them into venturing further into the content of my website. The website overall is supposed to put the idea into any visitors head that if you find a goal you would really like to complete and conquer you can do it with the power of music. The layout is simple and to the point to get my point across of course, but also to create a user-friendly interface easy to use for any visitor. With the vertical navigation off to the side, banner at the top, footer on the bottom and body in the middle the organization works very well and makes every page look neat. Along with the layout the colors gold, brown, and red-orange were chosen as a scheme to give the website a sense of warmth and gratitude that made it feel comfortable and enticing which often leads to positive thinking and accomplishments. The fonts I chose happened to be Merriweather, Hind, and Josefin Sans which are very simple fonts but that is basically what I wanted my website to be, creative and simple. My logo appears in both my favicon and banner which contains an awesome explosion with two bass guitars lying on top of it. And in the background of the guitars there are multiple hands providing the devil horns signs as a sign of passion and good music. I wanted something like this to portray my passion and love for music. With this logo I basically send a message to the viewers, explaining what music means to me and how it has affected me in my years of living. I made a custom cursor for my pages which is the crosshair cursor. Reason being is because I like how precise it is and it simply is a lot cooler to click on something with a crosshair rather than a simple cursor. Crosshairs have always been an interest of mine as they are symmetrical and accurate. Last point for discussion even though it is on all of my pages is my social media page. It happens to be Twitter because I haven’t really used it before and I wanted to learn more about it. So I made a music related Twitter and started tweeting about my favorite bands and music and obtained some followers. I also did make some connections through some powerful quotes from musicians and was able to have the feeling as if I was inspiring my followers. I am pretty proud of the first page of my website mainly because I created it by myself with very little help it makes me feel like I have progressed in the coding world.

**Page 2: Concerts**

My second page titled concerts is based on my goal of seeing more of my favorite bands in concert. I have only been to two concerts in my lifetime and I feel like that is not enough to fulfill my wants. With this page and goal I wanted to illustrate that you can only progress and make something happen if you have a plan and put action to it. Therefore, to complete this goal in my future I have prepared a five-step plan to make sure that it happens and that I am happy and feel accomplished at the end of the plan. I absolutely want to pass this over because it has been something that has affected me before. I was in awe when I had figured out how much of a difference this can make and how much I have changed because of it. The NET benchmarks are awesome in that it was of intent to have them as a part of my self-made website to please visitors. To me the most important one has to be digital citizenship. Reason behind my answer is that people who use the internet need to realize that they are still themselves and just because they are hiding behind a monitor does not give them the right to act differently or out of character. It is also a good thing for this generation because we were born into technology and some of us could really use a refresher on our manners or even just how to use the internet is a respectful and legal way. With everyone’s knowledge in digital citizenship we can have a safer and more reliable portion to the internet. It can also help some of us become leaders and strive to help others in their weaknesses, creating friendships and bonds between each other.

**Page 3: Idols**

My third page was named idols because I really want to meet some of the people who have inspired me to be better than I actually am. One of those people already met being my father has been one of the biggest inspirations in my whole life. He taught me excellent work ethic, most of my manners, and most of all; how to rock! This has to be the most bland and least exciting page on my website but it’s there and I like it where it is. Now creating this website I seemed to always have a time issue and I believe it was because of my laziness but for some reason I felt like I was always behind. Sure I had to do some catching up to do but always being behind set some stress on the mind and I did not approve of it greatly. To specifically point out a certain aspect I will choose the table because it was so complex and had a lot to add and configure. Although, it did end up looking better than I thought and I was very grateful for that. For a quick and brief explanation on how to make it I will provide a simplistic guide to help anyone who is wondering. Since the table had to consist of at least one colspan and a rowspan I began figuring out where I would put those. So, when starting the table you should make sure you have your table rows and table data as they will compose most of your table. Then, move on to filling in your information and make sure everything is a-okay, Within making the rows and data you should insert your rowspan and columnspan and boom you have yourself a nice and well coded table. You can use this to present data to your viewers so they can gain further knowledge either about you or on the topic of discussion.

**Page 4: Bass Guitar**

The Bass Guitar page is one of my favorite pages on my website because it looks the most organized and complete. It contains my video, a paragraph and a list of steps to complete my goal. I wanted this page to create an image that represented my affection for bass guitar. It is something with the quality of sound of these huge stringed beasts that I enjoy and love to play around with. As stated before this page contains my video that was shot straight from my bedroom at home. I started off by thinking of something that I could play that I couldn’t really mess up but something that was fairly easy to keep up with while shooting the video. Once this was acquired I grabbed my camera and the tripod that came with it and set it up on a  table in my room. After this was finished I had grabbed my bass and started shooting my video right then and there. Of course it took multiple tries but I finally caught a good version of my videos then I uploaded that to vimeo. For the last step I took the embed code from vimeo in which they generously thought of people much like us and I inserted it into my code and put the video on my website.  The video is not perfect but it demonstrated my determination on at least trying to recreate the music I love. I can thank my trusty 4-string Dean bass guitar and my B-55FM 5 string bass guitar.

**Page 5: Credits**

The last page of my website is made up of focuses that include the about me paragraph, technology classes table, and citations, etc. With this page I can show my appreciation to those who have advanced me in the knowledge of technology and everything I have learned over the years that have made me love technology. It is also an opportunity to make sure I cite everything I have used on my website because the last thing a sixteen year old high school student needs is being sewed. Many of these resources are the ones that helped me plan, create, and bring my website to life with uniqueness. I found that bubbl.us was the most useful and helpful not only to me but those around me. Filling out an organizer as such helped me get a basic understanding of how I wanted my website to look and what the content was going to be inside of it. If I were to fill out any other organizer by myself I don’t think my website would have been how it was made up and quite frankly I wouldn’t want it to be any other way. Just how everything goes together and looks nice and organized makes me happy and it happened all because of bubbl.us.

Conclusion

Web Design has always been one of my favorite classes and it’s not only the content within the course it’s also the teacher. I enjoyed learning a lot in advanced web design because I can now use my enhanced skill of coding and take up an opportunity if I have to. But the most enjoyed focus of learning was learning CSS coding because it took away from annoying HTML coding to add style to the arts of your website. It was also pretty simplistic and easy to catch on after a while. It is evident that my main weakness is time because I was behind the whole trimester I felt. A strength that comes to mind when thinking is that when given the opportunity to make a website basically by myself I was able to do it mostly independently.  If I could make my website over again I would change the theme in that I would change it to a computer themed website because I love computers and it is what I plan on going to school for. The reason behind this is that I could have made a goal to build my own computer and it would have been easier than playing my bass guitar. I actually completed that goal when I built my $1000 gaming computer which was my first build and I loved building it. I wouldn’t change however the overall layout and structure of the website. Other technology classes and this one has inspired me to advance further in my knowledge of technology because it has become a passion to me. They have added a purpose to my life as something that makes me strive to be the best and overcome my problems. I have definitely benefited from this experience and I wish I could experience another just like it but I’m afraid that is not something that can happen.