

**THE FACULTY AND STAFF OF
THE NORTH CAROLINA
GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL EAST 2018**

Stephanie Allen (Area II 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.

Elijah Andrews (French TA/C) is happy to return for his second summer as a French TAC. He attended GSW for the summer of 2011 in Instrumental music, and studied French and Arabic at Davidson College. After spending this past year assistant teaching high school in Dunkirk, France, he is ready to get back to working with the best and brightest of North Carolina!

James Banyas (Math Instructor): Raised in the heart of Pennsylvania, he would say that he learned more about 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.

Janie Booth (Art/Publications TA/C) is a rising senior at Duke University. There she is studying Art History and Chemistry, and has interests in museums, social justice, and writing. She attended GSE in 2014 for art, and is thrilled for the

opportunity to be back in this wonderfully creative environment! In her spare time she can be found reading a book on her favorite bench on the Meredith quad.

Philip Boyne (Natural Science Lead Instructor) is excited to return for his ninth summer teaching at GSE. Philip attended Governor's School West in 2003 and has taught physics for nine years at St. David's School in Raleigh. 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. Philip also performs improvisational comedy at ComedyWorx. Most importantly, he is an avid enthusiast of all things cheese, hockey, and laser pointers.

Keaton Brower (Theatre TA/C) is an actor, writer, director, and producer for stage and screen and very excited to return to GSE after attending as a student in 2013. He recently graduated from Boston University with a BFA in Theatre Arts (Performance) and a minor in Arts Leadership. He also holds a Diploma in Classical Acting from the London Academy of Music & Dramatic Art and a High School Diploma in Drama from the University of North Carolina School of the Arts. Keaton's acting credits include *What Screams I Hear Are Mine* and *Rosencrantz & Guildenstern Are Dead* (Boston University), *Unto These Hills* (Cherokee Historical Association), and *Horn in the West* (Southern Appalachian Historical Association). Last summer he directed *Dog Sees God: Confessions of a Teenage Blockhead* at the Oconaluftee Little Symphony Society. Following this he began producing his first short film, titled *Night*, which screened at the Longleaf Film Festival (Raleigh, NC) and the Berkshire International Film Festival (Great Barrington & Pittsfield, MA) earlier this year. *Night* will next appear at the Rapport Film Festival (London, UK) and the Roxbury International Film Festival (Boston, MA) in June 2018.

Allyson Buie (Dean of Students) is excited to be returning to Governor's School this summer for her fourth year. Allyson holds a BA in English from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and, in is THISCLOSE to completing her Master's Degree in English. Allyson teaches English at Cary Academy in Cary, NC. She enjoys reading (everything), listening to music (all kinds), and hanging out with her family (and dogs).

Caleb Cabiness (Office/Activities/Publications TAC) is a rising senior at Wake Forest University. He hopes to graduate in May of 2019 with a B.A. in Theater. He is currently writing a musical about Bob Ross, so feel free to ask him about that (or not).

Kiyoshi Carter (Instrumental Music Lead Instructor) 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, barbecue enthusiast, 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 seventh 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.

Rebecca Dou (Social Science TA/C) is a recent graduate of UNC Chapel Hill. She majored in Exercise and Sport Science and dabbled in Chinese and Anthropology. She loves most sciences once you involve the body and chatting about strength training. She is a huge fan of the outdoors until the mosquitoes come out and of chilly-ish days until Christmas is over. She watches too many crime shows and is a little too invested into bubble tea.

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 fifth 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.

Sarah Dwyer (Dance/Publications TA/C) just graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where she studied American Studies and Religious Studies. A Chapel Hill native, she grew up dancing at a local studio and spent a few summers at the American Dance Festival and one at GSW in 2013. She spent most of college behind a camera photographing anything from UNC athletics to President Obama for The Daily Tar Heel. She isn't sure where post grad life will take her but is sure she loves getting book and music recommendations. She's excited to get to know you all.

Susan Fecho (Art Instructor), a resident of Historic Tarboro, North Carolina, has a lifelong devotion to art that includes over 30 years of teaching in the United States and abroad. A naturalist, with a love for all things botanical, Fecho is a multi-media printmaker/surface designer with a M.F.A. from East Carolina University. 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: Creative Fiber Works*, *New Art International: A Compendium of Recent Work*, *VIVA*, and several issues of *Kakalak: An Anthology of Carolina Poets*. Fecho been accepted into several major collections: the Smithsonian Institution's American Art Museum/National Portrait Gallery Library, Washington, D.C.; the Word and Image Department, Victoria and Albert Museum, London, England; and the Museum of Women Artists, Washington, D.C. Her postgraduate studies including; Jan Van Eyck Academie, 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.

