

**THE FACULTY AND STAFF OF
THE NORTH CAROLINA
GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL EAST 2017**

Brad Akin (Theater Lead Instructor) is a theater director and teacher based in Chicago. His artistic work is predominantly focused on issues of accessibility and visibility within American theater and society. For 12 years, 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. Currently, he serves as the Executive Director of Step Up Chicago Playwrights, supporting playwrights in writing new Chicago plays. 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 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) has just graduated from Davidson College with degrees in Francophone and Arab studies. Having attended GSW in 2011 for Instrumental music, Elijah is excited to be a part of the other half and spend a lot of time repeating himself.

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.

Jean Christian Barry (Area III/Activities TA/C): I am a Musical Theatre major at ECU, entering my 3rd year. After graduation I look forward to developing an extensive collection of Tony Awards. I have a large library and an even more vast collection of musical theater cast recordings. I am a proud GSE alum and so excited to be working here this summer!

Jordan Bessette (French Instructor) has just completed his second year of the Ph.D. program 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 space, gender, and movement. Outside of academics, Jordan enjoys cooking, traveling, and watching lots of Netflix. This will be his third 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 Instructor) is excited to return for his eighth summer teaching at GSE. Philip attended Governor's School West in 2003 and has taught physics for eight 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.

Allyson Buie (Day Counselor) is excited to be returning to Governor's School this summer for her third 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 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) 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 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 fourth 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 spent the 2016-2017 academic year attending classes at Harvard University while her husband completed a Nieman Fellowship.

Nafiah Enayet (Natural Science TA/C) is excited to be returning for her second year as a Natural Science TA/C. Nafiah just graduated from UNC-Chapel Hill last month where she received a B.S. in Chemistry. She also attended Governor's School East in 2012 as a Natural Science student. In her spare time, she enjoys playing piano, traveling, and spicy food.

Susan Fecho (Art Instructor), a 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 appear in national publications including scientific journals such as the *Journal of Neurosurgery: Spine*, *Nature Reviews Urology*, illustrative children's books, and educational publications including *Portrait of the Outer Banks: An Artist's Sketch, 1000 Artisan Textiles*, and *New Art International*. Fecho's work has 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 include 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.

Robin Follet (Dean of Students): Robin Follet holds a bachelor's degree in English Literature and Studio 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 over two decades 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 enjoys drawing cartoons

Jessie Gada (English TA/C) is a rising junior 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!

McKenna Gramzay (Instrumental Music TA/C) is a rising senior at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, majoring in English, and minoring in Philosophy, and Social and Economic Justice. She is so excited to be joining the GSE family for a second summer now as a TA/C in Instrumental Music!

Gwen McLeod Hall (Choral Music Lead Instructor and 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 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, 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 and his band Masque. He spends his summers, this is his 11th (!), 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 Jessi, Hannah, and a great group of students.

Lindsay Hamm (Social Science Instructor) grew up on a horse farm near Richmond, VA and fell in love with sociology as a business-turned-history major as an undergrad at Virginia Tech. She has been working on her Master's and Ph.D. down the street at NCSU since 2009, teaching classes on technology & society, work, and social problems along the way. She spent the past few years studying how North Carolina's public school teachers are faring after the 2008 recession and following market-centered legislation. Her goal is to defend her dissertation on

the subject by the end of the summer, so you may find her furiously revising it in a corner somewhere when she's not teaching. Lindsay lives in Smithfield with her amazingly patient partner, Chris, and their not-so-patient toddler, Simon. Two days after Governor's School East ends this session, she will pack up her family and move up north to teach sociology at Purdue University this fall. Simon ok'd this move after finding out their mascot essentially makes trains. Go, Boilermakers!

Robin Hardman (Choral Music TA/C) 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. This is his third and thus final year as the choral TA/C here at GSE which brings a lots of excitement but also some bittersweet emotions. 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.

Elizabeth Henry (Area II/Natural Science TA/C) is a rising junior at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where she is pursuing degrees in Geological Sciences and Computer Science. She attended Governor's School West in 2014 for Mathematics, and is now returning as a TAC to experience GSE.

Anna Hill (Office Associate and Area III Instructor) is excited to be back at GSE for her third summer. After spending the last two summers in TA/C land, this year she will be holding down the fort in the office and occasionally escaping to teach Area III. A native of Burlington, NC (and former chorus student of Site Director Laura Sam), she graduated from Vanderbilt University (Go Dores!) in 2014 with a B.S. in Human and Organizational Development, then spent two years teaching middle school math in Charlotte. She just completed her first year of graduate school at the University of Virginia (Wahoowa!) working towards her Master of Education in School Counseling. 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 GSE alumnus (Choral Music, 2003), is thrilled to return for a fourth 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. He also recently was appointed Artistic Director of CHARIS, the St. Louis Women's Chorus. His scholarly interests include the teaching and learning of songwriting, music teacher identity, and the role of program coherence in music teacher education. 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 and 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. Prior to schlepping up North to Michigan, Stuart taught choral music at Northern Guilford Middle School (Go Nighthawks!) 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 (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 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.

