

The List of ITEC 501-01 class  
Fall 2006:

Chadwick, Bruce

Garrison, Mary

Guinn, Linda

Harris, Stefanie

Jones, Shelly

Kelly, Cynthia A.

Konieczna, Krystyna

Mauck, Sara

Moore, Meghan W

Norbutt, Kristine

Oliver, Erica

Parker, Akemi

Roach, Sara

Spencer, Anna;



My name is Bruce Chadwick and I teach marketing and business law at Spotsylvania High School in Spotsylvania, Virginia. I would like to take a few minutes of your time and tell you who I am, where I have been and where I hope to go. Maybe by the time you have finished, you will have a better understanding of Bruce Chadwick.

My parents had a strong feeling for continued education. My father dropped out of high school to join the merchant marines during World War II. After which he finished high school and joined the army serving 26 years. During his service he attended the University of Maryland at night and graduated with a bachelor's degree. He then obtained his Masters degree. Upon retiring my father taught high school. My mother graduated high school at the age of 16. She was a stay at home mother until later in years, at which time she worked as a media specialist for Prince William county schools. They always pushed us to our highest achievement.

Being an army brat I was fortunate enough to travel all over the world. I have a brother born in Japan and a sister born in France. I was born in Ft. Dix, New Jersey. I grew up in Woodbridge, Virginia and graduated from Woodbridge High School. While in high school I lettered and was all Districts in three sports. I was recruited by over 20 schools to play football. I decided on the University of Maryland. Due to an accident I never was able to play but, did participate with the team. I studied business and received a Bachelors degree.

After graduating I worked as a greens keeper (Assistant Superintendent), I owned a sporting goods store, worked corporate retail after selling my business, and sold real estate and owned my own brokerage firm.

Now how did I ever get into education? I was asked to teach a business course part time at an alternative education program in Manassas. Working with these students I soon found so much satisfaction. I just somehow seemed to connect with them using my life experiences. I worked the next year full time and went back to schooling to get my certification. I was hired by Spotsylvania County after I had earned my license in marketing and business. I had taught for three semesters at Lord Fairfax/Germanna Community College in Warrenton. However I never achieved the satisfaction and excitement that I receive daily in working with my students. I had almost done these twenty years ago, but did not. I am not sure, but I feel the experiences I gained have helped me immensely.

I guess you can tell by now that I love teaching. I am always looking for new and better ideas and that is why I am here in this class. I believe you must have respect and give respect. You get respect by earning it. I feel that I have to be prepared every day with something new and flexible enough to turn on a dime.

All of this change would never had been possible without my support growing up, but especially today with the longer hours and having someone to bounce new ideas off of. My wife of almost 25 years is the tiger in my tank that makes me go in a positive direction. We live in Culpeper County with our dog and enjoy the countryside.

Life goes in many directions and I have been fortunate enough to utilize my experiences to relate education and how it ties with real life experiences of my students.



