# 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-Present  2012-2017 |
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| * 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 |
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| * 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 |  | 2019-2020  2017-2018 |

# 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

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| --- | --- |
| * 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.* | 2020  2020  2018  2018  2018 |

# Presentations

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| * 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  2018  2017  2017 |
| * 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”* | 2020  2019  2018  2019  2017  2015  2013 |
| * The Cairo Egypt Deaf Unit Teacher Training Conference   + Conference Presenter, *“Media and Literacy: an American Perspective”*   + Conference Presenter, *“Media and Social Advocacy”* | 2008  2010 |

# 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](mailto:fbogdanoff@millneck.org)

Dr. Ye Wang, Teachers College Academic Advisor and Supervisor [ywang2195@tc.columbia.edu](mailto:ywang2195@tc.columbia.edu)

Dr. Maria Hartman, Teachers College Cohort and Colleague [Hartman@tc.edu](mailto:Hartman@tc.edu)

Dr. Russell Rosen, College of Staten Island ASL Program Coordinator and Mentor [rustyrosen1@gmail.com](mailto:rustyrosen1@gmail.com)

Dr. Bradley Porche, New York School for the Deaf Supervisor [bporche@nysd.net](mailto:bporche@nysd.net)

Dr. Chris Longo, Schaghticoke Middle School Principal [longoc@newmilforrdps.org](mailto:longoc@newmilforrdps.org)

Anne Bilko, Sarah Noble Intermediate School Principal [bilkoa@newmilfordps.org](mailto:bilkoa@newmilfordps.org)

Karen Bishop, The Learning Center for the Deaf Associate Executive Director [Karen\_bishop@tlcdeaf.org](mailto:Karen_bishop@tlcdeaf.org)