

**Hannah Alden-Hugli Interview:**

Hannah is a MS in Education candidate in the School of Teacher Education and Leadership. She is especially interested in multicultural education and the societal implications of the high stakes testing culture. Hannah serves as GA in the Graduate College and Professional Studies. Outside of school, Hannah enjoys hiking and Bikram yoga. She loves going on adventures to new places in the area.

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

I plan on using my degree to further my academic tutoring business. I feel that gaining exposure to the public classroom setting is an important aspect to understanding the students as well as the teacher's obstacles.

**What is your primary motivation for persevering through graduate school?**

After receiving my BBA from Roanoke College in 2009, I worked in retail management for four years. I found that this experience drove me back to my true passion in life—teaching and tutoring. I felt that going to graduate school was part of my effort to be a lifelong learner, and grow academically.

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

Absolutely, I presented academic seminars to the Chamber of Commerce, schools, small community groups and networked with people of all different fields. We often do not understand how interlinked we are and there are benefits both personally and professionally to making new relationships and connections.

**What is your favorite stress-reduction technique?**

I love Bikram yoga. I find my mind runs a lot and this helps to calm me down. I enjoy yoga very much and in the summer months would love to get back in the groove.

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

The Promise of a Pencil, it was an amazingly inspiring book. It is about a college student who in a Semester Overseas programs, ask many of the children, "If you could have anything in the world what would it be?". Many responded that they wanted a pencil or a book. He was touched by this experience and started by bringing supplies to other countries and then building schools. I read it with one of my private students, we have small book groups over the summer and he was interested in Non-Profit Organizations and international work and it was fitting. I finished it 2 weeks ago, and it was 250-300 pages long.

**Please describe your most meaningful academic relationship.**

Without a doubt, the most meaningful academic relationship has been with Dr. Jacobsen. She is encouraging, supportive and works in the best interest of the students and staff at Radford. She advocates for the students and creates a productive and proactive work environment. I have had the pleasure of working with her closely this year, and am a better person for it.

**What surprised you the most about graduate school?**

Honestly, we all procrastinate sometimes, but I was surprised at the amount of students that still procrastinate regularly in graduate school.

**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 love to be the levity for the audience if it is a rough trip or there are unanticipated obstacles along the way. I love to see people happy☺.

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

I absolutely love mashed potatoes and gluten free gravy. It is my comfort food for sure. I do not eat it much, maybe once every couple of weeks.

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

I would be continuing to work to expand my tutoring business and tutoring students in the evenings. I probably would still be living in California, and not have moved back to Virginia.

**When do you expect to complete your degree?**

I am planning to graduate in May 2015.