## Mary Garrison Biography

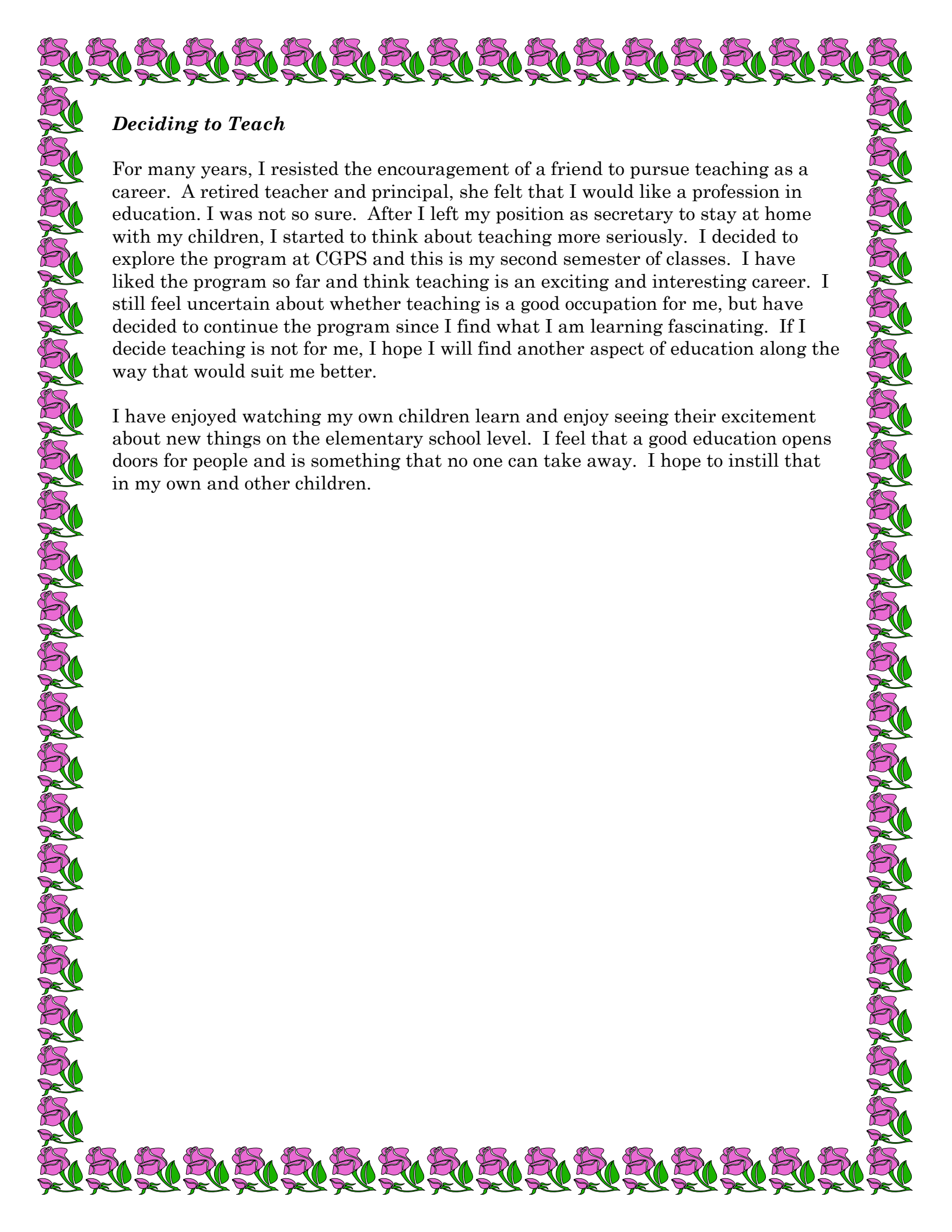
### *Personal*

My name is Mary Garrison and I am a M.Ed. student at the University of Mary Washington in Stafford Virginia. I am originally from Cleveland Ohio, but have lived in Virginia for many years. I am married with two elementary school age sons.

I spent my teen years in various foster homes and actually found refuge at school. Learning came easily to me and I found satisfaction in successful assignments and could ignore any unpleasantness in my life. One of my early goals was to go to college, although I did not know how I would achieve that goal. Many people encouraged me along the way, teachers, guidance counselors and my social worker. Some people did not encourage me; among them were the foster parents I lived with in high school. They seemed to feel threatened by the idea of my going to college, made discouraging comments, and even attempted to prevent me from taking the SAT. I lied about where I was going one Saturday morning the spring of my senior year. Eventually I was accepted by my first choice school and eventually the foster parents accepted that I was going. I have an amiable relationship with these foster parents now.

### *Education and Work*

I was one of the first people in my biological family to attend college. I have a Bachelor of Social Work degree from James Madison University in Harrisonburg Virginia. My experiences in foster care influenced my decision to pursue social work as a major. I worked as a Child Protective Service worker for a county department of social services after I graduated from college. Then I was a social worker in a nursing home for several years. Most recently, I was a secretary on the main campus of the University of Mary Washington for seven years, which is how I learned about the teacher licensure program at UMW.



## *Deciding to Teach*

For many years, I resisted the encouragement of a friend to pursue teaching as a career. A retired teacher and principal, she felt that I would like a profession in education. I was not so sure. After I left my position as secretary to stay at home with my children, I started to think about teaching more seriously. I decided to explore the program at CGPS and this is my second semester of classes. I have liked the program so far and think teaching is an exciting and interesting career. I still feel uncertain about whether teaching is a good occupation for me, but have decided to continue the program since I find what I am learning fascinating. If I decide teaching is not for me, I hope I will find another aspect of education along the way that would suit me better.

I have enjoyed watching my own children learn and enjoy seeing their excitement about new things on the elementary school level. I feel that a good education opens doors for people and is something that no one can take away. I hope to instill that in my own and other children.



Linda Guinn  
Linda Guinn

Little girls like to play dress up, wear their mom's jewelry and dream of being a princess. My dress ups and dreams were not of princesses but instead I was fascinated with teaching. My first thoughts of teaching were in the first and second grades. Whenever the teachers left the classroom, the boys in the class would get up and kiss me or throw grapes against the wall, depending on their mood. I made a mental note; when I'm a teacher I'll never leave the class alone. In third grade the teacher would roll out the piano every Friday and her whole body shook as she played spirituals, patriotic songs, folk music, and more for our class. I loved those Fridays and made a mental note; learn to play the piano for weekly sing-a-longs. Fourth grade introduced world geography and I was so fascinated that I hurried home every afternoon to "teach" my younger brother. I asked for a globe for Christmas and made a mental note; I will be a 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher when I grow up.

