**THE FACULTY AND STAFF of**



**NORTH CAROLINA**

**GOVERNOR’S SCHOOL**

**EAST 2016**

**Brad Akin (Theater Lead Teacher)** is a theater director and teacher based in Chicago. His artistic work ispredominantly focused on issues of accessibility and visibility within American theater and society. Since 2005, he has been the literary manager for Chicago's Steep Theatre Company, where he is also an ensemble member. In that role, he has helped to foster new plays and playwrights, continuing Steep's tradition of bringing new voices to the Chicago theater community. He received his BS in Performance Studies from Northwestern University, where he is currently working toward his MFA in Theatre Directing. But most importantly, Brad is a proud alum of Governor's School East!

**Stephanie Allen (Area II/III Instructor)** is excited to teach at Governor's School East! Stephanie graduated from Columbia University with a B.A. in English Literature and concentrations in African American Studies and Creative Writing. She completed a Master's degree in Humanities at the University of Chicago.  Stephanie loves reading memoirs, novels, and poetry that celebrate black feminism. She teaches American literature and AP English Literature at Western Guilford High School in Greensboro, NC.

**James Banyas (Math Instructor)—**Raised in the heart of Pennsylvania, he would say that he learned moreabout dairy cows than your average mathematician. Beyond the care of bovines, he spent a good part of his education in Happy Valley under the tutelage of distinguished professors learning various mathematical theories, constructing advanced mathematical models, developing new pedagogical approaches to help improve instructional practices, training budding math teachers, and engaging in rigorous mathematical thinking. After receiving his M Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction (Mathematics Education) from Penn State University in 2007, he repositioned himself in the educational arena to further develop his craft. Governor’s school is a great place for Jim to share his interpretation of the beauty of mathematics. When he’s not working with his various educational teams, he likes spending time riding his black, matte Madone 5.2 around Jordan Lake, cooking eggplant parmigiana, tooling around town with Nalah (his pup), and playing games with the family. You might also find Jim around campus either playing Euchre or sharing some of his artistry in mathematics during an elective.

**Eleanor Bellamy (Theater TA/C):** A rising senior at University of North Carolina School of the Arts, Eleanor is pursuing a BFA in Theatre Directing. Eleanor is an alum of Governor's School West in 2010, where she went for Theatre.

**Jordan Bessette (French Instructor) is** a second-year Ph.D. student in French and Francophone Literature at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He is originally from Rhode Island, and studied Spanish and French literatures during his undergraduate career at the University of Rhode Island. Before starting graduate school, he spent a year in Blois, France where he worked as an English Teaching Assistant for TAPIF. At UNC, Jordan specializes in 19th Century French literature, and is interested in questions pertaining to non-conforming genders and myths of reality. Outside of academics, Jordan enjoys cooking, camping, and watching lots of Netflix. This will be his second time at Governor’s School, and he is very excited for the opportunity to share his love of French with others!

**Philip Boyne (Natural Science Lead Teacher)** is excited to return for his seventh summer teaching at GSE. Philip attended Governor's School West in 2003 and has taught physics for seven years at St. David's School in Raleigh, winning the Upper School Excellence in Teaching award in 2013. He graduated valedictorian in 2009 from North Carolina State University with a B. S. in Physics and minors in English and Math. During his time at N.C. State, he researched gels and supernovae remnants. In 2014, he received an M. A. Ed. in Secondary Science Education from East Carolina University. He also performs improvisational comedy at ComedyWorx. Most importantly, he is an avid enthusiast of all things cheese, hockey, and laser pointers.

**Kiran Bhardwaj (Area II Instructor)** is a Ph.D. student at UNC-Chapel Hill, where she studies ethics. She is from Lincoln, NE. In her spare time, she stress-bakes, plays the oboe, and runs.

**Kirsten Bubak (Social Science TA/C)** is a rising senior at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill where she is pursuing degrees in psychology and linguistics. Along with being a student, she helps lead a social justice conference at UNC called Catalyst Conference, which brings NC high schoolers to UNC for a weekend to learn about social justice and advocacy. Somehow she managed to get named Co-Director of the conference this year which she finds super exciting yet terrifying. In her free time she enjoys taking lengthy naps, watching Chopped, and looking at cute animal videos. She is a GSE 2012 Social Science alumna, and is excited to be back for her second summer as the Social Science TA/C.

