



For immediate release

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**Six Teachers from The Blake School Awarded  
Fund for Teachers Grants for Global Summer Learning Odysseys**

*Will spend summer in Buenos Aires, Rome and New York City modeling lifelong learning for students*

HOUSTON (May 3, 2011) While America's educational system navigates budget cuts and state shortfalls, six Blake School teachers will be navigating the world on [Fund for Teachers](#) (FFT) fellowships this summer. These educators proposed their ideal professional development experiences to Fund for Teachers through an online application and, fueled by \$5,000 individual and \$10,000 team grants, will now embark on their self-designed odysseys in three continents.

These new Fund for Teachers Fellows are:

- Alicen Foresman, who, in conjunction with the American Classical League's "Rome: In Situ and in the Lab" program, will travel to significant Classical sites in Rome, Italy, learning how to document and record these sites and experiences for application in the classrooms using 21st century technologies;
- Brian Hartley Sago, who will complete an international Artist-in-Residence program at Proyecto'Ace in Buenos Aires, Argentina, to find ways to merge traditional art media with new media and continue to keep traditional media relevant for students in the "digital divide"; and,
- A team comprised of Petra Johnson, Tami Butters, Alexandra Franchot and Susan Jessop, who will attend the Writing Institute at Teachers College, Columbia University, to expand personal experiences as writers and, in turn, deepen the ability to connect with and relate to students as they develop their own writing identities.

"Being selected as a Fund for Teachers Fellow is an honor. I feel exhilarated," said Sago. "I look forward to the ways this fellowship will further my knowledge of multi-media methods for bridging the digital divide between old and new media, and to bringing that knowledge back to my classroom this autumn."

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Since 1998, Fund for Teachers has awarded more than \$295,000 in grants to 86 Blake teachers. These teacher fellowships catalyze a ripple effect of inspired learning for the teacher, their students, and the broader school community,” says Karen Kovach Webb, FFT executive director. “We believe that when teachers are more empowered as lead learners, they can deliver better instruction, and their students are more engaged.”

Nationally, 430 teachers across the United States received \$1.7 million in Fund for Teachers summer travel grants this year. A complete list of these teachers’ project descriptions and destinations, including [every Blake School recipient](http://fundforteachers.org), is available at [fundforteachers.org](http://fundforteachers.org).

#### **About Fund for Teachers**

A national, donor-supported organization, Fund for Teachers makes an important contribution to America’s educational conversation by expanding the definition of teacher professional development. By investing \$15.9 million in 4,500 educators over the past ten years, Fund for Teachers inspires teachers’ pursuit of meaningful, self-designed work that translates into skills and scholarship directly impacting student learning. For more information, visit [fundforteachers.org](http://fundforteachers.org), [facebook.com/fundforteachers](http://facebook.com/fundforteachers) or [twitter.com/fundforteachers](http://twitter.com/fundforteachers).

#### **About The Blake School**

Located in Hopkins, MN, The Blake School provides students with an excellent, academically challenging education in a diverse and supportive community committed to a common set of values. Students are expected to participate in an integrated program of academic, artistic and athletic activities in preparation for college, lifelong learning, community service and lives as responsible world citizens.

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