In my third year of teaching 4<sup>th</sup> grade, I met my prince charming. My students had had a tough year with most of the class being out for chicken pox. In the spring they excitedly planned a surprise bridal shower for me and secretly invited my fiancé to join the party. He showed up just in time for recess and joined the children for a game of football on the playground. A week later, my fiancé and I were headed out for a Saturday night on the town when he showed me a bump on his arm that had been itching all day. He'd never had chicken pox and as an accountant for a big CPA firm, April was a very bad time to get them. The wedding went on but we never bought any of our wedding pictures since the pox marks were so visible.

After 10 years in the classroom, I decided it was time to stay home with my two sons but I remained very active in schools as a volunteer and substitute teacher. I also stayed busy teaching and working with children in various clubs and church activities. Whether the children were my own, in a club, a church or in my classroom, my philosophy always stayed the same. Meet their basic needs first, make them feel safe and loved, then share the passion for learning that will inspire and motivate them to enjoy learning for a lifetime.

As my children grew up, I began to seek out volunteer opportunities outside of children's activities. The last few years I have been involved in the leadership of mental health organizations and a support group leader. Most recently, my spare time finds me on my knees. I became certified as a Master Gardener in Prince William County four years ago and I'm actively involved in the maintenance of several gardens, including a very large vegetable garden at St. Benedictine Monastery where I grow vegetables to feed 37 nuns. I started spending so much time in gardens that I began to think about a horticulture degree and a career switch. But as much as I love connecting with Mother Nature, a horticulture career would require hours unfamiliar to me. And even though I know plants like you to talk to them, I prefer children who can talk back. That brings me to Mary Washington's College of Graduate and Professional Studies where I hope to get a Masters in Education for English Speakers of Other Languages. After all, my youngest will be leaving for college soon and I've made a mental note; fill my life with young children and I will always be happy.



## Stefanie Harris

Some of my earliest childhood memories involve the time before and after school with the other “teacher’s kids.” We would take turns sitting in the big chair while the rest of us sat on the floor reading a story or going over some of the things we had learned that day. I guess it was in our blood.

Growing up I always had children-centered part-time jobs and after school activities. I also appreciated the impact that my mother had on her students during 35 years of teaching; however, I was interested in seeing what else was out there. My interest in environmental conservation led me to a Bachelor’s degree in

environmental policy and planning and a Master’s degree in urban and regional planning from Virginia Tech.

During college, I found myself substitute teaching in a local elementary school as a part-time job.

After school, I worked for the government in a conservation planning position. I soon realized that the office environment was not for me, and that I missed the daily interaction with kids that I had previously taken for granted.

I recently began, at the University of Mary Washington, to earn my Master’s of Education at the elementary level. It is my hope that as a teacher I can arm my students with a solid education like the one I received.

I believe that teachers have a lot of impact on a child’s love of learning. I will strive to stimulate the interest of my students in a way that will continue for many years to come.

It is my philosophy that there are several reasons for education.

Education is not only for children to learn the immediate information presented to them, it is for children to develop the skill of learning. Education opens their minds to the process of learning and thinking. This enables them to be critical thinkers in the world and draw their own conclusions given the appropriate information. With all the “experts” in the world today, we must teach our children to be cognizant of their sources and to develop their own opinions. Another purpose of education is to learn social interaction. So much time is spent in school that this is truly where the social interaction aspect of their life takes place. Children must learn to get along with others in a group setting whether it’s in the classroom during work time or on the playground during playtime. Learning that there are other people outside of themselves and that it is

important to work together is a critical aspect of education.

I believe that education is best achieved through active student participation. Students must participate in their own education to get the full benefit. By participating, they have a degree of ownership and therefore are more committed to their own success. In addition, not only is it fun for students to teach their peers, but explanation is one of the best ways for someone to learn. Just as I taught to my friends after school, my students shall take an active role in educating each other.

I look forward to bringing my broad background into the classroom. I hope that my students and I can both learn from each other while creating an environment where creativity can bloom.




### **The Autobiography of Shelly Jones**

I am an eighth grade world geography teacher at Gayle Middle School and I love my job. Teaching is such a wonderful profession because no two days are ever the same. Not only am I a teacher, I coach three sports: field hockey, basketball, and soccer. Coaching young athletes is something that I enjoy very much and I feel that it has helped me to become a better teacher. My philosophy of teaching is that learning never stops.

I moved to Virginia three years ago from Pennsylvania. I graduated from Saint Vincent College, Latrobe, PA, with a B.A. in History. For a few different reasons, finding a teaching job in my home state was difficult, so I sent my application to some schools in the Old Dominion. After one interview and what felt like the longest week of my life, I was offered a position in Stafford County Public Schools. Before I moved, all I knew about Stafford County was that it bordered the city of Fredericksburg, a place I had visited once or twice before in my life. My father is a Civil War enthusiast. Both of my parents were a little sad to see me move four hours from home, but my father was at least a little bit excited that I would be living in a hotbed of Civil War history. Part of my inspiration for becoming a social studies teacher is the love of history that my parents demonstrated to me as a child. The enjoyment I have for the field of social studies is one thing that I try to express to my students.

