

**THE FACULTY AND STAFF OF
THE NORTH CAROLINA
GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL EAST 2019**

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): After attending Governor's School West for Instrumental Music in 2011, Elijah Andrews is here for his third year as a French TAC at GSE. Elijah majored in Francophone studies and Arab studies at Davidson College, spent the 2017-2018 academic year teaching English in Dunkirk, France, and is now halfway through a Master's program in Francophone Studies at the University of Notre Dame.

Alyssa Armstrong (Art/Area III Instructor) is an artist and Visual Arts Instructor at Cary Academy, an independent school of the Triangle. She treasures previous teaching experiences with Nash-Rocky Mount and Wake County Public Schools, including excursions to Florence with her art students to revel in Renaissance classics. Originally from Long Island, Alyssa still prefers hot tea over sweet. Fortunately, she has the kind support of her Raleigh raised husband, Pete, who she met at Barton College in Wilson while earning her Art Education degree. Her interests include embroidered portraiture, hand-built ceramics, and mixed media sculpture. Fundamental to Alyssa's pedagogy is teaching design thinking to emphasize process over product. In her downtime, you can find Alyssa walking her two dogs Wiggily and Scuttle

Philip Boyne (Natural Science Lead Instructor/Area III Instructor) is excited to return for his tenth 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 and working as a Theatre TAC last summer. He holds a BFA in Theatre Arts (Performance) with an Arts Leadership minor from Boston University, a Diploma in Classical Acting from the London Academy of Music & Dramatic Art, and a High School Diploma in Drama from UNC 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). Directing credits include *Dog Sees God: Confessions of a Teenage Blockhead* (Oconaluftee Little Symphony Society) and assistant work on the world premieres of *Ripe Frenzy* (New Repertory Theatre/Boston Center for American Performance) and *Silos* (NC GSE). His producing work includes the short film *Night*, which screened at festivals throughout the US and UK in 2018. In August he will begin working as the Artistic Apprentice at Triad Stage in Greensboro, NC.

Allyson Buie (Dean of Students) is excited to be returning to Governor's School this summer for her fifth year. Allyson holds a BA in English from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and Master's Degree in English from Southern New Hampshire University. 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).

Kiyoshi Carter (Instrumental Music Lead Instructor/Area III Instructor) is the newly appointed Director of Bands at Northern Guilford High School. Previously, he was the Director of Bands and Orchestras at Western Guilford High School from 2011 – 2018. Mr. Carter received his Masters Degree in Instrumental Conducting (2010) and Music Education (2011), summa cum laude from The University of North Carolina at Greensboro. 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 served as the Director of Band and AP Music Theory teacher at Southwest Guilford High School from 2004- 2008. As a first-year teacher, Mr. Carter was named the 2004 Wal-Mart Teacher of the Year. He was chosen by his colleagues to conduct the 2009 and 2017 Guilford County All-County Band clinics. In 2015, Mr. Carter was recognized by School Band and Orchestra Magazine as one of 50 band directors that Makes a Difference, an honor only awarded to one music teacher in each state and in 2017 Mr. Carter was a Grammy Award quarter- finalist. Since 2007, Mr. Carter has served on the faculty of the North Carolina Governor's School East campus and now serves as lead teacher for Instrumental Music. Mr. Carter is the founder and conductor of the Guilford County Brass Ensemble and the founder and trombonist of the Gate City Brass, a professional brass quintet comprised entirely of music educators. Mr. Carter serves as the full-time conductor of the Greensboro Concert Band, a community concert band comprised of approximately 90 members.

Chip Cervi (Natural Science TA/C) is a rising senior at North Carolina State University studying Mechanical Engineering. Chip's interests primarily are in the Biomedical field. He works on a research team that creates titanium structures to aid in bone growth with the long-term goal of using those structures instead of amputating limbs from bone damage.