**Allyson Buie (Day Counselor)** is excited to be returning to Governor’s School this summer for her second year as Day Counselor. Allyson holds a BA in English from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and, in her spare time, works on her Master’s Degree in English. Allyson teaches World Literature and North Carolina Literature and History at East Forsyth High School. Allyson enjoys reading (everything), listening to music (all kinds), and hanging out with her family (and dogs).

**Joseph Byrd (Technical Coordinator)** is an Appalachian State Graduate that has recently relocated to Raleigh. Joseph has just finished his first year at Enloe High School serving as the Technical Director. In his free time, he enjoys making soap, slacklining and hiking trails all throughout the state. Joseph will be coordinating the audio-visual technology needs for GSE.

**Ashley Buffa (Area II TA/C)** is a rising junior at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, majoring in Vocal Performance and Choral Music Education. She attended GSE in 2013 for choral music, and is elated to be returning as the Area II TA/C. Ashley aspires to have a Masters degree in vocal performance one day and pursue a career as an opera singer. In her free time, haha just kidding, music majors don't have free time.

**Kiyoshi Carter (Instrumental Music Lead Teacher)** has been the Director of Bands and Orchestras at Western Guilford since the fall of 2011.  Previously he was Director of Bands and an AP Music Theory teacher at Southwest High School from 2004-2008, followed by graduate school at UNCG.  Mr. Carter received his Masters Degree in Instrumental Conducting (2010) and Music Education (2011), summa cum laude. While at UNCG he taught instrumental methods courses and marching band techniques, and was guest conductor of the Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, University Band, and Casella Sinfonietta. Mr. Carter can be heard conducting the UNCG Wind Ensemble on their 2011 CD *Finish Line*. Mr. Carter was named the 2004 Wal-Mart Teacher of the Year, led the 2009 Guilford County All-County Band, serves on the faculty of the NC Governor's School East, he is the founder and conductor of the Guilford County Brass Ensemble and in 2015 Mr. Carter was recognized by School Band and Orchestra Magazine as one of 50 band directors that Makes a Difference. Mr. Carter is also the trombonist and founder of the Gate City Brass, a professional brass quintet comprised entirely of current music educators.

**Laurie Cuffney (Mathematics Instructor)** is an Ohio born “naturalized” North Carolinian, barbecueenthusiast, and sweet tea devotee. In 2009, she completed undergraduate degrees in Music and Mathematics at Brevard College. After Brevard, Laurie travelled back to the Capital City to pursue a graduate degree in Applied Mathematics. In December of 2013, Laurie earned her MS in Applied Mathematics from North Carolina State University. Go Wolfpack! While at NC State, Laurie studied the introduction of stochastic parameters to disease models and their impact on disease eradication and persistence. This summer will be Laurie’s sixth summer here at Governor’s School East. During the regular school year Laurie teaches mathematics at Longleaf School of the Arts in downtown Raleigh. When she is not teaching Laurie spends her spare time working with color guard programs in the Raleigh area. This past year Laurie worked with the programs at NC State, Middle Creek HS, and Heritage High School.

**Katie Dukes (Social Science Instructor)** graduated from North Carolina State University in Raleigh, where she received a bachelor's degree in history with a minor in film studies. A native of Flint, Mich., who spent her teenage years in Elizabeth City, North Carolina, she developed a lifelong interest in combatting social inequality while she was a student at Governor's School West in 2002. She has spent the last decade teaching high school students in Wake County about social science, American history and the origins and impacts of oppression in the United States. At Cary High School, she was instrumental in the creation of a mentorship program for at-risk teenagers, advised a club that orchestrated an annual showcase of student films, and helped establish a student fundraising effort for the education of children in war-ravaged South Sudan. This is her third summer teaching at Governor's School, her favorite place to teach. Katie lives in Raleigh with her dog and her husband, an investigative reporter at WRAL who very sweetly wrote this bio for her. She will spend the 2016-2017 academic year attending classes at Harvard University while her husband completes a Nieman Fellowship.

**Nafiah Enayet (Natural Science TA/C)** is a rising senior at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where she is pursuing a B.S. in Chemistry and minors in Biology and Spanish. She attended Governor's School East in 2012 for Natural Science and is excited to come back as a TA/C this year. In her spare time, she enjoys playing piano, traveling, and spicy food.

**Monica Fitch (Dance TA/C)** is a Lexington, KY native but moved to Charlotte last July to pursue a career in education. She recently finished her first year teaching 9th grade math, and thus feels unbreakable as a newly deemed non-first year teacher. Monica graduated from Centre College, where she obtained degrees in mathematics and English and actively participated in residence life, Greek life, and dance. She has been dancing for roughly 83% of her life, and mostly focuses her efforts on modern and hip hop dance. She is excited to be a newcomer to the Governor's School and to contribute and learn through the experience.

