UNIVERSITY of HOUSTON | COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

STAR AWARDS

recognizing our brightest

STUDENTS ★ ALUMNI ★ FACULTY

2015
SPECIAL THANKS

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College of Education Alumni Board
Dr. Sharon Boutwell
Dr. Wayne Emerson
Dr. Cheryl Fasullo
Dr. Jacquie Hawkins
Mr. Gary Henry
Ms. Janet Hoover
Dr. Melissa Knop
Reception

Welcome and Opening Remarks • Dr. Robert McPherson

Dinner

Star Award Presentations

Faculty Service Award • Dr. Laveria Hutchison
Presented by Mr. Gary Henry, President, College of Education Alumni Association Board

Friend of Education Award • Greater Houston Partnership, Early Matters
Presented by Dr. Robert McPherson, Dean

Rising Star Award • Jameisha Brown
Presented by Dr. Norma Olvera, Health Program Lead, Psychological, Health, and Learning Sciences

Distinguished Alumni Award • Dr. Mario Garner
Presented by Dr. Anthony Rolle, Department Chair, Educational Leadership and Policy Studies

Distinguished Alumni Award • Dr. P. Tim Martindell
Presented by Dr. Margaret Hale, Associate Chair, Curriculum and Instruction

Student Scholar Recognition
Presented by Dr. Robert McPherson, Dean

Closing Remarks • Dr. Robert McPherson
**HONORING**

**DR. LAVERIA HUTCHISON** *Faculty Service Award*

Dr. Laveria Hutchison serves as Associate Professor in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction. Her work includes the design of instructional practices for English language learners. In addition, she conducts research that responds to the critical shortage of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education teachers. Her STEM education research and projects have led to invitations to address the U.S. Congressional Black Caucus and the National Science Foundation. Professor Hutchison’s research grants include U.S. Government Earmark Appropriations (managed by the U.S. Department of Education); National Science Foundation/Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program; and The Quality Teacher Recruitment and Assistance Consortium (Q-TRAC), a Teacher Quality Enhancement Grant for State and Partnerships funded by the U.S. Department of Education. She earned her doctorate in Reading Education and Adult Education from Ball State University.

**GREATER HOUSTON PARTNERSHIP** *Friend of Education Award*

The Greater Houston Partnership (GHP) is being recognized for their efforts to bring community-minded business leaders together around early childhood education. Just over a year ago, GHP brought together a coalition of partners to research and publish *Reframing Early Education: The Critical Case for Change*, proposing a ten-year effort to change the way we approach early education in our region. As a result of those efforts, a backbone organization has been formed and an Executive Director hired to continue to staff the collective impact effort—a first of its kind in the region.

Early Matters envisions a greater Houston region where young children are a part of supportive and nurturing families and are able to participate in high quality early education, knowing that intentional early investments significantly improve kindergarten readiness, 3rd grade reading mastery, high school graduation rates, post high school education/credentialing and workforce readiness.

Early Matters is a broad-based coalition of business, civic, education, philanthropic and non-profit organizations and volunteers, working together to raise awareness about the importance of high quality early education and to make a strong case for increased investment in this critical, high return on investment area.
**MS. JAMEISHA BROWN**  **Rising Star Award**

Jameisha “Meisha” Brown, M.S., CHES graduated with honors from the University of Houston with a Bachelor of Science in Health Promotion and a minor in Psychology. Currently, Brown is a PhD student in Health Education at Texas A&M University, College Station, TX and Managing Chief Equipping Officer (CEO) of Total Temple Transformation (T3) Health & Wellness Programming at Windsor Village United Methodist Church in Houston, TX. The mission of T3 Health & Wellness is to equip the 17,000+ members of the church and surrounding community with the knowledge and resources necessary to achieve total temple transformation through mentally, spiritually, and physically healthy lifestyles. She recently obtained a Master of Science in Health Studies at the Texas Woman’s University in Denton, Texas.

