# Education

2019 Ed.S. **The George Washington University.** Educational Leadership and Administration

2018 Post-Master's Certificate **The George Washington University**. Educational Leadership and Administration

2016. Ph.D. **Columbia University.** Physical Disabilities: Education of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Dissertation Title: An Analysis of the Reading Strategies of Deaf and Hearing Adults: Similarities and Differences in Phonological Processing and Metacognition

2007 M.E.D. **Smith College.** Education of the Deaf: Auditory Oral

2003 B.A. **Northeastern University.** English and Theatre, Dean’s List, Deaf Club President

# Certifications

**New York** School Building Leadership2020

**New York** Deaf and Hard of Hearing 2010

**New York** English Language Arts, 7-12 2010

**New York** Theatre 2011

**Connecticut** Intermediate Administration or Supervision (#092) 2020

**Connecticut** Hearing Impaired, Pre-K through Grade 12 (#057) 2012

**Connecticut** English, Grades 7 through Grade 12 (#015) 2012

**Massachusetts** Speech Language and Hearing Disorders 2008

# Teaching Experience

Higher Education

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| --- | --- | --- |
| * Teachers College, Columbia University
	+ Adjunct Assistant Professor
	+ ASL Club Advisor
	+ Developed and taught curriculum for ASL 1 and 2 courses
	+ Taught pre-service graduate students in Deaf education program and additional programs, including, among others; psychology, early childhood, speech and language pathology, and linguistics
	+ Sponsored Deaf education graduate students in the Vice-President’s diversity and community initiative grant projects.
	+ Supervised graduate student ASL-related research projects, manuscript submissions, and film compositions
	+ Led campus-wide Deaf Awareness Week campaigns in collaboration with offices of diversity and disability services
 |  | 2014-Present |

K-12 Education

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| --- | --- | --- |
| * New York City Public Schools
	+ American Sign Language and English Secondary School Teacher
	+ School Leadership Team member
	+ Courses: ASL Theatre/Film, AP Language, English
	+ Developed and implemented a schoolwide ASL/Deaf culture program expansion using action research methodologies
	+ Developed and implemented a schoolwide communication policy
	+ Developed an ASL film series, including Public Service Announcements for the New York City Mayor’s Office of People with Disabilities
* New Milford Public Schools
	+ Teacher of the Deaf, ASL Instructor
	+ ASL Program Advisor
	+ Regular Classroom Co-Teacher
	+ Facilitated IEP development and implementation of bilingual communication program for deaf students in mainstream settings
	+ Adapted elementary and middle school curriculum into ASL and multimedia formats
	+ Conducted Academic and Language Assessments
	+ Administered standardized state and NWEA assessments
	+ Developed and coordinated a 200+ student ASL program
	+ Trained and supervised ASL Interpreters, regular education teachers, and support staff
	+ Led collaborative efforts among professional learning communities to partner with university and community members to develop and present curriculum design initiatives
	+ Produced 40+ ASL core curriculum-aligned films
	+ Exemplary Teacher SEED rating
 |  | 2018-Present2012-2017 |
|  |  |  |
| * New York School for the Deaf
	+ English Teacher
	+ Taught High School English and Journalism
	+ IEP Case Manager for 20+ students
	+ Administered Regents and NWEA standardized Assessments
	+ Supervised School Newsletter production
	+ Participated in Daily Visual Announcements film studio
	+ Organized yearly ASL Poetry Jam
 |  | 2009-2011 |

Behavioral Intervention Programs

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| --- | --- | --- |
| * Walden School at the Learning Center for the Deaf
	+ Intensive Needs Classroom Teacher
	+ Developed and implemented ELA/ASL bilingual curriculum
	+ Trainings: strategies for teaching students with autism and emotional/psychiatric differences, Frame Your Thoughts writing curriculum, Teaching Reading to Bilingual Deaf Children
	+ Prepared 20+ alternate assessment portfolios
 |  | 2007-2009 |
|  |  |  |
| * PACES Program at the American School for the Deaf
	+ Summer School Teacher
	+ Participated in program planning
	+ Developed and facilitated functional academics and modified core curriculum
	+ Completed portfolio assessments and progress reports
	+ Training and use in Positive Behavioral Interventions
 |  | 2012, 2013, 2015, 2017 |