**Susan Fecho (Art Instructor),** a long-term resident of historic Tarboro, NC, is a multi-media artist with a M.F.A. from East Carolina University and is the owner of Fecho Designs Studio/Gallery. Fecho has been in education since 1983, currently serves as Dean of the School of Visual, Performing and Communication Arts at Barton College, and was recently awarded a Boykin Fellowship for support of creative research. Fecho’s academic contributions appears in national publications including scientific journals such as; the Journal of Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics, Journal of Neurosurgery: Spine, Nature Reviews Urology; illustrative children’s books, and educational/inspirational publications such as: *Portrait of the Outer Banks: An Artist’s Sketch*, *1000 Artisan Textiles*, *New Art International*, *VIVA*, and illustrations for issues of *Kakalak: An Anthology of Carolina Poet*s. Fecho’s work been accepted into several major collections such as; The Smithsonian Institution’s American Art Museum/National Portrait Gallery Library; The Word and Image Department, Victoria and Albert Museum; and the Museum of Women Artists. Her postgraduate studies including; Humboldt Field Research Institute, Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design, Northern Illinois University and Penland School of Crafts. She has exhibited regionally, nationally and internationally and has received numerous awards, grants and residencies. Fecho is returning to Governor’s School after a hiatus; this will be her 4th year.

**Robin Follet (Dean of Students, Area III Coordinator) -** Robin Follet holds a bachelor’s degree in English Literature andStudio Art from University of Virginia, along with a master’s degree in education from the College of William and Mary. He has taught high school for twenty-one years and is currently a teacher and administrator at Cary Academy. He co-authored *Teaching Romeo and Juliet,* which was published by the National Council of Teachers of English, and he currently draws and publishes a weekly webcomic entitled *Last Taxi****.***

**Lucas Frye (French TA/C)** received two undergraduate degrees in International Studies and Arabic language from North Carolina State University during the spring of 2016. Upon graduation, he relocated to the Los Angeles Metropolitan Area. His future plans include using his Arabic language background in a fulfilling and morally solvent career, hopefully in either law or education. He enjoys reading, running, coffee and bunnies.

**David Grant (Area II Instructor)** is a PhD candidate in philosophy at MIT and a teaching assistant at Harvard College and the Harvard Kennedy School of Government. This is his second year teaching Area II at Governor’s School East and his sixth year teaching philosophy. Originally from Charlotte, NC, he holds a BA in philosophy from UNC Chapel Hill. He lives in Boston with his wife, Lyndal, and spends his spare time playing guitar and writing music.

**Eric Gregory** **(Publications Coordinator)** teaches Creative Writing and English at Longleaf School of the Arts in downtown Raleigh. He earned his MFA in Fiction from North Carolina State University, where he taught undergraduates of all levels, and he received his B.A. in English and Philosophy from Emory & Henry College. He loves creative writing, science fiction, and literature from around the world, as well as running, gardening, and travel. He spends much of his spare time as an active fiction writer and editor, and more of his spare time as the owner/servant of two cats.

**Gwen McLeod Hall (Choral Music Lead Teacher, Area III Instructor)** is a retired, 27-year veteran teacher who served as Choral Director at Jordan-Matthews High School in Chatham County for 5 years, and Southwestern Randolph High School in Randolph County for 22 years. She holds a Bachelor of Music from The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, a Master of Music from The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and National Board for Professional Teaching Standards Certification. She was the 2008 North Carolina Music Educators High School Choral Teacher of the Year. Gwen has conducted all-county choruses for Asheboro City, Randolph County, Rockingham County, Guilford County, Wayne County and Pitt County Schools. She has served the choral sections of North Carolina Music Educators Association as accompanist for over 50 NC All-State and Honors Choruses, and since 2006, has served as composer of the sight-reading material for North Carolina High School Choral Music Performance Adjudication. Gwen is a published composer whose works can be found at Hinshaw Music, Inc. and Gentry Publications. She is grateful for the opportunities to serve as a visiting composer for Governor’s School East Choruses 2012, 2013 and 2014, and to serve as choral music faculty in 2015 and 2016.