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, where he studied philosophy. He's spent the last two years teaching civics and philosophy at Longleaf School of the Arts in downtown Raleigh. In August, he's moving to New York to start his first year at Columbia Law School. When time permits, Tyler likes to take twenty minutes each evening to carefully eat a whole pomegranate.

"MathRob" Houck (Math Lead Instructor) is beginning his eighteenth 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.

Jessi Knight (Dance Lead Instructor) is a dancer, teacher, and choreographer from Pittsboro, NC. She began her training as a scholarship student at Dancentre in Chapel Hill, NC, under the instruction and mentorship of Mary Norkus and Melody Egen. As an undergraduate at Duke University, she pursued a self-designed dance degree with an emphasis in music and education. While at Duke, she studied and performed with various Duke faculty members, Duke's modern and African Repertory Ensembles, and with numerous guest artists. After graduation in 2004, Jessi embarked on a teaching and choreographing career that has afforded her the opportunity to teach, choreograph, and perform both locally and nationally. She spent four years in Denver, Colorado as a member of the internationally acclaimed Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Ensemble. There she not only danced as a member of the ensemble, but she also served as Assistant to the Artistic Director. She currently resides in North Carolina where she is choreographing on a project by project basis for her company knightworks dance theater, teaching modern dance, and mothering two incredibly brilliant spirits.

Andrew Legg (Social Science TA/C) is a native of Hendersonville, North Carolina. He just graduated this spring from Duke University with a degree in Political Science and Religious Studies, and this fall he will begin his first year at UNC School of Law. His academic interest center on issues involving the Middle East, Islam, and law. He attended GSE as a social science student in 2012 and is excited to be back for his third summer at GSE! In his free time, Andrew enjoys competing on the Duke Mock Trial team, hiking, and binge watching Netflix.

Emmanuel Davis Lipscomb (English Instructor and 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.

Kylie Mask (Theater TA/C): Kylie mask is thrilled to be rejoining NC GSE for its 39th season! She previously appeared in 2013, when she debuted as a student in *Area 1: Theatre*. Other credits include three years in the classrooms of UNC Greensboro, where she's been portraying a young woman studying acting. Kylie

knows that her role as a TA/C in *Summer: 2017* is going to leave a lasting impact on her life, and would like to thank every member of her GSE family who has helped to bring this production to life.

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 fifth 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.

Will Niver (Area II Instructor): A proud alumnus of Governor's School East and former TA/C, Will is thrilled to return to GSE as an Area II Instructor. He graduated from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, majoring in Franklin Street (plus history and journalism), before teaching middle school in eastern North Carolina. He also worked in Washington, D.C. with a literacy intervention program and environmental groups promoting home weatherization and green roofs. He recently completed his Master of Public Policy degree from Duke University's Sanford School of Public Policy with a concentration in Environment and energy. He loves canoe-camping, bluegrass festivals, and all things seafood.

Carl Peay (Area II Instructor and 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/Area II TA/C) received a BA in Literature and Spanish from UNC- Asheville, and she will pursue her Ph.D. in English and Comparative Literature in the fall at UNC-Chapel Hill. 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.

Hannah Price (Dance TA/C) is a Dance Education major at Winthrop University beginning her senior year (and student teaching!) in the fall. She is looking forward to being pushed outside of her comfort zone and learning more about modern and contemporary dance this summer. Though this is her first experience at Governor's School, she is excited for all of the amazing people and opportunities coming her way!

Kelsey Rector (Publications Coordinator and Area III Instructor) is an English teacher at Eastern Guilford High School. She is a graduate of Wake Forest University and is always proud to support her Demon Deacons. Her interests included travel, marching band, education reform and music. This is Kelsey's fourth summer at GSE. She has been a TA/C and office associate and now is taking on the role of helping you record your history of GSE through publications. She currently spends her free time reading, swing dancing and playing with her cat, Percy.

Elizabeth Romary (Activities/Area III TA/C) is a recent college graduate of the University of Mississippi, aka Ole Miss (Hotty Toddy!), where she received degrees in international Studies and Spanish. This is Elizabeth's second year at GSE after being a dance student in 2011 and is super excited to be back on the other side! After this summer, she will be leaving for Namibia to teach English for two years with the Peace Corps. She loves reading, anything and everything arts, hiking, traveling, and most of all telling stories. (Ask her about her Bolivian border crossing adventure.) Here's to a great summer!