**DR. MARIO GARNER**  **Outstanding Alumni Award**

Dr. Mario J. Garner received his doctorate degree from the Administration and Supervision program at the College of Education. After graduating, Garner went on to serve as the Chief Operating Officer at HCA Regional Medical Center of Acadiana in Lafayette, LA. He was then promoted to Chief Operating Officer at HCA Fairview Park Hospital in Dublin, Georgia. While in Georgia, he hosted a television show called Meet the Doctor which aired throughout the central region. He was then appointed by the City of New Orleans to serve as the inaugural President and CEO of New Orleans East Hospital. There he oversaw the construction of the $136 million facility, hired 200 staff members, and recruited over 120 physicians to serve the communities of New Orleans East, Lower 9th Ward, and Gentilly, all medically underserved, and significantly devastated by Hurricane Katrina in 2005. He hosted a radio show in New Orleans which focused on topics of health and wellness. Garner’s exceptional talents have been put to good use in Pearland, TX, He currently serves as the inaugural Senior Vice President and CEO of Memorial Hermann Pearland Hospital. Garner holds an adjunct assistant professorship appointment at Tulane University and has been recognized as the Nation’s Young Healthcare Executive of the Year, awarded by the American College of Healthcare Executives.

**DR. P. TIM MARTINDELL**  **Outstanding Alumni Award**

Dr. P. Tim Martindell received his doctorate degree in Curriculum and Instruction from the College of Education. Martindell has held numerous teacher leadership positions at the local, state, and national level. He is the past president of the Texas Council of Teachers of English Language Arts (TCTELA), past president of the West Houston Area Council of Teachers of English (WHACTE), as well as a national facilitator and Critical Friends Group coach trainer for the School Reform Initiative. Martindell served as field supervisor for two cohorts of Master in Art of Teaching students as an adjunct faculty member at Rice University. Prior to his recent work in the Fort Bend ISD, he spent six years with the Houston A+ Challenge as a program coordinator and assistant director of teacher leadership. At Charles R. Drew Academy in Aldine Independent School District, Martindell served as a teacher leader, department chair, and Critical Friends Group coach.
STUDENT SCHOLAR RECOGNITION

Bobby Abrol
Dr. Sheng Kuan Chung Scholarship Fund

Bobby Abrol is a Ph.D. student in Curriculum and Instruction. Bobby has served as a teacher, researcher, curriculum expert, consultant, teacher educator, and went on to be one of the founding members of the College of Education Graduate Student Organization. With this organization, she hopes to create a platform for graduate professionals in education to network and have critical dialogue on educational issues.

Ryan Alder
College of Education Alumni Association Scholarship Endowment

Ryan Alder is a sophomore in the Teaching and Learning program. Growing up, he was inspired by a teacher to pursue a career in education. His motivation for gaining this scholarship is to be one of the first in his family to graduate from a university. He hopes to graduate and become a great and impactful teacher for his students.
Leilina Ayalew
*John D. and Susan K. Thompson Family Scholarship Endowment Phyllis and Mudge Miller Scholarship Endowment*

Leilina Ayalew is a senior studying Public Health at the College of Education. She grew up in Africa and will be the only child to go to college from her family. Her goal is to be able to teach and give back to the community. Her reason for majoring in Public Health is to be able to reach the poor and the most disadvantaged.

Manju Elizabeth Alexander
*Joshua Weinstein Memorial Scholarship Endowment Fund*

Manju Elizabeth Alexander is currently a third year doctoral student in School Psychology. She has worked with children with learning disabilities, Attention-Deficit/ Hyperactivity Disorder, as well as children from troubled homes. She enjoys leading workshops for middle and high school students on topics such as stress management and suicide prevention.

Talha Ayaz
*Mylie E. & Charles A. Durham Endowed Scholarship Fund in Education*

Talha Ayaz is a junior studying Health at the College of Education. He is the son of immigrants and a first generation college student. His parents were not able to get an education so now he relies on his self-judgment and independence to strive for his academic and personal goals. He is also a leading officer of the Speech and Debate Honor Society at UH.
**Naomi Baldridge**  
*Sabrina A. Marsh Undergraduate Scholarship*

Naomi Baldridge is a senior majoring in Teaching & Learning at the College of Education. She is a work-study on campus at the Law Center. She is taking classes full time and works extremely hard to maintain good grades. Although she is busy, she finds time to work as a volunteer at the Houston Food Bank and in after school programs.

**Danika Bolling**  
*Nancy D. Palm Scholarship Endowment*

Danika Bolling is currently an undergraduate senior majoring in Art as an undergraduate at the College of Education. Her overall goal is to further her education so that she can teach and inspire students to do great things. While she has faced struggles along the way, Danika has been able to focus on her studies and achieve exceptional grades in her classes.