**Dorian S. Ham** (**Dance Instructor/Accompanist)** is a song & dance man based in Columbus, Ohio. He's done some cool music stuff for people like Bessie award winner Bebe Miller, Nicole Stanton, and Anne Burnidge, among others, as well as in the Department of Dance at The Ohio State University. He has also collaborated and performed with Grammy-award winning guitarist Vernon Reid of the band Living Colour. He spends his summers, this is his 10th (!), as a faculty member of the Governor's School of North Carolina East. In his free time he buys too many comic books on eBay, writes for Agit Reader, and performs and releases mixtapes and music as CitizenDorianS. He's looking forward to working with Tammy, Monica, and a great group of students.

**Robin Hardman (Choral Music TA/C)** is a rising senior at the University of North Carolina at

Greensboro, where he is pursuing his Bachelor's Degree in Choral Music Education. He has worked with many of the middle and high schools in Guilford County, while also holding leadership positions in various student organizations in the School of Music, Theatre, and Dance. Hailing from Raleigh, NC, he attended Governor's School in 2012 for Choral Music, and he's incredibly excited for his second year as the choral TA/C here at GSE! Robin is also a freelance baritone soloist in the Triad area, specializing in oratorio works. When not essentially living in the music building in Greensboro, Robin works with the choir at St. Andrews Episcopal Church, and as an avid sports fan, he can often be found at assorted ballparks or hockey arenas. If you can't find him in any of those places, he's probably at home tinkering with his computer in the company of his two cats, Hemiola and Minibus.

**Anna Hill (Area III TA/C and Instructor)** is excited to be back at GSE for her second summer as a TA/C. After spending last summer in the wonderful world of Activities, she can't wait to teach and serve as the TA/C for Area III. She graduated from Vanderbilt University in 2014 then spent two years teaching middle school math in Charlotte. In August, she's moving to Charlottesville, VA to start a Master's in Education in School Counseling at the University of Virginia. She's looking for a new hobby for the summer, so find her and give her suggestions!

**Stuart Chapman Hill (Choral Music and Area III Instructor)**, a proud GSE alumnus (Choral Music, 2003), is thrilled to spend a third summer on the GSE faculty. Stuart is but one dissertation away from completing his Ph.D. in music education at Michigan State University, where he received the Excellence-in-Teaching Citation, a university-wide award that recognizes six graduate teaching assistants each year for their work in the undergraduate classroom. This fall, he joins the faculty of Webster University in St. Louis, MO, as Assistant Professor of Music (Choral Music Education), where he will teach courses in music education and conduct the Women's Choir. His research interests include the teaching and learning of songwriting, music teacher identity, and the role of program coherence in music teacher education. Stuart is also an active composer whose choral works are published with Hinshaw Music. Prior to schlepping up North to Michigan, Stuart taught choral music at Northern Guilford Middle School in Greensboro, NC, where he was the 2013 Teacher of the Year. He earned his Bachelor of Music and Master of Education degrees from Vanderbilt University in Nashville, TN, where he also bought his favorite pair of boots and once got to record a song on Elvis' favorite pianos. When he is not teaching, reading, writing, or composing, Stuart enjoys porch-sitting, bow-tie-wearing, color-coding, spreadsheet-making, alphabetizing, and campaigning for good grammar worldwide.

**Tyler Holbrook (Area II Instructor)** was born in Bristol, TN and grew up in Wake Forest, NC. He graduated from Appalachian State University in 2013 with a B.A. in philosophy and completed an M.A. in philosophy at Brandeis University in 2014. Currently, he teaches civics and philosophy at Longleaf School of the Arts in downtown Raleigh. When not working, Tyler enjoys reading, nice walks, good coffee, and writing and rewriting his own bio. When time permits, likes to take twenty minutes each evening to carefully eat a whole pomegranate.

**“MathRob” Houck (Math Lead Teacher)** is beginning his seventeenth year as a Math/Area III instructor at GSE. He holds a BS in math from Liberty University and an MA in math from Wake Forest University. He is ABD at the University of Michigan in Set Theory. He teaches mathematics at Longleaf School of the Arts, a charter school in Raleigh. He enjoys apologetics, playing basketball, fantasy sports (baseball), philosophy, numismatics, and the wonderful consequences of the theory of relativity. His most enjoyable times at GSE occur while sitting in the Quad during the evening and talking with anyone who stops by.

**Andrew Legg (Activities TA/C)** is a rising senior at Duke University hailing from Hendersonville, North Carolina. His academic interests include the Middle East and law and he is majoring in Political Science and Religious Studies. He attended GSE as a social science student in 2012 and is excited to be back for another summer! In his free time, Andrew enjoys competing on the Duke Mock Trial team, hiking, and binge watching Netflix.

