

“...all of us have in our veins the exact same percentage of salt in our blood that exists in the ocean, and, therefore, we have salt in our blood, in our sweat, in our tears. We are tied to the ocean. And when we go back to the sea...we are going back from whence we came.” ~John Fitzgerald Kennedy

~~~~~

I have always loved the ocean. Not necessarily swimming in it or even being out on it so much as sitting on a beach and watching it. I could watch the waves roll in for hours. They are mesmerizing in both their enormity and in their constant roiling motion. How the oceans tie us all together in this wonderful world of ours strikes me as well in that when I put my foot in the water I am touching Japan, Australia, even England or France. The ocean represents a common theme in my life – when times are tough, when I am challenged or tired – I find myself near an ocean and it rejuvenates me. It is where I find my calm.

A few years ago when I was travelling the Oregon coast with my family, I found a new love – lighthouses. These beacons of hope and light have always provided a route of safe passage for those on a journey. I was once again entranced - by their beauty, their mystique, their formidable endurance in all elements.

When choosing pictures to represent my learning journey I have chosen both lighthouses and ocean scenes - some that I have been to as well as those I would like to visit. These represent both my unknown future as well as the plotted path of my past. I have recently found myself on a new journey in the OLT program – one that is both challenging and wonderful, and I am searching for new beacons - either people, projects or moments of clarity and conviction – that will guide me on my path. When I finish my journey, I foresee myself taking on that role and providing support and guidance to others through their own online learning journey. I aim to be that beacon for others and help them find their way. Therefore, my metaphor for teaching online is: I [will be]am a beacon for my students as they navigate their own learning journey.

I can only hope that at the end of this journey there is a wonderful beach on which I will sit and enjoy a sunset as the waves come crashing in.