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## Dalila Christian

ITEC 501

### Autobiography

My name is Dalila Christian. I was born in Venezuela and grew up in Caracas, the capital of Venezuela. There, I attended college and graduated as a civil engineer.

Right after my graduation, I moved to Massachusetts to study English as a Second Language at Babson College.

Simultaneously, I took some business classes at Mass Bay Community College in order to get more English practice. One year later, I moved back to Venezuela. I was hired as an engineer and assisted in the construction of a new American Embassy in Caracas. While performing this job, I had the opportunity to work in my field, speak English on a daily basis, and meet a wonderful man who is my husband



today. We got married and moved to Virginia, his home state. I then went back to college and completed a Master in Business Administration at Averett University.

At this point, my life took a different direction. My husband and I initiated our family together. Today, we have two lovely daughters. I didn't work for seven years.



It wasn't until my youngest daughter started kindergarten, that I went back to

work. I had the wonderful opportunity to teach Spanish to children from first through eighth grades in a private school. I really enjoyed teaching my native language to kids who didn't have any real knowledge of languages. This is how my career switched from an engineer and business oriented person to a Spanish teacher.



I strongly believe that, as a teacher, I can make a difference in the life of my students. I will be able to influence their personal

development, and ultimately I will make an important contribution to society through my students. Each child has the potential to learn and succeed in becoming a valuable citizen.

Now, I am taking classes at the University of Mary Washington in the Initial Teacher Licensure Program.



I will be eligible for the license after I complete this spring semester. As for next school year, I am confident that I will be teaching Spanish at a local high school.

**H**ello there! My name is John Crawley, and I am excited to be a student at UMW-CGPS. I earned my B. A. in English at George Mason University, and I am currently pursuing my M. Ed. and teaching licensure in Secondary English.



I am currently a substitute teacher for the City of Manassas; I have had many memorable experiences working at Osbourn High School. During the spring of 2007, I volunteered to co-direct a one-act play, which won first place in the district competition. The performance included a slideshow of images and animations that I created using Photoshop and PowerPoint.

I have only begun to develop my teaching philosophy, but I believe that diversity is one of the greatest assets of public schooling. I think that it is good to take a pragmatic approach to

instruction. Not all students learn the same way, and it makes no sense to try to teach all of them the same way. We all come equipped with different knowledge and experiences. I believe in individualizing instruction when possible. I also believe in teaching using multiple methods in order to create more opportunities for students to grasp the material, hopefully with a better depth of understanding.

In my spare time, I like to read all sorts of different things. I enjoy reading plays; one of my favorite playwrights is Christopher Durang. I like reading autobiographies. I also enjoy

gothic poetry and short stories. I am a big fan of just about anything by Edgar Allen Poe. Studying children's literature has become something of a hobby for me in recent years; my interest was sparked reading L. Frank Baum's Oz series.

I am something of a thrill seeker. I love rollercoasters, and am a member of the American Coaster Enthusiasts. Through ACE, I have made many friends across the country, and have been on more rollercoasters than I can remember.

In my pursuit of adventure, I went skydiving last summer. Yes, I jumped out of a perfectly good airplane at 13,000 feet. As you can probably tell by my picture, I had a blast. I will probably do it again next summer.

I am an animal lover. We always had dogs and cats in the house when I was growing up. My biggest dog was a

*huge* mutt that weighed 120 pounds. He was a good dog, and he was friendly to our cats. Right now, I have a cat, but I want to have a houseful of pets again someday.

I think one of the most important things a teacher can do is to inspire others with their enthusiasm. I hope to be such a teacher.



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# George Finch

## Autobiography



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Hello. I'm George and I'm a 6th grade science and math teacher at Stafford Middle School. I have been teaching for about 12 years; nine years in Orange County and three years in Stafford County. I am married with two children. I have a five year old daughter and a one year old son. My daughter loves to act

silly and she is currently obsessed with the *High School Musical* movies. My son lately reminds me of a monkey. He likes to crawl around and look for things to pull, shake, grab, or put in his mouth.

I have enjoyed teaching at Stafford Middle, but I will probably be at a different school next

year. We are losing about 600 students next year to a new middle school, so it will be necessary to transfer some teachers. I don't mind being transferred, but I do hope to still be teaching 6th grade math, wherever I go. With two small children to take care of, I don't feel ready to teach an entirely new content area.

I really enjoy teaching. I tell people this and they usually seem surprised. I like working with kids and I'm experienced enough to know some good ways to teach them. However, not every day is good, but I've been

teaching long enough to go with the bumps that come with this job. You simply will have bad days; in fact you may even have bad years, but they only help you to appreciate the good ones.

I feel both excited and nervous in regards to this class. The professor seems nice, but there is a lot of work to do. If I can make it through to the end of the course, I will have learned a lot more than when I started.



