Hi, I am Rich Edelen.

I live in Sherman Oaks, California. Additionally, in Sherman Oaks, I teach at The Buckley School, a private K-12 school. I teach junior/senior Astronomy and 8th grade Physical Science. I have 76 8th graders and 17 Astronomy students. Our entire school, K – 12, has approximately 770 students. As you can imagine this makes for a very nice student-teacher ratio.

When I am not teaching, I like to escape into the mountains for a backpacking trip, a relaxing hike, a mountain bike ride, or to scamper up some of the local crags. However, I have done considerably less of all of these since enrolling in the MAET program. I do not understand how those of you with families and full-time jobs do it; I am in awe.

I have lived in the Los Angeles area for six years now, California eight, and have only been to the beach six times. Well, four times since getting my first apartment. I actually lived on a part of the Santa Monica beach for a few months when I first arrived in LA, along with a couple months in Joshua Tree National Park.

I have zero children, zero pets, and no spouse. For now, I am happy with the first and last, but I cannot wait to get a dog as soon as summer vacation from work begins. Actually, I do have a dog, Sugar Bear, but she lives in Dallas, soon to be D.C. with my parents. Sugar has lived with them since I moved to California, my first employer, a residential outdoor education facility did not allow personal pets and my first apartment in LA allowed pets, just not real dogs (i.e. thirty pounds and over).

I do not have formal experience with portfolios; however, I started my web portfolio at the beginning of the MAET program. I used Weebly to publish my portfolio. As several of our classmates have mentioned, Weebly is a lifesaver when it comes to web publishing. It's simple drag and drop modules are so helpful, cutting back formatting time, and still allows for HTML. At the beginning of this program, I was fairly tech savvy; although, as the program has progressed, so too has my skill level and comfort with newer technologies, especially those that show value in education (e.g. Google Apps, OpenSource, web publishing, simulations, video games, and many others).

I would like to incorporate portfolios into my curriculum as an educator. I am hoping this course provides me with the pros and cons of doing so, as well as provides me a clear path for implementing such tools. I have had a very tough time implementing most of what I have learned in this program; however, I forge onward.

Finally, I am excited to be working on this final class with so many good people, many of which I met during the 2009 East Lansing Summer Cohort.