

## Transcript: Gerald Roach, Why FSM?

Hi, I'm Gerald Roach. I'm 31 years old, and I started school here in September of 2012 and graduated in March of 2013, so I'm a newbie. [laughter]

I started going to massage school because I was on active duty in the Army and had been for about 10 years. I got to a place where I was unhappy. Things weren't going the way I had hoped they would. The glamour was gone — it wasn't fun anymore.

I tried doing different things for a couple of years, changing locations and working with different people, but I realized the climate was generally the same everywhere.

Back in 2006, I ran into a student at OfficeMax here in town. He was about to graduate and was getting his business cards made. He mentioned he still had a couple of journal entries to complete, so he offered me a free massage since he was retired Air Force.

I was like, yeah — free massage, heck yeah. So I came out to the school and got a session from him. I'd had plenty of massages before, but his style was different — lower tables and things like that. I was curious and asked him a lot about it, and he explained everything to me. It really clicked in a way massage never had before.

Before that, massage had just been something I went and got and felt good afterward. This made more sense in life and felt more applicable.

What's interesting is that years later, when I finally decided to take a tour here, I stopped by the Financial Aid Office and there was the same guy I'd gotten that massage from — Don. It was really neat to connect that way years later, and it felt like a personal clue that I was on the right path.

I've always liked trying to help people in whatever way I can, so massage just seemed great. Plus, it was a completely different environment — relaxing, supportive, and it would force me to get massage more often, which is always a good thing.

So that's how I ended up here.

End of transcript