# Administrative Experience

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| --- | --- | --- |
| * Mill Neck Manor School for the Deaf
	+ Principal
	+ Supervisor for 80 Staff Members
	+ Use of Action Research, SWOT Analysis, and Strategic Planning for Program Improvement
	+ Development of Remote Learning, Schoolwide Data, and Family Engagement Programs
* New York School for the Deaf
	+ Director of Student Engagement and Creative Learning
	+ Conducted SWOT Analysis and Develop Strategic Plans
	+ Developed Creative Learning and Engagement Programs/Evaluation Plans
	+ Oversaw Student Organizations
	+ Facilitated and Evaluated School-wide Activities, Events, and Literacy Initiatives
	+ Coordinated Library Media Program and STEAM Lab
	+ Provided Professional Development Sessions
	+ Supervised and Evaluated Teachers
	+ Oversaw Schoolwide Data and Assessment Programs
	+ Oversaw Diversity and Equity Committee
	+ Member of Administration Team, Educational Leadership Team, School Safety Team, and Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) Team
 |  | 2019-20202017-2018 |

# Additional Experience

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| --- | --- | --- |
| * Walden School at the Learning Center for the Deaf
	+ Lead Childcare Worker
	+ Trained in Professional Assault Resistance and Training and Applied Behavior Analysis
	+ Developed Theatre Program
 |  | 2004-2007 |
| * Deaf Blind Community Access Network
	+ Support Service Provider
	+ 40+ hours of training in DeafBlind communication and mobility support
 |  | 2001-2003 |
| * Northeastern University ASL Office
	+ Office Assistant
	+ Training in ASL media and ASL linguistics software
 |  | 2000-2003 |
| * Freelance ASL Consultant
	+ Consulted and participated in ASL translations for films, educational materials, and theatre productions
	+ Past Clients: Boston Arts Academy, Boston University, MacMillian Publishers
 |  | 2003-2015 |

# Community Service

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| --- | --- | --- |
| * ASL SLAM
	+ Host/Poet
	+ Board of Directors: Secretary
 |  | 2011-present |
| * Culture In Perpetual Motion Television
	+ Organizational Director
	+ Producer of ASL Television Show on BNN*Live*
 |  | 2008-2010 |
| * Boston Access Advocates for the Deaf
	+ Founder
	+ Internal Organization Director
	+ Hosted annual deaf student orientation
 |  | 2003-2013 |
| * Show of Hands Theatre Company
	+ Designer/Performer
 |  | 2003-2007 |

# Publications

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * Silvestri, J., Ehrenberg, H. (2020). Adult reading strategies: visual-spatial conceptualization and patterns of thought. In Easterbrooks, S. & Dostal, H. *The Oxford Handbook of Deaf Studies in Literacy.* Oxford University Press.
* Silvestri, J., Franciscio, M., Briggs, J. (2020). Re-deafining music as a universal art--the teachers college deaf music project. In Weida, C., Dolapo, A.N., Cambronela, C. *Iluminations of Social Imagination: Learning from Maxine Green.* Dio Press.
* Silvestri, J., Wang, Y.. (2018). A grounded theory of effective reading among profoundly deaf adults.. *American Annals of the Deaf. 162(5).*
* Wang, Y., Silvestri, J., Jahromi, L. (2018). Selected factors of effective reading in deaf and hearing adults. *American Annals of the Deaf. 162(5).*
* Silvestri, J., Ehrenberg, H., Dick, L., Shim, P. (2018). Universal design for music: exploring the intersection of deaf education and music education. *Journal of American Sign Languages and Literatures.*
 |   20202020201820182018 |

