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The Education program at University of Mary Washington's College of Graduate and Professional Studies is very excited to partner with The Exceptional Family Member Program at Quantico MCCC in participating with Camp Soaring Eagle for the third year in a row. We'd like to introduce ourselves and share a little information about our backgrounds:



H. Nicole Myers, Associate Professor of Education, earned a Ph.D. in special education and in counseling and development from George Mason University. She received an MAT in special education from the University of Virginia and a

B.A. in psychology from George Mason University. She is a licensed special educator who holds Professionally Recognized Special Educator certification from the National Council for Exceptional Children. Dr. Myers coordinates UMW's Autism and BCABA programs. Her professional experience includes extensive work in the disability field in both the community and public school systems.



Jennifer J. Jakubecy, Assistant Professor of Education, holds a Ph.D. and a M.Ed. in special education from the University of Virginia, as well as a B.A. in psychology with a minor in special education from James Madison University. Her past

work experience includes being a Student Leadership Training and Development Program Facilitator at Charlottesville High School and a special education teacher in San José and Coalville, Utah. She has been a research assistant for such projects as "Prevention of Educational Exclusion of SPED Students," "Visual Education for Scientific Literacy," "Promoting Early Effective Reading Instruction" and "Student Leadership Training and Development."



Sharon L. Teabo, Assistant Professor of Education, earned her doctorate in instructional design and technology, as well as an MFA and a BFA from West Virginia University. She can speak knowledgeably about web-based instruction, instructional multimedia and learning, technology integration,

instructional design and technology, interactive media and pedagogy, visual literacy, and e-learning. Dr. Teabo currently teaches Emerging and Assistive Technologies in the Master of Education program. Recently, she had articles published on visual literacy and assessment, visual literacy in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, and authentic learning. Her research interests include web-based & blended instruction, interactive media, instructional technology/strategies, authentic learning, and visual literacy.



Heather L. DeCou earned her Master of Education in rehabilitation counseling from the George Washington University and a Bachelor of Science degree in rehabilitation counseling from Springfield College. She is currently completing a second M.Ed. in special

education as well as the Certificate in Teaching Students with Autism through the University of Mary Washington College of Graduate and Professional Studies. She is a Licensed Professional Counselor in Virginia. Heather has an extensive background in working with adults and children with disabilities in the community. She currently works at Helping Hands, Inc. in Fredericksburg providing Floortime training strategies, play-based therapy, and social skills training for children with disabilities and their families.



**Beverly Epps** is an Associate Professor of Education at the College of Graduate and Professional Studies. She has several years of K-12 teaching experience in science. She received her B.S., M.Ed., and Ph.D. from the University of Virginia. Beverly will be in charge of the science cart at Camp Soaring Eagle this summer. She will be a familiar face to returning campers who will recognize her for assisting with camp for the past two summers. Beverly commented that, "We're going to have a lot of fun. We're making sun prints, gak, bug boxes (to collect bugs on bug day) and maybe a rain stick. I can't wait to get started!"



**Jane Huffman** is an Associate Professor of Education at the College of Graduate and Professional Studies. She has 29 years of teaching and administrative experience at the high school and college. She especially liked learning what the kids knew about bugs last year. Jane commented that, "Camp Soaring Eagle provides a great opportunity for pre-service and in-service teachers to connect classroom theory with a meaningful field experience. The camp offers the children an active learning environment to discover new information."



My name is **Kelly Andrus**. Currently, I teach early literacy courses at CGPS for the University of Mary Washington. I am a reading specialist and my experience is with the primary grades. Last year, I was able to participate in the camp week by selecting quality children's literature titles that pertained to the various themes used during the week. I had great pleasure in choosing the titles and watching the joy on the children's faces as they made connections to the texts. I look forward to meeting and working with students in the same capacity this summer. I can't wait to find great books about mad science, picnics and bugs this year.



**Kate Szymendera**, our Art Cart Teacher, is a certified Art Educator currently seeking a Masters degree in K-12 Special Education from UMW. She is very interested in the art therapy process and the effects artistic expression has on children with special needs and typically developing children. She believes that art should be used as a tool to help children gain confidence that is so often lost in school. Art gives all children as sense of pride, which is vital in developing self- worth and confidence. Kate believes all children need hands-on experiences to learn and this is where art comes into play. Art involves problem solving and translating ideas, concepts, and experiences. She is very excited to be working at Camp Soaring Eagle and children's creativity always amazes her.



**Jenny McMichael**, our Music Cart Teacher, is a 2008 UMW graduate with a degree in music. She recently participated in a two-year music therapy internship. She hopes to get kids involved with singing and playing some hand percussion while at camp. She is very excited to be participating in Camp Soaring Eagle this year. Jenny's favorite kind of music is jazz.



**Alar**

**Alar** is the official camp mascot. He is a young eagle who interacts with other characters to share information about children with disabilities. This will be Alar's second year at camp. He is looking forward to camp activities and especially enjoys reading (loves Manga comics) and music (especially Jazz and the Blues). He is frequently seen with his younger cousin, Skyler who has Asperger's.



**Skyler**

**Skyler** loves trains and loves to draw. He's a pretty quiet little eagle but likes camp activities, especially making crafts. Skyler is frequently seen with his cousin, Alar during special events about Autism at UMW.

