

## Meet our 2017 AaEA Members of the Quarter!



AaEA is “opportunity and member driven,” and most of our programs and activities are initiated by our wonderful members. We are excited to recognize the following AaEA Members of the Quarter for their contributions to our AaEA committees.

Quarter 1 New Member: Sarah Boyd, Ph.D., M.S.



### *Background*

**Where did you go to undergraduate and/or graduate school? What did you study?** I received a PhD in Applied Microbiology from Georgia State University, an M.S. in Biology from GSU, and a B.S. in Biology from the University of Georgia. My dissertation research involved the creative design and production of a novel vaccine adjuvant. Although I am a trained molecular biologist, my true passion is education, and I have taught both undergraduate and graduate courses in biology.

**How did you become an evaluator? How long have you worked in evaluation?** During my post-doc, I joined a team of evaluators working to measure outcomes of a mobile science education lab. This was my first exposure to the field, and I liked the unique combination of skills required to be an evaluator – research, relationship building, and business development. I became more involved in the project which eventually led to more consulting work, and I haven’t been back to the bench since.

### *Life and Work in the ATL*

**Where do you currently work? What is your job title? How long have you worked there?** I am the co-Director of Belay Consulting, an education research and evaluation firm based in Atlanta with clients throughout the U.S. Belay partners with K-16 education stakeholders including school districts, colleges and universities, non-profit organizations, and government agencies to support and evaluate educational programs. Our areas of expertise include STEM and education

equity programs, community outreach projects, teacher and leader development, and technology implementation.

**How long have you lived in Atlanta? What do you like best about the city?** I have lived in Atlanta and its surrounding suburbs my entire life. Currently, I live in Cumming with my husband and two children. We enjoy the slower pace of suburbia with the ability to be downtown in less than 40 minutes.

**How long have you been a member of AaEA? Why did you become a member?** I became more involved with AaEA in January of this year and now serve as the Program Committee Chair. AaEA provides a sense of community within the often-isolating field of evaluation. I hope to encourage more OTP evaluators to attend events and get plugged in.

### *Fun Facts and Aspirations*

**What is your favorite thing about being an evaluator?** My favorite thing about being an evaluator is working alongside like-minded individuals to bring about social change. I also enjoy the ability to work on several projects at once, engaging with new clients, ideas, and research methods. This keeps me engaged professionally; I do not function well with monotony.

**What do you think the field of evaluation will look like in 10 years?** This is a tough question! I *hope* that the field becomes more interdisciplinary. It seems we have unintentionally adopted a silo mentality, but our skillsets and research interests actually overlap quite a bit. Working across disciplines would expedite change since we could draw from each other's experiences.

**What are your professional goals over the next 5 years?** I hope to continue to grow Belay Consulting and provide great evaluation services to our clients.

**In one word, complete the sentence: "Evaluators are like \_\_\_\_\_."**  
Evaluators are, like, silently correcting your grammar. 😊