When teaching eighth grade students, there is never a dull moment. One reason that I like teaching this grade is because the kids are old enough to carry on a conversation, yet they still have some childhood innocence. Eighth grade, in my opinion, is when some students really start to figure the world out for themselves. I have had the opportunity to coach some of my students and it is an experience that I have found very rewarding.



Not only has coaching allowed me to stay connected with the sports I played growing up, it has let me see my students in a different, and perhaps more relaxed, environment. In turn, the students see me in a different light. I have had some bad days in the classroom. Days where I just wanted to go home after school and not stay the extra two hours to coach. But once practice or the game was over, my bad day was gone. Coaching is what gives me a release from the classroom. As such, I believe that participation in extracurricular activities is important for the wellbeing of our students. For students, learning how to work together is just as valuable as learning about the five themes of geography.

Learning does not end after high school or even college. In the last three years, I have learned more from my students than I could ever hope to teach them. Above all, I have learned to be patient and to laugh off the little mistakes I make in the classroom instead of being embarrassed. Students need to see that their teachers are human. Students need to be able to relate to their teachers, which is why I do not mind spending a couple of minutes during class to talk about Monday Night Football or new movies coming to the theatre. I have also learned that different students learn in very different ways. Teachers have to be open-minded to different methods of instruction so that all of their students have the opportunity to learn the material. I cannot describe how great it feels to see the look on a student's face when he or she has figured out the answer to a challenging question. It is because of those kinds of moments, seeing a student excited about learning, that I truly love being a teacher.

Sara Mauck



Before I came to Stafford I lived my entire life in Pennsylvania. I am from a small town called Littlestown, since many people do not know of this town I usually tell people I am from “near Gettysburg.” This, however, is a habit I quickly broke while on vacation this summer down south (the further south you go the less they want to hear about Gettysburg) where I spent a week camping near the Nantahala River in North Carolina. This week was in late July and I do not think I could have found a better way to relax before going back to work. I currently teach and coach at Mountain View High School. Between teaching and coaching I find time for little else.

Now that it is well into September I still find myself thinking about vacation in the Great Smoky Mountains. Getting away from all my

responsibilities for a week allowed me time to focus on my newest undertaking: whitewater kayaking. This is something I have always been interested in but have not picked up until about two summers ago. I have recently learned to roll and have had to use it quite a bit since. My last day on the river I not only had to put my well practiced roll to use, but I had to use a fairly new move as well: a hands roll (rolling with no paddle). Now, practicing in a pool is one thing, but in whitewater after losing your paddle it can be quite unnerving. But, that is exactly what happened to me.

Amazingly I was successful. This difficult feat gave me a nice confidence boost to begin the year with. Heading back to school is always scary, as a student and a teacher, but succeeding with something so difficult made me feel ready for anything.

So back to school I came. Though I am a teacher, because I coach, work for me begins the first week of August. I coach girl’s field hockey at Mountain View, something I truly enjoy. Continuing an activity I love and sharing it with others is always a great experience. Coaching serves as a release for me, after a day of teaching it allows

me to interact with students on a different level, to get outside and be active, and forget about all the work I still have left to do. The most important of these, I believe, is connecting with students on another level. Coaching allows me to see different sides of them and for them to see me as more than that awful person who gives them homework.

Making this other level of contact is so important in teaching. Because students are always changing and each individual student is different I have no set teaching philosophy—you do what best helps that student. There are many things I believe are important to all teachers and these are the first two. Recognizing that not all kids are the same, but that as a teacher it is your job to connect with them—and, unfortunately, you might not always be successful, but you always have to try. I do not believe teachers and students should be friends, but when that kid sees you as more than a teacher you will be the most successful.

Another belief I have is fairness: it sounds so simple but sometimes teachers can be unfair without even being conscience of this. Teenagers are

very aware of what is fair and what is not. If you make the mistake of being unfair to a student you will lose them. However, fair does not mean be a pushover. As a teacher you need to let students know where you stand on the issues and where they stand with you. These things will not guarantee you a successful teaching career, but I believe they are an excellent starting point.

As my year begins I hope again for a successful year, not only in school, where I will work my hardest to live up to my philosophies, but in coaching, where these ideas also apply. Then, at the end of the year, I will once again look forward to that relaxing vacation.



### **Autobiography- Meghan Moore**

Virginia is in my blood- I was born and raised in this state and, except for a six month period at the end of my undergrad career at MWC (back when it was still MWC), I have lived here my whole life, and this is where I plan to stay. When it came time to rethink my career path, every now and then, friends and neighbors would ask me, “What about teaching?” and after a while, I wondered if that might not be the career for me. I gave it a lot of serious thought, and the more I thought about it, the more I liked the idea. I definitely wouldn’t be wasting my biology degree, I could pass on my love of learning to future generations, and I could give them the benefit of any experience that I might have, which is why I want to work with high school kids- they’re at the point of making the first of many major life decisions, and if I can help them in any way, I want to be there ready with advice and support. And so, here I am, working my way towards becoming a teacher. But with every education class that I’ve taken, my view of what the role of a teacher is and what exactly education is has undergone a revision, helped along

by my practical experience in secondary classrooms as a substitute teacher, and this mix of experience in both classrooms has sharply defined my personal theory of education.

