The Beck Endowment Grows During the 2017-18 Campaign

by Sylven S. Beck, Ed.D., Director, Elementary Education Program

It has been more than two decades since we first published ElEd News. This is the twenty-first edition of our program’s Elementary Education newsletter! Once again, we had a productive 2017-2018 academic year graduating 17 teacher candidates from the Model Program. During the last fiscal year, the Beck Endowment fund benefited from a modest growth through gifts from our generous donors. As in past years, we plan to provide Beck Endowment scholarships to our students in AY 2018-2019, continue an active scholarship campaign, and know that our alumni and friends will stay in touch and lend their support as we embark on the Beck Endowment’s twenty-second year of operation.

The Class of 2018 Elementary Education Model Program graduates are: Erica Adkins, Michelle Arroyo, Emily Beisler, Rachel Brotman, Belle Cai, Elizabeth Melton-Grace, Ben Hollander, Amanda Leibert, Mark Ososky, Samantha Post, Molly Rzepka, Rachel Shaw, Grace Siemietkowski, Monique Sullivan, Sarah Wachter, Lydia Wallace.

In Their Own Words: 2017-2018 Award Recipients

The ElEd program proudly congratulates seven awardees for their work and study in elementary education. The honored’ reflections are printed to the right, below, and on page two.

Elementary Education Model Program Award

This time last year, the thought of facing a classroom of bright faces on my first day of teaching overwhelmed me. Though I looked forward to the adventures we would embark upon, I wasn’t certain that I would be ready in a year’s time for the responsibility of the social, emotional, and academic development of twenty-some individual learners. By November, my self-doubts were gone, and ever since, I have eagerly anticipated opening my classroom door to welcome my students on that first day this upcoming fall. I owe the confidence and preparation I have to the GWU Elementary Education faculty, university supervisors, internship cooperating teachers, and alumni. — Grace Siemietkowski (1-year cohort)

John Horrworth Children’s Book Award First Place

In the process of writing Mariama, I thought, “What book am I missing? What do I not see in my classroom or in the library?” I saw nothing that featured important people from other parts of the world. I thought of Mariama Bâ, a revolutionary Senegalese educator and advocate for women’s rights of the mid-20th century. As a child, Mariama had to fight for her right to be educated; the concept of a young girl pursuing her love of learning resonated with my own elementary-aged students while also exposing them to aspects of a different culture, time, and place. I am incredibly grateful to Dr. Gloria Horrworth for this gift in memory of her son, John. — Grace Siemietkowski

I am humbled to receive this award. I have rarely worked as hard as I did these last two years and value this recognition. Having said that, this award is not mine alone: I wouldn’t have been able to succeed without the unwavering support of my husband, Isaac, and our two children. Nor would I have been able to succeed without the guidance of its deeply experienced and thoughtful professors and cooperating teachers, or my incredibly inspiring and equally hardworking classmates. I was looking for a program to expand my philosophical understanding of teaching as an act of social change while simultaneously providing me with enough hands-on classroom experience. — Monique Sullivan (2-year cohort)

John Horrworth Children’s Book Award Second Place

I wrote the ABC’s of Baking to provide young children with an engaging resource to introduce them to the ins and outs of the kitchen. Growing up, I loved to bake. I would have loved to own a book that talked about the important tools, techniques, and procedures that bakers and chefs use. While writing this book, I learned a lot about a writer’s tiresome but rewarding brainstorming and revision process. I look forward to discussing this experience with the students in my classroom next year to encourage them to write and revise their own pieces. I would not have been able to produce the final product without the help of my patient sister, who did my illustrations. — Rachel Brotman

The Beck Endowment Award

I was so excited when I learned that I was the recipient of the Sylven Seid Beck Endowment Award. This award helped make my graduate education possible and to further serve those coming from underrepresented and underprivileged communities. I learned so much from my instructors and cooperating teachers and had a number of invaluable experiences. This program has given me the confidence and skills necessary to serve students from a variety of backgrounds and experiences. I cannot wait to use what I have learned in order to serve others! — Lydia Wallace

YES, I would like to contribute to the Sylven Seid Beck Endowment Fund.

My tax-deductible gift is:

□ $500  □ $250  □ $100  □ $50  □ other.

Name:

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My affiliation with The GWU Elementary Education program is:

□ alumna/us: (name/class year)  □ family/friend: (student name/class year)

Make checks payable to The George Washington University (Beck Endowment Fund). Mail gift and form to Kevin Cannady, Director of Development, 2134 G Street NW, Suite 116, Washington D.C. 20052. For inquiries, call (202) 994-7729 or email: kevincannady@email.gwu.edu.
Maryland Association of Teacher Educators Distinguished Teacher Candidate Award

I am so honored to have been chosen to receive the Maryland Association of Teacher Educators Distinguished Teacher Candidate Award. I cannot thank Dr. Beck and Dr. Tate enough for this honor.

As a result of the work in years I have been a student and professor, I have learned to embrace the value of perseverance and to always strive to do my best. I have had the opportunity to work with many amazing students who have taught me so much.

I would like to thank Professor Sloan for sharing her children's book with me, and for encouraging me to pursue my passion for writing.

I am grateful for this recognition. I would like to thank Dr. Beck for her guidance and support throughout my journey.

Lastly, I would like to thank all of the graduates who have joined their faculty: Mary Beth Bailey's, Spring Hill, and Samuel Tucker.