**Dustin Leininger (Math TA/C):**  I am a current graduate student in the math department at NC State University where I primarily study geometry and topology. I attended GSE in the summer of 2009 for Social Science and am very excited to be back to help a new group of students make the most of their summer.

**Emmanuel Davis Lipscomb (English Instructor)** teaches memoirs and Area III at GSE when he is not teaching English II and III at Wakefield High School here in the Triangle. He will talk and talk and talk about language, about food, about video games, and about stories. He has controversial opinions about all of those subjects; many of them are conflicting; you will be frustrated. When he was younger, he wanted to be a marine biologist. Or a hacker. Or a mechanical engineer. Now he holds degrees in English education and K-12 Literacy. He blames/thanks his high school English teachers, GSE Prosetry 2001, and NC State's outstanding English and Ed. programs. He never has nightmares; he smiles a lot; he says the word "compass" incorrectly. He can't wait to hear your story.

**Stacy Lin (Social Sciences Instructor)** is a PhD candidate in clinical psychology at UNC Chapel Hill. Her research focuses on culture and eating disorders, and she has treated individuals with a variety of psychiatric diagnoses through the UNC community clinic and UNC hospitals. Stacy is from northern California and earned her B.A. in Health and Humanity from the University of Southern California, where she also served as president of the fencing team. Prior to beginning graduate school, Stacy was a research assistant at the Palo Alto Veterans Affairs, where she worked in the building that allegedly inspired One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest before it was torn down due to a potential asbestos threat. An inveterate reader, Stacy enjoys Jonathan Safran Foer, dystopian fiction, ingredient lists for food and personal care products, case studies for medical oddities, and horror comics. She is more preoccupied with food presentation than is necessarily healthy or normative.

**Jess McDonald (Area III Instructor)** is a 2007 alum of Governor's School Eastin Social Sciences. Since then, Jess has earned a B.A. from Elon University in History and Sociology with a minor in Women's/Gender Studies, worked as the Media, Communications, and Programs Manager for national nonprofit Campus Pride, and earned a M.Ed. from UMass Amherst in Social Justice Education. Jess enjoys spending time thinking about gender, oppression and liberation, social movement history, and the South. They are also an aficionado of Mexican food, Settlers of Catan, baby goats, and young adult fiction.

**Paige Meszaros (Area II Instructor)** is a second generation Raleigh native, a rare occurrence in the Triangle metro area! She is the daughter of two career educators and lives in the city with her husband Richard Shuping, a technical animator and artist, and their cat, Sweet Pea. She enjoys cooking and experimenting in the kitchen, traveling, reading, visiting museum exhibitions, going to the movies, and trying new restaurants. Paige holds degrees from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro (B.A. in History and PhD in American History) and North Carolina State University (M.A. in Public History). In the past, Paige taught at Broughton High School and Longleaf School of the Arts. Additionally, she has worked as a lecturer and online instructor for the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and an Assistant Professor of History at Bennett College for Women. Currently, she is a History Instructor at Cary Academy, teaching courses in American and World History and works for the College Board. This will be the fourth summer that Paige has had the opportunity to be a part of the Area II faculty at GSE.

**Mary J. Naber (English Instructor, Area I Coordinator and Area III Instructor)** received a Bachelor of Science in English Education from the State College University at Buffalo and a Master of Library Science from East Carolina. She also has National Board Certification in Adolescent Young Adult/ English Language Arts. She taught high school English for fourteen years, and is now enjoying a wonderful career as a high school Media Coordinator. She has also served as a Technology Facilitator and Magnet Facilitator for an arts magnet school. This is Mary’s thirteenth summer teaching for Governor’s School East. During her years at GSE, she has taught Area I (English), Area II and Area III. Mary enjoys a variety of creative activities and drinking coffee with close friends. She loves spending time with her husband, three grown children, and beloved pets (particularly her lovely little rescue, Neville).

**Carl Peay (Area II Instructor/Coordinator)** has been an Area II instructor at GSE for over a decade and is an alumnus of Governor’s School himself.  When he is not at GSE, Carl teaches philosophy, writing, literature, and cultural studies at the high school and college level.  His hobbies include cats, board games, and debunking the merits of the Heimlich Maneuver.

**Mackensie Pless (English TA/C)** is entering her second year on staff, having worked as the Office TA/C during the 2015 session. Mackensie graduated from UNC-Chapel Hill in 2015, where she received a BA in English with Honors in Creative Writing. She has published poetry in several undergraduate literary magazines and is currently in the process of applying to graduate school to pursue an MFA in Creative Writing. Mackensie also attended Governor's School East in 2010 as an English student, during which she studied poetry with *the* Chuck Sullivan, so she is especially excited to be working with incoming English students over this summer. In her spare time, she enjoys traveling, drinking way too much coffee, and learning as much about the wide world as she can.

