

Dustin Cunningham

8/29/15

Exploring Teaching and Learning

Stacy Stetzel

Autobiography

My older brother had a very important impact on the career choices of my early life. Now all this may seem silly, but at a young age we were always competing on who could build, design, and create the best house, town, bridge, building, anything and everything. I remember distinctly one day when I was entering 3rd grade and he was entering 6th, I was so excited because I watched a little documentary on architects and that is exactly what I wanted to do! So my joyous self marched to the family room and announced my good news to my two older brothers, my mother and my step dad. Little did I know, my brother had also watched the showing downstairs and had said the same exact thing as I. This was the start of our glorious rivalry.

Having a three year gap in age had both advantages and disadvantages. I was privileged enough to learn from my brother and be ahead of the curve in my own class, but also disadvantaged because I was three years behind my arch enemy! This being said, I was lucky enough throughout Jr. and Sr. High School to be placed in the honors classes, such as: AP Language and Literature, Calculus, Calculus two, Manufacturing systems and Processes, Architectural Design, as well as many others. But, by the middle of my senior year I soon realized that Calculus two was getting too difficult for my tastes; so I had to figure something else out.

Mr. Robertson was one of the most influential teachers/adults that I have ever met. He is so passionate with everything in his life and that included helping me get my life together before

college. I had an internship with him, as his teaching assistant, my last semester of high school and I was able to narrow down my career choices to two areas: Teaching and/or medical (Athletic Training or Physical Therapy). That is when Manchester University entered the scene, being a top school in both of those areas made my decision an easy one. I also wanted to play either Soccer or Baseball at the collegiate level and this was my shot.

Manchester University is truly a wondrous place when you arrive a week before everyone else for Men's Soccer conditioning; the food is great, the friends are fun, and the beds have never felt so comfy. Arriving so early I feel as though I learned the campus very well and that I was well on my way to starting my future here. I started off at Manchester as an Exercise Science and Athletic Training double major, but that soon changed after the 1st semester when I realize how exhausted I was from the time commitment of Athletic Training. Then one night at an Exercise Science club a chiropractor came in to talk to us as a group and everything he said and did is always how I imagined myself helping people. This night verified my choice in exercise science, and I figure out what I wanted to do with my life.

As school progressed that year I felt like something was missing and I was right, I have always had the desire to teach. Heather Schilling really helped me out when I set up a meeting with her. She informed me of many options of the exploration of teaching and various ways I could have it in my life; enter Education Studies, which is just the beginning of my journey in education. So here I am, as an Education Studies and Exercise Science double major, taking my first entry level class into teaching: EDUC 108 Exploring Teaching and Learning.

It has been a wild journey and I wonder if young Dustin ever thought that he would end up in the shoes I am in now.