

ELED NEWS

GSEHD ELEMENTARY EDUCATION PROGRAM



DEPARTMENT OF CURRICULUM AND PEDAGOGY

EDITOR: MEGAN BROOKS '24

REFLECTIONS FROM THE 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR

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

Our Foggy Bottom campus community enthusiastically greeted the 2022-2023 school year, with health restrictions lifted amidst a more reassuring backdrop of normalcy. We were a small, but mighty cohort —pursuing and conquering their internship year with excitement and enthusiasm in both internships and rigorous coursework. As we have all read in the news, we have been facing a teacher shortage since the onset of Covid. Many K-12 teachers are exiting their classrooms with the increase in responsibilities lying outside of their expertise and the inevitability of facing the first unknowns of their kind in their teaching careers.

As such, enrollments in teacher preparation programs have struggled with declining enrollments with the country's teacher workforce facing a comparable reduction. Reports reaching us are that the teaching profession is facing a post-pandemic crisis of a teacher shortage for years to come.

We continue to press our case to be a fully accredited program that recruits and graduates exceptionally skilled teachers who are more than capable and prepared to teach children in today's classrooms.

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 Elementary Education students, 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-seventh year of operation.

Congratulations to the Class of 2023!

The **Class of 2023** Elementary Education Program graduates are: **Kari Anderson, Bridget Burke, Scott Gellmen, Megan Lysowski, Mara Moettus, Kathleen Quinn, Sadaf Sayar, Rachel Sorkenn.**

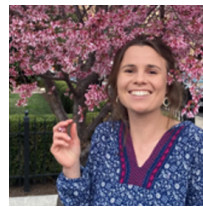
In Their Own Words: 2022-2023 Award Recipients Elementary Education Program Awards



Elementary Education Program Award Goes to Megan Lysowski
Entering this challenging program meant adjusting

frequent school changes, new faces, and a heavy course load. The unwavering support of my peers, faculty, and staff at George Washington University was essential. Small classes let me connect with professors and make friends, creating an ideal learning environment. Dr. Beck stands out for her continuous support since our first Zoom meeting, offering comfort after tough lessons, and providing encouraging words (and emojis) throughout the year. Her assistance lifted me when I doubted my teaching skills. As I step into the teaching profession, the relationships I've forged during the program will be my backbone in the upcoming first year.
-Megan Lysowski

Maryland Association of Teacher Educators Distinguished Teacher Candidate Award [MATE]



Teaching elementary students is a wonderful profession that elicits myriad emotions on a daily basis. Over the course of this year, I have been delighted, exhausted, frustrated, challenged, and elated. Most of all, I have been fulfilled. I am incredibly grateful to my Cooperating Teachers — Jennifer Leach, Katie Roth, Charles Franklin II, and Maud Cooke-Nesme — for welcoming me into their classrooms and sharing with me their knowledge and expertise. I am also enormously thankful to my supervisors, Elizabeth Casey and Denise Gershowitz, for providing me with insightful advice and warm encouragement. Finally, I am indebted to all of the professors at GW, whose lessons on theory and methodology will undoubtedly strengthen my own teaching for years to come. -Mara Moettus

Beck Endowment Award

George Washington University's elementary education program has helped me to build a very special set of skills that will allow me to efficiently teach students while also



being able to cultivate a classroom environment that embraces culture and diversity, something that is extremely important to me as a future teacher. As the daughter of Afghan immigrants, I understand the pressures and struggles of being a first-generation student, and by combining my skills learned at George Washington University, combined with my own personal experiences, I can help students who may be struggling with these pressures. I have learned and grown so much at George Washington University, and I am so grateful for my wonderful supervisors, mentor teachers, and Dr. Beck!

-Sadaf Sayar

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 George Washington University, P.O. Box 88131, 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.

NEWS

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



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



1st Place- *Olena and the Ukrainian Tooth* tells the story of a young Ukrainian refugee who mistakenly believes that her teeth are “becoming American.” Much to Olena’s chagrin, her tooth pain is a simple cavity, which leads her to the dental practice of Dr. Gaisma, a former Latvian refugee. By learning Dr. Gaisma’s story, Olena finds hope in the future of Ukraine. This book pays homage to my grandma and great aunt, who came to America as Latvian refugees during the Soviet Union, and highlights the parallels between their experiences and the current Russian invasion of Ukraine. In my internship at Hyde-Addison Elementary School, my first graders would recite the mantra: “Our words have power and I can use that power for good.” I believe that our books have power, and I hope this story uses that power for good. Thank you to Dr. Sloan for your invaluable guidance and support. -**Mara Moettus**