**Kelsey Rector (Office Associate)** is an English teacher at Eastern Guilford High School. She is a graduate of Wake Forest University where her interests included travel, marching band, education reform and music. This is Kelsey’s third summer at GSE. She was a TAC for two years then took a hiatus and is returning to save the world from her office chair! She currently spends her free time reading, swing dancing and playing with her cat, Percy.

**Andrew Sam, RN, CCRN (Medical Coordinator)** joins the GSE staff this year as the Medical Coordinator. Andrew earned his BSN from UNC-G and currently holds his ACLS, BLS, CCRN, and ONS certifications as well as being trained in critical stress management. Andrew has served as a critical care nurse in the Medicine Intensive Care Unit at UNC-Hospitals for the past 29 years. When not at work, Andrew enjoys hiking, kayaking and serving as a volunteer trail maintainer with the park service of the Occoneechee Mountain State Natural Area and on the AT with the Piedmont Appalachian Trail Hikers. He is proud to be a member of the GSE community!

**Laura Sam (Site Director)** joyfully returns to GSE for her fifth year – where happily every day is a wonderland of discovery! When not doing the good work of the North Carolina Governor’s School, Laura is passionate about choral music. For 29 years, Laura was the choral and musical theater director at Walter M. Williams High School in Burlington, NC. In 2013, Laura enjoyed 13 full days of blissful and relaxing retirement before joining the Meredith College Faculty, where she enjoyed conducting the Meredith Chorus, Meredith Chorale, and teaching class voice. For the past 18 months, Laura happily taught choral music to the middle and upper school students of Cary Academy. Now in her second retirement, in addition to serving as Site Director for GSE, Laura serves as the choir director for Front Street United Methodist Church in Burlington, where she enjoys music making with both children and adults. Laura holds the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards Certification in Music and has been honored as the NC High School Choral Director of the Year. She has conducted numerous choral tours in the USA, Italy, and Austria and enjoys conducting All County Choruses across NC at all levels (elementary, middle, and high school). Laura was thrilled to conduct the NC All State High School Women’s Choir last spring and is looking forward to conducting the NC All State Middle School Mixed Chorus next spring. In addition to all things GSE and choral music, Laura loves to spend time with her husband of 32 years, hiking and kayaking and in general, having fun adventures. Laura is an epic failure at sitting still.

**Dr. Stephen W. Snyder (Natural Science Instructor):** My curious nature and strong affinity for adventure drove me to become a research scientist; and, I reveled in that career path for almost 3 decades. Yet it is the classroom in which I now find the greatest satisfaction. Teaching, mentoring, shaping and counseling young minds are challenges that I look forward to on a daily basis. Helping them to find some success in their lives is an experience that I find mostly stimulating, sometimes perplexing, and always very rewarding. This is especially true for the GSE! When not reveling in the GSE experience, I am member of the Science Department at East Chapel Hill High School. I have taught all flavors of Biology and Earth & Environmental Science (E&ES). I also teach AP Environmental Science (APES) and AP Biology. I have coached JV Baseball and Men's & Women's Golf Teams. I have a BS in Geosciences from Tufts University; a MS in Marine Geology from UNC and a PhD in Marine Science from USF. I'm looking forward to my 2nd year at GSE!

**Cole Smith (Activities TA/C)** is a rising junior at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill. He is majoring in Mathematical Decision Science and minoring in Visual Communications. Cole came to GSE in 2013 and studied quantum computation in the mathematics Area I. He is ready for a rad summer as the Activities TA/C. His interests include the beach, Cook-Out chicken quesadillas, and fighting to the death in Harry Potter Trivia.

**Tamara Smith (Art TA/C)**: I am currently a student at Barton College studying Art Education. This is my first year at Governor's School. Though the freedom and responsibility of a TAC is a wee bit intimidating, I am without a doubt looking forward to what I believe will be an experience of a lifetime!

**Tammy Sugden-Carrasco (Dance Lead Teacher)** is a dance artist originally from Chapel Hill, North Carolina. She is on faculty in the dance department at The College at Brockport, SUNY where she teaches contemporary, improvisation, choreography, repertory, and ballet, and serves as Interim Graduate Director. Tammy is Artistic Director of the Rochester, NY- based company, WILD BEAST DANCE. Her choreography has been presented by Movement Research at Judson Church, Gowanus Art and Production, Greenspace, OhioDance Festival, Rochester Fringe Festival, and Philadelphia’s Performance Garage, to name a few. She received a BFA in contemporary dance from University of North Carolina School of the Arts and MFA from The Ohio State University. Tammy is thrilled to return to GSE as Lead Dance Instructor for a second summer!