Maggi Chambers (Social Science/Activities TA/C) is excited to share her first summer as a TAC with the Governor's School community. Maggi attended GSE for Social Science in 2016. Maggi is currently a rising junior at Howard University with a major in International Business and a minor in Political Science. Along with participating in several international organizations, Maggi has worked on Capitol Hill with Congressman Gregory Meeks of New York. In the office she covered issues ranging from international affairs to financial service. Outside of academics, Maggi loves dogs, shopping, and of course Howard University.

Coltan Compton (Area II TA/C) is a rising junior studying psychology at North Carolina State University. The Wake Forest native attended GSE for Choral Music in 2016 and continues to express his love for music in various university ensembles, including the State Chorale, NC State Marching Band, and NC State Pep Band. As an undergraduate research assistant, he assists in data collection, input, and analysis on projects concerning social development. In February, Coltan was a featured speaker at TUFFTalks, NC State's version of TEDTalks, where he and other students shared personal stories of growth and reflection revolving around the theme "The Search for Self." He enjoys running, listening to podcasts and new age piano, taking 26-minute naps, and thinking deeply with others about the universe. Though he is hungry for guacamole, he is also hungry for contemplation. You will likely see him wearing either a Pizza John or Chuy's shirt. He is looking forward to a groovy summer!

Brooke Connolly (Art TA/C) is a rising junior at NC State University studying fashion & textile design and English. Her interests include sustainable practices in fashion and reading a lot of books. She attended GSE for art in 2016, and is excited to be back!

Laurie Cuffney (Mathematics/Area III 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 eighth 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 combating 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 sixth summer teaching at Governor's School, her favorite place to teach. She will be attending Duke University to pursue a Master's in Public Policy starting this August. Katie lives in Raleigh with her dog and her husband, an investigative reporter at WRAL who very sweetly wrote this bio for her.

Lea Efird (Area III/Social Science TA/C) a 2012 alumna of GSE (English), is returning for her second summer as a TA/C. Originally from Albemarle, NC, she currently lives in Durham. She is a second-year graduate student in the Masters of Social Work and Masters of Public Administration dual degree program at UNC-Chapel Hill and. She also attended UNC-CH for undergrad, where she completed her BA in History and Spanish as well as serving in various student organizations, most of which centered on the Latinx community. Her MSW field internship in 2018-2019 was at Catholic Charities of Raleigh's Centro para Familias Hispanas, where she completed both direct practice and policy and administration work. Between her stints at Carolina, Lea served as an AmeriCorps VISTA for the City of Raleigh, working with the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources department on the Dorothea Dix Park master planning process. She is passionate about equity, combating oppression, transforming systems and institutions, and domestic and global migration issues. She is thrilled to be back at GSE for the third time, it being one of her favorite places on earth.

Kevin Ferris (Social Science/Area III Instructor) --for real, call him Ferris-- is excited to return to the GSE faculty for his second summer. A GSW Social Science '04 alum, he has found that his loyalties to the West were easily transferable. After graduating with a BA in Political Science from Wake Forest University in 2009, he served as a Teach for America corps member in New Orleans, 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 civics and directs the theatre program at

The Hawbridge School in Saxapahaw, NC. Outside of the classroom, he is a director, soap carver, reindeer groomer, former TEDx speaker, youth mental health advocate, and a suicide prevention educator.

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 an 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.

Gwen McLeod Hall (Choral Music Lead Instructor/Area III Instructor) returning for her 5th 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 Educators 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 have served 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 38 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 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, as well as an extended stint 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. He's looking forward to his 13th (!) summer as a faculty member of the Governor's School of North Carolina East and he's looking forward to a summer of creating with the students, Amanda, and Nate.

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 for his second year as the Publications Coordinator. In 2017, he started his own small video production company in Greensboro, Birdsong Video. Robin is also a freelance baritone soloist in the Triad area, specializing in oratorio works. He also works with the choir at St. Andrews Episcopal Church as their Associate Choir Director. An avid sports fan, Robin can often be found at assorted ballparks or hockey arenas. He enjoys tinkering with various pieces of technology in the company of his dog Luna and cats Hemiola, Minibus, and Shiloh.

Joe Haston (English/Publications TA/C): My name is Joe Haston. I'm a rising Junior at Duke studying English and Journalism. I like to read, write, and climb, and I'm also a big soccer fan. Passionate about nature, words, and adrenaline.