Kevin (please just call him Ferris) Ferris (Social Science Instructor) is excited to be joining the GSE Social Science faculty for his first year as an instructor. A GSW Social Science '04 alum, he felt torn at first but has found that his loyalties to the West are easily transferable. After graduating with a BA in Political Science from Wake Forest University in 2009 (GO DEACS!), he was a Teach for America corps member in New Orleans (GEAUX SAINTS!), where he taught English for four years. After relocating back to North Carolina in 2013, Kevin went back to his original love of theatre and the social sciences, and currently teaches theatre and civics at The Hawbridge School in Saxapahaw, NC. Outside of the classroom, he is a director and youth mental health advocate. Recently, he directed Lauren Gunderson's *Natural Shocks*, as a part of a national campaign of theatre activism against gun and domestic violence. Additionally, Kevin was a featured speaker at TEDxPenryStreet in 2015 where he presented his talk "Necessary Stories of Suicide."

Jessie Gada (English TA/C) is a rising senior majoring in English with a concentration in Creative Writing at Appalachian State University. She attended GSE in 2014 for English and can't wait to work with you this summer. Outside of school she has written and published two of her own novels and would be very excited to talk to anyone about writing or your favorite book!

Erin Kate Grady (Area II Instructor) is an alumna of Governor's School West ('99) in choral music. She completed a Bachelor of Science degree in Interdisciplinary Studies at Aquinas College and holds a Master's in Art History from UNC Chapel Hill. Currently, she is a doctoral candidate in medieval Art History at Chapel Hill. Erin Kate teaches Middle Grades and Upper School Latin at Camelot Academy in Durham, NC, and has previously taught a variety of subjects including World History, English Composition, World Literature, French, and AP Art History. She enjoys reading, all kinds of music, baking, traveling, and playing hide-and-seek with her cats.

McKenna Gramzay (Instrumental Music TA/C) recently graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with a degree in English and Philosophy. She attended GSE 2013 for Instrumental Music and is returning this summer for the second time as a TAC for Instrumental Music. She is incredibly excited to be back at the greatest place on Earth for another stunning summer!

Cecelia Gulley (Choral Music TA/C) is graduating from Appalachian State University in December with a degree in Choral Music Education. She attended GSE in 2012 and is excited to be back on campus for an exciting summer of shenanigans.

Gwen McLeod Hall (Choral Music Lead Instructor/Area III Instructor)

returning for her 4th summer, 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 and in 2017 was inducted into the North Carolina Music Educator's High School Choral Section Hall of Fame. 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 since 2015. Gwen has been married for 37 years to fellow musician, Bernie Hall. They have two children (also professional musicians) and three grandchildren. Gwen enjoys collaborating with student musicians at UNCG and teaching piano lessons.

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 Nicole Stanton, Cassie Meador, Anne Burnidge, Quillian "Cue" Arnold and Bessie award winner Bebe Miller, among others. He spent a number of years as a visiting artist in the Department of Dance at The Ohio State University. He has also collaborated and performed with Grammy-award winning Living Colour guitarist Vernon Reid and his band Masque. This is his 12th (!) summer 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 about music, releases mixtapes and

performs as CitizenDorianS. He's looking forward to working with Amanda, Sarah, Nate, and a great group of students. **Excelsior!**

Robin Hardman (Publications Coordinator/Administrative Assistant) is a student 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. He attended Governor's School in 2012 for Choral Music and hails from Raleigh. He was the Choral Music TA/C for three years and is excited to return to GSE in a new role. He owns his own small video production company in Greensboro that specializes in recording musical live events. 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 cat Shiloh.

Anna Hill (Counselor/Office Associate/Area III Instructor) is excited to spend her fourth summer at one of her favorite places to be, teach, and learn. She just graduated from the University of Virginia with her M.Ed. in Counselor Education and could not be happier to have the opportunity to be the Counselor at GSE this summer. A native of Burlington, NC (and former chorus student of Site Director Laura Sam), she graduated from Vanderbilt University in 2014 in with a B.S. in Human and Organizational Development, then spent two years teaching middle school math in Charlotte. And since these are printed in alphabetical order, she can be the first to tell you that she is the sister of Choral Music Instructor Stuart Hill.