**Gerrick Suggs (Activities Coordinator)** graduated from North Carolina State University with a Bachelor of Science in Parks, Recreation, and Tourism Management, with a concentration in Program Management. Two of his biggest passions are working with youth and athletics. He has six years of experience coaching high school football and track and field, and is currently an assistant football coach at Needham Broughton High School. Gerrick hopes to transition to coaching college football one day.

**Michael Stanfill (Theater Instructor)** is ecstatic about returning to educating and mentoring at Governor’s School East for his second year! He has lived and worked in Chicago for the last decade as a freelance Lighting and Media Designer focusing on theater, opera, and dance. Originally hailing from Portland Oregon, he moved to Chicago to attend Northwestern University and earn his MFA in Lighting Design. He has taught design, collaboration, and devising courses at Columbia College Chicago, DePaul University, and Northwestern University. In the “big life change” department, he recently accepted the position of Assistant Professor of Lighting Design at Southern Oregon University in Ashland Oregon. ‘In design one must strive for clarity of storytelling that not only focuses the viewer’s eye to the onstage composition, but more importantly to the story and its inherent themes unfolding in the playing space before them.’

**Chuck Sullivan (English Lead Teacher, Area III Instructor)** was born in New York City to aworking class Irish Catholic family. Chuck graduated from Archbishop Molloy High School in NYC with academic honors, and was recruited by the legendary Al McGuire for a basketball scholarship at Belmont Abbey College in North Carolina. After graduating from college, he spent a year as a VISTA volunteer, working with migrant laborers in Florida and West Virginia. Marriage, a son and daughter then settled Chuck for nine years at Bishop McGuinness High School in Winston-Salem, North Carolina as Varsity Basketball Coach/Athletic Director and Chairman of the department of Humanities. Chuck completed his MFA in Creative Writing from the University of North Carolina/Greensboro, and after his poetry appeared in Esquire magazine, Red Clay Books published his first book of poems, Vanishing Species, in 1975. Following that was *A Catechism of Hearts*, *A Dream of Lions*, *The Juggler* *on the Radio*, *Longing for the Harmonies*, and *Alphabet of Grace*. His most recent collection is entitled *Zen Matchbox*. In 1980, A Catechism of Hearts won South Carolina's Best Poetry Book of the year,and Longing for the Harmonies (St. Andrews Press, 1992), received North Carolina Poetry Council’s best book award for 1992. In 1989, PBS filmed and broadcast a documentary about Chuck, also titled Longing for the Harmonies. His poetry has appeared in Esquire, Rolling Stone, Texas Quarterly, Southern Poetry Review, Carolina Quarterly, International Poetry Review, and numerous other publications. In 1996 Chuck also co-founded Moving Poets Theatre of Dance, a professional performing arts company, with Dancer/Choreographer Till Schmidt-Rimpler and Actor/Director Randell Haynes. He wrote the text for the theatre group's productions of *Dracula*, *Frankenstein*, *Romeo* *& Juliet*, and *MacBeth*. A gifted educator, Chuck was the NEA Poet-in-Residence at Butler Universityin Indiana, and is currently Poet-in- Residence in North and South Carolina. Every summer since 1979, Chuck teaches poetry and philosophy at North Carolina Governor’s School East, where he is chairman of the English Department. Chuck has, also, been the recipient of the Sam Ragan Award which is a prize for Lifetime Achievement in the Fine Arts in North Carolina. The Mary Frances Hobson Award was presented to Chuck, as well, in recognition of Excellence in the Literature of the South.This summer Chuck is part of an international Arts project called, WE SEE HEAVEN UPSIDE DOWN, which opened in Berlin on June 4th. *This is* *Chuck's* ***36th*** *summer at Governor's School!*

**J.J. Sylvia IV (Area II Instructor)** is returning for his third year at the North Carolina Governor’s School Program. Previously, he taught philosophy, media, and leadership courses at the Mississippi Governor’s School Program from 2009-2013. Currently he is a Ph.D. candidate in Communication Rhetoric, and Digital Media at NC State, where he won an award for excellence in classroom teaching. As a recent member of Duke’s Ph.D. Lab in Digital Knowledge and a scholar in the Humanities, Arts, Science, and Technology Alliance and Collaboratory, he researches the ways that media (especially television and big data) affect our understanding of both the world and ourselves. He received his M.A. in Philosophy from The University of Southern Mississippi and B.A.’s in Philosophy and Communication from Mississippi State University. He has taught a wide variety of courses at the middle, high school, and college level that include topics such as globalization, writing for business and engineers, STS (science, technology, and society), public speaking, philosophy, and how to be a real-life superhero. His interests include motorcycles, drones, 3D printing, and studying zombie outbreaks on college campuses.