Ethan Heilig (Social Science/Activities TA/C) is a rising Junior at Rhodes College in Memphis, TN. Ethan is an alumnus of GSE Social Science 2016 from Asheville, NC. As a former Congressional Debater, Ethan teaches a debate and public speaking course for middle school students. He is best known as the 2019 Rhodes College Intramural Soccer Champion and as a dominant force in Spikeball. He is a Political Economy major with a particular interest in free speech, economics, and data analytics.

Maggie Hemedinger (Choral Music TA/C) is excited to be at GSE for her first year as a TA/C! She is currently studying at East Carolina University and working to earn her BM in Choral Music Education and BA in Hispanic Studies. Her passion for choral music is strong (perhaps too strong) and really sparked here, at GSE, when she came for choir in 2016! Aside from music, Maggie loves to run, read, listen to witty podcasts, and play Quidditch. At school, Maggie enjoys singing in the ECU Chamber Singers and an Afro-Peruvian Ensemble. And though you will mostly find her listening to Fauré's Requiem, she loves to listen and perform a variety of different musical styles and genres and would love your suggestions.

Anna Hill (Counselor/Area III Instructor) is thrilled to be back at GSE for her fifth summer. A native of Burlington, NC (and former chorus student of Site Director Laura Sam), she graduated from Vanderbilt University in 2014 with a B.S. in Human and Organizational Development, then spent two years teaching middle school math in Charlotte, NC. She went on to get

her M.Ed. in Counselor Education from the University of Virginia in 2018. Anna now lives in Nashville, TN and is a full-time school counselor at LaVergne Lake Elementary School. 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/Area III Instructor), a proud NC native and GSE alumnus (Choral Music, 2003), is thrilled to return for a sixth summer on faculty. 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 soprano-alto ensemble Aurelia. 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. (Ask him about the time CHARIS sang for Ozzy Osborne. Seriously.) Stuart's choral compositions are published with G. Schirmer and Hinshaw Music; his scholarship appears in the *Journal of Research in Music Education*, the *Philosophy of Music Education Review*, and *Research Studies in Music Education*. 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 Dores!) in Nashville, TN. 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 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 an alumna of the UNC School of the Arts, graduating with a BFA in Contemporary Dance Performance. For the past eighteen years, she has worked up and down the East Coast teaching, choreographing, mentoring and inspiring dancers of all ages. Amanda began her professional career on Martha's Vineyard dancing for the Bessie Schonberg Choreographers and Dancers Residency and in New York City performing with Satoshi Haga & Dancers. She soon discovered her love for teaching as a faculty member in the School of Theatre and Dance at East Carolina University (2002-2005) and as a dance educator in the Onslow County Schools (2005-2007). In 2009, Amanda began teaching creative movement and dance at Arendell Parrott Academy, a college preparatory school in Kinston, NC, and she was named APA's Dance Director in 2014. She is on faculty at the NC Academy of Dance Arts (2002-present) in Greenville, NC, and annually serves as a guest artist and choreographer for the UNC School of the Arts Festival of Dance, the Om Grown Summer Dance Intensive, the Company Dancers of Durham, Brand Performing Arts Center in Wilson and Fox Troupe Dancers of Wilmington. Her passion for dance has been passed along to her two wonderful kiddos, Caroline and Daemyn, who are the light of her life. Amanda is honored and humbled to return to Governor's School East for her second year as Lead Dance Instructor. She looks forward to the magic and solidarity that will be created through movement at GSE this summer.

"MathRob" Houck (Math Lead Instructor/Area III Instructor) serves as the lead math teacher and is beginning his twentieth 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 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.

Kirby Jones (English/Office TA/C) recently graduated from Meredith College with a degree in English. During her college career, she spent many hours observing and volunteering in Wake County High Schools, and this spring, she student taught at Sanderson High School in North Raleigh. Last summer, she completed a teaching residency with Breakthrough Collaborative in Austin, Texas, where she taught science and creative writing to college-bound students from underserved communities. After Governor's School, she hopes to complete an internship in a Spanish speaking country before starting her Masters of Divinity degree next fall.

