ElEd NEWS

The George Washington University • Graduate School of Education and Human Development • Department of Curriculum and Pedagogy

Fall 2020

Editor: Kim Hill ’80

GSEHD Updates Related to COVID-19

March 11, 2020
In keeping with the University’s guidance on COVID-19, and in light of the WHO declaring COVID-19 a pandemic, our concern continues to be to maintain the health and safety of our GW-GSEHD community.

March 23
GW classes will move online. April 3 Courses will meet in an online format throughout the summer. July 27 We have made the difficult decision to hold all courses online for the fall semester.

COVID-19
What is the course of action for the George Washington University? The University has decided to move all classes online for the fall semester. This decision was made in light of the WHO declaring COVID-19 a pandemic and in keeping with the University’s guidance on COVID-19.

In keeping with the University’s guidance on COVID-19, and in light of the WHO declaring COVID-19 a pandemic, our concern continues to be to maintain the health and safety of our GW-GSEHD community.

The Elementary Education Program’s faculty, supervisors, and graduating class rose to the challenge—with countless hours of preparing to complete coursework online, lesson plans, constantly reflecting along the way, and steadfastly keeping astide internship requirements with partner schools, cooperating teachers, and students. Kudos to our Professors Sloan, Tate, Casey, Gershowitz, Gross, Harper, Neverson, Rosenbaum, and Russo! You kept us going, and spent hours reconfiguring the best possible scenarios to make it all work for our interns. Thank you for your expertise and passion in more than salvaging a runaway school year that none of us could have predicted was coming. You have my profound gratitude.

Congratulations to the Class of 2020 Elementary Education Program graduates are: Kintord Chapman, Ellie Cosby, Jessica Hurtt, Katie Miller, Mehtaab Moazzam, Val Ramirez, Isabel Scabris, Sherry Shi, Carrie Willimmann, Macey Zilberman! In a personal message, President LeBlanc said, “We will invite the class of 2020 to join us at our bicentennial Commencement on the National Mall in May 2021.” His message can be read here.

Finally, because of the pandemic in mid-March, the final weeks of the semester for both course work and internship were moved online. The ElEd program proudly congratulates seven awardees (below and on page two) for their work and study in elementary education. Students participating in the annual John Hornworth Children’s Book Award competition posted the reading of their original books on an online platform for the panel of judges to review. Isabel Scabris read her First Place children’s book, Alina the Ballerina (image on page 2).

We all hope you and yours are well as we navigate the COVID pandemic and its continuing upheaval—adapting to the “new normal” and living life in safe and meaningful ways.

In Their Own Words: 2019-2020 Award Recipients

Elementary Education Model Program Award

I am incredibly honored to have received this award. When I started the Elementary Education Program, I had just moved away from my family and friends for the first time. Dr. Beck and the rest of the GSEHD faculty quickly eased my worries about moving to a new city, and helped make GW feel like home. My experiences at GW have equipped me with the tools necessary to be a successful, compassionate, and dedicated teacher. I feel confident in my ability to lead my own classroom, thanks to the many hands-on classroom experiences this program offers. I am excited to inspire my own students as my professors, supervisors, cooperating teachers, and classmates inspired me.

— Isabel Scabris (1-year cohort)

I am honored to receive this award. I have always felt called to serve children, but because of this program, the faculty, and my fellow classmates, I understand now more than ever what it means to be a reflective and passionate educator. The challenging, yet rewarding internship experiences helped me to develop my voice in the classroom and I am prepared to continue my journey as a teacher. As I begin my first year in the classroom, it is comforting to know that the program faculty and supervisors will continue to be an encouraging support system for me as I navigate this new chapter. The lessons I have learned in the program, both inside and outside of the classroom, are invaluable and I will carry them with me forever.

— Jessica Hurtt (2-year cohort)

Beck Endowment Award

When I heard that I was chosen to receive the Sylven Seid Beck Endowment, it was difficult to express my sincere thoughts and heartfelt gratitude for being considered and selected to receive the award. Without this award and opportunity, continuing with my degree would not have been possible. Throughout the program I felt that the professors have prepared me to become a great teacher and face any upcoming challenges. By receiving the award, I was able to focus on applying my skills and strengths to my graduate work to my best ability. My passion for this program continues to grow daily and I look forward to continue contributing to the field in teaching... I would like to thank Dr. Sylven Beck once again as this award allowed me to go further into my academic endeavors.

— Mehtaab Moazzam

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 The George Washington University, PO Box 98131, Washington, D.C. 20077-9756. For inquiries or to give by credit card, call (844) 574-4483. Be sure to note the gift is for the Beck Endowment Fund.

News and Notes

Do you have news or class notes for the ElEd newsletter?