Education isn't just about acquiring, memorizing, and remembering information. Nor is it simply about gaining critical thinking skills, learning what questions to ask, and learning how to problem solve on different levels. Nor is it strictly concerned with building relationships, learning to share and wait your turn, and listening to and getting along with others. If any one of those was the sole purpose of education, we most likely would not need schools, for children are home schooled all the time, instructed by their parents or their tutors on all the facts that are deemed to be of importance. However, to me, education should be an inseparable mix of these three components, and schools are uniquely situated to "teach" all three of these elements. These are the tools that can build success, both on an individual level and on a societal level, and preparing children for future success, for becoming contributing members of society is, to me, another huge purpose of education.

I think that the most difficult thing about education in general is developing the ability to maintain a solid grasp of "the big picture", keeping yourself focused day to day on exactly *why you are there*. I suspect that if you would ask a teacher on any given day what he or she hopes to accomplish that day, you might get an answer like, "I need to get these tests graded" or "I have to get this lab set up." This is a far cry from the lofty ambitions that we have as educators, like "I want to help my students realize their full potential." From what I've seen, it's very easy to become bogged down with the everyday, humdrum banalities, like grading papers and writing lesson plans. I realize that no one is perfect, that all teachers get tasks and chores piled on them and sometimes have

to give their students some busy work just to let themselves get caught up. However, I think that we all need to keep in mind the larger purposes and reasons for education. The more often we think about them, the more likely we are to incorporate them into our daily routines. And what a world it would be to live in if thoughtfulness and purposeful education became routine- who knows what could be accomplished down the road with just a little bit of effort now.



I am Erica Oliver and I teach Language Arts. I have a love for the one profession that nobody seems to want to do, but everyone wants to tell me how to do. I am a teacher and I love it. I live in Woodbridge, VA, but I am originally from Dawson, Georgia. I am still not all that sure how I got here, but I am here and enjoying the experience.

This makes my fifth year in the classroom, and so far I cannot think of anything else that I would rather do. I love cooking, eating and watching Rachel Ray on the Food Network Channel. I am currently working on completing my masters in ESL, and soon after finishing it I plan to begin my doctorate degree. I love teaching, and I love being taught, so I am always finding a reason to go to school. You can never know, or learn too much! That's my motto, and I am sticking to it!



Hello class! My name is Akemi Parker and this is my first semester here at the graduate campus. I recently graduated from UMW with a B.S. in Psychology, but took a short break from school to allow myself a little down time! However, I found that I like having some structure to my day, so taking classes is certainly helping with that. Right now, I live in Stafford where I grew up and attended school. This year I began my first “big girl” job where I am a kindergarten T/A at Lake Ridge Elementary School in Prince William County. Other than work and school, I am part of the Masters Swimming League, enjoy trying to play golf, and love shopping for bargains!

I believe part of the reason I want to become a teacher is because of the experiences I had throughout my grade school years as well as my experience as being a swim coach. And even though I am just beginning this journey of learning about teaching and how to manage a classroom, I have already begun to mold my own philosophy of education.

Although I was not a disruptive child, my parents were quite worried about leaving me at school because I tended to be shy around strangers. In fact, they spoke

with my kindergarten teacher and assured her that if she had any problems with me, not to hesitate contacting them. However, at the end of that day, my parents were shocked and relieved to hear that I had done just fine and cooperated nicely. I still remember my kindergarten teachers, and nearly all the rest of my grade school teachers, because of their abilities as teachers to make me feel important and enable me to come out of my shell. As I entered middle and high school, I began having problems with homework and tests, because I did not understand the material. But once again I was lucky enough to have the kind of teachers that mix kindness, and patience, with well intended challenges. I was able to see first hand how much a teacher has an impact on a child, and I feel as though teaching is one of the few careers that has this opportunity to create a bond with a child, strengthen and maintain it over several months, and watch as your impact on the child becomes apparent. I admire the teachers that helped build my confidence, and hope one day I may do the same for my students.

Although my teachers were able to quickly and positively affect my attitude as a child, I will expect and will be prepared for students who do not have such an instantaneous response. Currently, I am a kindergarten T/A, and have already been dealing with children who are having behavioral and emotional problems that have not been worked out yet. But I think observing and participating in situations liked these are helping me to shape my philosophy on education. Currently, I feel as though the perfect environment for teaching and learning is that of flexibility within structure. I believe the rules and discipline outlining a teacher's expectations need to be clearly defined so there is no confusion. I also believe that a teacher needs to plan out each day with a few target objectives. But on the other hand, one can not be too rigid in their methods, because

problems and surprises will occur. A reading lesson may take longer to complete because not all children are reading on the same level or there may be one child who is more advanced and needs additional tasks to keep he/she stimulated. It is important that a teacher be able to notice and spot these weaknesses and strengths in the classroom and be flexible enough to deal with them effectively.

