



Having completed my B.Ed. and escaped the goldfish bowl of Cornwall, in 1984 I travelled to The Sultanate of Oman to begin my first over-seas teaching post. After twenty eight years teaching in diverse locations such as Yemen and Switzerland I was inspired to embark on the masters programme with Endicott College during a CIS Accreditation Team Visit. I had previously had fleeting thoughts about moving out of the classroom and studying but it was not until I met Dr. Art Charles that I actually believed I could do it. Dr. Charles empowered me to be proactive in my

life and encouraged me to make a positive change. This was to be the start of a life changing experience with Endicott College.

The Endicott online application process was a straight forward procedure and when I did encounter difficulty with the authenticity my transcripts, the Dean of the M.Ed. programs, Rick Pacheco offered immediate help and advice which was extremely reassuring. Later discussions with my peers revealed that he subtly took care of many aspects of our administration allowing us to focus on our studies; he still holds the record for returning emails at breakneck speed.

After completion of all the formalities I began my journey through the master's programme in International Education and Administration with Summer School in Leysin, in June 2011. There were a number of courses running at the same time with both returning and new students. Leysin is a stunning location set in the tranquillity of majestic mountains with breath-taking views. The facilities are comfortable and there is plenty of space for learning and relaxation. The library has a rich collection of computers and printing resources to support the research, teaching and the learning needs of students and staff. The ambiance was comfortable and international with students arranging activities such a Broom Ball (a Canadian thing!) and social evenings in *The Cave*.

My course was a well-crafted, powerful combination of management skills in areas such as organisational behaviour and leadership. In addition, we completed a course in negotiating, communication and mediation which not only enhanced my professional competence but extended to my personal life like negotiating a low price when buying my new home. I found the work throughout summer school intense but the self-satisfaction and interaction with both tutors and peers is phenomenal. On reflection it was a luxury to be in such a wonderful setting and have a month of total devotion to studies with similar minded people. At Endicott the aim is for students to be leaders of the future. This is achieved by creating problem-based learning in small classes with pre-selected academic individuals and other highly intelligent, creative people from a multitude of cultures and countries. The tutors have high expectations and pushed us to reach our potential, enabling both staff and students to enjoy very special connections and relationships to establish networking and career development. In recent months I have benefitted from this

opportunity by contacting my tutors for professional advice. All the tutors are approachable and have a wealth of experience to share; this was noticeable during meal times when everyone exchanged dialogues. True to form Endicott is forward thinking and takes all course evaluation seriously and we were requested to put thought into completing questionnaires at the end of each course to help improve and develop future courses.

It is also apparent that Endicott is committed to developing individuals through a blended learning approach that includes residential, experiential and online learning. The latter allows students in various parts of the globe to study whilst working and fitting their studies around their daily routines. I find this a huge advantage. Additionally, the online courses include awareness of advances in technology and everything I have learnt has value and application in both the school setting and in real life.

Embarking on the Master's program has benefitted me both professionally and personally. Having completed half of the program I realize that I could never have moved forward within the educational setting without my newly acquired knowledge and skills. Having heavy mileage on the clock in the international teaching carousel was not enough to move to management, the master's program has filled the gaps giving me confidence and the ability to look at situations with a different perspective. These skills now permeate throughout all aspects of my life and most importantly I have made long lasting friendships with people from all over the world.