2nd Place- I am honored to be recognized among such a vibrant, creative, and inspired group of new teachers. I decided to write my story *Max Mullins is a Total Jerk* to embody both the bully and the victim and provide a unique perspective of the unfortunate trend of bullying. I feel it is important for students to understand that all behavior is simply a form of communication, and there is much to be said for "putting ourselves in the shoes of another." None of this would have been possible without the help of Dr. Beck, Dr. Sloan, and my amazing group of peers. I look forward to pursuing publication for this piece and continuing to develop stories regarding similar trends that we teachers see every day in our schools. - **Scott Gellman**



3rd Place- Wow! Firstly, I am honored and so surprised to win this award, partly because it took me a while to come up with the concept of *Buddy: the Story of the Small, but Mighty Corgi*. My advice for future students about this project would be to find a topic that interests you and don't be afraid to change topics. My initial ideas were very different from Buddy, but I found myself struggling with the writing process; I was unable to visualize any of the pages. Instead of giving up, I decided to brainstorm other ideas using animals as the main characters, instead of humans. Once I focused on a dog, the world of Buddy quickly developed. This book tells the story of Buddy as he learns that, no matter his size, he can have a big and lasting impact on his community. I hope my book inspires those who read it to never give up on their dreams. - **Kari Anderson**

Goodbye and Godspeed to Dr. Patricia Tate...

On a bittersweet note, we celebrated Dr. Tate’s retirement on Friday, June 30 th on her final day of a 32-year career at GW and from GSEHD. From the university’s announcement: Dr. Tate has explored practitioner research and self-study of professional development for university supervisors and ethical supervisory practices in the development of the teacher candidate. Dr. Tate is a former President of the Association of Teacher Educators. For us in Elementary Education, Dr. Tate will be truly missed as Dr. Beck’s proverbial “partner-in-crime.” We have retooled and built up our elementary school partnerships in the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia, formalized contractual agreements across all twenty-four of our elementary partner schools, and secured liaisons with our professional community to include public, public charter, private, and independent schools.

We are grateful for all that Dr. Tate has meant to the Elementary Education Program and wish her a splendid retirement in this well-deserved “next chapter” of her life. She promises not to be too far away as there will be many times this coming year that Elementary Education and many others will be searching for answers to puzzles that only Dr. Tate can unravel.

...and to Dr. Kim Sloan

It is with a heavy, heavy heart that we announce Dr. Kim Sloan’s resignation from our Elementary Education Program and GW as of Friday, June 30th. We salute Dr. Sloan’s 15 years of dedication, devotion, loyalty, and love for our students and faculty as she looks forward to a full-time commitment to Fairfax County Public Schools beginning in August. Kim will serve as “a literacy specialist and will coach 110 alternative teachers, provide professional development, manage the writing lab she founded a decade ago, work with at-risk youth at 23 schools, lead the English department and GED department, and develop a cross-content curriculum.”

Kim will be missed by all of us in EIED and by the countless alumni who have passed through her literacy courses to become elementary literacy experts in their own right. Without a doubt, Elementary Education will be undergoing many changes this year. We hope to keep the program running on all cylinders in 2023-2024.



DONORS

We gratefully recognize the following alumni and friends for their gifts to the Sylvén 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
 - Dr. & Mrs. William D. Steeves, Jr.
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 - Ms. Lindsay Youker Levy '90
 - Mrs. Angela M. Shiver '92

Our Faculty

With renewed fervor and warmth, the Elementary Education faculty successfully guided the Class of 2023 through their internship requirements and coursework. We had tremendous support, expertise, encouragement, patience, and passion from both our instructional faculty and clinical supervisors, and we salute you: **Professors Sloan, Powell, Luther, Boston, Mosher, Pascal, Casey, Gershowitz, Harper, Jackson, Neverson, Rosenbaum, Russo, and Tate!** You kept us going and you have our profound gratitude!

Thank you, Seminar Presenters

We extend many thank-you’s to our Seminar Presenters: **Elisabeth Casey '96, Felicia Russo, Sabina Beg '16, Caroline Doughty, Samantha Kirch, Kate Seche, Sam Smaldone, Shelley Strickland, Eve Rutzen, Kate Sydney** and to our **Elementary Partner School Principals...**

and our Alum Presenters: Class of 2022’s **Ian Norden, Danny Israelsson, Ellie Schreier, and Jessie Stramaglia...** Thank you, all!

OUR SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS

In the District of Columbia: **Eaton NW, Georgetown Day School NW, Hyde-Addison NW, Janney NW, Key NW, Lafayette NW, Langley NE, DC Bilingual Public Charter NE, Washington International School NW, Washington Yu Ying Public Charter NE, Watkins SE;** 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, Somerset.** 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.



Elementary Education Program
 Graduate School of Education and Human Development
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