**Jasmine Boney-Henderson**  
*Irene Smith Buckner Scholarship Endowment*

Jasmine Boney is a graduate student studying Health Education. In addition to her classes, she works full-time and is committed to mentoring young children with the U.S. Dream Academy partnership with her on-campus organization, Collegiate 100 Women. She hopes to be an advocate for others and help improve our healthcare system.
Marisol Bueno
Benbrook-Foerster Memorial Fund
Joe Rivera Lopez Scholarship Endowment

Marisol Bueno is a senior in the Teaching and Learning program. She is a full-time student, housewife, and active ministry leader. She is a first generation college student and has overcome many obstacles and challenges as a minority student. Despite the struggles along the way, Marisol was named valedictorian of her high school and has been successful in her academic endeavours since.

Neil Chatelain
Faith Gladstone Marshall Scholarship Endowment

Neil Chatelain is currently enrolled in the Social Education Master’s program. He is working towards his teaching certification in Texas for teaching secondary history courses. He has a Bachelor of Arts degree in history and political science and has authored the book, “Fought Like Devils: The Confederate Gunboat McRae,” which was published in 2014. As a teacher, he wants to transmit his love of history to those he is teaching.

Isabella Chen
Leslie & Kim Wheless Scholarship Endowment

Isabella Chen is a senior studying English and seeking a minor in Education. She decided to pursue a career in education because she grew to love and value learning. She is a minority and first-generation immigrant from Taiwan. She is currently working as an SAT and ACT verbal tutor at Testmasters, a local test prep company. She hopes to inspire high school students to value and enjoy learning as she has.
Dameion Crook

Larry & Phyllis Hughes Award for Leadership Studies Endowment

Dameion Crook is a doctoral student in the Professional Leadership program at the College of Education. He has experience in numerous positions as an educator over the past 15 years and is currently the founding principal of the Mickey Leland Preparatory Academy for Young Men. He believes that the ultimate purpose of education is to create a learning environment that is safe and nurturing.

Rachel Fein

Andrews Foundation Scholarship Endowment Fund

Rachel Fein is a third year doctoral student in the School Psychology program. In addition to her classes, she is also pursuing an externship at Texas Children’s Hospital as a part of the Disruptive Behavior Disorders program. In this position, she conducts parent management training for parents of young children who engage in disruptive behaviors. She has also worked 20 hours per week in an external graduate assistantship at DePelchin Children’s Center for the past two and half years.

Meghan Galvan

Administaff Scholarship Endowment Fund

Meghan Galvan is a sophomore pursuing a bachelor’s degree in Teaching and Learning. In high school, she was very involved in student groups and has continued to be involved in extracurricular activities at UH. She is a member of Hall Council in the Cougar Village II and was elected senator in the Student Government Association for the College of Education.
Andrea Garza
*Wallace - Ready Family Scholarship Endowment*

Andrea Garza is a junior majoring in English with a minor in Education. She has a deep passion for helping others as she herself had to overcome learning difficulties. She is an active member of Student Leadership. During Student Observations, she volunteered as a leader for a group of thirteen students. For this role, she acted as a relay between students and the observation coordinator.

Yunes Golabbakhsh
*Joe and Lee Mountain Scholarship Endowment Fund*

Yunes Golabbakhsh is a graduate student studying Administration and Supervision. After working as a tutor and Sunday school teacher, Yunes knew that education was the best career for him. Yunes has taught a variety of math and science subjects at a private school for two years before joining HISD where he has taught for a year. Yunes values learning and plans to pursue a doctorate degree.
Monica Gonzalez
*John Croft Memorial Fellowship Endowment Fund*
*Richard D. Strahan Educational Leadership Scholarship*

Monica Gonzalez is a graduate student pursuing a Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction. Over the past two years in the doctoral program, she has achieved many successes such as becoming a National Science Foundation (NSF) Fellow. She is working part time on a NSF funded project and publishing her first article. She hopes to continue her goal to become a tenured professor whose research impacts teacher preparation programs across the country.

Haley Grimland
*Susan Diane Jackson Scholarship Endowment to support the College of Education*

Haley Grimland is a graduate student pursuing a Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction. Haley’s ultimate goal is to inform and improve the skills of current and future teachers, conduct research in areas of social justice through the scope of education, and advance the lives and educational capacity of public school students. In her short career as an educator, she has quickly learned that a doctoral degree, especially a Ph.D., will open the doors necessary for her to accomplish these goals.

Lizete Guerra
*Rudolf J. Capobianco Memorial Scholarship Fund*

Lizete Guerra is a sophomore in the Teaching and Learning program. She developed her love for teaching through the “Ready, Set, Teach” program. Lizete is involved in the Council for Exceptional Children in hopes of learning more about children with special needs as well as the gifted and talented.
Erwin Handoko
College of Education Alumni Association Scholarship Endowment
Nancy D. Palm Scholarship Endowment

Erwin Handoko is a graduate student pursuing a Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction. His interest in education grew stronger when he took a lecturer position at a college in his hometown. The experience opened his eyes about the importance of an educator because he saw the need to provide both affordable and quality education.