As a student, I learned how to share ideas with my peers, accepting and implementing feedback. As a teacher, writing this allowed me to connect with my students from its moment of conception to the day I read their names aloud from the dedication page. I am extremely grateful for this recognition.

I would like to thank Professor Sloan for sharing her children's literature wisdom with us this year. I would also like to thank Dr. Beck, and all of the other amazing GSEHD professors for their love and support.

Lastly, I am so excited to bring what I have learned to my own classroom.

Thank you again to Dr. Beck, Dr. Tate, as well as all of the faculty in the Elementary Education program for this great honor!

— Molly Rzepka

A list of our elementary school partners and our graduates who have joined their faculty:

**OUR SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS**

In the District of Columbia: Eaton NW, Hyde-Addison NW, Key NW, Lafayette NW, Langley NW, Ross NW, Watkins SE, DC Bilingual Public Charter NE, Washington Yu Ying Public Charter NE, Lowell School NW, Washington International School NW; in Alexandria City: James Polk, Samuel Tucker; in Arlington County: Arlington Science Focus, Glebe, Long Branch, Our Savior Lutheran School; in Fairfax County: Bailey’s, Spring Hill, Gunston; in Falls Church City: Thomas Jefferson; in Montgomery County: Lafayette (Cara Skubel ’14), Watkins (Liz O’Donnell ’14, Monique Sullivan ’18, Kelly Wecker ’18), Long Branch, in Leesburg: Still Stanley; and in Montgomery County: Bailey’s (Munazzah Ghazanfar ’17), Gunston (Sharon Chupp ’17), Spring Hill (DeVylde, Lindsay ’06, Bill Mosher ’07, Mai-Li Hokama ’16, Simon Kenney ’16, Megan Ledig ’12).

In the City of Alexandria: (Xan Colello ’06, Sally Pencikowski ’11, Kathryn Oakes ’13, Marissa Albert ’14, Ellen Kaspik ’14, Jason Bailey’s (Munazzah Ghazanfar ’17), Gunston (Sharon Chupp ’17), Spring Hill (DeVylde, Lindsay ’06, Bill Mosher ’07, Mai-Li Hokama ’16, Simon Kenney ’16, Megan Ledig ’12).

Our university’s partnerships, school based partnerships are committed to providing the quality mentoring and supervision necessary to prepare the best and brightest teacher candidates to work in today’s elementary schools.

A list of our elementary school partners and our graduates who have joined their faculty: Arlington County Glebe (Cassidy Burton ’11, Alanna Karianan ’14, Sabina Beg ’16, Kelly Cannon ’17); Long Branch (Kan Colello ’06, Sally Pencikowski ’11, Kathryn Oakes ’13, Marissa Albert ’14, Ellen Kaspik ’14, Jason Moore ’16, Emily Beisler ’18, Mark Osofsky ’18); Science Focus (Stephanie Lin ’09).

City of Alexandria Polk (Carmen Panagia ’13) Samuel Tucker (Ching-Chen Kuo ’02, Gwen Wisinski Prisino ’02, Johnny Lin ’10, Erica Adkins ’18)

District of Columbia Janney (Lisa Jensen ’01, Kim Bigelow ’06, Sarah Buscher ’13, Scott Gold ’13); Key (Simone Stephens ’17); Lafayette (Cara Skubel ’14), Watkins (Liz O’Donnell ’14, Monique Sullivan ’18, Kelly Wecker ’18); Lowell (Jessica Tomback ’96, Kristin Peck ’09, Ashley Maiorana ’13), Yu Ying Public Charter (Anna Bi ’16, Jenny Hills ’17).

Fairfax County Bailey’s (Munazzah Ghazanfar ’17); Gunston (Sharon Chupp ’17); Spring Hill (DeVylde, Lindsay ’06, Bill Mosher ’07, Mai-Li Hokama ’16, Simon Kenney ’16, Megan Ledig ’12).

Montgomery County Somerset (Greg Matwey ’95, Bess Pickar ’12).

DONORS

We gratefully recognize the following alumni and friends for their gifts to the Sylvan Said Bedell Endowment for Elementary Education: These gifts have a great impact on our efforts to improve our Elementary Education program and provide ongoing services and support to our Elementary Education students and alumni.

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We extend many thank-you’s…to our Supervising Faculty: Elisabeth Casey ’96, Laurie Gross, Marti Jo Jackson, Lori Morton, Pat Neveor, Bill Ollk. Susie Rosenbaum, Tyler Dickinson Luther…to our Instructional Faculty: Amazing part-time faculty Kim Sloan, who teaches our entire complement of Literacy courses in Reading, Language Arts, and Children’s Literature; alum faculty Mitch Pascal ’91 for Social Studies Methods and Bess Pickar ’12 for Math Methods. Seminar Presenters: Darren Reed, Elisabeth Casey ’96, Caroline Doughty, Kerry Litonjua, Eve Rutzen, and our Elementary Partner School Principals…to our Alum Presenters: Class of 2017’s Josh Benjamin, Kelly Cannon, Ellen DeGross, Ben Esteh, Munazzah Ghazanfar, Jenny Hills, Rebecca Munroe, Simone Stephens, Alysson Smith, Jessica Yang… and to my wonderful Elementary Education colleagues: Colin Green, Associate Dean of Academic Affairs and Pat Tate, Director of GSEHD’s Office of Professional Preparation and Accreditation and 2018-2019 President of the Association of Teacher Educators…Thank you all!