

James Garst Interview:

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

I am studying to become an administrator in the public school setting. I will be an assistant principal at Andrew Lewis Middle School next school year and my area of study is helping me prepare for this endeavor.

What is your primary motivation for persevering through graduate school?

My primary motivation for persevering through graduate school is my family. By earning my administrative license, I will be able to provide for my family as well as continue working in a profession that I love.

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

I do think there is value in social networking with other graduate students in non-related fields for many reasons. Most importantly, colleagues outside of the education field can provide ideas and discussions that are beneficial to both public education as well as the general public.

What is your favorite stress-reduction technique?

My favorite stress-reduction technique is running. I enjoy running because it's easy to do from my house and I always feel better when it's over.

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

It's been a while! I try to read before I go to bed at night, but I usually end up falling asleep about 1-2 paragraphs in!

Please describe your most meaningful academic relationship.

My most meaningful academic relationship was with my former high school English teacher. He took the time to encourage me to go beyond athletics and discover my love of learning. We still maintain regular communication today.

What surprised you the most about graduate school?

Because my program is completely online, I am surprised at the good relationships that are still formed in a completely virtual environment.

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?

No way!

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

Pizza...as often as possible!

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

I would continue my career as a teacher.

When do you expect to complete your degree?

I will be completing my degree this summer (August 2013).