Tzu-Ying Ho
Dr. Robert and Elizabeth Houston Scholarship Endowment

Tzu-Ying Ho is graduate student pursuing a Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction. Tzu-Ying is a full-time international student from Taiwan. She has been published in the Texas Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development Journal and received the Outstanding Teaching Team Award. To stay at the top of her work, she has attended a wide range of conferences and served as an instructional and research assistant.

Bethaney Jones
Lilie Family Early Childhood Development Endowment

Bethaney Jones is an undergraduate student pursuing a degree in Teaching and Learning. She works hard to maintain excellent grades as well as master the information that will help her succeed in the future. She hopes to inspire her students to do great things and knows that starts with the kind of student she is in college.
Kayla Logan
Loleet Usener Eckel Scholarship Endowment

Kayla Logan is a graduate student pursuing a degree in the Curriculum and Instruction program. Her goal is to provide the keys that unlock personal potential for both teachers and students. She plans to use her scholarship funds to further her professional endeavors by attending and presenting at conferences and staying current in professional teaching organizations.

Soyoung Lester
College of Education Alumni Association Scholarship Endowment

Soyoung Lester is an undergraduate student pursuing a degree in Human Development and Family Studies. When she first moved to America, Soyoung was not fluent in English and had to overcome many challenges to succeed in her high school years. Her goal is to give back the love and support she received from her teachers by becoming a teacher herself.

Jing Li
E. E. and Myrtle B. Oberholtzer Scholarship Fund
Joe and Lee Mountain Scholarship Endowment Fund

Jing Li is a graduate student pursuing a doctorate degree in Curriculum and Instruction. Before she came to America, she was a part-time English instructor at a Chinese university. It did not matter how exhausted she was teaching the students in the class, she always left the classroom with the feeling of happiness. It is that feeling of gratification that drove Jing to pursue a career in the education field.

Kayla Logan
Loleet Usener Eckel Scholarship Endowment

Kayla Logan is a graduate student pursuing a degree in the Curriculum and Instruction program. Her goal is to provide the keys that unlock personal potential for both teachers and students. She plans to use her scholarship funds to further her professional endeavors by attending and presenting at conferences and staying current in professional teaching organizations.
Ana Madrigal
Dodds Family Endowment Fund

Ana Madrigal is an undergraduate student pursuing a degree in Spanish with a minor in Education. She always enjoyed learning new things and understanding how things work. Her love for education is what motivated her to pursue a career in teaching. She wants to teach future generations to love and appreciate their education so they can find their true calling and be successful in life.

Eliz Markowitz
Joe and Lee Mountain Scholarship Endowment Fund
Pauline Moss Crouch Scholarship Fund

Eliz Markowitz is a graduate student pursuing a degree in Curriculum and Instruction. Although the courses at the College have been challenging, she has made it a goal to master the material presented. Markowitz believes that she has achieved this goal, as she has maintained a high grade point average while working both inside and outside of UH. In addition to taking classes, she has worked as a graduate assistant in the UH Teacher Education Program since the fall of 2012.

Krystal McCord
Dodds Family Endowment Fund
Don and Jacqueline Hawkins Endowed Scholarship

Krystal McCord is an undergraduate student at the College of Education pursuing a degree in Teaching and Learning. She is a non-traditional full-time student focusing on science education. She is seeking scholarships through the College of Education to assist her in completing her degree and teaching certification. Receiving scholarship funds will help her focus on her education and manage her household that includes her three children.
Shannon McKee
*Helen Gore-Laird and Dov Liberman Educational Psychology Endowed Scholarship Fund*

Shannon McKee is a doctoral student in the School Psychology program. During her professional experience as a Licensed Specialist in School Psychology, she served a variety of roles including a key role on the Autism Team. This sparked her passion for working with students with autism and she is eager to make strides in the area of addressing autism spectrum disorders.

Sandra Montes
*E. E. and Myrtle B. Oberholtzer Scholarship Fund*
*Joe and Lee Mountain Scholarship Endowment Fund*

Sandra Montes is a graduate student at the University pursuing an Ed.D. in Curriculum and Instruction. She is an ESL support teacher at an elementary school and often sees herself in the students she supports. Sandra plans to use her degree and knowledge to create a curriculum that encourages growth in a positive environment.