# Mary's Autobiography



## Background

**M**y name is Mary Haley and I live in Caroline County, VA. I have lived here for about nine years and, although I am a city girl by birth, I have come to love the slower pace of a small town. I lived in many different places growing up because my father was in retail, but I spent most of my time in Richmond, VA. I graduated from high school in 1989 and took off for college at the University of Virginia. It was here that I met my husband. We were married in 1994, just one year out of college.



## Business Career

**W**hen I graduated from college, I wanted to work in the business world, following in my father's footsteps. I started a career in retail and worked in the Washington/ Baltimore area as an account coordinator for a cosmetics company in a retail chain. I loved the job and the traveling, but soon found it was not conducive to having a family. I worked for the first two years of my daughter's life, but when I became pregnant with my son in 1999, I knew I had to give it up. I was tired of traveling the Capitol Beltway and getting home at 7:30 every night. I quit my job; we



sold our house and moved to Caroline County. I spent the next several years at home (or not) with my children.

### **Path to Teaching**



I found many ways to occupy my time. I became active in many organizations and in my church. I found that what I really loved was working with children. Therefore, when the job as director of the daycare at the church opened up, I felt it was a good time to go back to work. I have been there for 3 ½ years and I really enjoy it. The experience has led me to the conclusion that I want to teach full time. I love the children and have a passion for educating them and watching them learn and develop.

I came to University of Mary Washington 1 ½ years ago. I am working on my initial teacher

licensure. I hope to teach by the fall of 2009. While I will be certified to teach K-6, I would really love to teach 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade.

### **Philosophy of Teaching**

As for my philosophy of education, I believe the goal of an educator should be to ensure that all students learn to the best of their ability. Therefore, I believe it is crucial for a teacher to be flexible and capable of differentiating instruction to meet different needs. I also believe that a teacher will reach the students by using hands on activities, lots of practice, and cooperative groups. I am a firm advocate of the notion that students learn more by doing than by just hearing or seeing. Furthermore, I strongly feel that a well managed classroom is not something that comes easily, but rather takes time

and attention to develop. Finally, I propose that good teaching uses scaffolding, giving the students a little support so they can reach higher and higher. While these are all critical parts of my philosophy of education, I believe a philosophy should not be set in stone, but rather a changing philosophy that adjusts as the teacher develops. Teaching is a long journey with continuous learning for the teacher along the way!





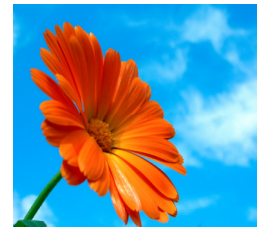
## About Charissa...

*About Charissa...*



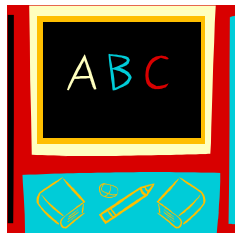
*OUT OF AFRICA.* I had the great opportunity to travel much as a child as my father was in the CIA. I was born in Republic of the Congo, Africa, along with two other sisters. Two more brothers were to come but they were born stateside. Though I don't remember much of the international travel, I'd like to return and see my "digs" one day. My father's job landed

us in Virginia in 1974 and we've enjoyed being Virginians ever since. My husband and I have also settled in the Fredericksburg area where we are raising our four children.



*LATE BLOOMER.* I call myself a "forever student" because it took me until 1994 (birth of third child) to finish up my Bachelor's Degree from Strayer University. I am still at it, pursuing my MEd at the University of Mary Washington, hoping soon to receive a

licensure for teaching elementary education. If all goes to plan (which it rarely does), I'll be leaving college as my soon to be 18 year old son enters his college. Oh well.....



*ABCS AND 1, 2, 3.* I've had the blessing of teaching preschool for six years at a local Baptist preschool. Each year brings loads of funny stories, challenges and many fine-tunings of teaching strategies. They are truly a loving group of 4-year olds who hug you and candidly tell you what's on their mind. It's **amazing** to see the growth from the beginning of the year when your class struggles to form a line, remember to sit

for circle time, learn to write their name or even fathom raising their hand for a question. And then IT happens, it may be four months into the school year or even more, but the magic happens. It all clicks and you have a line of children, a quiet and straight one to boot. Or everyone might be still for one circle time and stay on their "own" pad. As a teacher, you want to share this with your best friend or take a picture because this is a powerful moment.

*ALWAYS LEARNING.* Teaching is as much about children learning as it is about learning ourselves. What I mean is that you are constantly learning what works, why it works, and with whom it works. Teachers can always benefit from talking with, hearing and watching other teaching techniques.



**JOYA HRICKO**

**ITEC 501  
BIO 2**

Hi everyone! This is my fourth semester at the University of Mary Washington's College of Graduate and Professional Studies. I'm working on my initial teacher licensure and M.Ed. in ESL, PreK-12. Currently, I manage a business and occasionally work as a substitute teacher. I enjoy teaching a variety of grade levels; however, I hope to be able to stay in the elementary grades. I would like to help young

students get a good start learning English and have a positive, fun experience early in school. I believe all children are capable of learning and deserve a teacher's complete devotion and encouragement. I want to maintain high expectations for all students while inspiring their natural curiosity and maintaining a cooperative, positive learning environment.

