What Does the Future Hold? Chandra Owen

As one educational journey comes to its end as I complete my masters degree in Educational Technology I am looking forward to what the future holds. At this time in my life I find myself exploring PhD programs, but I have made a commitment to spending more time with my children while they are young and I feel that I cannot manage a PhD program, a full-time job, and a young family and giving them the quality time that each deserves. After completing several courses in the MAET program my desire to conduct additional research and advocate for policies that improve college accessibility has grown exponentially. I would like to continue to gather data regarding the impact that increasing student loan indebtedness has on families and the economy as well as the inevitable increase in student and parent loan default.

Since coursework through a PhD program is a challenge for me at this period of time, but may be something I would like to pursue when my children are older, I plan to continue research and learning through participating in the Midwest Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (MASFAA), professional writing, webinars, and lifelong coursework. Technology is also a love of mine. My love began when my father told us he was bringing us home a surprise and our clue was that it had a mouse. This was back in the day when personal computers were not prevalent so I was thinking of a live mouse. To tell you the truth I imagined that he was bringing home a wooden maze and a mouse that would run through it. It was not a wooden maze, it was an Amiga computer. I spent many, many hours playing educational games such as Where in the United States is Carmen San Diego? and typing games such as Mavis Beacon. We had the first version of America Online until I shared my address with a boy on chat and we had no internet for a few years after that. In high school I took most, if not all, of the computer courses that were offered which taught me about the Microsoft Office Suite and Novell Networking. The way that I learn many technological skills is through trial and error. I just click around menus and use the help option when I run into a problem. This allows me to learn the basic functions, but I have found that courses are vital to really understanding and utilizing software to its greatest capabilities. I hope to continue adding to my technological skills through exploration, Lynda.com tutorials, following MAET, and learning new things from my techie husband.

In JRN 338 I was introduced to Adobe Flash. The ideas began flowing of creations that I could make with this tool. I still have a lot to learn and definitely consider myself a beginner. I plan to study more about either actionscript or HTML 5 depending on where technology trends go. I also learn and gain inspiration through the web, either by searching key terms, or friends sharing links via social networking.

I have the ideas and skills that will be useful for this future research thanks to the MAET program. My next hurdle is dedicating time to these ideas. Ultimately I hope that through these skills I can make a difference in improving college access and help find solutions to financing college that do not require either great loan indebtedness or extreme financial sacrifice to fund a public higher education.