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'burg Blogs » **Don't tell. Show.**

Posted [July 10, 2012](#) at 8:27 am by [Andy Fairbanks '12](#)



Kyle and me

“Write every day.... Write what you know... Don't tell. Show.”

– Professor Thomas Hallock

NEW YORK CITY — I've been thinking about Professor Hallock's advice quite a bit recently. My original post-graduation plan was to take a gap-year to travel and write as I circumnavigate the globe. Thanks to a generous fellowship from Florida Studies alumna Hope Black, most of the money I saved to pay for graduate school is available for this trip. But life, as it has a way of doing, intervened.

A family emergency shortly after graduation brought me to New York City. I found myself alternating between hospital bedside vigil for my injured baby nephew and helping to maintain some sense of normalcy for his older brother. As the situation improved, I found time to transform copious notes (a habit reinforced through ethnographic training by Professor Rebecca Johns) into a blog entitled “Adventures in daddy duty.”

Appreciation for the nuances of history (Professors Ray Arsenault and Gary Mormino), geography and environmental management (Professor Chris Meindl) honed during my studies at USFSP continue to influence my daily experiences far beyond the classroom. Besides my NYC adventures, I am still making plans for gap-year travels.



The Big Apple

Inspired by the broader cultural studies foundation of my Florida Studies experience, I am collecting suggestions for literature and other media in yet another blog, “The Goat’s gap-year.” Please check it out, share your own worldly insights, and follow along as I post my way around the globe.

One more shout-out is needed here. USFSP Webmaster Michel Fougeres is the one who turned me on to blogging. His enthusiasm and encouragement were instrumental during my assistantship, which was primarily concerned with renovating the Florida Studies Program website. I had no prior web development experience, but he empowered me to learn yet another valuable skill. Such was my experience generally at USFSP, St. Petersburg’s “jewel by the bay.”

About the blogger



I just graduated (May 2012) with an MLA from the Florida Studies Program. Perhaps I'm biased, but I think it's the most interesting graduate program in the state. My thesis is titled "The Good, the Bad, and the Garbage: The Making of Modern Florida Solid Waste Policy." Before I commit to a job or further study, I am taking a gap year to explore places around the world that have long captivated my imagination.