

EIEdNEWS



FALL 2022: Elementary Education Program, Department of Curriculum & Pedagogy
Graduate School of Education and Human Development, The George Washington University

Editor: Kim Hill '00

Another Unique Year ...

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

At the start of the 2021-2022 academic year, The George Washington University enthusiastically greeted all new and continuing students to the Foggy Bottom campus—in person. We were a cautious, but eager, group and we made it work. Elementary Ed students were well aware that their immediate predecessors just graduated from a completely virtual teacher preparation program and, along with our faculty and professional community, stepped cautiously into fall semester.

As a campus, we were still considered semi-locked down—with a stringent regimen of twice-monthly Covid testing, indoor masking, secured buildings, necessary updated IDs, and continued steadfast monitoring of the health protocols in our surrounding DC community. Our program was faithful to both our campus and community health guidance and recommendations throughout 2021-2022, a task that succeeded with the cooperation of all stakeholders as we moved through the year.

As simple as it sounds, our 2022 graduates can attest to

the unknown, the anxiety, and program disruption when testing positive for Covid was always lurking in the shadows. That said, we eagerly look forward to a



Class of 2022 (left to right): Claire Heimbigner, Danny Israelsson, Ian Norden, Jessie Stramaglia, Wendy Williams, Ellie Schreier, Maureen Albero, Dana Elabed, Megan Domeaux, Jeremy Snow

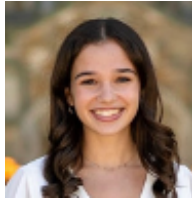
a much more “known” program this year, approaching normalcy as best we can!

The Class of 2022 Elementary Education Program graduates are **Maureen Albero, Megan Domeaux, Dana Elabed, Ella Fludzinski, Claire Heimbigner, Danny Israelsson, Ian Norden, Ellie Schreier, Jeremy Snow, Jessie Stramaglia, and Wendy Williams.**

Congratulations to all! ♦

In Their Own Words: 2021-2022 Award Recipients Elementary Education Program Award

A year ago, I did not believe that I would be writing a reflection on receiving this award from the desk of my own first-grade classroom. I would not have made it here without the help, guidance, and encouragement from The George Washington University's incredible faculty and staff.



Our cohort had the difficult task of welcoming students back to elementary school from almost two years of virtual learning. It was a challenging and demanding year, but we all came out of it more than prepared to teach. It wouldn't have been without Dr. Beck that I feel not only ready, but excited to enter the classroom and create a new place for learning.

I am excited to begin teaching, which is also know as the best job in the world.

— **Ellie Schreier** (1-year cohort)

It is a huge honor to be receiving this award. My time in this program has offered me so many opportunities and experiences for which I will be forever grateful. Thank you very much to all of the faculty members who selected me for this award; I am truly honored. Thank you for teaching me to be the best teacher I can be and for supporting me through this program and through my teaching endeavors. I know that I would not be the teacher, or person, that I am today without this program, the amazing faculty, and my incredible classmates. The level of dedication and hardwork that it takes to dive into this profession is daunting and this program made it feel much more possible than I could have imagined. I cannot wait to begin my career as a teacher.



— **Ella Fludzinski** (2-year cohort)

Beck Endowment Award

Before pursuing my Master's in Elementary Education at The George Washington University (GWU), I received my Bachelor of Arts in English and Communication from GWU in 2021.



During the pandemic, I realized that I would be able to strengthen my commitment to public service and continue my love for reading and writing by serving as an elementary school teacher. As an educator, it is my hope that students will be able to write their own narratives, celebrate their diverse identities and experiences, and challenge the messages they are pressured to accept. Literacy is a vehicle for social change; education is a source of liberation; and, our children will create a more equitable future.

I'm incredibly honored to have been selected as a recipient of the Beck Endowment.

— **Maureen Albero**

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

My tax-deductible gift is:

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Make checks payable to The George Washington University (Beck Endowment Fund). Mail gift and form to The George Washington University, P.O. Box 98131, Washington D.C. 20077-9756. For inquiries, or to give by credit card, call (844) 574-4483. Be sure to note that the gift is for the Beck Endowment Fund.

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NEWS

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

Please email us at sbeck@gwu.edu or mail your news to Beck Endowment, GSEHD, 2134 G Street, Washington D.C. 20052.