Stuart Chapman Hill (Choral Music and Area III Instructor), a proud NC native and GSE alumnus (Choral Music, 2003), is thrilled to return for a fifth summer teaching in this utterly magical place. Stuart is Assistant Professor of Music at Webster University in Saint Louis, MO, where he teaches courses in music education, directs the music education degree program, and conducts the Women's Chorus (and where one of last year's GSE choral music students will be starting as a music education major in the fall!). He also is Artistic Director of CHARIS, the St. Louis Women's Chorus, an ensemble devoted to celebrating

and encouraging women and the LGBTQ community. Stuart is an active composer whose choral works are published with G. Schirmer and with Hinshaw Music, which recently inaugurated a composer series in his name. Stuart completed his Ph.D. at Michigan State University (Go Green!), where he studied music education and choral conducting. Prior to schlepping up north, Stuart taught choral music at Northern Guilford Middle School (Go Nighthawks!) in Greensboro, NC. He earned his Bachelor of Music and Master of Education degrees from Vanderbilt University (Go Does!) in Nashville, TN, where he also bought his favorite pair of boots and once got to record a song on Elvis' favorite piano. Claims to fame include being a former high school student (but ongoing mentee) of GSE site director Laura Sam (at Williams High School—Go Bulldogs!) and brother of GSE Office Associate/Counselor Anna Hill. When not teaching, reading, writing, or composing, Stuart enjoys porch-sitting, bow-tie-wearing, color-coding, spreadsheet-making, alphabetizing, and campaigning for good grammar worldwide.

Amanda Oakley Hort (Dance Lead Instructor) is thrilled to be the lead dance instructor at GSE this summer! Born and raised in Durham, NC, Amanda trained at the Ballet School of Chapel Hill, with the Company Dancers of Durham, at the UNC School of the Arts, the American Dance Festival, and at NC Governor's School West! After high school, Amanda studied intensively at the UNC School of the Arts and graduated in 2001 with a BFA in Contemporary Dance Performance. She danced professionally for a short time on Martha's Vineyard and in New York City, but quickly discovered her passion for teaching and choreography. Amanda has taught students of all levels from theatre and dance majors at East Carolina University to young novices in the public schools of Onslow County and currently serves as the dance director at Arendell Parrott Academy, a private college preparatory school, where she teaches creative movement and dance to students age 4 to 18. She has been a guest artist at numerous competitive, recreational and pre-professional studios and schools across the east coast and for the past sixteen years, has been on faculty at the NC Academy of Dance Arts in Greenville, NC where she serves as the contemporary and jazz director. Amanda was recently named to the Board of Directors for the NC Association for Scholastic Activities and is the proud mom of two wonderful kids who also love to dance!

“MathRob” Houck (Math Lead Instructor) serves as the lead math teacher and is beginning his nineteenth 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 spent quite a few years at the University of Michigan in studying 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.

Emmanuel Davis Lipscomb (English Instructor/Area III Coordinator) 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 Prosestry 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.

Nikki Locklear (Social Science TA/C) is a rising junior at Brown University where she is concentrating in history and education studies. She attended GSE for English in 2015 and is very excited to be returning in a new role! In addition to doing her part to make this the best summer at GSE yet, she will be beginning a Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship research project on the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina (of which she is an enrolled member). She enjoys watching films, reading about current events, and writing in what small bit of free time she has left. She also loves talking about those things and would be delighted to chat with anyone about them!

Kimrey Lowder (Office/Activities/Publications TA/C) is an undergraduate student at UNC-Chapel Hill studying English and history on the education track. She attended GSE in 2015 for English, but is incredibly excited to be returning as a TAC for Office/Activities/Publications. Outside of her academic pursuits, she enjoys reading, writing, art, and music—also dogs.

Kylie Mask (Theater TA/C) is happy to be returning to NC GSE for her third summer. She attended in 2013 for Theatre and served as Theatre TA/C in 2017.

She will be graduating from UNC Greensboro in December with a BFA in Acting and a minor in Musical Theatre.

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 sixth summer that Paige has had the opportunity to be a part of the Area II faculty at GSE.

Ellen Morgan (French TA/C) is a student at Truman State University in Kirksville, Missouri, where she studies French and English. She loves exploring her target language as well as many others, and is very grateful to be a part of GSE this summer as a French TAC.

Mary J. Naber (English Instructor/Area I Coordinator/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 fourteenth summer teaching for Governor's School East. During her years at GSE, she has taught Area I (English), Area II and Area III.

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.

Marcy Pedzwater (English TA/C) Marcy Pedzwater is a Ph.D. student in English and Comparative Literature at UNC-Chapel Hill, and she received her B.A. in Literature and Spanish from UNC Asheville. She's returning for her second year as an English TA/C and is thrilled to spend another amazing summer at Governor's School East. When she's not reading or talking about books, you can find her making terrible puns, laughing at her own jokes, and trying not to over-analyze bad reality television.