Andrew Sam, RN, CCRN (Medical Coordinator) returns to the GSE staff for his second 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. 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 park service of the Occoneechee Mountain State Natural Area and on the AT with the Piedmont Appalachian Trail Hikers. 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 sixth year – where happily every day is a wonderland of discovery! When not doing the good work as Site Director of the North Carolina Governor’s School, 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 most recently conducted Vox Accalia (Women’s Choir) at NC State University. 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. 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 to spend time with her husband of 33 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 3rd year at GSE!

Cole Smith (Math TA/C) is a rising junior at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill. He is pursuing a BS in Statistics and Analytics and a BA in Mathematics. Cole came to GSE in 2013 and studied quantum computation in the mathematics Area I. He is ready for a rad summer as the Math TA/C. His interests include the beach, Cook-Out chicken quesadillas, and fighting to the death in Harry Potter Trivia.

Elly Sprinkle (Art TA/C) is a rising junior at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where she studies studio art with an emphasis in art history. A Governor's School West 2014 alum, she is excited to return to the Governor's School and experience East Campus for the first time.

Michael Stanfill (Theater Instructor) is ecstatic about returning to educating and mentoring at Governor's School East for his third year! Originally hailing from Portland, OR, he moved to Chicago to attend Northwestern University and there earned his MFA in Lighting Design. For about a decade he worked in Chicago as a freelance lighting and media designer focusing on theater, opera, and dance. He also taught design, collaboration, and devising courses at Columbia College Chicago, DePaul University, and Northwestern University. A year ago he accepted the position of Professor of Lighting and Media Design at Southern Oregon University in Ashland, OR. After a successful first year back in the Pacific Northwest, he's glad to be returning to his adoptive hometown of Raleigh. '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.'

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 Management, with a concentration in Program Management. Two of his biggest passions are working with youth and athletics. He has seven 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. Gerrick hopes to transition to coaching college football one day.

Chuck Sullivan (English Lead Instructor and 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 37th summer at Governor's School!*

J.J. Sylvia IV (Area II Instructor) is returning for his fourth 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. This fall he will be joining the faculty of Fitchburg State University as an Assistant Professor in the Communications Media Department. He recently completed his Ph.D. in Communication Rhetoric and Digital Media at NC State, where he won an award for excellence in classroom teaching as an instructor in courses for the English, Communication, Interdisciplinary Studies, and Science, Technology, and Society (STS) departments. 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 and teaches about the ways that media (particularly 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 levels that include topics such as posthuman media studies, 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 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.

Grace Thorpe (Art TA/C) is a recent graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She holds a major in Women's and Gender Studies and a minor in

Studio Art. Grace attended GSE in 2012 for Theatre and is thrilled to be back home. Grace loves to make art, read, and play her guitar and ukulele. Grace is excited to meet all of the new students so make sure to say hello!

Luisa Torres (Activities/Publications TA/C) is a graduate of Barton College with a degree in Mass Communications and a double concentration in Broadcast Video and Journalism. It is her second year at GSE, and she is ready and excited to share her passion for publications with a group of talented and academically gifted students. She usually spends her summers visiting family in Mexico City, and she is greatly appreciative to return 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 on Snapchat, writing feature stories, taking naps, watching movies, or shopping at Lush. She hopes to become a filmmaker or a producer and tackle current events and social issues. In her role as TA/C she hopes to serve the students in the best way possible to help them grow in wisdom and in knowledge.

Alex Velto (Social Science TA/C) is a mercurial individual who grew up as a Northerner in the South before moving to Boston, where he became a Southerner in the North. In Boston, he studies Criminal Justice and Psychology at Northeastern University where, upon graduation, he plans on not pursuing a job in law enforcement, law, or counseling. In his free time, he enjoys playing World of Warcraft, Ultimate (frisbee), and irritating the citizens by being a diehard Yankees fan. Alex is excited to be joining the Social Sciences as a TA/C so that he can find a gender neutral term for “crazy cat lady”, and credits Gilbert, Sullivan, Burton, Livingstone, Bartolome, Elsa, and Beau for making him the man he is today. The last name “Velto” is trademarked under Alex Velto LLC, and any further use in these bios is both accidental and fictional.

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 lucky thirteenth 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 (I'm not making this name up) Velto (Office Manager) taught choral music at GSE in 2003 and 2004. In the following years she remained a shadowy 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 looks forward this summer to running the world and sharing her chocolate drawer with Anna and Nicole 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 music, 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 the two bios above.)

Nicole Williams (Office TA/C) is thrilled to be working at Governor's School East this summer. She is a proud graduate of the illustrious North Carolina Central University and just finished her first year of teaching for Wake County Public Schools. Nicole enjoys exploring and learning African-American (particularly African-American women) culture, history, and experiences. In her free time, she also enjoys doing DIY craft projects.

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 twenty-first 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 23rd year 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?