I earned a B.A. in Fine Art from Indiana University with a concentration in photography, graphic design, and art history. After graduating and moving to Virginia, I decided to do something I had always dreamed of; learn to fly an airplane. So, I took what little money I had left and blew it on flying lessons!




My plan was to become a professional pilot. I earned a private license and kept going until eventually I had become a



commercial, single and multi-engine, instrument rated pilot and had passed the Flight Engineer's written exam. I was lucky when an opportunity gave me a chance to fly a Piper Turbo Arrow (single engine) 4,438 nautical miles from Dulles International Airport to Stuttgart, Germany via the Northern route, landing in Canada, Frobisher Bay, Greenland, Iceland, and Scotland. When I returned, I became a certified flight instrument instructor and taught many students to fly various aircraft in 'weather conditions'. I truly enjoyed teaching others to fly and I think that experience is part of what led me to consider teaching at this point in my life.

I became interested in teaching ESL while working with a Literacy program and helped to start the first ESL class in our town. I enjoyed teaching ESL and getting to know our international students and their families.

We have remained friends and stay in touch throughout the year.

I never became a professional pilot. Shortly after returning from

Europe, I fell in love,  got

married  and started a family. 

As one adventure ended, another one began. I did return to flight instruction; however, and my children often accompanied me, riding in the back of a Cessna 172, while I taught my students to fly.

My children are grown and I haven't flown an airplane in several years. Who has time for flying airplanes in graduate school? Anyway, I have started a new adventure as a teacher!



**THE END**



Hi, I'm Michelle Lembo. And, I'm the product of a K-12 public education in Virginia. After graduating high school, I started my college career. This has taken me on a journey through several of Virginia's colleges.



I started off earning my Associate's degree from Northern Virginia Community College (NVCC.)



During my second year at NVCC, I started tutoring at their writing center. While at the Writing Center, I helped students with writing assignments in varying disciplines and writing abilities. I enjoyed working with all the different people who came my way.

During my time at NVCC, I also attended George Mason University. At George Mason, I started my college training in Latin.



In the summer, I had another great opportunity to attend a summer language institute

at the University of Virginia. UVA brought me a wealth of knowledge about classical literature that I carried on to William & Mary.



At William and Mary, I earned my Bachelor's degree in Classical Studies. I also participated in the Classics Club. I attended events such as the Homer-a-thon, where I practiced the oral tradition of classical literature.

I then started looking for the best way to share what these institutions have given me. And, I started substitute

teaching, where I have had the chance to work long-term with beginning Latin students. I enjoyed my time substitute teaching and want to take what I have learned into my own classroom.







# Helaine Love's Autobiography

## ITEC 501

My name is Helaine Love and I have lived in Stafford, Virginia since 2000. I am originally from Queens, New York. I attended the University of New York at Albany where I majored in Business Administration and met my husband. When I first graduated college, I worked in Manhattan for an insurance company as a claims adjustor. I loved working in the city and I would love to live in a big city again where I could walk to restaurants, museums and coffee houses.

My husband is a retired marine so we have moved from state to state where we met wonderful people and explored the country. My favorite duty station was El Paso, Texas. We made many trips to Mexico where we enjoyed the people, the customs and the local foods. I have three children who were all born in different parts of the world. My oldest two children are currently attending Virginia Tech and my youngest is a senior in high school. I also have two retired greyhounds, Max and Lady.

When my children were growing up I was very active in PTA, scouts, religious school and volunteering in the classroom. I loved our



Girl Scout camp-outs, even the ones without any modern conveniences. I began my second career substituting in elementary school in Barstow, California. Later, when I was living in Okinawa, Japan, I was offered a job teaching pre-school and that is when I realized that I was meant to be in the classroom. I love teaching young children and ideally I would like to teach kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> grade.

When we moved to Stafford, I worked in a private day school for children ages 2-6. I was the classroom teacher for the 6 years olds where I prepared them for kindergarten. When this school closed their doors in 2006, I began my graduate education at the University of Mary Washington where I am planning on obtaining my Initial Teacher Licensure with an M.ED option.

The educational philosopher, John Dewey, had stated that “to find out what one is fitted to do, and to secure an opportunity to do it is the key to happiness”. For me, I feel that the key to my happiness is teaching and as a teacher, I want to encourage my students to find their personal key and provide them the tools to achieve it. As a humanistic teacher, I want a warm classroom where the students can share their thoughts, ideas, or problems and we can learn and discover together.

I am very fortunate that I am able to return to school after many years and that my family is so supportive. When my last school closed, I knew that this was the right time to continue my education. Teaching is a valuable career and if I can be remembered by one student for touching their life in a special way, then I have done my profession proud.



I grew up in the area around Falls Church and went to Mary Washington College. My husband and I both taught school in rural North Carolina. Next we moved to Charlottesville to work on Masters' degrees. I specialized in Elementary Education.. After teaching second grade briefly, I settled into raising children.