Right now I am taking the Foundation of American Education class this semester, and we are using critical issues, such as medicating and testing standards, as well as other educational philosophies to shape our own. And I am learning quickly why any ideas concerning education can only be theories and not laws. As teachers, not only will we be educators but also life long learners as well. So, as we constantly digest new information and meet new students with ranging personalities and abilities, we will be forced to alter and shift our views and teaching methods respectively in order to best serve the students.



# Sara's Autobiography

Hello my name is Sara Roach. I am a native Washingtonian. I was born in Washington, D.C. and raised in Northern Virginia. I moved to North Carolina after high school for college and fell in love with the South.

Growing up as a child, I had always known that the teaching/education gene was in the family. My grandmother and grandfather were both educators and they passed it down to my father. I also remember playing school with my friends or the neighborhood kids. I had made a chalkboard on my closet door and “taught” myself homework. Since education runs in my family, I would like to carry on the tradition of teaching.

My original idea was to teach high school for the longest time. However, I got a dose of reality when my first job out of college was working in a group home as a residential counselor for teenage girls. That changed my mind real quick. From there, I moved on to a job with the Charlotte-Mecklenburg school system. I actually had a job with a non-profit company that has a contract with the school system. My students were severely and profoundly disabled. However, I loved every minute of it because the students and other teachers on my hall were so helpful and thoughtful. I had three helpers in the morning that would help me get my students of the bus and get them out of their wheelchairs and in a position that would help their muscles. Teaching in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg school system, changed my mind immensely to teach middle

school. My quest is to obtain my master's in education. I already have my bachelor's in history with a concentration in social studies.

I have two cats and a dog. Gizzie was my grandfather's until he passed away and my parents brought her back and is my dad's dog. My cats, Chessie and Mitten, are my sweethearts. Mitten is very lovable and personable. Mitten is pretty much my cat; she follows me around especially if I have food or if she wants go outside. Chessie, on the other hand, is very skittish but once she gets to know a person she is friendly. I love animals regardless.

In my spare time, I volunteer with the OWL fire department in the Auxiliary. As an auxiliary member, I am the secretary and social chairperson. We open our hall two nights a week to the public for bingo. However, we also support the fire department in whatever they have asked us for. I really have made a lot of good friends through volunteering and I love it. They are almost like a second family to me.

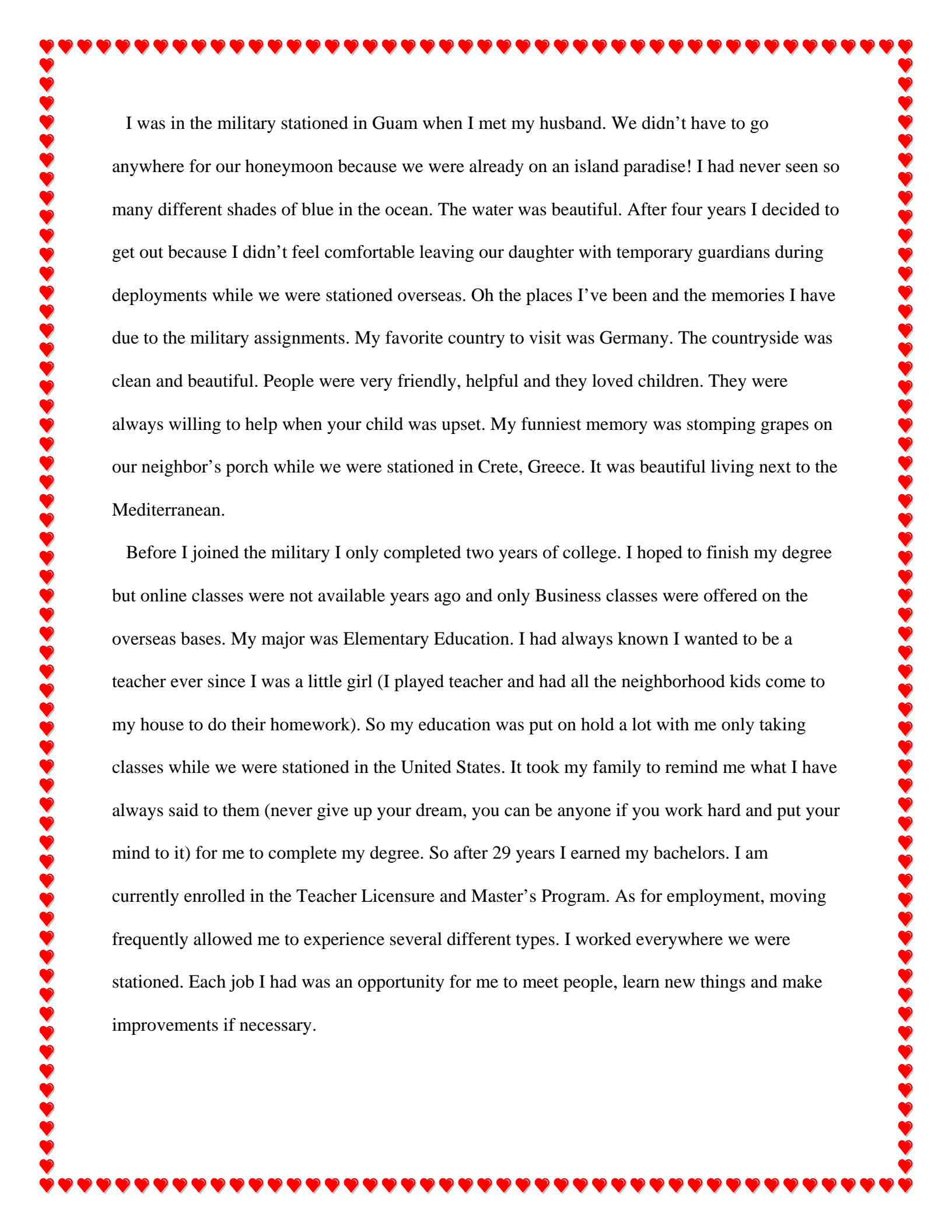
As for my philosophy for teaching, I have been around children since college, mostly at the elementary level. In order to keep a child's interest in the subject that you are teaching, I believe that you have to be creative to have projects or play trivia games to keep their interests alive. I cannot wait to start teaching. I have collected so many things to use in my classroom over the years.