# Presentations

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * VSA Intersections Art and Special Education Conference
	+ Promoting Equity at the Intersection of Deaf Education and the Arts
	+ Conference Presenter: *“Music for All: Deaf Education and Universal Design”*
* Universidad Iberoamericana
	+ Maria Batlle Foundation in partnership with UNESCO and SubPac
	+ Conference Facilitator. “ *Music for All: Universal Design and the Future of Music Education”*
* National Deaf Education Conference
	+ Conference Presenter, *“Action Research: Developing and Evaluating Creative Learning and Engagement Programs”*
* American Educational Research Association
	+ Conference Presenter, “Psycholinguistic and Sociocognitive Factors Facilitating Effective Reading in Profoundly Deaf Adults”
	+ Conference Presenter, “*Quantitative Analysis of Reading Processes of Deaf and Hearing Adults”*
* Association of College of Educators - Deaf and Hard of Hearing
	+ Conference Presenter, *“Qualitative Analysis of Reading Processes of Deaf and Hearing Adults”*
 |  2019    2019 201820172017 |
| * Teachers College, Columbia University
	+ **Student Organization Event Sustainable (SOES) Grant Committee** Grant Recipient
		- *#FeelTheMusic Virtual Concert and Conference*
		- *Deaf Music Concert and Conference*
		- “*Deaf Music: From STEM to STEAM*”
	+ **Vice President’s Grant for Diversity and Community Initiatives.**

Grant Recipient* + - *Music for All: Toolkits to Inclusion*
		- *“Deaf Music: Universal Design in the Classroom and Beyond”*
		- *“Perspectives on Media and Literacy in Deaf Education: Methods of Teaching Music”*
	+ **The Diversity in Research and Practice Conference.** Conference Presenter, *“Deaf Education, Media, and Cultural Literacy”*
 | 2020201920182019201720152013 |
| * The Cairo Egypt Deaf Unit Teacher Training Conference
	+ Conference Presenter, *“Media and Literacy: an American Perspective”*
	+ Conference Presenter, *“Media and Social Advocacy”*
 | 20082010 |

# Awards and Recognitions

* Faculty Advisor of the Year 2020
	+ Teachers College, Columbia University
* Miss Deaf Massachusetts 2000
	+ Massachusetts State Association of the Deaf

# Affiliations/Memberships

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| --- | --- | --- |
| * United Federation of Teachers
* American Educational Research Association
 |  |  2018-2019  2016-present |
| * National Association of the Deaf
 |  | 2016-present |
| * Connecticut Education Association
 |  | 2012-2017 |
| * New York State Teachers Union
 |  | 2009-2011 |
| * Massachusetts State Association of the Deaf
 |  | 2002-2009 |

# Scholarly Interests

* Literacy, Phonology, Cognition, Media, ASL/English Linguistics, Disability Studies, Universal Design for Learning, Musical Education

# Languages and Modalities

* American Sign Language, Spoken English, Signed English, Visual Phonics

# Specialized Skills

* ASL Poetry, Modern Dance, Theatre Arts, Film Production, Creative and Technical Writing, Bilingual-Bicultural Curriculum Design, Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports

# References

Dr. Francine Bogdanoff, Mill Neck School for the Deaf Superintendent fbogdanoff@millneck.org

Dr. Ye Wang, Teachers College Academic Advisor and Supervisor ywang2195@tc.columbia.edu

Dr. Maria Hartman, Teachers College Cohort and Colleague Hartman@tc.edu

Dr. Russell Rosen, College of Staten Island ASL Program Coordinator and Mentor rustyrosen1@gmail.com

Dr. Bradley Porche, New York School for the Deaf Supervisor bporche@nysd.net

Dr. Chris Longo, Schaghticoke Middle School Principal longoc@newmilforrdps.org

Anne Bilko, Sarah Noble Intermediate School Principal bilkoa@newmilfordps.org

Karen Bishop, The Learning Center for the Deaf Associate Executive Director Karen\_bishop@tlcdeaf.org