

How would you describe your area of study to a novice?

The conducting field involves a great deal of preparation and organization. There is a lot of planning rehearsals, isolating potential trouble spots, and always having a plan to keep rehearsal going no matter what. It is a lot of planning ahead and being prepared at all times.

What is your primary motivation for persevering through graduate school?

I enjoy conducting and want to continue my studies of conducting in the band world. It is fascinating, to me, how much more there is to a piece of music (contextual, historical, etc...) than just the notes, rhythms, and melodies. Also, graduate school offers much more one-on-one studies with faculty that allows for more hands-on and personal study.

Do you think there is any value in social networking with other graduate students in non-related fields?

I believe that communication with other graduate students in non-related fields is important to get an idea of the requirements, and demands, of other graduate students. You may discover that a study method other departments use might work in relation to your department of study.

What is your favorite stress-reduction technique?

My favorite stress-reduction technique is watching old DVDs of House at my girlfriend's place. We usually make a run to Sheetz and watch an episode or two after a particularly busy, or stressful, day.

What is the last book you read strictly for pleasure and how long ago was it?

"A View From the Booth" by Chris Wheeler. I enjoy Philadelphia sports and I found this book by a Phillies' announcer last summer. It is a very enjoyable book for anyone that enjoys Philadelphia sports.

Please describe your most meaningful academic relationship.

I spend a lot of time studying with my advisor Dr. Gallops. Whenever I have a question, concern, or issue, I'm in his office having a lengthy discussion how to proceed with the situation. He has offered me tons of meaningful advice, methods, and information throughout this year.

What surprised you the most about graduate school?

I was not expecting my fellow graduate students to be as helpful, supportive, and friendly to me this year as they have been. The graduate students around the music department are all amazing people. I have yet to find someone that was not willing to help me with a question, regardless of how busy they are.

If travel to Mars happens in your lifetime, would you want to be one of the scientists on board? If yes, what would you contribute to the mission?

I would not. My field of study does not seem like it would be helpful on something like that.

What is your favorite comfort food and why? How often do you consume it?

I have been addicted to Frozen Pepsi slushes from Sheetz. I drink these multiple times a week.

If you hadn't been admitted to graduate school, what do you think you would be doing right now?

I would probably be teaching music in public schools. My undergraduate degree is in Music from JMU with a concentration in Music Education. I still plan to teach music in public schools after completing my graduate degree.

When do you expect to complete your degree?

I plan to complete my degree in the Spring of 2013.