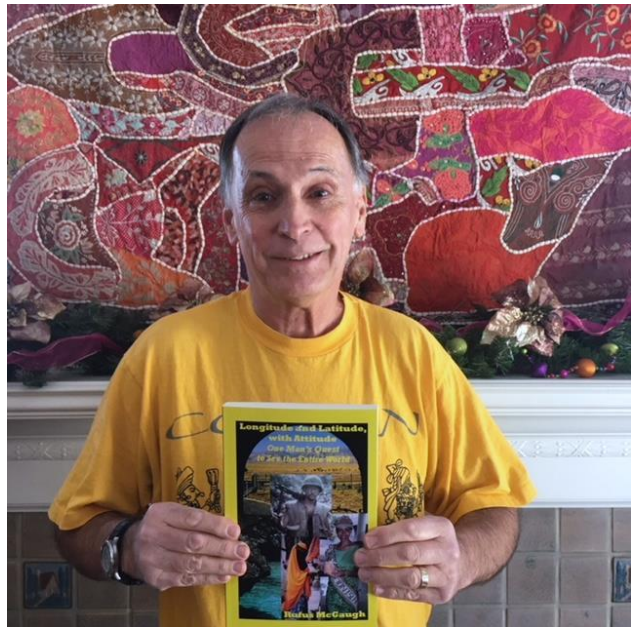


In May of 2016, I was back teaching at my old school, Brownell Middle School in Grosse Pointe, that I had retired from in 2010. I was doing a travel slide presentation of my trek and climb of Mt. Everest. Returning home at the end of the school day, I discovered an email on my computer from a person who I did not know or recognize at the time, Ihab Zaki. I opened the message and it went something like this:

"Hello Rufus! My daughter came home from school today much excited about your slide presentation of Mt. Everest. She enjoyed it very much. She said that you told the classes that you had been to every country in the world but Libya. I can get you into Libya!" Sincerely, Ihab Zaki"



I immediately emailed back with, "Yes, but can you get me back out!"

The rest is history. Ihab and his Spiekermann Travel agency did get me into Libya where I was able to visit and see many amazing and wonderful sights. Libya is a land of fantastic history, especially Roman history.

Visiting Libya, completed a life-long quest to visit every country in the world. My list now stands at all 50 states, all 7 continents, and 258 countries and lands.