

Biography

Getting to know Greg Le Moine

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About this Sketch

The purpose of this little special edition is to get a glimpse of Greg Le Moine's life. Find out why he wants to teach, if he knows he can teach, and the rest of the where's, when's, why's, and how's. Sit back and get to know Greg through this short self-interview.

Why Teaching?

I have always been a teacher. It doesn't take a certificate to be a teacher in life! What I mean is... take the example of learning something new. I absolutely have to show somebody else what I learned. I have to share that new knowledge.

Many different service jobs have crept into my life. I have always worked at restaurants or in retail environments. The important clue I picked up on right away was people telling me to be a teacher. I try to follow up with the word WHY.

Most people reply by saying I am good with kids and have a lot of patience. The rest say that I have the personality for it.

Where did you attend school?

The first school I went to was Carroll College in Waukesha, WI.

I studied Chemistry, German, and Music. Instead of staying at Carroll, I focused and earned a Liberal Arts Degree in German from Lawrence University in 1992.

I went back to school in 1997 at UWO to pursue my Elementary



education license. Many people are confused by the fact that I didn't find a one year program and get certified to teach German. Those same people are further confused when they find out my minor is ESL (English as a Second Language) and I don't want to be an ESL teacher.

I would much rather be a mainstream Elementary teacher. If I stayed in the mainstream I could support the ESL program and still be prepared to help the students in my classroom!

Can you share your other Experiences?

The most significant is the career I left. I was a retail manager for Warner Brothers Studio Stores. I lived in five

different states in four years. The heart of my job was training employees, working in a retail environment, and working with a team of managers. I ended my short career as a Store Manager for a three million dollar store in Columbus, Ohio.

As a store manager, I had my hand in a lot of human resources, time management, security, and training issues. All of those experiences can be related to the dynamic life of a teacher. The difference is the final product. As a store manager the employees were second to the almighty dollar. The bottom line was the income of the store. As a teacher, the bottom line will be the lives of my students.

That is the main reason I left a budding career. As a top manager, I couldn't spend as much time training. My managers took care of that. I had to worry about the bigger picture, the store.

My career back-up plan was to go back to school and become a teacher.

What else should we know about you?

Our classrooms are becoming more and more culturally diverse. Because of my experiences over

seas, I am very tolerant and inquisitive of other cultures.

I have always been a traveler. My father was in the army for all of my schooling. We moved to a different state or country every three years. It seemed like I was always the “new kid on the block”.

There are two important overseas experiences I had during school. I was an Exchange student in Berlin, Germany before the Wall came down. That changed my life forever. I had direct experiences with culture shock, homesickness, language barriers, prejudice, and self knowledge.

The second experience was in London, England. I spent a semester studying English history, art, music, and culture.

What about actual Teaching experience?

Most of my teaching experience has been during these years at UWO. I have been a tutor for the after school program called SAIL, helped out in ESL classrooms to satisfy requirements for my minor, and my clinical experience was in a first grade class at Webster Stanley here in Oshkosh.



Prior to UWO, my experience was as a water skiing instructor. Families would spend a week up north the resort I worked at. I would teach their kids to water-ski. My partner and I had to work out informal lesson strategies and schedules.

The most gratifying aspect of that experience was the thank you letters. I received Christmas cards for the next three years from the kids and their families. I know I positively impacted the lives of those kids.

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