Lauren Sale (Theater Instructor) has over ten years of experience as a Director, Teaching Artist, and Arts Administrator working across the US and UK. Favorite directing credits include *Romeo & Juliet*, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, *The Red Badge of Courage* (Florida Repertory Theatre), *Peter Pan* and *Hairspray* (Stagecoach Theatre Arts: London), *The MLK Project: The Fight for Civil Rights* (Writers Theatre). Lauren specializes in devising, starting with an idea and shaping a story through to performance through ensemble work. Favorite devising credits include *Push Play*, *Head in the Game* (Adventure Stage Chicago) *Happily Ever After*, *Two Plumbers and a Murder* (Hampstead Theatre). Former students have gone on to perform professionally on Broadway, in London's West End and regional theatres including Harry Potter in *The Cursed Child* on Broadway, Swing in *Motown the Musical* in the West End, Young Charlie on Broadway and the national tour of *Kinky Boots*, Ben in The Rockette's *Christmas Spectacular* at Radio City Music Hall, and Lorelai in the world premiere of *Doublewide* at Florida Repertory Theatre. Administratively, Lauren has worked as Director of Education at Writers Theatre and Florida Repertory Theatre as well as the Schools and Colleges Administrator at Young Vic Theatre in London. Lauren is a proud graduate of The Royal Central School of Speech and Drama in London with an MA in Applied Theatre (Drama Education and Drama in the Community); she also holds a BFA in Theatre Performance from Niagara University.

Andrew Sam, RN, CCRN (Medical Coordinator) returns to the GSE staff for his third year as the Medical Coordinator. Andrew earned his Bachelor of Science in Nursing from UNCG and currently holds his ACLS (Advanced Cardiac Life Support), BLS (Basic Life Support), CCRN (Critical Care Registered Nurse) certifications as well as being trained in critical stress management. Andrew served as a critical care nurse in the Medicine Intensive Care Unit at UNC-Hospitals for 30 years. In 2007, Andrew was honored as one of the Great 100 Nurses in North Carolina. Andrew enjoys hiking and kayaking with his wife, Laura Sam. He serves as a trail volunteer for the Friends of the Mountains to Sea Trail, the Occoneechee Mountain State Natural Area, and on the Appalachian

Trail with the Piedmont Appalachian Trail Hikers. Andrew loves dogs and cats and was instrumental in bringing pet therapy to the UNC MICU. He is proud to be a member of the GSE community!

Laura Sam (Site Director) joyfully returns to GSE for her seventh year – where every day is the happiest day at Governor’s School East! When not doing the good work as Site Director of the GSE, Laura is passionate about choral music and served as GSE Choral Music Instructor 2012-2014. 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. Laura happily taught choral music to the middle and upper school students of Cary Academy (2015 and 2016) and conducted Vox Accalia (Women’s Choir) at NC State University (2017). She directs the children’s and adult choirs at Front Street United Methodist Church in Burlington. Laura holds a Bachelor of Music in Music Education from UNCG and the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards Certification in Music. In 2007, Laura was honored as the North Carolina Music Educators High School Choral Director of the Year and in 2018 was inducted into the North Carolina Music Educator’s High School Choral Section Hall of Fame. She has conducted the North Carolina High School All-State Women’s Choir and the North Carolina Middle School All-State Mixed Chorus. Laura 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). In addition to all things GSE and choral music, Laura loves spending time with Andrew Sam, her husband of 34 years, hiking and kayaking together, and in general, having fun adventures. Laura is an epic failure at sitting still.

Tara Smithson (French Instructor/Area III Instructor) hails from Mt. Pleasant, NC, a friendly, peaceful place with more pastures than people. She earned a B.A. in English and Romance Languages from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and an M.A.T. with a specialization in secondary English education from the same institution. Before pursuing graduate work in French, Tara taught English, French, Creative Writing, and Art History in North Carolina public schools for five years. She has also taught EFL as an English Assistant in Montpellier, France. After returning home from adventures abroad, she moved to the most francophone place she could find in the United States and learned about the joys of barn dances, crawfishing, bayou boat rides, and Mardi Gras while earning an M.A. and Ph.D. in French Studies from Louisiana State University. Her research examines the ways in which French and Francophone

populations use the myth of Joan Arc as a medium to narrate national identities, reflect on postcolonial relationships, and articulate responses to transnational traumas. While at LSU, she directed an immersion-based summer study abroad program in the Alps that involved macaron-making (challenging), parasailing (blissful), and a lot of run-ins with the local goats. She enjoys practicing Ashtanga yoga, devising kitchen experiments, traveling mapless, and breezing around town on her bike. She's thrilled to return to GSE.