Jennifer Ng
*Joshua Weinstein Memorial Scholarship Endowment Fund*

Jennifer Ng is a graduate student pursuing a degree in Counseling. Obtaining her Master’s Degree in Counseling is the first step towards achieving her goal of educating the public. Afterwards, she hopes to gain her teacher’s certification within the State of Texas to teach science. Ultimately, she hopes to influence people to be better grounded in the world.
Abby Nunez
Lilie Family Early Childhood Development Endowment

Abby Nunez is an undergraduate Teaching and Learning student in the EC-6 program. She is currently working as a developing teaching intern and hopes to use positive reinforcements in her classroom management style. Nunez hopes her future classroom will serve as a warm social environment for her students.

Melissa Orta
Dr. Joel A. Bloom Endowed Scholarship

Melissa Orta is a senior in the Human Development and Family Studies program. She has prior experience as a Pediatric In-Patient Playroom volunteer where she participated in crafts, bedside visits, and events. Once she receives her degree, she intends to become a Child-Life Specialist to help children and families in hospitals overcome the challenges faced with long-term hospitalization.

Christine Pao
Weltzein Endowed Scholarship

Christine Pao is a Counseling Psychology doctoral student. She participated in a volunteer teaching project in Sichuan, China after a 7.9-magnitude earthquake devastated the area. Pao is currently collaborating with the Houston Fire Department to increase the understanding of the role of traumatic stress in firefighters’ lives.
**Jordie Poncy**  
*Kathleen Arnold Pascoe Endowment*

Jordie Poncy is a doctoral student in the Counseling Psychology program. His current research is focused on Exploring Inter-relationships Among Humor Styles, Attachment Insecurity, Emotion Regulation, and Depressive Experiences. Poncy’s experience includes working in private practice in the Montrose area and counseling young children and their families. Next year, he will be working with young adults with severe mental illness at the Harris County Psychiatric Center.

**Saira Rab**  
*George Leroy and Myrajane Ereckson Hall Scholarship Endowment in the College of Education*

Saira Rab is currently pursuing a doctoral degree in Educational Psychology and Individual Differences in the Psychological, Health, and Learning Sciences (PHLS) department. As an undergraduate student, Rab participated in the Ronald E. McNair program which sparked her interest in research on technology. She has experience as a research assistant for the office of Institutional Research at the University of Houston as a data analyst, she conducted and published several research projects and has presented research projects at conferences nationwide.

**Kevin Rodriguez**  
*College of Education Alumni Association Scholarship Endowment*

Kevin Rodriguez, an undergraduate student in the Teacher and Learning program in the College of Education, is pursuing a degree in middle school education with an academic specialization in mathematics. He is the first in his family to seek a college degree. His accomplishments include being on the Dean’s List for the past three years. When he is not studying, he loves to volunteer his time to help others.
Lilian Romero

*Velma Glass Chambers Scholarship Endowment*

Lilian Romero is a Masters student in the Counseling Psychology program. She works full time as a Behavior Technician for children with autism and still manages to find time to volunteer her services with the Crisis Hotline. Romero aspires to become a licensed counselor and open her own private practice working with children and adolescents.

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Lionnel Ronduen

*Dr. Eugene Chiappetta Scholarship Endowment*

Lionnel Ronduen is pursuing a doctorate in Curriculum and Instruction. He is a founding member and the treasurer of the C&I Graduate Student Organization, as well as a Research and Graduate Assistant. Ronduen is active in the Association for Science Teacher Education as the Graduate Representative for the Southwest Region. In his spare time, he volunteers and assists with the Mars Rover, and is a judge and member of the Science Engineering Fair of Houston Registration Committee.

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Sandra Saint-Val

*Lilie Family Early Childhood Development Endowment*

Sandra Saint-Val is an undergraduate student majoring in Interdisciplinary Studies. Sandra knew from an early age that she would need to work hard to be successful. She worked for Cypress Fairbanks ISD as a Program Leader helping children before and after school. Sandra knows that children can teach you so many things, and she is excited to inspire her future students.
Orlando Santamaria  
*Dr. Allen R. Warner Endowed Scholarship*

Orlando Santamaria is currently a senior in the Teaching and Learning program. Growing up, his parents’ work ethic motivated him to work hard, pursue his goals, and strive to gain a college education. He realized his passion for teaching after tutoring his nephew. In his career, he hopes to apply positivity, perseverance, motivation, and devotion to his teaching.

