

REFLECTION 6 Mar 2012

I am halfway through my third semester and feeling quite torn. I started the George Mason University Doctor of Arts in Community College Education, Higher Education Administration with the intention of making transitions to higher education easier for veterans. I have since been pulled back toward my love of travel. I spent last school year teaching English conversation in Spain and know how much I need to visit new places. When I say visit, I am not just referring to going on a tour or for a few weeks, either. I went on three Contiki tours while overseas last year. Not so much because I liked them, as much as because I was exhausted at being my own travel agent/tour guide. There were so many places I wanted to see and knew I simply didn't have the energy to plan and make arrangements for. Contiki saved me by having it all planned and delivered to me. The problem was the trips were so packed with activities, I was exhausted at the end of each tour. That's not how I like to feel at the end of my vacations, but as Giuseppe, a guide, said, "You're not on vacation. You're on tour." Big difference. In my mind, the tours only gave me glimpse into the places I will have to return to spend more time.

So anyway...I now find myself wondering again about focusing on something related to Global Studies and my Spanish abilities. I have spoken with the Graduate Fellowship Director to find out more about the Boren and Fulbright Fellowships. She is quite knowledgeable, but I did wonder what she does all day. It doesn't seem many students know about her position yet, so I wonder how many customers she actually gets. That would be nice for me to get personal attention, though.

I also met with my Knowledge Area Academic Advisor. I told her pretty much what I am writing here – lots of interests and looking to tie them all together somehow, if that's at all

possible. She was quite helpful. I was able to remove some of the fog regarding the actual degree completion process. I still don't know what I intend to pursue, though.

Finally, there's my Third Culture Kids Chapter revisions. I have been working on them for a former professor to include in a book to be published this summer. All the stories I read (and related very well to) took me back to my global roots.

I think I know that is the answer – go global. My heart lives all over the world and only comes home to recharge for the next journey. So what does that mean for me academically? That, my friends, is the \$100,000 question.