Family, friends, and volunteer work were the focus of my life for many years.

It was a major event for my husband the day he got a home computer. He was a whiz at spreadsheets and used the computer constantly.



Eventually I learned basic skills and went to work as a customer service representative. It wasn't really what I wanted to do.

Early childhood education was a new field to me and I wanted to get involved.

For the past nine years I have taught in three Northern Virginia NAEYC-accredited preschools. NAEYC sets the highest standards for the education of young children.

The preschoolers were between ages three and five. Working with them was always interesting and often fun.

Care-giving was just as important as teaching.

In each preschool, the children had daily opportunities to use computer programs designed to help learn appropriate academic skills. It seemed that anyone could learn to use the computer and learn from it.

Part of my teaching philosophy is that progress comes with finding and starting from children's levels of success, then proceeding into areas of greater challenge. NAEYC states "Activities should be developmentally appropriate for children in meeting...social, emotional needs as well as intellectual development."

Another tenet of my philosophy is derived from Becky Bailey's Conscious Discipline in which she states:

"Controlling and changing ourselves is possible and has profound impact on others. Connectedness governs behavior."

After nine years of preschool teaching and a long time in Northern Virginia, I was ready for a change. In August I moved to Warrenton (not so many miles, yet different).

Now I live in a small town near the mountains and close to my grown up children. We see each other more, and I like living and working in Warrenton. I still visit in Fairfax often. I enjoy learning every day.

All About Alison Morgan



Even though I have lived in Fredericksburg, Virginia for almost six years, I still consider myself a “New Yorker.” I am extremely proud to have grown up in Stony Brook, New York. My parents currently still live on Long Island in the same house that contains my childhood memories along with my cocker spaniel, Casey Jefferson Morgan.



I was adopted from South Korea when I was six months old. I have a sister who is nine years older than I am. It was not until I entered college that we became more than sisters but we became

friends. My sister and I both share the passion of being NY Giants fans.



I received my Bachelor of Science in Mathematics at University of Mary Washington in 2006. I have always wanted to be a teacher for as long as I can remember. My senior year calculus teacher inspired me to go into teaching. She made class interesting and enabled us to learn through hands-on activities. This is my second year teaching in Spotsylvania, Virginia with my provisional license because I did not complete a licensure program at UMW. I did not expect to be teaching right after college so I feel truly blessed to have been given the opportunity. The subjects that I teach are Algebra I,

Algebra II, and Advanced Algebra for grades 9-12.

This is my third semester in the licensure and masters program. If everything goes well, I am hoping to complete the program in the Fall of 2008. I have enjoyed being apart of the program but I have often found it very challenging to teach as well as going to school. My philosophy of education has changed since I have been teaching for two years. The experience that I have gained during my first year of teaching has helped me decide how I want my classroom to be run. The techniques that I have learned in the education classes I have taken have also helped shaped how I view the institution of education.

Although being a teacher is very challenging and very time-consuming, it is also a very reward profession. I am very happy to be able to make a difference in a teenager's life. I would not trade the feeling I get when I see students becoming well-rounded individuals.

*Melody A. Perry*

*ITEC 501 Section 02*

*Autobiography*



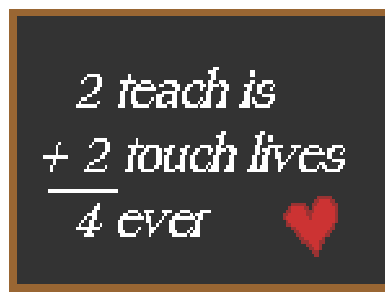
My name is Melody Perry and I was born in Arlington, Virginia. I lived there nine years and then moved to Stafford, Virginia, where I spent the remaining years of my childhood. I graduated from North Stafford High School. I continued my education at the University of Mary Washington where I graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology.



I began working at an environmental testing laboratory as a gas chromatograph and mass spectrometer operator. I worked there for seven years and diligently proceeded to become a manager where I supervised two departments. I resigned from the laboratory position to start a family with my husband for whom I have been married to for twelve years now. We have a daughter and a son together.



I enrolled in the College of Graduate and Professional Studies at the University of Mary Washington. I am seeking an Initial Teacher Licensure in Secondary Biology and a Master in Education. I am confident that my graduate courses have superbly prepared me for the teaching profession. The experience I gained at my teaching practicum was enlightening and will enable me to apply knowledge I have acquired thus far into the classroom. I will partake in two more practica and I am assured that this will additionally prepare me to be an effective teacher in the classroom.





An instructor's philosophy of education determines whether or not he or she is an effective teacher. I hope to be proficient in the classroom in that every child will be given more than enough opportunity to succeed academically and socially. I look forward to working with diverse students, parents, and fellow teachers and expect to overcome challenges that will arise during my teaching career. With an optimal classroom climate that consists of clear teaching and learning goals, well-structured curriculum, realistic expectations of the teachers and students, appropriate teaching methods, and effective classroom management, I aspire to prepare all students for success during their educational careers and in their future endeavors in life.





