

The Buddha Said I am Awake

Employment Objective

To teach Political Science and / or other Social Studies courses at the collegiate level as a full-time or adjunct professor. I would also love to create and lead students on travel excursions and seminar studies involving pertinent issues of the world.

Day #1 - My class. Every class. Each year. All grade levels - college or high school, the first thing I say aloud to every single person in that room, "The buddha came down from the mountain. The wise man said, "Are you a god? Are you man?" I stop. They stop. I wait. They wait. It's quiet. I answer myself. "The buddha said, 'I am Awake!'" Some get it. Most don't. Others think I'm crazy. Then I ask, "So, are you Awake? I mean really Awake? Do you get it? Your role on this planet, in your home, with your family, your friends, in these seats here in this classroom, deep down do YOU get it? Any of it? Well, do you? "...And if you do - the obvious next question...What do you plan to do about it?"

Everything I do, in the classroom, on the road, inside of my prepared lessons and student discussions, addresses that question - to provide an avenue for students to become AWAKE, and consequently involved in creating a better planet. For 18 years I've sponsored a scholarship "**Building A Better World**" to provide High School seniors an opportunity to light their own bulbs.

Every year I take kids to D.C. and to the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama to awaken them to the past and the present of their world. We go to Chicago and NYC. We seek the diversity and opportunity and stimulation they cannot find living in a poor rural (100% Federally free lunch) community. I bring rigor to the plate in the classroom, and travel experience and insight to the imagination of those in the seats before me. I listen. I create. I inspire. I work tirelessly to hone my craft. And I will continue to do so until the day I die.
I am a Teacher; it is my identity. My life.

Teaching Experience

(1991 to present) Social Studies Teacher

Oakridge High School - • 5493 East Hall Road
• Muskegon, MI 49442 • Government, Economics, Current World.Issues.

(2014 to 2016) AMUN Professor / Coordinator

Muskegon Community College • Muskegon, MI • Taught and traveled for three years with the American Model UN Program.

(2010 to 2011) Graduate Assistantship

Western Michigan University - • Kalamazoo, Michigan • Served as GA for Government courses. Awarded the *Teaching Excellence Award* and the *Z.D. Shilling Graduate Award for inspired Community Service*, by WMU Political Science Department.

(1981 to 1986) Social Studies Teacher

John Sedgwick Jr High • Port Orchard, WA.

Education

TEFL/TESOL - The Bridge

Summer 2021

40 Hour Introductory Certificate in teaching English as a Foreign Language. Currently working towards 120 hour MA certificate.

Western Michigan University - MA

2010 to 2011 / GPA 3.75.

On sabbatical full time and in coordination with James Madison Fellowship. Masters Political Science.

Michigan State University - BA

Graduated 1980 / GPA 3.4.

BA in History. State of Michigan Certification in History, Political Science and Group Social Studies.

Publications

- [Regime Failure and Opposition Consolidation in the Overthrow of Egypt's Hosni Mubarak.](#) MA Thesis.
- [Dodger Dogs to Fenway Franks](#) - McGraw Hill Inc (1988) 347 pages. A trip to all 26 Major League Ballparks
- [Big Ten Country](#) - William and Morrow and Company (1989) 272 page. The 1988 Big Ten Football Season.

A Scholarship, A Fellowship, Two Websites, and Inspired Travel

• Building a Better World Scholarship

This scholarship has launched dreams and inspired many young lives. In 2003 I conceived it with a \$300 donation. Mom matched me. An additional \$300 was raised by fellow teachers. That was the beginning of Building A Better World Scholarship. We are now a 501 c-3 organization. I serve as CEO. Oakridge School District, recipient of our scholarship, qualifies for 100% Federally funded free lunch. In 18 years we've awarded over \$100,000 in scholarships to 63 graduating seniors. The scholarship awards in three vital areas...

- 1. Global Awareness** - What does it mean? Why is it significant in building a better world? How will your life plans fulfill your written goals?
- 2. Community involvement** - Why is it vital to volunteer? What have you done and what do you plan to do in the future to help your community deal with the challenges faced?
- 3. Independent Travel** - What is the significance of independent travel in building a better planet? Plan a road trip - we'll fund it. We've sponsored a student trip to the Philippines to visit a village where Grandma was born, China to search adoption roots, Tanzania for a 17 year old to work at girls orphanage, a pair of graduates to volunteer at women's shelter in Katmandu; Montana and Seattle and NYC - experiences (among others) that have enhanced the lives of dozens of young people.

• Travel with Students

I organize, fund raise, prepare for, and lead both of these trips. Each is potentially life changing.

Close Up Washington D.C.

(annual since 1994)

Every Spring for a week, I lead a group of 12 to 20 students to D.C. to live and learn and laugh with kids from all over the USA. Close Up is the best education, travel, political experience in the world.

Selma, Alabama Civil Rights Tour

(bi-annual since 2003)

Five days and four nights in March revolving around Selma's "Bridge Crossing Jubilee", we travel to Birmingham, Montgomery, and Selma - to churches, museums, the streets of the Civil Rights movement. **I created this trip. I organize and lead it.**

• Professional Awards

James Madison Memorial Fellowship (2009)

The James Madison Foundation Fellowship is the most prestigious award that can be conferred upon a K-12 American Government teacher. Each year the Foundation awards one K-12 teacher per state, a \$24,000 fellowship for MA study, to honor "individuals desiring to become outstanding teachers of the American Constitution at the secondary school level." I was chosen as Michigan's 2009 Fellowship Winner. In 2010 I took the Madison on sabbatical to Western Michigan University and earned an MA in Political Science. My thesis "The Arab Spring" in Egypt in real time - the greatest intellectual experience of my life.

NEH South Africa Summer Institute - (2013)

For six weeks, traveled in and studied the culture and education systems of South Africa. Sponsored by NEH, and Rhodes University, South Africa..

Fulbright Hays - Morocco and Mali (2006)

This six week seminar "Promoting Community Development in Morocco and Mali," was sponsored by the Fulbright Foundation. I studied with fifteen US School teachers and a handful of Moroccan scholars.

Building A Better World Scholarship
scholarship website / .net

The Buddha Said I am Awake
personal website / .com

• Independent Travel

Travel lights fires in people's bellies. Students and Teachers. I bought my first Eurail pass in 1995. Since, I've traveled to Europe, East and West. I've been to the Middle East three times; Syria, a year before the war, Palestine twice, as well as Israel, Egypt, Lebanon, and Jordan. In the late 90's, I got a first hand look at the fledgling democracies of Russia and Ukraine. In South and North Africa, I was guided by Fulbright and NEH. I also spent a month in 2015, in East Africa, Uganda and Rwanda with an ex-student now turned NPR correspondent. Colombia, Cuba, Vietnam, Laos, and Central America, travel has opened my eyes to the world - it keeps me young, wakes me up., and allows me to inspire my students to become

...AWAKE!