

Judy Mann Interview:

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

This would be a tough one but I would definitely have to use the word pedagogy and explain that pedagogy is the art, the science, and the profession of teaching. I would probably then move into explaining Bloom's taxonomy in layman's terms. I would compare Bloom's taxonomy to the food pyramid with the memorization of facts being at the bottom of the pyramid while creating is at the top or the pinnacle of the pyramid. As we practice the art of teaching we gradually move up the pyramid helping or building scaffolds for the student to achieve the next level of learning.

What is your primary motivation for persevering through graduate school?

My primary motivation for persevering through graduate school is to become as prepared as I can possibly be for my own students. I look for practical ideas that can be used right away during that first year of teaching. I draw a light bulb beside any idea in my notes or in my reading that could easily be implemented in the classroom.

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

Yes, as teachers we are committed to becoming life-long learners and this includes learning things outside our own realm or field of study. My personal belief is that most disciplines overlap so learning about things in non-related fields only enhances our own field of study.

What is your favorite stress-reduction technique?

Yoga is probably my best source of stress-reduction and walking in between work and classes seems to really help with stress and clearing my mind.

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

Jane Eyre is my favorite book and I read it for the third time over Christmas 2012 break.

Please describe your most meaningful academic relationship.

I have greatly enjoyed working with the professors and students in Peters Hall. My most meaningful academic relationships were formed through my graduate assistantship there. I have worked with and for some great folks.

What surprised you the most about graduate school?

What surprised me the most is how much I have enjoyed working with other graduate students younger than myself and how much I have learned from them.

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?

Yes, I definitely would not pass up the opportunity to travel to Mars especially as a teacher! I would have the kids write stories about what they would like for me to do while I was there and what souvenirs they would like for me to bring them back from Mars. I would enlist the other scientists on the mission in helping me collect the souvenirs. I would also be optimistic with my crew members as we search for life on Mars, especially the little green men.

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

When I throw caution to the wind, probably white cheddar popcorn and coffee. Most graduate students consume large quantities of coffee and some nights the main course is popcorn.

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

I would have gone forward in teaching with my BA and would have attempted to still obtain licensure through RU for elementary education. Also, I would probably have had more time for planning my trip to Mars.

When do you expect to complete your degree?

I expect to complete my degree December of 2014.