I was born the third of four children in 1984. Raised in this multi-sibling household, with the chaos that generally characterized the atmosphere, I lived an energetic, sometimes rambunctious, athletic, and outdoor-centric childhood. Things were hectic; a marriage between the suburban regime of soccer practice and homework and the slow lifestyle of the rural Shenandoah Valley, which ultimately won out and characterizes all the Pope children better than the urban craziness of Northern Virginia.

My father and Boy Scouts introduced me to camping, hiking, skiing, shooting, and canoeing early, a passion and tradition that continue today. Add to the list of outdoor pastimes hunting (which is mostly hiking with guns-a combination of pastimes) and fishing and you have a list of my hobbies. I would rather take a two-week canoeing and fishing trip on the Greenbrier, James, or South Branch Potomac Rivers, with no civilization than spend a lifetime at a beach or theme park. My newest love is whitewater canoeing; I paddle C-1, a decked canoe that allows me to escape to all but the most

rigorous streams. Though only a passing fan of transcendentalism, I try to follow Ralph Waldo Emerson's advice to strive that our lives be original experiences of nature.

I am a student of politics, government, and history; and hope to teach social studies. I prefer multi-discipline approaches to problems; especially in our globalizing world where you cannot hope to solve problems without the input of economists, politicians, conservationists, financiers, human-rights groups, and a myriad of other technicians and professions. Ideologically, I am a progressive. I have to hope that the world is dynamic and constantly becoming a better place (even if it's a two steps forward-one step back type of progression), because if it clings to the past, and as the old adage goes "history repeats itself," things look rough.

As far as teaching goes, I have always enjoyed it, if never on a fully formal basis. As a camp counselor, volunteer trainer, canoe instructor, and substitute teacher, I like to transfer knowledge and skills. I like to be the guru.

For now, I am content to work as a conservationist and go to school, escaping to the woods when possible. I spend time with family and friends, and my three nieces, who are massively cute and usually fun. Otherwise, I avoid television and excessive computer use and try to read, tie flies, work out, or cook instead. Despite pressures to shift toward the complicated, keeping things simple seems to be a best course of action for life-type things.

## Mary Beth's Autobiography

My name is Mary Beth Salinas. I have been married for almost 23 years. My husband is a retired Marine and so I have spent most of my married life living in many different places. We have three children. Our oldest, a son, is a senior at James Madison University, our oldest daughter is a junior at the U.S. Naval Academy, and our youngest daughter is a 6<sup>th</sup> grader in Stafford. We also have two Bichon puppies that require almost as much work as a child! My husband and I both originally hail from Colorado and still consider it our “real home.”

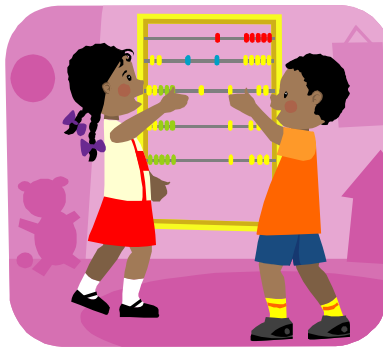


I enjoy watching sports, especially my children’s teams and those from Colorado such as the Denver Broncos and Colorado Rockies. I also like to participate in sports, read, and scrapbook. I love to travel and have visited 49 of the 50 states and 28 countries in Europe, Asia and the Caribbean. There are many more places that I’d like to see! In the future, when my dogs are old enough, I hope to become involved with them in pet therapy for hospital patients.

For as long as I can remember, I have always wanted to be a teacher. My mother is a retired teacher, my father a retired high school principal, and two of my three sisters are teachers. My home while growing up was one filled with the love of learning and a strong emphasis on education. When I went to college in the late seventies there was a glut of teachers and women were encouraged to major in Business. I graduated from the University of Northern Colorado with a degree in Business Administration. I enjoyed the work that I did in the business world and definitely feel that those experiences will contribute to success in the classroom. Since my

children were born, most of my work experiences have come from employment or volunteerism in preschools and K-12 school systems. The experiences that I have had working with diverse populations of students, especially those with special needs, confirmed to me that teaching was definitely the career that I want to pursue. I feel blessed to have the opportunity to pursue a Master's degree in Special Education and hope to teach in this capacity in the near future.

Like Abraham Maslow, I agree that children need to be nourished, feel safe, have a sense of belonging, and feel confident in their abilities to fulfill their potentials. My classroom will be a welcoming and accepting place where each student will be a contributing member in the classroom community. Like John Dewey, I feel that children learn best when they are actively engaged in "hands on" activities and interactions with each other. With proper supports, scaffolding, strategic teaching and an emphasis placed on abilities and not disabilities, I truly believe that all students can experience success.





Me, at a Redskins game

## Jen's Autobiography



My dog Jasmine

I live in Reston, VA with my boyfriend and our dog. I know I am a bit crazy for driving out to UMW every week (about an hour and a half each way) but I know that I am earning a reputable education. I grew up in Charlottesville, VA where I played field hockey and volleyball throughout my high school career. I decided that UVA was too close to home- you could walk to the football stadium from my house, so I decided on Mary Washington College. I graduated from Mary Washington University, yes, I was there for the name change, in 2006 with a bachelor's degree in English.

