

Meghan Moore-Hubbard Interview:

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

Saying that I'm "studying education" always raises eyebrows. It is untrue to say that I am learning how to teach because that can't be taught. But I am learning how to engage students, how to care about them and inspire them to love history.

What is your primary motivation for persevering through graduate school?

My motivation for graduate school is my grandmother. Although she passed away recently, she always lit up when she would tell people that I was at Radford working towards a Master's. She had very little formal education and she took pride in her grandchildren who took their education seriously. I hope I'm making her proud.

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

Of course, many of my husband's friends are graduate students in engineering and it is exciting to be inspired by something so different than your field of study. They are researching and working their butts off too so it's inspiring to see the drive that is necessary across all subjects to be a successful graduate student.

What is your favorite stress-reduction technique?

When I start to feel overwhelmed I can always reduce stress by vegging out in front of the TV for a while and watching something completely bad for me. Like, "Sons of Anarchy". That's a guilty pleasure. It doesn't require a lot of brainpower and I can recharge quickly. Then it's back to the books.

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

I just finished 7, by Jen Hatmaker. It's all about reducing excess in your life. She focuses on reducing excess in clothes, shopping, waste, food, possessions, media, and stress. It inspired me to simplify my lifestyle to focus on my spiritual self.

Please describe your most meaningful academic relationship.

My research would not be possible without my advisor Dr. Roberts. From the first time I met her I knew I had made the right choice in coming to Radford. She has traveled to the coalfields with me and helped me develop my thesis. She is so supportive and full of helpful ideas and books. I can never thank her enough.

What surprised you the most about graduate school?

The professors. Hands down. They all care so much about seeing us succeed. I have created lasting relationships with more professors in one year of graduate school than I did in all of under-grad. I know I could go to any of them and they would do everything in their power to help me. And they don't have to. That's what's so inspiring, they just want to help.

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?

In the interest of full disclosure I have never even flown in my life so I probably would not be the first to volunteer to take off to Mars. My husband is the adventurous one and the science-minded one. However, if you need the history of NASA, I'm your girl.

What is your favorite comfort food and why? How often do you consume it? Chips. I can eat a can of Pringle's before your very eyes. I try not to keep them in my house for that reason but during finals they usually seem to appear in my pantry. But only for a day or two.

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

Continually applying to graduate schools. I cannot imagine not continuing my education. I am a lifetime learner and I love school. So I'd be filling out applications until I got in.

When do you expect to complete your degree?

I hope to graduate in May 2014.