

# Reflecting on the past and moving into the future...

**Set your goals high, and don't stop till you get there.**

**-Bo Jackson**

By: Samantha Slifer

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**As I come to the conclusion of my time as a MAET at MSU, it is an appropriate time to reflect upon what my goals were since I applied to the program in the summer of 2012 and what I have accomplished since being enrolled in the program. When I applied to the program, I just graduated from Duquesne with my B.S. in Spanish Education and was enrolled in a graduate class at Duquesne, to earn my instructional technology specialist certificate. I did not have a teaching job for the school year, but I was very interested in educational technology. I was able to see how engaged students were in lessons as well as how much of a difference technology could make in regards to rigor, relevancy and differentiation, when integrated effectively.**

**I wanted to be able to learn about integrating technology into my classroom and at many times this was frustrating. I began classes at MSU in September 2012 and I did not have a teaching job. I wasn't able to apply what I was learning in class because I did not have a classroom of my own. I felt as though I wasn't getting as much out of the classes as I could and I wasn't able to try new things and take risks. From December 2012-April 2013 I was fortunate enough to have a long-term substitute position, teaching high school Spanish. I was able to apply what I was learning in class, but at times it was easier to not prepare complex lessons with technology and take risks, because I didn't have time to be a full-time, first year teacher and a full-time grad student.**

**Overall, I am happy with my accomplishments during the MAET program. I believe that through the assignments, readings and working with my classmates, I was able to learn more about effectively integrating technology to increase student learning and foster a meaningful and deepened understanding of the content for my students. I hope that in the upcoming years I will be able to apply what I have learned and continue to be a life-long learner. Technology is constantly changing and I will need to continue learning as much as I can about educational technology.**