Sam Kruyer (Social Science/Office TA/C) is a 2014 GSE alum and a recent graduate of Yale where he majored in Ethnicity, Race & Migration. Two of his favorite experiences from college were participating in a peer mentorship program with incarcerated youth and interning with the Freedom Fund, a charitable bail organization in New York City. Outside of class, you can find him doing crossword puzzles or performing improv and stand-up comedy to small and vaguely interested audiences.

Morgan Leatherwood (Instrumental Music TA/C) holds Master of Music and Bachelor of Music degrees in Oboe Performance. In her graduate work at UNC School of the Arts, she served as the Graduate Aural Skills Teaching Assistant in the School of Music, and as a Graduate Student Success Coach for the Provost's Office. She also worked as the Financial Manager and Administrative Liaison for the Student Executive Board of the Cross the Line Project, a nonprofit organization designed to break the fourth wall between audience and performer, providing free chamber music concerts and activities to the public. She is a founding member of the Twin City Reed Quintet (TCRQ), a new music ensemble consisting of oboe, clarinet, saxophone, bass clarinet, and bassoon. TCRQ is dedicated to new music as well as reimagining "old music", having written many of their own arrangements in addition to premiering new compositions. Morgan enjoys practicing mindfulness

meditation (148 hours and counting), reading comic books, and focusing on reducing her negative impact on the world by living a fully cruelty-free and vegan lifestyle. Next, she plans to focus on sustainable and ethical sourcing of materials as a consumer, and hopes to eventually live a zero-waste lifestyle.

Emmanuel Davis Lipscomb (English Instructor/Area III Coordinator) teaches memoirs and Area III at GSE when he is not teaching English 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.

Kimrey Lowder (English/Publications TA/C) is a senior at UNC-Chapel Hill majoring in English and history and minoring in education. She attended GSE in 2015 for English and is incredibly excited to be back for her second year as a TA/C and working with both English and publications. Outside of her academic pursuits, she enjoys reading, yoga, music, and plants—oh, and also dogs!

Evan Mertz (Mathematics TA/C) is grateful for the opportunity to serve at Governor's School East. Evan graduated with a B.S. in Mathematics and all of his teaching credentials from UNC-CH in 2019. Outside the Governor's School, Evan is a mathematics teacher in the Durham Public Schools. Evan enjoys singing and knitting in his spare time. He hopes that he can offer an even better Governor's School experience to the students this year than when he was a student.

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, their son Emmett, 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 seventh 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/Area III Instructor/Area I Coordinator) 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 has 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 sixteenth summer teaching for Governor's School East. During her years at GSE, she has taught Area I (English), Area II and Area III.

Rita Paolantonio (Natural Science TA/C): Hi, My name is Rita Paolantonio. I am currently attending the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where I study Chemistry and Studio Art, as well as taking pre- Pharmacy credits. I have worked in three different Lab settings both on and off campus and I have been a Lifeguard and/or an Aquatic facility manager for the past 4 years as well as having many published and presented artworks. When I went to Governor's School, Visual Art was my Area I but I am excited to be helping out with Natural Science this time around.

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.

Susan Rogowski (Mathematics Instructor) is originally from Richmond, VA and has just finished her Master's Degree in Math at Wake Forest University. She is starting her PhD in Biomathematics at Florida State in August. She adopted a sweet 30lb pit bull mix named Sniffles this past year.

Andrew Sam, RN, CCRN (Medical Coordinator) returns to the GSE staff for his fourth year as the Medical Coordinator. Andrew earned his BSN from UNC-G and currently holds his ACLS (Advanced Cardiac Life Support), BLS (Basic Life Support), and 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. Andrew retired

from nursing in 2016. He was honored as one of the Great 100 Nurses in North Carolina in 2007. When not at work, Andrew enjoys hiking, kayaking and serving as a volunteer trail maintainer with the Mountains to Sea trail. Andrew loves dogs and facilitated pet therapy in the UNC MICU. He is proud to be a member of the GSE community!

