

Marion A. Truslow Ph.D. — Teaching Philosophy

Teachers are generally born and not made. From childhood, all I have wanted to do is to teach, to be an educator. My youth and my young adult life both prepared me to love teaching history, social sciences, and philosophy, and to manage other educators.

My family provided me with my first great role models for teaching and for educational leadership positions: my grandparents and my parents. One of my grandparents, C.C. Manus, was the Chief of Police in Gainesville, Georgia. He taught me how to tie my shoes, how to be polite, and how to follow the rules. When he died, there were over 3,000 people in his funeral procession. Apparently he was also an effective teacher in his community at large. My father taught first aid in the community center at Adams Park in Cascade Heights, Atlanta. I was about six years old then and sat in the back of the room watching him teach. I knew that I wanted to be exactly like him. The dozens of people with whom he interacted all seemed to enjoy his instruction. They kept asking questions, and he answered them authoritatively, clearly, and often humorously. He taught me how to fly fish, and how to respect nature and the environment. My mother taught me how to read music, and encouraged me to play the saxophone. In my twenties I played professionally with some success, and later held a New York City (musician's) union card. My entire family encouraged both my sister and me to read. By the time we were in the third grade, we had read virtually every book in the literature and history section of the Adams Park Carnegie Library in Atlanta. To this day, I still read for fun, usually a book a week of my hobby, eastern and western mysticism, or a good volume of history. (Being a reader and a life long learner has helped me to be a more effective classroom teacher. Work as an educator is a calling; inspired teaching (as well as having enlightened educational insights as an administrator) is the result of being passionate and knowledgeable about your subjects and fields, and staying current with the developments in education. This is my philosophy of teaching).

History was all around me growing up. The Battle of Ezra Church was fought near my house. Little wonder that my Ph.D. thesis would be on the New York Irish in the Civil War--especially since I worked as a bartender at McSorley's Saloon in New York City while attending NYU! My articles on the Irish have been published in The New York Irish History Roundtable, and soon, I have an article coming out in Irish Soldiers, American Wars, edited by David Noel Doyle and Arthur Mitchell. Please contact Professor Arthur Mitchell at University of South Carolina. He can recommend my scholarship to you. Also, contact Professor Robert J. Scally of NYU's Ireland House, at robert.scally@nyu.edu or 516-725-4194. He was my mentor.

Marion A. Truslow, Ph.D.

Fulbright Scholar, the Netherlands, summer of 1992.

Multiple Overseas NEH Seminar Awards, 1997, 2007, 2011.

For other awards, experiences, publications and qualifications, please check:

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