

# GW Teach NEWSLETTER

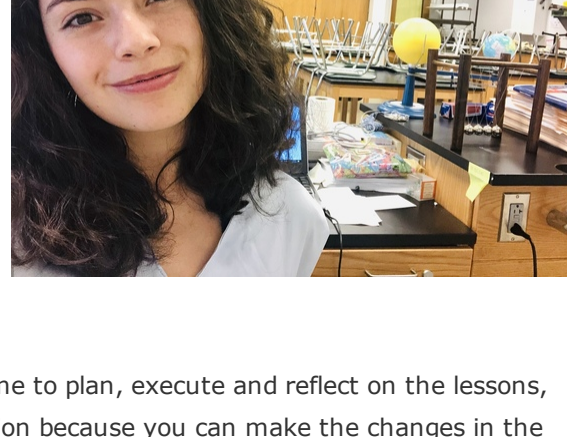
JANUARY 2020



## FEATURED GWTEACH ALUMNA

### NATHALYA RAMIREZ '19

Nathalya Ramirez '19, a teacher-certified GWTeach alum and Noyce Scholar, is now teaching Physics and Astronomy to 11th and 12th graders at Queens Gateway to Health Sciences in Jamaica, NY.



In her first semester of teaching, Ms. Ramirez has found teaching full-time to be even more enjoyable than teaching for only three to six days during her field experiences. She states, "You get to know your students more and shape your lessons as you learn more about their skills and needs."

"When you are in college, you can't commit so much time to plan, execute and reflect on the lessons, but when you focus on teaching you find more satisfaction because you can make the changes in the near future and see more impact on your students," affirms Ms. Ramirez. "It's also nice not having to worry about school, and teach, and other activities as you will mostly focus on your work, so it will be much better than the one lesson you may have done."

Ms. Ramirez values the skills she gained during her time with GWTeach and regularly employs them now that she is teaching full-time.

"The GWTeach curriculum prepared me more than I expected," states Ms. Ramirez. "It's better to teach full-time, however, doing these mini experiences throughout your undergrad gives you a sweet taste of what teaching really is. I have been very independent in my placement as I am the only Physics teacher in the school. Not once have I felt that I am not prepared to implement practices in my classroom because I have so many resources from the GWTeach classes I took as an undergrad."

The transition from college to working full-time as a teacher has been an adjustment and Ms. Ramirez continues to seek the work-life balance we all year for.

"So far the challenge has been the transition from college to 'young adulthood'," states Ms. Ramirez. "As college students we have so much time to choose activities, do school, intern, work and go to the gym."

"As a full-time worker, the schedule is very rigorous and one can easily fall into a routine of work as opposed to finding a balance, so if you are looking to become a teacher straight out of undergrad enjoy your summer and plan ahead so that you are not too overwhelmed with the workload and the changes ahead of you," advises Ms. Ramirez.

She also recommends that students talk to their GWTeach advisors and do their own research to learn about the specific reciprocity agreements between states. The process to transfer her teaching license from DC to NY took longer than she expected.

"Navigating and landing a job offer may seem easy, but if you don't have a license by the time you apply, it may get hard to get an offer," explains Ms. Ramirez. Each state has slightly different requirements, so be proactive and start early!

Interested in the GWTeach program? GWTeach courses are open to all students at GW, so sign up for a Spring 2020 GWTeach class via BanWeb today!

- **Step 1: Inquiry Approaches to Teaching (GTCH 1001 - 1 credit)**
  - Wednesdays, 8:00AM-9:15AM (76923)
  - Wednesdays, 11:10AM-12:25PM (76922)
- **Step 2: Inquiry-Based Lesson Design (GTCH 1002 - 1 credit)**
  - Mondays, 8:00AM-9:15AM (73982)
- **Classroom Interactions (GTCH 3102 - 3 credits)**
  - Wednesdays, 12:45PM-3:15PM (74629)
- **Functions and Modeling (GTCH 3202 - 3 credits)**
  - Mondays and Wednesdays, 9:35AM-10:50AM (75672)
  - Fulfills Quantitative Reasoning Requirement

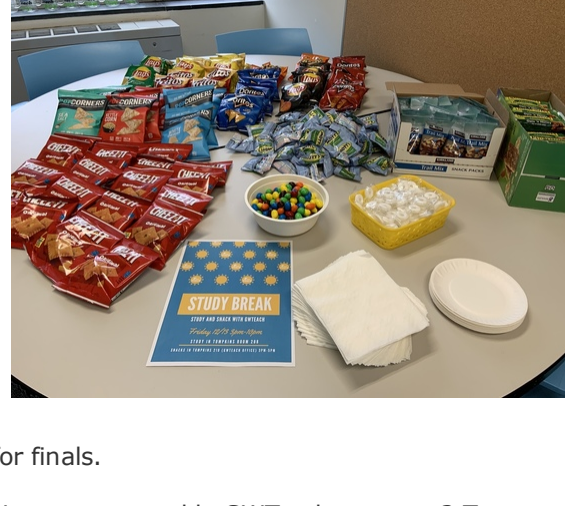


## SCHOLARSHIPS

**GW Noyce Scholarship:** Scholarships up to \$20,000 per year are available for juniors and seniors admitted into the Noyce program, which supports STEM majors on their journey to become teachers in high-need schools after graduation. **For more information or to apply visit <https://noyce.columbian.gwu.edu/>.**



## GWTEACH PAST EVENTS



### GWTEACH STUDY BREAK

Finals season is stressful for all college students -- how are you supposed to eat properly, sleep for 8 hours a night, and cram a whole semester's worth of knowledge into your brain all in two weeks?