**Brandon Tesh (Instrumental Music)** is pleased to return to his home state for his10th summer. He is a NC native currently living in New York City. He is an active musician around the region, playing in New York’s jazz clubs, rock venues, concert halls, and at Punchdrunk’s *Sleep No* *More*. Recent performances include The Whitney Museum, Manhattan Transfer, the Four Tops andTemptations, and the Juilliard Orchestra. Outside of GSE, Brandon serves as instructor of saxophone, department chairperson, and a New York City arts administrator for Third Street Music School Settlement. He holds degrees from UNC-G and Michigan State University. In his free time, Brandon enjoys coffee, strolling around Central Park, spicy foods, the Met Museum, and drinking even more coffee.

**Luisa Torres (Activities TA/C)** is a senior at Barton College studying Mass Communications with a double concentration in Broadcast Video and Journalism. It is her first year at GSE, and she is excited to meet such a large group of talented and gifted students. She usually spends her summers visiting friends and family in Mexico City, and she is greatly appreciative of becoming a new addition to the GSE community/family. She enjoys scuba diving, traveling, spending time at her home church, and reading self-help books. In her spare time you will find her creating videos, writing prose, taking naps, watching movies, or shopping at Lush. She hopes to one day be a filmmaker or a producer to tackle current events and social issues to create awareness with the general masses.

**Bill Velto (Social Science Lead Teacher)** - Bill Velto is an Upper School Social Science teacher at Cary Academy having taught high school in New York, Texas, and North Carolina in a futile attempt to get away from end-of-course testing and block schedules. This is his twelfth year at Governor’s School East. Bill enjoys baseball, cooking, and reading impossibly dense history tomes. In the offseason, Bill expounds on World History, talks about cool words like defenestration, and tries to keep his terrorism students from actually blowing stuff up. He lives with his wife (when she admits it), his son (when he's in North Carolina) and a daughter (when she admits it), three cats (who admit it when he feeds them), and a dog (who admits it regularly).

**Linda Velto (Office Manager)** taught choral music at GSE in 2003 and 2004. She took a hiatus the next year and has been looking for a way to return to GSE ever since. The opportunity presented itself in the Office Manager position, where she can use her skills at keeping other people organized. She looks forward this summer to sharing responsibilities and her chocolate drawer with Kelsey and Sam on the office team. During the school year, Linda is the staff accompanist/choral assistant at Cary Academy. She is also a licensed minister and musician at Good Shepherd UCC in Cary. She is passionate about social justice, diversity and inclusion, Yankee baseball, and chocolate, and always enjoys a deep theological conversation. Linda admits to being the wife of Bill Velto when he behaves himself and shares the same two-legged and four-legged children. (See above.)

**Tevin Williams (Instrumental TA/C)** is a rising junior at Winston-Salem State University (WSSU) studying music and psychology. He has played in the WSSU Marching band and Jazz ensemble as a percussion major. Additionally, he recently returned from studying abroad in Brazil. While in Brazil he observed various styles of percussive playing along with learning about race identity and culture. Along with traveling and playing percussion, he enjoys thought provoking discussions over intense games of Chess.

**David Wright (Area II Instructor)** is in his twentiethsummer teaching at GSE. He grew up as a Marine and Army brat, served five years in the Air Force, and is currently in his 22 years teaching for Cumberland County Schools. His interests include Rugby, soccer, traveling, new and different ideas, political and social issues, and especially history. His two dogs might love him. He's not sure. Are they glad he's home because they love him, or are just hungry and he's the one who feeds them?

**Clay Zeller-Townson (Instrumental Music Instructor)** Clay Zeller-Townson (Instrumental Music/Area III) has taught at GSE since 2011.  A professional performer, he specializes in historical varieties of the bassoon and performs worldwide and with the leading ensembles of North America. An advocate for contemporary works, he has worked with composers in NYC and beyond in the creation of countless new works for ancient instruments.  He has degrees from The Eastman School of Music and The Juilliard School.  He is based in New York City.