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 3rd year at GSE!

Kevin Streich (Instrumental Music Instructor): Clarinetist Kevin Streich enjoys an active performing and teaching career. He Adjunct Professor of Clarinet at UNC-Pembroke and teaches several students in his home studio in Raleigh. Kevin is Principal Clarinetist with the Chamber Orchestra of the Triangle and with the Union Symphony Orchestra, and plays regularly with the North Carolina Symphony, NC Ballet, and NC Opera. His other performing engagements include the Cape Fear New Music Festival, Mallarme Chamber Players, Fayetteville Symphony Orchestra, Raleigh Civic Chamber Orchestra, and the Greater Lansing Symphony Orchestra (Lansing, MI). He has studied with Dr. Elsa Verdehr, Dr. Linda Bartley, Dr. Margaret Donaghue, and Curt Blood, and holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from Michigan State University, a Master of Music from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and a Bachelor of Music from the University of Connecticut. Kevin lives in Raleigh, NC with his partner Eric. When is not playing or teaching the clarinet, he enjoys experimenting with culinary delights in the kitchen.

Gerrick Suggs (Activities Coordinator) graduated from North Carolina State University with a Bachelor of Science in Parks, Recreation, and Tourism. His passions are working with youth and athletics. He has eight years of experience coaching high school football, has many years of experience coaching high school track and field, and is currently an assistant football coach at Needham Broughton High School. He is also a counselor for a Track-Out Camp at Bond Park Community Center in Cary, NC, and an Athletic Facility Supervisor for the Town of Clayton. Gerrick hopes to transition to coaching college football one day.

Chuck Sullivan (English Lead Instructor/Area III Instructor) was born in New York City to a working 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 University in 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 last June. *This is Chuck's 39th summer at Governor's School!*

Brandon Tesh (Instrumental Music Instructor) is pleased to return to his home state for his 11th 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 and Temptations, 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.

MaryBeth Thomas (Art TA/C): My name is MaryBeth Thomas (MB) and I am from Mitchell County, NC. I attended GSE in visual art in 2015. After completing high school I took a gap year through UNC CH and finished my first year at UNC. I am planning to get my BFA in sculpture with a focus in Glassblowing. I was a member of the 2017-2018 varsity women's ACC championship fencing team and will be returning to the team in the fall. I love telling dad jokes and am excited to be back at GSE!!

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 fourteenth year at Governor's School East. Bill enjoys watching all kinds of baseball (and the Yankees in particular), cooking (especially using his two smokers or new grill), and reading ridiculously dense history tomes. In the off season, Bill expounds on various arcane topics in 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 admits it), his daughter (when she admits it), two cats (who admit it when he feeds them), and a dog (who admits it when he has the leash).

Linda Velto (Office Manager) taught choral music at GSE in 2003 and 2004.

She regretted her decision to take a summer off and remained a hovering presence at GSE until she could find a way to return in an official capacity. The opportunity presented itself in 2016 in the Office Manager position, where she uses her skills at keeping other people organized. She can hold a conversation with anyone and looks forward to people stopping by her office to chat. During the school year, Linda is the staff accompanist/choral assistant at Cary Academy. She is also Associate Minister at Good Shepherd UCC in Cary. She is passionate about music, social justice, diversity and inclusion, Yankee baseball, and chocolate. Linda admits to being the wife of Bill Velto when he behaves himself and shares the same two-legged and four-legged children. (See bio above.)

Christopher Verrill (Instrumental Music TA/C) is a rising junior at Wake Forest University majoring in English and political science. He attended GSE in 2015 in Instrumental Music and is thrilled to be back as an Instrumental Music TA/C. In his spare time, he enjoys listening to podcasts, reading (everything), and mindlessly scrolling through Twitter.

Blaise Whitesell (Natural Science TA/C) is a rising senior studying astronomy and physics at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, OH. He plays the horn and attended GSE in 2014 for Instrumental Music. This summer he is excited to serve as a TA/C for Natural Science. Some of his other interests include fencing, photography, card games, and long conversations.

Jack Wolverton (Choral Music TA/C) is a rising senior in the Vocal Performance program at UNCG. He attended Governor's School East in 2014 for Choral Music, and is so excited to return to Jones Chapel. In his spare time, Jack enjoys paleontology, swimming, and Dungeons and Dragons.

David Wright (Area II Instructor) is in his twenty-third summer teaching at GSE. He grew up as a Marine and Army brat, served five years in the Air Force, and is currently in his 25th year teaching for Cumberland County Schools. His interests include Rugby, soccer, traveling, learning history, and his Shih Tzu and Papillion dogs.