For GWTeach students, the struggle of eating properly was taken care of. The GWTeach department hosted a study break room where students in the department were invited to eat, socialize, and detox before returning to their studies. There was also a private study room reserved for GWTeach students to use as they prepared

for finals.

Have a memorable GWTeach moment? Tag us with #gwteach, or visit us at [https://www.instagram.com/gw\\_teach](https://www.instagram.com/gw_teach) to stay updated on GWTeach happenings like the GWTeach study break room.



## GWTEACH STUDENT BOOK RECOMMENDATION

### WHY EVOLUTION IS TRUE

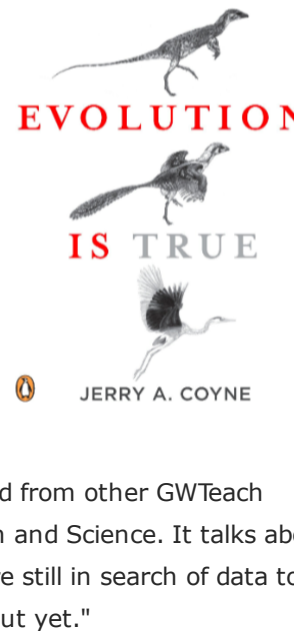
The winter weather has us at GWTeach looking for a good science reading to curl up with this January. GWTeach student Michael Farina recommends *Why Evolution is True* by Jerry A. Coyne for its digestible and riveting explanation of Darwin's theory of evolution.

"It puts evolution in normal terms, and it's an interesting read," describes Farina. "There's so much evidence for evolution that I didn't know about, like the four human vestiges. I knew about the appendix and the tailbone, but I didn't know that goosebumps were from when humans had fur and those that can wiggle their ears are more 'ancient.'"

Farina began reading *Why Evolution is True* for his Organic Evolution class, but the ideas in the book are relevant to Farina's other courses as well.

"It really made me think about the nature of science," states Farina. "I heard from other GWTeach students that the book sounds relevant to GTCH 3201: Perspectives on Evolution, but are still in search of data to disprove it and reveal another nuance of nature that we just don't know about yet."

*Why Evolution is True* is available on Amazon at <https://www.amazon.com/Why-Evolution-True-Jerry-Coyne/dp/0143116649>.



## GWTEACH BIRTHDAYS

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO...

- Alison P.
- Vidhi P.
- Visha P.
- Clara C.
- Nathan Y.
- Lucinda M.
- Savannah O.
- Sheena L.



## JOB POSTINGS

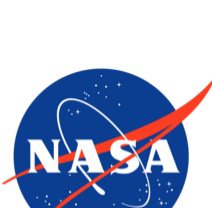
### BREAKTHROUGH SUMMER TEACHING FELLOWSHIP



- Breakthrough supports to tackle the education opportunity gap in communities across the country.
- We bring together passionate undergraduates from all majors and with a variety of professional goals to teach motivated middle-school students.
- Breakthrough students come from under-resourced schools, but dream of college. During our intensive summer sessions, they prepare to succeed in the most academically rigorous environments.
- Fellows receive intensive training and continuous feedback in a fun and hard-working community.
- We prepare the next generation of teachers and develop others to succeed in any profession.
- Breakthrough has programs across the country. We offer living stipends and a meaningful summer experience.
- **To learn more, visit [this link](#). The deadline to apply for Summer 2020 is February 27, 2020.**

### REU PROGRAM: GROWING UP STEM

- Opportunity for students interested in learning and teaching of STEM at the undergraduate level. Students work in a cohort of undergraduate scholars over a 10-week period during the summer and are immersed in hands-on research experiences in discipline-based education research.
- Students may have the opportunity to present their research at a national conference with travel support from our REU. Additional travel funding is available for travel to and from Fargo for those in financial need.
- Students are housed on-campus and earn a \$5000 stipend.
- Our program begins May 26, 2020 and runs through August 1, 2020.
- **Applications are due February 1, 2020.**
- **For more information, visit <http://www.ndsu.edu/cider/reu/>**



### SCIENCE OUTREACH & LOGISTICS COORDINATOR

The Solar System Exploration Division at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, MD seeks public engagement and project outreach support for several planetary science missions and research teams. The ideal candidate will have exceptional organizational skills, and will enthusiastically learn about and share the work of NASA Goddard's people and projects with a variety of settings. We seek a highly motivated, proactive individual who has the ability to work independently as well as within a collaborative, interdisciplinary team. **For more information and to apply, visit <https://sesda.com/careers/ss096-science-outreach-and-logistics-coordinator/>**



## KEEP UP WITH GWTEACH

### UPCOMING EVENTS



- **Welcome Back S'mores and Hot Cocoa in Kogan Plaza Monday, January 13th from 5-7pm in Kogan Plaza**  
Come join us around the fire to roast s'mores, sip on hot cocoa, and catch up with your classmates as the semester begins. We'll have giant yard games and a visit from the GWTeach Hippo! All are welcome to join us!



## CONNECT WITH US!



GIVE TO GWTEACH

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