

**EDITED Sobel tribute speech transcription-Kristie Prokop**

As you can hear Max Sobel touched the lives of many. I was fortunate myself to have Max as a professor for *Selected Topics in Mathematics* education course. He was an inspiration and was encouraging right before we ventured out into student teaching. Now I shared this story with Evan (Maletsky), the first time I met Max I was in high school and there was a Math Day at Montclair State and my high school teacher at the time the late Leon Vergon was also a student of Max and Evan and he said you have got to see these guys, and I'm like "ok". I was still in high school and I knew I wanted to go to Montclair. I knew I wanted to major in Math and he brought me their book and he introduced me to each of them and they signed it. So now I have an autographed copy of the book, but that was not enough. I had to find them and take their classes and I was looking back and I consider myself an organized hoarder and I was looking back at my selected topics in Mathematics Education binder that I still have from Spring of 2001 and I still have Max's notes that were encouraging saying that you will be a great educator and his enthusiasm was contagious and I think about a tree of life and Max is the roots. He teaches his students; his students teach students. We are all branches of the tree of Max and sometimes they are intertwined as I was a student of Max and my teacher was a student of Max so we kinda circled back the tricks and surprises that I saw in high school, I saw again in college. I was like "that's where that came from". So, it was the excitement that was contagious, and I hope that I am able to inspire my students in my classroom with the same inspiration and contagiousness that has been passed along to me. Before we end tonight Makoto Yoshida, our next President has put into his initiatives to establish the Max Sobel Scholarship for Higher Ed. So, this scholarship will be used for students who are returning to school to be Math teachers that maybe have not have gone that route in the first place for their bachelors.