Please email us at sbeck@gwu.edu or mail your news to:

The Beck Endowment
GSEHD, 2134 G St. NW
Washington, DC 20052
John Horrsworth Children’s Book Awards

**FIRST PLACE:** Writing: Alina the Ballerina was a true labor of love. The story was inspired by my friend, Alina Sheykhet, whose life was taken on October 8, 2017, as a result of domestic violence. The loss of Alina in such a tragic way is something that has had a profound impact on my life. I’ve struggled with how to write about her in a way that felt right. When I found out that I was required to write a children’s book for class, I felt it was the perfect way because of Alina’s love for children. Through this story, I was able to pay tribute to Alina in a child-friendly way that captures her youthful spirit. With the help of my mom, who did the beautiful artwork for this book, my idea came to life on the pages. — Isaiah Scrabis

**SECOND PLACE:** I wrote My Super Ability because I wanted kids to know that those with disabilities are strong and capable. This book portrays kids with disabilities as superheroes because I don’t think children’s literature depicts them in a positive light often enough. My little brother was the inspiration for this book. He has dyslexia and although it has created obstacles for him, he is just as smart and successful as his peers. Much of the credit goes to Professor Sloan, my writing group in children’s literature, and my mom, who helped me through the daunting process of writing and illustrating this book. — Katie Miller

**HONORABLE MENTION:** While creating this book, I wanted to make something impactful to those of younger generations. Pollution is a global issue that everyone can have some part in, even those of a young age. The most important consideration to remember is that you do not have to completely alter your lifestyle in order to help make effective changes. Small changes from everyone is better than a handful of people drastically transforming to combat climate change and pollution. My goal was to use the power of books to reach a broader audience, the more people aware of how they can reduce their carbon footprint on the world, the more effective it becomes. I am grateful I had the opportunity to create Let Us Save the World. — Erica Collins

**OUR SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS**

In the District of Columbia: Eaton NW, Hyde-Addison NW, Janney 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, Great Falls; in Falls Church City: Thomas Jefferson; and in Montgomery County: Somerset, Green Acres, Norwood School. Our university and school based partnerships are committed to providing the quality mentoring and supervision necessary to prepare the best and brightest teachers to work in today’s elementary schools.

The following is a list of our elementary school partners and our graduates who have joined their faculty:

**Arlington County**
- Glebe (Cassidy Burton ’11, Sabina Beg ’16, Kelly Cannon ’17) • Long Branch (Xan Colello ’06, Sally Pencikowski ’11, Kathryn Oakes ’13, Ellen Kaspik Gentzel ’14, Jason Moore ’16)
- Science Focus (Stephanie Lin ’09, Kate Petroskey ’19)
- Janney (Lisa Jensen ’01, Kim Bigelow ’06, Sarah Buscher ’13, Scott Gold ’13) • Key (Simone Stephens ’17) • Lafayette (Cara Skubel ’14, Carrie Willimmam ’20) • Watkins (Lindsay DeVilder ’06, Bill Mosher ’07, Mai-Li Hokama ’16, Alina Sheykhet, whose life was taken on October 8, 2017, as a result of domestic violence. The loss of Alina in such a tragic way is something that has had a profound impact on my life. I’ve struggled with how to make something impactful to those of younger generations. Pollution is a global issue that everyone can have some part in, even those of a young age. The most important consideration to remember is that you do not have to completely alter your lifestyle in order to help make effective changes. Small changes from everyone are better than a handful of people drastically transforming to combat climate change and pollution. My goal was to use the power of books to reach a broader audience, the more people aware of how they can reduce their carbon footprint on the world, the more effective it becomes. I am grateful I had the opportunity to create Let Us Save the World. — Erica Collins

**Fairfax County**
- Bailey’s (Munazah Zahfanzar ’17) • Spring Hill (Lindsey DeVilder ’06, Bill Mosher ’07, Mai-Li Hokama ’16, Alina Sheykhet, whose life was taken on October 8, 2017, as a result of domestic violence. The loss of Alina in such a tragic way is something that has had a profound impact on my life. I’ve struggled with how to make something impactful to those of younger generations. Pollution is a global issue that everyone can have some part in, even those of a young age. The most important consideration to remember is that you do not have to completely alter your lifestyle in order to help make effective changes. Small changes from everyone are better than a handful of people drastically transforming to combat climate change and pollution. My goal was to use the power of books to reach a broader audience, the more people aware of how they can reduce their carbon footprint on the world, the more effective it becomes. I am grateful I had the opportunity to create Let Us Save the World. — Erica Collins

**Montgomery County**
- Somerset (Greg Matwey ’95, Bess Tread ’12)

**DONORS**

We gratefully recognize the following alumni and friends for their gifts to the Tyler Said Beck 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.

**$200-499**
- Dr. Marlene DeMorat Botts ’02
- Ms. Kathy Wicher Bates ’80
- Mrs. Susan F. Hackerman ’75
- Ms. Lindsay Youker Levy ’90
- Ms. Angela M. Shier ’92
- Ms. Robyn R. Stewart ’92

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**$25-99**
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- Ms. Angela M. Shier ’92
- Ms. Robyn R. Stewart ’92

**Program Faculty**

We extend many thank you to alum faculty Mitch Pascal ’91 for Social Studies Methods, Bess Treat ’12 for Math Methods, Tyler Luther ’10 and ’18 for Devt & Diversity, Bryan Powell ’09 for Perspectives in AmEd, as well as Erica Brown for Devt & Diversity, and SEDS faculty Melissa Boston... to our Seminar Presenters: Darren Reed, Elisabeth Casey ’96, Caroline Doughty, Kate Seche, Sam Smaldone, Angie Green, Eve Rutzen, Kate Sydney and we are our Elementary Partner School Principals...to our Alum Presenters: Class of 2019’s Katie Byrne, Tyrell Garnar, Kate Gillespie, Alexis Marsella, Hannah Raymond, Jen Vuillemot, Rachel Zmuda...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 Division of Clinical Experiences and Licensure — Thank you, all!