## **Annie's Autobiography**

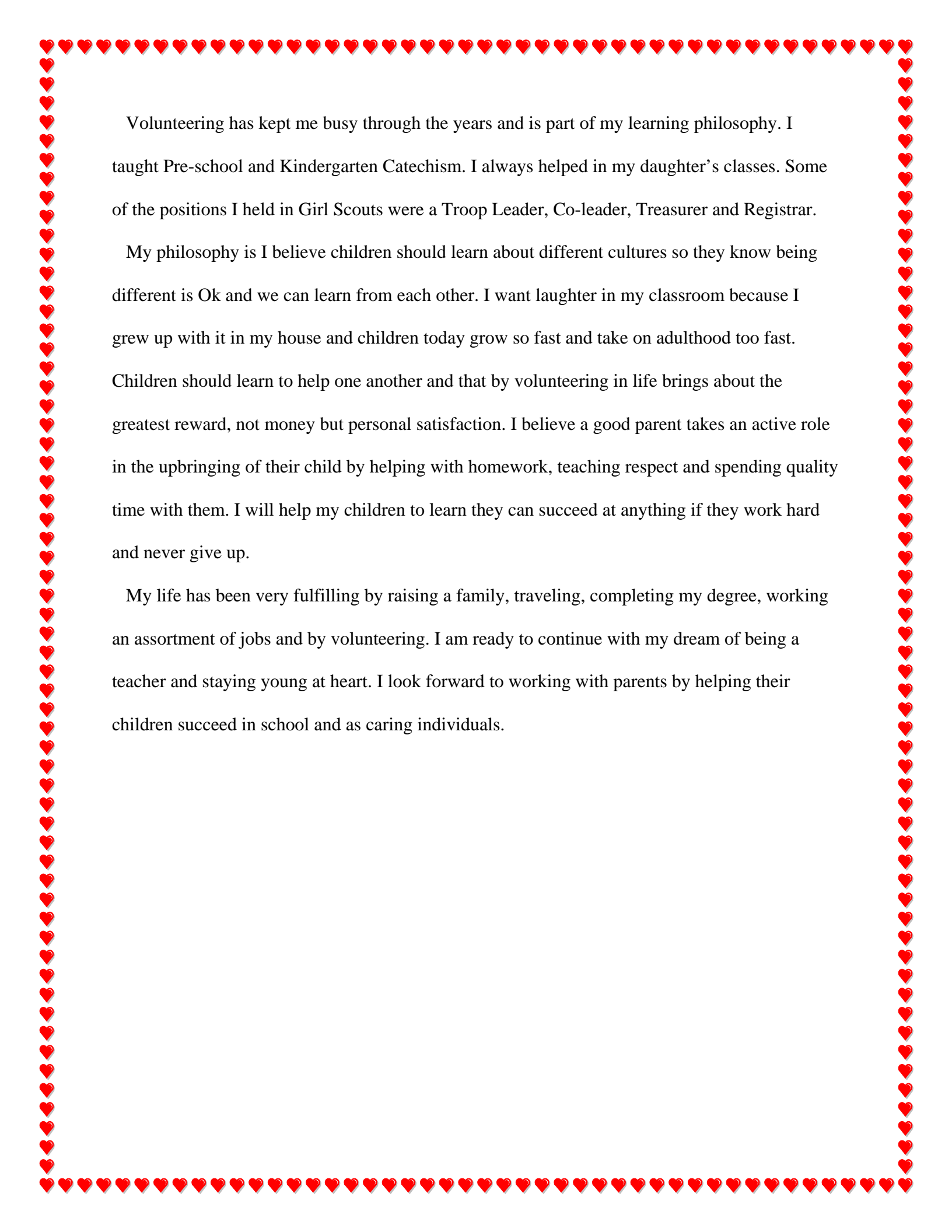
My name is Annie Spencer. I am married and have a family. My husband's job allowed us to travel frequently across the United States and overseas. Although I welcomed seeing new places, it did hinder my education and my employment stability. I volunteered teaching catechism at church, being a room Mom in my daughters' classes, and in several different positions for Girl Scouts. I love working with children. They keep me young. I grew up with laughter in my house so that plays a role in my philosophy of learning. My life experience also plays a role in my philosophy of learning.