Laura Sam (Site Director) joyfully returns to GSE for her eighth 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 Educators 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 35 years, hiking and kayaking together, and in general, having fun adventures. Laura is an epic failure at sitting still.

Andrew Savage (Instrumental Music/Office) is excited for his first year back at NC Governor's School East since his attendance for Instrumental Music in 2013. He recently graduated in May from UNC Greensboro with a degree in Music Composition, where he focused his studies on writing music for wind band and for media, such as film scores. Aside from his passion for music, Andrew is an avid PC gamer, YouTube binger, and carb consumer.

Tara Smithson (French Instructor/Area III Instructor) hails from Mt. Pleasant, North Carolina, a peaceful place with more pastures than people. She is currently an Assistant Professor of French at Manchester University, a small liberal arts school in Indiana, where she braves frostbite advisories to teach all levels of French as well as interdisciplinary courses on topics such as "Public Memory," and "Life and Death." Tara 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, Tara taught English, French, Creative Writing, and Art History in NC public schools for five years and spent two years as an English Language Assistant in Montpellier, France. In 2009, Tara moved to the most francophone place she could find in the United States to experience 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 convey identity narratives, 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 was occasionally beset by traffic jams involving sheep. She enjoys practicing Ashtanga yoga, devising vegetarian kitchen experiments, and working for greater access and social justice in education.

Dr. Stephen W. Snyder (Natural Science/Area III 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 a member of the Science Department at East Chapel Hill High School. I teach AP Environmental Science (APES) and AP Biology. I have also taught all flavors of Biology and Earth & Environmental Science (EES). I have coached JV Baseball and Mens' and Womens' 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 5th year at GSE!

Nate Snyder (Dance TA/C) is preparing to enter his fourth year at Emory University in Atlanta, GA, pursuing a degree in dance and movement studies with a concentration in technical production and design. Originally from Gastonia, NC, Nate grew up studying dance first at Piedmont Community Charter School under Angie Paul, and then under Tammy Fox at Gaston Dance Theatre, where he is now privileged to serve on the board of directors. He also serves as the vice president for AHANA Dance, Emory's largest student operated dance organization. Nate is a Governor's School alum, having attended the West campus in 2015 where he studied dance under Sara Tourek. His dance interests lie in creating work that bends but doesn't necessarily break the "rules" of dance; that is to say, how far can we push the limits of recognizable movement forms while still operating within the "norms" of the art? When he is not creating or performing, Nate can be found reading a good book or watching a Netflix series, playing games of any kind, or spending time with his friends and family.

J. Harvey Stone (Theater Instructor) is a public school theatre teacher, director, and writer living in Williamsburg, Virginia. Harvey has taught learners from ages 2 through 72 in everything from Shakespeare to swimming, and from Plutarch to pedagogy. Most recently, Harvey has been inspired by the language, storytelling, and culture of the American South and Appalachia. In 2017, Harvey's original play *Immersed* was named "Best Original Play" by the Virginia Theatre Association. In 2018, Harvey's play *Anthropology Lesson* was the winner of the Stage Rights/ SETC Ready To Publish Award. In addition to Harvey's work as a teacher and writer, he is a college audition/admissions coach and has a small business providing professional development for teachers.

Kevin Streich (Instrumental Music/Area III Instructor): Clarinetist Kevin Streich enjoys an active performing and teaching career. He is 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 Management, with a concentration in Program Management. Two of his biggest passions are working with youth and athletics. He has nine 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 is Chuck's 40th summer at Governor's School!*

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 have now completed my second year at UNC. I major in Art and Business Journalism, minoring in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics. 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!!

Grace Thorpe (Office Associate/Area III Instructor) is so excited to be spending another summer at GSE! Grace's love for Governor's School began when she attended Governor's School East in 2012 as a Theater student and has continued ever since. Grace holds a BA in Women's and Gender Studies with a minor in Studio Art. Since graduating from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2017, Grace was employed as a Visual Art TA/C at GSE and has worked on and off as a Processing Assistant for the Governor's School Office at the Department of Public Instruction for two years. In her spare time, Grace loves creating art and caring for her many plants.

