

ELED NEWS

GSEHD ELEMENTARY EDUCATION PROGRAM



DEPARTMENT OF CURRICULUM AND PEDAGOGY

EDITOR: MEGAN BROOKS '24

REFLECTIONS FROM THE 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR

By **Sylvén S. Beck, Ed.D., Director, Elementary Ed Program**

At the start of the 2023-2024 academic year, GSEHD enthusiastically greeted new and continuing Elementary Ed students to our Foggy Bottom campus. We began our academic year in earnest, both in classes and internships – spreading our clinical workspaces throughout our program’s school partnerships in the DMV. With the steady post-pandemic return of on-campus classes, we sensed a renewed buzz to learning and working this year and have overcome obstacles we may have encountered along the way. During the last fiscal year, the Beck Endowment fund benefited from modest growth through gifts from our generous donors. As in past years, we plan to provide Beck Endowment scholarships to our Elementary Education students in AY 24-25, 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-ninth year of operation.

With excitement and warmth, the Elementary Education faculty successfully guided the Class of 2024 through their course work and internships. We had tremendous support, expertise, encouragement, patience, and passion from both our instructional faculty and clinical supervisors, and we salute you: **Professors Powell, Luther, Boston, Buscher, Mosher, Pascal, Casey, Doughty, Gershowitz, Harper, Rosenbaum, and Russo!**

We extend many thank-you’s to our Seminar Presenters: **Elisabeth Casey '96, Caroline Doughty, Kate Seche, Sam Smaldone, Sabina Beg '16, Shelly Strickland, Eve Rutzen, Kate Sydney** and to our Elementary Partner School Principals...and our Alum Presenters: Class of 2023’s **Kari Anderson and Bridget Burke**...Thank you, All! You mentored us with grace and clarity, and you have our profound gratitude!

Congratulations to the Class of 2024!

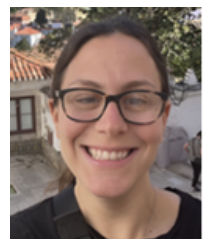
The **Class of 2024** Elementary Education Program graduates are: **Megan Brooks, Mili Cattán, Sydney Forman, Jordyn Hammer, India McNeill, Virginia Mead, Annie Pickard, Kourtney Sam, and Nayeon Son.**

In Their Own Words: 2023-2024 Award Recipients Elementary Education Program Awards



Elementary Education Program Award, 2-Year Cohort- Thank you to the faculty members for selecting me for this award. I am honored and appreciative to all who helped me through these past two years as I navigate my way through the beginnings of learning to be a teacher. The elementary education cohort is a close-knit group because it requires courage and vulnerability to become a teacher. I am thankful to my classmates and professors who came to class each day ready to dive deep into the world of teaching. I would not be who I am today without this program, and I know that the support of the faculty and fellow students will carry me far as I move into my first year of teaching and beyond. - **Virginia Mead**

Elementary Education Program Award, 1-Year Cohort- What an incredible honor it has been to not only be part of The George Washington University’s Elementary Education Program but also to receive the Elementary Education Program Award. Thank you to the amazing faculty and Dr. Beck who chose me for this award and have supported me throughout this whirlwind of a year. Looking back on the past year I am both amazed and grateful. I have learned so much through my internships, student teaching placement, and courses. Coming into this program, just three days after graduating college, I knew I loved children and wanted to work with them, but had no idea how to be a successful teacher. Thanks to the incredible faculty, my cooperating teachers, and Dr. Beck, I now have all the tools necessary to be the most effective teacher possible. Here’s to the start of a new and exciting chapter! - **Sydney Forman**



Maryland Association of Teacher Educators Distinguished Teacher Candidate Award [MATE]- I didn’t know it, but joining the Elementary Education cohort at GW was the best decision I have ever made. It’s been an incredible journey filled with growth, learning, and unforgettable experiences. I’m deeply grateful to all the mentors, colleagues, and incredible students who’ve supported and inspired me along the way. I would like to thank my Cooperating teachers - Monique Sullivan, Sabina Beg, and Fazia Padilla - for all of your support and for welcoming me into the classroom with open arms. I also had incredible supervisors - Denise Gershowitz, Elisabeth Casey, and Felicia Russo - who have shown me that I will have lifelong mentors to encourage and support me. I am excited and eager to continue my journey as an educator, making a positive impact on the lives of students for years to come. - **Jordyn Hammer**

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

My tax-deductible gift is:

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My Affiliation with the GWU Elementary Education Program is:

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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