After graduation, my boyfriend and I moved to Fairfax, VA. Here I began working for *Professional Pilot Magazine* in Alexandria, and my boyfriend got a job with a technology corporation. The role of secretary at a corporate pilot magazine was not for me and when our lease was up we moved to Reston and I began working for the Girl Scout Council of the Nations Capital in order to pay my way through my masters program. I absolutely love working with the Girl Scouts. I was a Girl Scout from kindergarten though twelfth grade and eventually earned my gold award. (Equivalent to the Eagle Scout)

I am currently about halfway through my program here at Mary Washington, where I will soon earn my teaching license as well as my masters in education. I hope to be teaching in the near future in a high school English classroom. My high school English teacher is the one who inspired me to pursue my dream of becoming a teacher. I hope that one day I can touch a students life as much as he touched mine. As a student in a class where the teacher actually cared what you were learning, what sports you were playing, and who you were as a person, I grew a great deal not only as a student but also as a person. It was here that I discovered my passion for reading and how my love for that could translate into a world of opportunities.

My philosophy for teaching is ever growing and changing. I want to be excited about what I am teaching. How are we to engage the students if we are not enthralled with our own content? I want to challenge my students as well as provide a learning environment that is conducive to open conversations as well as creativity. As an educator, I feel that we owe it to our students to open as many doors as possible in the short time that we have them in the classroom. Not only is content important but relating it to the students, and encouraging them to be open to learning is at times a hard task, but one we all need to attempt.



## Evan's Life



My name is Evan Stribling. I was born in Virginia and grew up in Stafford County. I remember being a very active child and taking an interest in the natural world at a very young age. I spent most of my youth roaming through the woods with my grandfather or playing sports. I became

an avid fisherman when I was in high school which led me to major in marine science in college.

Upon graduating high school I moved to Myrtle Beach South Carolina where I attended Coastal Carolina University. I enjoyed the research opportunities that I found in college and intended on going to graduate school to further my pursuits in marine science. My life was planned out for the next several years but things did not go as planned.



During my sophomore year I took a physics class and now three years later I am engaged to my lab partner. I was having difficulty understanding some of the concepts in the class and she took the time



to help me. Next thing I know I'm in Baltimore meeting her family. We dated all through college and we are getting married this summer. She is presently in Medical school at the University of Maryland.

The summer between my junior and senior year of college I got an internship at Myrtle Beach State Park. During my internship I was responsible for animal care and assisting with children's' nature classes. After my internship I was employed by the park as a naturalist with similar responsibilities. It was in this position I realized that I wanted to become an educator. I continued working at the park until I graduated with a Bachelors degree in Marine Science and a minor in biology.



After graduation I returned to Virginia and enrolled in the University of Mary Washington's masters of education program. This past summer I was hired to teach Earth Science and Oceanography at the same high school I graduated from. In addition to being a first year teacher, I have also gotten the opportunity to coach wrestling.



## *C'est moi, Heidi Trude*

*Il est très simple: on ne voit bien qu'avec le cœur. L'essentiel est invisible pour les yeux.*

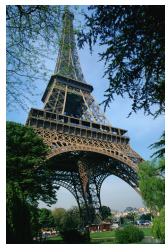
*(The essential things in life are seen not with the eyes, but with the heart.)*

*- Antoine de Saint Exupéry*



was very young. While my family was in the process of moving, my mother and I stayed with my grandparents in Pennsylvania. It was during our stay in Pennsylvania that the doctors discovered that I was in congestive heart failure because of a hole in my heart. I had surgery when I was only five months old to repair the VSD (ventral septal defect). My parents consider me to be a miracle and to this day, I have had no complications resulting from the VSD repair.

**B**onjour, je m'appelle Heidi Trude (*Hello, my name is Heidi Trude*). This is my second semester at the University of Mary Washington's College of Graduate and Professional Studies. I plan to graduate with my certification in French (PreK-12) and my M.Ed. Ultimately, I would like to teach French at the high school level, but am willing to teach it at any level. I am so passionate about teaching and cannot wait until I have my own classroom. In the meantime, I am a substitute teacher for Fauquier County Public Schools.



### *Growing Up*

**G**was born in Turnersville, New Jersey; however I never lived there long enough to really call it home. My father was in the military, so my family moved from New Jersey to Virginia when I

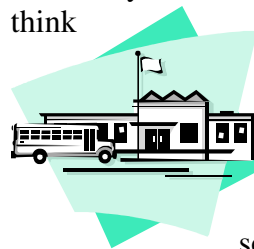
**F**ollowing the heart surgery, my family settled in Warrenton, Virginia. I have lived here for the past 22 years. I attended Fauquier County Public Schools for elementary, middle, and high school. I absolutely loved school and learning. I think

this was because of the excellent teachers I was fortunate to have.