John Horrworth Children's Book Awards

FIRST PLACE: *Spencer Smoothie Only Wants to Study Snakes*, as you might expect, is about a student who would rather daydream about snakes than listen to his teacher. But when his teacher starts encouraging him to share his love of snakes, he sees how the classes he once dreaded can connect to his passion. During my internship, I saw many students ask the same dreaded question Spencer asks, "Why do we have to learn this?" During my own time in elementary school, I'm sure I asked it myself. I hope my book shows students and teachers that their loves and interests aren't distractions, and our classrooms should embrace the things that inspire us. Thank you to Dr. Sloan, who did just that. — **Jeremy Snow**



Jeremy Snow, Danny Israelsson (left to right)

SECOND PLACE: I was inspired by the oldest tree currently alive, Methuselah, to write my children's book *Methuselah: A Tree in Time*. Methuselah is a Bristlecone Pine residing on the White Mountains in Eastern California. The book tells the story of the tree as it rewinds time to show the amazing moments it has seen in its nearly 5,000 years. I want to thank Dr. Sloan, who helped me throughout this process, providing especially amazing insights into how to use art to reflect and deepen text. In addition, I want to thank my writing group, consisting of fellow graduates Ellie and Dana, who were also extremely encouraging and helpful throughout my writing process! — **Danny Israelsson**

Seminar Presenters

We extend many thanks to our Seminar Presenters: Elisabeth Casey '96, Caroline Doughty, Felicia Russo, Kate Seche, Angie Green, Sam Smaldone, Marci El-Baba, Eve Rutzen, Kate Sydney and to our Elementary Partner School Principals...and our Alum Presenters: Class of 2021's Pary Aflaki, Britta Buchanan, Anita Jackson, and Adrienne Sethi!

Our School Partnerships

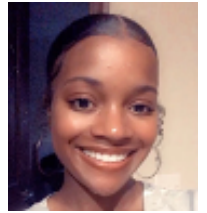
In the District of Columbia: **Eaton NW, Georgetown Day School, Hyde-Addison NW, Janney NW, Key NW, Lafayette NW, Langley NW, Watkins SE, DC Bilingual Public Charter NE, Washington Yu Ying Public Charter NE**; in Alexandria City: **James Polk, Samuel Tucker**; in Arlington County: **Arlington Science Focus, Glebe, Long Branch, Our Savior Lutheran School, Tuckahoe**; in Fairfax County: **Spring Hill, Great Falls**; in Falls Church City: **Oak Street**; and in Montgomery County: **Concord Hill School, 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.

Here is a list of our elementary partners and our graduates who have joined their faculty.

Arlington County	Glebe (Sabina Beg '16, Kelly Cannon '17, Jessie Stramaglia '22) ♦ Long Branch (Kathryn Oakes '13, Marissa Albert '14, Emily Beisler '18) ♦ Our Savior Lutheran (Kristen Korb '21) ♦ Science Focus (Stephanie Lin '09) ♦ Tuckahoe (Ramsay Cogen '14)
City of Alexandria District of Columbia	Polk (Abbey Hagan '21, Claire Heimbigner '22) ♦ Tucker (Ching-Chen Kuo '02, Britta Buchanan '21, Allie Grossman '21) Janney (Lisa Jensen '01, Kim Bigelow '06, Scott Gold '13) ♦ Key (Simone Stephens '17) ♦ Lafayette (Cara Skubel '14, Carrie Willimann '20) ♦ Watkins (Liz O'Donnell '14, Monique Sullivan '18) ♦ Washington Yu Ying (Anna Bi '16, Jenny Hills '17)
Fairfax County	Great Falls (Laura Gray '04, Tyia Martin '21) ♦ Spring Hill (Lindsey DeVlyder '06, Mai-Li Hokama '16, Simoné Kenney '16, Rebecca Munroe '17)
Falls Church City	Oak Street Elementary (Pary Aflaki '21, Olivia Manns '21, Danny Israelsson '22)
Montgomery County	Norwood (Cathy McCoy '09, Virginia Murphy '11)

Maryland Association of Teacher Educators Distinguished Teacher Candidate Award

Wow. I will start by saying, "Wow!". I've always had a true passion for helping children, I know it sounds cliché but it's true. I understand that helping children will ultimately help to make a difference in the world. I want to take this time to thank all the faculty and students at Our Savior Lutheran School, Glebe Elementary, Langley Elementary, and Tuckahoe Elementary for giving me the opportunity to cultivate deep relationship with students and also for building my confidence as a future elementary teacher. I am forever grateful for this graduate program. Though this program pushed me and at times made me question myself, I pushed through. That is exactly what I want to teach my future students. Always push through! You can do whatever you put your mind to! — **Megan Domeaux**



DONORS

We gratefully recognize the following alumni and friends for their gifts to the Sylven Seid 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	\$25-99 Ms. Kathy Wicher Bates '80 Mrs. Susan F. Hackerman '75 Ms. Lindsay Youker Levy '90 Mrs. Angela M. Shiver '92
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Our Faculty

With a careful and vigilant approach, we successfully guided the Class of 2022 through their internship requirements and course work. We had tremendous support, expertise, encouragement, patience, and passion from our instructional faculty and clinical supervisors, and we salute you: **Professors Sloan, Powell, Luther, Boston, Mosher, Vuillemot, Casey, Gershowitz, Harper, Jackson, Neverson, Rosenbaum, Russo, and Tate!** You kept us going and you have our profound gratitude! ♦



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