JOHN HORRWORTH CHILDREN’S BOOK AWARDS: REFLECTIONS

1st Place- I am incredibly honored and surprised to win this award because of all the amazing stories that were shared in our cohort. NANNY’S KITCHEN is based on the true story of the relationship between my grandmother and me and our shared love of cooking. Throughout this program and my experience in the classroom, I have learned the importance of literature to help students understand their emotions. I had the idea of having the grandma pass away in the book, just like my grandma. Although death can be a hard topic for students to process, it is important to have literature that can help kids and parents through the pain. I also wanted to create a diverse book that represents my Jewish heritage because I never read a book that represented my life when I was a child. Thank you Professor Buscher for all of your guidance and support through the writing process. - **Jordyn Hammer**



2nd Place- I am so surprised and honored to have earned this award because I struggled to write this book. At times, I was insecure about the book because I thought it lacked depth. However, during this process, my cohort members and Professor Busher reminded me of my purpose for writing and my intended audience, my students. I wrote WHAT COLOR ARE YOU to teach my first-grade students different ways to communicate their feelings and remind them that every emotion they experience is valid. I would encourage future students not to compare your book to anyone else and involve your students. My students illustrated my book and it made the process so much fun. I look forward to reading What Color Are You to my new group of first-grade students in the fall! - **India McNeill**

3rd Place- I am deeply honored to have won this award. This book is a product of healing, as during the program, I tragically lost a family member. A LETTER FROM THE HEART tells the story of Hedgewick, a hedgehog who wrestles to find his identity amid grief over the loss of a cherished community member. Through creativity, he discovers his true self and pays tribute to his loved one. I am especially grateful to my mom, Becky Brooks, whose contribution was absolutely vital to the creation of this book. Her stunning illustrations not only bring the story to life but also encapsulate its core message of love and remembrance. Her artistic vision and unwavering support were crucial in conveying the emotional depth of the book. Without her, the essence and heart of the story would not have been as vividly expressed. Thank you once again for this recognition. - **Megan Brooks**

Honorable Mention- Third grader Paige has always been great at everything at school. That is, until she faces a challenge that is bigger than she has ever faced! The book dives into topics of self-esteem, anxiety, and handling disappointment. As a child, I struggled with these feelings whenever I faced something challenging, which sometimes discouraged me from trying at all. In experiencing my first year of teaching, I realized that some of my students also faced this struggle. PAIGE THE PERFECT(IONIST) is a book dedicated to overachieving scholars. To help students understand their worth does not come from the number of mistakes they make, but for the heart they have. I am eternally grateful to Ms Buscher for her mentorship as I developed the story, and to my classmates for the community they showed me. - **Jamie Reed**

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**
Ms. Suzanne Abdelrahim '10
Dr. Marlene DeMorat Botts '02
- \$100-199**
Ms Barbara Price '96
Ms. Michelle Vecchiolla Salomon '01
- \$25-99**
Ms. Kathy Wicher Bates '80
Mrs. Susan F. Hackerman '75
Ms. Lindsay Youker Levy '90
Mrs. Angela M. Shiver '92

Elementary Partner Schools 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), Tuckahoe (Kari Anderson '23, Bridget Burke '23, Megan Brooks '24)
- City of Alexandria:** Polk (Abbey Hagan '21, Claire Heimbigner '22), Tucker (Ching-Chen Kuo '02, Britta Buchanan '21, Allie Grossman '21)
- District of Columbia:** Janney (Lisa Jensen '01, Kim Bigelow '06, Scott Gold '13), Key (Simone Stephens '17), Lafayette (Cara Skubel '14, Carrie Willimann '20), Watkins (Monique Sullivan '18), Washington Yu Ying (Anna Bi '16)
- Fairfax County:** Great Falls (Laura Gray '04, Tyia Martin '21, Virginia Mead '24), Spring Hill (Lindsey DeVlyder '06, Mai-Li Hokama '16, Simoné Kenney '16, Rebecca Munroe '17, Pary Aflaki '21)
- Falls Church City:** Oak Street Elementary (Olivia Manns '21, Danny Israelsson '22)
- Montgomery County:** Norwood (Cathy McCoy '09, Virginia Murphy '11), Somerset (Greg Matwey '95, Bess Treat '12), Concord Hill (Kathryn Marsh '96).

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: Glebe, Hoffman-Boston, Long Branch, Our Savior Lutheran School, Tuckahoe; in Fairfax County: Spring Hill, Great Falls; in Falls Church City: Thomas Jefferson; 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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