During my childhood, I was active in Girl

Scouts, softball,

piano and voice lessons, church youth group, and many school clubs and activities. I graduated 10<sup>th</sup> in my class from Liberty High School in 2003.

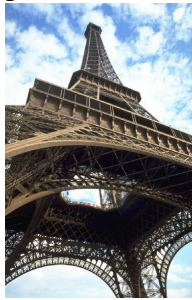




## Sweet Briar Bound

SWEET BRIAR  
COLLEGE

After graduating from Liberty High School, I was off to spend the next four years of my life at Sweet Briar College, a small private women's college near Lynchburg, Virginia. Sweet Briar was a dream come true for me. I loved the small classes and the community atmosphere. It was at Sweet Briar that I discovered my passion and love for the French language and culture.



While at Sweet Briar, I was extremely involved on campus. I was a tour guide, Sweet Spirit (an intern in the Chaplain's Office), French Department tutor, History Department tutor, History Department

research assistant, Senior Class Secretary, French Club president, Campus Christian Fellowship leader, and a member of many other clubs and organizations. I was always busy and loved every minute of it! I was inducted into Pi Delta Phi (National French Honor Society), Omicron Delta Kappa (National Leadership Society), and Who's Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities while at Sweet Briar. I graduated magna cum laude from Sweet Briar College in May 2007 with a B.A. in French and History. During commencement, I was awarded the Walker Family Award, which is one of the all-college awards presented to a senior with

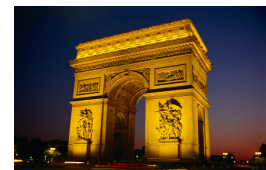


high scholastic standing, a cheerful, positive disposition, and who shows warmth, generosity and humility. My four years at Sweet Briar were amazing and will never be forgotten!



## Now What?

It was not until my senior year at Sweet Briar when I realized that teaching French was my calling and passion. I had the opportunity to serve as a private tutor for a young girl who was just beginning to learn French. By working with her, I realized that I had a gift for teaching. It was just so much fun! I also loved tutoring the college students, as well. I made the decision halfway through my senior year that I wanted to teach. I knew I needed to find a program where I could receive my initial licensure and was relatively close to



my home. So, I began researching and found the University of Mary Washington's program. The program was exactly what I wanted, so applied and was accepted. I began classes in Fall 2007.



Teaching

is not just about instructing children, it is also about following your heart and sharing your joy with them. Ultimately you must show your students that you are passionate about what you do in order for them to be excited about learning. At the end of each day, I want to know that I made a difference in the life of child. I know I will be able to instill these values and more in the lives of the students I teach.

## *My Philosophy of Education*

I have a true zeal and desire to teach French.

I believe teaching is one of the most fulfilling and rewarding jobs an individual can do. By teaching I will be able to give back to the community and share my



enthusiasm with others. As a teacher, I want to have the opportunity to shape the minds' of children and help them discover their passions and desires.



# *Au revoir*

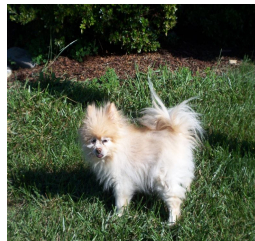


# Amanda Tucker

## Autobiography



My personal story began 23 years ago in Nuremburg, Germany. Born into a military family, we lived in several different places before settling in Stafford, Virginia. I grew up with a brother, six years my junior, as well as my Pomeranian, Schatzi.



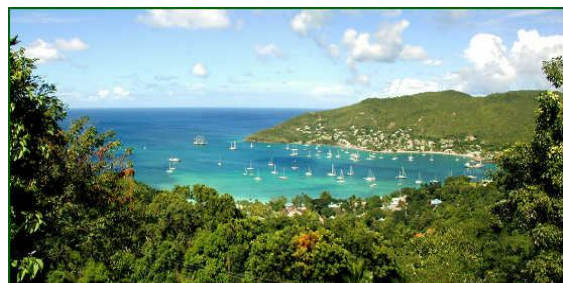
The entirety of my education took place in Stafford County Public Schools with the exception of my college experience at William and Mary.



Once I graduated with a degree in Psychology and a concentration in Elementary Education, I returned to my hometown to begin my teaching career. It is comforting to know that I have come full circle, exchanging my role as student for teacher.

At an early age, I knew that I wanted to become an educator. Some of my earliest memories of a classroom are from teacher workdays that I spent with my father. After he left active Army duty, he became a reservist. Using his military experience and education degree, he began teaching in alternative education programs. Although I did not aspire to work with similar populations of students, I admired his dedication to making a difference in the community.

I have also had a few first-hand experiences that have helped solidify my decision to become a teacher. During my junior year at William and Mary, I spent my winter break on the island of Bequia, located in the southernmost portion of St. Vincent and the Grenadines.



Due to a critical teaching shortage on the island, this Service Learning Program allowed me to become a full-time teacher during my visit. A year later, I returned to the island to implement a new reading curriculum at the Sunshine School for children with special needs. The experience of working with different cultures has given me an added appreciation for our advanced educational system with access to numerous technologies.