Alex Velto (Audio Visual Coordinator) is very excited to return to GSE this summer! Alex graduated in 2018 with a Bachelors degree in Criminal Justice and Psychology from Northeastern University in Boston. In his six years in Boston, his favorite pastimes included playing and coaching Ultimate Frisbee, heckling Red Sox fans, complaining about the weather, and bemoaning the public transportation systems. This summer, his plans include playing and coaching Ultimate Frisbee, heckling Red Sox fans, complaining about the weather, and bemoaning the lack of public transportation systems. In the Fall, he will be starting a Masters program in Equality Studies at University College Dublin. Alex currently lives at home with his parents, sister, cats, and dog, but is thankful for all the time he gets to spend on campus so that he never ever has to see his parents, at all, ever. Never ever.

Bill Velto (Social Science Lead Teacher) 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. This is his fifteenth 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 grill), and reading ridiculously dense 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's in North Carolina and admits it), two cats (who admit it when he feeds them), and a dog (who admits it when he has the leash or a pizza crust).

Linda Velto (Office Manager) is a choral music educator and collaborative pianist who taught choral music at GSE in 2003 and 2004. She quickly regretted her decision to leave and lurked around 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, where she works with amazing students and colleagues. She is also Associate Pastor at Good Shepherd UCC in Cary. Linda is passionate about social equity, cheers loudly for the NY Yankees, and treats chocolate as a food group. She admits to being married to Bill Velto when he behaves himself, and she shares the same two-legged and four-legged children. (See bios above.)

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

Nieves Villasenor (Instrumental Music Instructor): Texas-born but North Carolina-raised, Nieves Villasenor recently relocated to Syracuse, New York to pursue a Master of Music in Instrumental Conducting at Syracuse University, where he assists with conducting the university bands, teaching the first-year conducting course, and instructing the 150-member Pride of the Orange Syracuse University Marching Band and Sour Citrus Basketball Pep Band. Since receiving his Bachelor of Arts in Music Performance in Saxophone from the University of North Carolina Wilmington, Nieves has become a strong advocate for community music and an avid collaborator of area musicians. In addition to serving as head secondary music teacher at Jubilee San Antonio Charter School, Nieves was the founder and artistic director of the San Antonio Chamber Winds, a program offering of Crossmen Productions, Inc. and ensemble-in-residence at Texas A&M University San Antonio. During his tenure as artistic director and conductor, Nieves grew the ensemble from 15 to 60 musicians, coordinated a five-series concert season that featured the finest contemporary wind band literature, and collaborated with area ensembles including the Live Oak Singers, Mariachi Entertainment System, and County Line Community Band. His ensemble also premiered composer Charles Booker Jr's, Celestial Lights Fantasy for Alto Saxophone and Wind Ensemble, featuring University of Texas at San Antonio saxophone professor, Dr. Rami El-Farrah. Since his arrival in Syracuse, Nieves has become an avid project starter in the music scene in the region. He has served as an assistant conductor for the Lyncourt Community Band and performed with Syracuse activist band Unity Street Band. After competing with Drum Corps Associates (DCA) Open Class Finalist corps, White Sabers Drum & Bugle Corps, he became the co-founder and show music designer for the region's first competitive independent indoor wind ensemble, Vortex Indoor Winds, based out of Syracuse, NY in conjunction with Downbeat Percussion, Inc. In the Fall, he will be collaborating with university students, the Setnor School of Music, and area community musicians to kickstart the Syracuse Communiversity Concert Band project, an initiative that provides non-music major students and area musicians an outlet for community music-making at Syracuse University. Nieves is excited to be back in North Carolina, having hailed from White Oak High School in Jacksonville, NC and is an Instrumental Music alumnus of the 2005 NC Governor's School East.

Jack Wolverton (Choral Music TA/C) recently graduated from 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 has just finished his 25th year teaching for Cumberland County Schools. His interests include Rugby, soccer, traveling, learning history, and his Shih Tzu and Papillon dogs.