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I graduated college early and like many “new” adults at that stage had no idea what to do with my life. I left school with a friend to work on a large sailboat that instructs college students in oceanographic and environmental research. I spent the better part of a year sailing around the Pacific. It was fantastic. I loved the students and the sea but found the penniless existence of a constant wanderer on a small boat a bit tiresome. I sat and thought what I enjoyed most and realized it was when I was training others. So I left to teach at a high school.

This June I will finish my third year as a teacher, but I still remember the first day I taught as clearly as if it were a few seconds ago. The fear of having fifteen high school seniors all looking to me for knowledge, instruction, and guidance was intense. I loved it, but wished I could teach them more. It was my goal from the start of that first year to learn as much as I could, as fast as I could, at least to stay ahead of my students. But with no formal training there have been a lot of students I don’t know how to reach. Different styles of learning and different styles of teaching are things I have had to improvise upon. My ambition for this master’s program is to further my education so I am able to impart more and deeper knowledge to each student who comes through my classroom.

In the past years I have been asked to teach many subjects, all in the life sciences. Science always seems to be a hit or miss with students. Some, like I did, love it and take to it easily. Others seem to find it harder than a foreign language. I picked the Science and Mathematics Concentration on the desire to reach the students that don’t take naturally to the subject. The teaching of science is also on a steep but intriguing precipice. The new onslaught of technology and how it can be implemented is staggering. Staggering but incredible. Just yesterday a student of mine showed me how his iPhone can be blown into and played like an ocarina. If this is possible I can only imagine the possibilities of technology like this for the classroom.

Working, and living, at a small boarding school leaves little time to do much else. From breakfast to late night study hall duty I work with the students all day. It does not allow for much extra time. My desire for an online program is to be able to complete the work while continuing as a teacher. Instead of taking time off for school I relish the chance to bring my current experiences to the online forum and then instantly test out things learned in the classes.

I love teaching, I love the days that I can give them something new, something that my students can go on and impart to someone else. Something that they can use to change the world; however small it is. With this degree I hope to further their knowledge.