Currently, I am in my second year of teaching third grade. I have just started my Masters of Education in Instructional Technology Leadership. As I simultaneously teach and learn, I can directly apply what I am taught in my own classroom. This program will allow me to gain knowledge of the newest technology in our world today. In addition, I hope to gain ideas on how to effectively integrate technology with the curriculum. As a reflective educator, it is important for me to regularly examine my techniques and approaches to learning in an effort to find what works best for me as well as my students. Ultimately, I want to achieve a better understanding of how technology can be used as a tool for learning.

It is astounding to consider the vastness of technology. Today, people of all ages can access tools such as email, instant messaging, word processing, and even online video games. Furthermore, it is even amazing to consider the impact that technology is having on education. I look to the future with tremendous enthusiasm and excitement.





## Joe's Journey

My name is Joe Wilson and I live in rural Virginia. I am originally from a small farm town in the Mid-West. The school I attended as a child had kindergarten through twelfth grade all in the same building. Even in the year 2008, the school district of my childhood is still contained within one building.

When I was growing up, I could not wait to get out of the country and move to the city. When I graduated from high school, I attended college in Youngstown, Ohio. I graduated with my Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from Youngstown State University in

1987 and I moved to the suburbs of Washington D.C. where I became a police officer. I was a police officer for fifteen years. During the last three years of my career in law enforcement, I worked as a School Resource Officer. It was in this capacity that I caught the "teaching bug". As a police officer, I was a member of the department's SWAT team as a specialist in crisis/hostage negotiation. This previous background in controlling and or responding to the behavior of people has deeply influenced how I teach and my philosophy of education.



After nine years as a police officer, I met and married a small town girl and after four years of marriage we became the parents of twin boys. We both wanted to get back to our country roots and raise our children in a more rural environment. I decided to retire

early from the police department and to switch careers. I returned to college to obtain my teaching degree and I will graduate with my M.Ed. in the summer of 2008.



I am currently in my second year of teaching. I teach Special Education. I have several content areas within my job. I am the primary teacher for the MR/Autism population. In this position, I have to teach eight students in all four core curriculum subjects and in social/life skills as well. I am also an inclusion teacher for one of the 7<sup>th</sup> grade language arts inclusion classes.

At the heart of my teaching philosophy, I am a behaviorist! I use the tools of behaviorism everyday in my classroom, in classroom management, and in motivating my students in the learning process. I believe that creating the proper class room environment to

facilitate learning is a crucial first step to teaching, even before the first topic is introduced. Keeping individual students motivated is an ongoing challenge and can be facilitated by using applied behavioral analysis based on each student's unique circumstances. I am a believer in using response to intervention techniques in helping each student achieve his or her highest potential.

I also consider myself to be an idealist. I believe in reaching for the ideal or perfection within my own teaching abilities. I strive to do this by spending time reflecting on my lessons and critiquing myself on an ongoing basis.

No matter what your teaching style may be, the key is to focus on the child. You must teach in the manner that is best for the child. When you put the child first you can't help but be successful.



Hi! My name is April Wold.

I'm from Locust Grove Virginia, where I've lived all my life. My favorite hobbies are: lounging, watching T.V., painting, playing the piano, cooking, gardening, and taking nature walks. My favorite food is coffee.



I love watching football and rooting for my favorite team, The Redskins. When football season is over, I love watching NASCAR racing. Jeff Burton is my favorite driver.

About thirteen years ago, I saw a picture in the paper of two adorable Cocker/Pointer mix puppies up for adoption at the local animal shelter. My parents would only let me pick one, so I picked the girl and



named her Butterball, B.B. for short, because she's so pudgy! She looks cute, but I've spoiled her; she acts-up if she doesn't get her way...I've failed as a mother!

Anyway, I could go on and on about my baby, but I guess I should talk more about myself. I live on Mom's property with my cousin Lisa and her two children, Mark and Michelle. It's nice to live close to my relatives (sometimes). My sister Jennifer lives with my Mom, and I frequently go over to their house to visit. Jennifer is Autistic, as is my cousin Mark. Their determination and willingness to learn gave me the inspiration to pursue a Master's Degree in Elementary Special Education.

Teaching wasn't my first career choice. I received an Associates Degree from Germanna Community College, and from there I attended The University of Mary Washington and completed a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Historic Preservation. I would have minors in both Art History and History if the University offered them...so I have a lot of electives. Anyway, I intended to get into historical archaeology. I wanted to be an archaeologist since I was a little girl. I spent most of my time outside digging test pits and looking for buried treasure. Unfortunately, I developed allergies after reaching adulthood that basically make it impossible for me excavate or even handle collections because of all the dirt and dust. My face almost swelled shut on my last dig! I really enjoyed myself, but I looked ridiculous. Anyway, I believe that everything happens for a reason, and I think my allergies were God's way of telling me that he had other plans for my life. I'm excited about my new career path and I'm really looking forward to teaching!