Saif Sattani  
*College of Education Alumni Association Scholarship Endowment*

Saif Sattani is a junior Interdisciplinary Studies student. Saif did not always know he wanted to be a teacher, but after teaching Class 2D, he realized his passion for inspiring children. He genuinely cares for the welfare of his students and believes this will allow him to become an effective teacher in his future classroom.

Wendy Schreiber  
*Wilford Weber Memorial Scholarship Endowment*

Wendy Schreiber, a junior in the Teaching & Learning program, discovered her passion for teaching by volunteering at schools. She loves assisting math students at the Woods Private School prepare for competitions in the PSIA district. She really enjoys seeing students explore new concepts and helping them reach goals that they did not believe were possible.
Lisa Silva
*Cecile Foerster Scholarship Endowment in the College of Education*
*Joe and Lee Mountain Scholarship Endowment Fund*

Lisa Silva is a junior in Teaching and Learning program. The professionalism and leadership she experienced from previous teachers have served as an inspiration to her as she pursues her higher education career. Lisa hopes to become an effective leader in the school where she teaches and in the community she becomes a part of.

Neelofer Tajani
*Mylie E. & Charles A. Durham Endowed Scholarship Fund in Education*

Neelofer Tajani is a Ph.D. student in Curriculum and Instruction. She adheres to the philosophy that sharing is the best mode of increasing learning. She currently works as a research assistant and is a member of the University of Houston Curriculum and Instruction Graduate Student Organization’s executive committee. Tajani was recently selected by the committee to represent the early childhood education.

Bugra Tamer
*Dr. Richard L. Hooker Scholarship Endowment in the College of Education*

Bugra Tamer is in the Curriculum and Instruction doctoral program, with an emphasis in Social Education. Tamer aspires to become a faculty member in education with a focus on working closely with gifted students. He hopes to impact them with diverse, flexible, and challenging experiences within the Texas Urban school system.
Erin Thomas
Mabel Jewell Harper Endowment Scholarship Fund in the College of Education
College of Education Alumni Association Scholarship Endowment

Erin Thomas is in the School Psychology doctoral program. Her focus is on Curriculum Based Measurement in writing and the assessment of early literacy skills and behavior. Thomas believes that educating individuals is the key to creating a better society. Thomas also has an interest in prevention and early intervention of academic and behavioral problems in early childhood and is appreciative of the opportunities that the School Psychology program affords her.

Kevin Thompson
Paul R. and Nancy G. Borneman Scholarship Endowment

Kevin Thompson is a Curriculum and Instruction Ed.D. student. His passion for teaching, learning, and educational pursuit stems from growing up in a family of educators. Part of Thompson’s research involves the earlier years in Social Education. His studies analyze the relationship between education and injustice. His research also focuses on using education as a tool to integrate immigrants into American culture in school.

Joshua Udy
E. E. and Myrtle B. Oberholtzer Scholarship Fund
John D. and Susan K. Thompson Family Scholarship Endowment

Joshua Udy is a second year Curriculum & Instruction Ph.D. student with a focus on Urban and Cultural Education. He currently works for the Houston Independent School District as a curriculum manager in elementary mathematics. In his position, Udy acknowledges his role not only as a teacher, but as a student building new skills to serve his community. Academic excellence is a major influence for Udy, and he hopes to push students to reach new heights.
Ronald Walker
*E. E. and Myrtle B. Oberholtzer Scholarship Fund*

Ronald Walker, a senior in the Teaching and Learning program, became interested in teaching at an early age. During his younger years he was urged to pursue higher learning and teaching from his mother and favorite teacher. Those two role models fueled his passion for education through community activism. Using community activism and a good work ethic as major focuses, he hopes to educate and inspire future generations.

Kristen Wright
*Lilie Family Early Childhood Development Endowment*

Kristen Wright is a senior Human Development and Family Studies student. She believes that interpersonal relationships are the foundation for building better minds and lets that serve as a major tool in her own educational path. Wright allows her strong core values to build connections with those around her and to create bonds with her fellow educators as well as those she will educate in the future.

Eve Zehavi
*College of Education Alumni Association Scholarship Endowment*
*Helen and Melvin Wimpelberg Memorial Scholarship Endowment*

Eve Zehavi is a third year doctoral student in Curriculum & Instruction. Zehavi’s passion for writing has influenced her work greatly in the field of education, and she recently had her work published. As an advocate for reading and literacy, she wants to focus her research on finding innovative ways to teach students to read and show how reading can change students’ self-efficacy.