I have been married for 27 years. My husband John is retired Air Force and works for a private company. I am very lucky because he loves to cook. Our oldest daughter graduated from college and has been working for the same company for 5 years. She will celebrate her second wedding anniversary this month. Our youngest daughter has taken a break from college and is working full time at a credit union. She has decided to live with her sister so her commute will be short. I have one pet, a Siberian Husky named Nakia. He's twelve years old and a big part of our family.



I was in the military stationed in Guam when I met my husband. We didn't have to go anywhere for our honeymoon because we were already on an island paradise! I had never seen so many different shades of blue in the ocean. The water was beautiful. After four years I decided to get out because I didn't feel comfortable leaving our daughter with temporary guardians during deployments while we were stationed overseas. Oh the places I've been and the memories I have due to the military assignments. My favorite country to visit was Germany. The countryside was clean and beautiful. People were very friendly, helpful and they loved children. They were always willing to help when your child was upset. My funniest memory was stomping grapes on our neighbor's porch while we were stationed in Crete, Greece. It was beautiful living next to the Mediterranean.

Before I joined the military I only completed two years of college. I hoped to finish my degree but online classes were not available years ago and only Business classes were offered on the overseas bases. My major was Elementary Education. I had always known I wanted to be a teacher ever since I was a little girl (I played teacher and had all the neighborhood kids come to my house to do their homework). So my education was put on hold a lot with me only taking classes while we were stationed in the United States. It took my family to remind me what I have always said to them (never give up your dream, you can be anyone if you work hard and put your mind to it) for me to complete my degree. So after 29 years I earned my bachelors. I am currently enrolled in the Teacher Licensure and Master's Program. As for employment, moving frequently allowed me to experience several different types. I worked everywhere we were stationed. Each job I had was an opportunity for me to meet people, learn new things and make improvements if necessary.



Volunteering has kept me busy through the years and is part of my learning philosophy. I taught Pre-school and Kindergarten Catechism. I always helped in my daughter's classes. Some of the positions I held in Girl Scouts were a Troop Leader, Co-leader, Treasurer and Registrar.

My philosophy is I believe children should learn about different cultures so they know being different is Ok and we can learn from each other. I want laughter in my classroom because I grew up with it in my house and children today grow so fast and take on adulthood too fast. Children should learn to help one another and that by volunteering in life brings about the greatest reward, not money but personal satisfaction. I believe a good parent takes an active role in the upbringing of their child by helping with homework, teaching respect and spending quality time with them. I will help my children to learn they can succeed at anything if they work hard and never give up.

My life has been very fulfilling by raising a family, traveling, completing my degree, working an assortment of jobs and by volunteering. I am ready to continue with my dream of being a teacher and staying young at heart. I look forward to working with parents by helping their children succeed in school and as caring individuals.



Hello, my name is Krystyna Konieczna. I was born and raised in the small Polish city of Wlodawa, located just on the eastern border of Poland. I went to elementary school and high school there. When I was in a third grade, I read a story about establishing the very first Polish university in Krakow in 1364. The story made such a great impression on me that I firmly decided that some day I would study there. And indeed, after finishing high school I went to Krakow, and studied at the Jagiellonian University. I graduated with a degree in mathematics, and got a job as a high school math teacher. I taught for ten years, and I really liked my job.

In mean time I got married. When my husband went to Penn State, PA, to work on his Ph.D. there, I followed him to America. One year later our son, Michael, was born, and I became a full time mom and embraced my new roll with great joy.

After receiving his PhD, my husband got a job at MWC, and this is how we found ourselves in Fredericksburg. We built our home here, and we will probably stay here till the end. In 2000 we became US citizens.

Years are passing by quickly, and my son is almost 17 and in two years he will be off to college. I would like to work when our nest is empty, and that is why I went back to

school. I am enrolled in the Licensure/M.Ed. program. I have already taken two classes and fulfilled a few other requirements. I have no choice but to catch up with the 21<sup>st</sup> Century if I want to teach, and I hope to learn a lot in ITECH class. Actually, it is a nice feeling to sit at a computer and work on my own.