

Deerfield Academy

New Faculty Bios // 2018

GABRIELLA BISCOTTINI

Assistant Athletic Trainer

Gabi, a native of New Jersey, moved to Massachusetts in 2011 to pursue a degree in Athletic Training and Business Management at Springfield College. Upon graduation, she stayed at SC to complete a Master's of Science in Athletic Training Administration. Gabi has experience working in both the high school and collegiate setting. While completing her Master's, she worked as a Graduate Assistant Athletic Trainer here at Deerfield and stayed on as full time staff for the '17-'18 school year. After three years with Deerfield Athletics, she's excited to immerse herself in all aspects of campus life. You can catch Gabi around campus with her trusty pup, Ty.



MARGARET BROWN

Health Educator

Margaret earned a Bachelor's degree in Comparative Area Studies in 2001 and a Master's degree in Public Health in 2005 and her Doctorate in Community Health Education in 2018. She has taught various courses over the past twelve years, including Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Science, Marine Science, Sociology, and Health and Wellness. She has also developed curriculum for Middle and Upper School Health courses and served as an Interim History and Social Sciences Department Chair. In addition to her experience in the classroom Margaret has also coordinated a six-day backpacking trip for juniors, worked in college counseling, and overseen student government. Margaret is married with three children and also has two dogs. She enjoys spending time outdoors, running, doing yoga, and baking. She is excited to join the Deerfield community.



LORI CLARK

Theater Teacher

Lori Holmes Clark has originated Broadway shows as a performer and dance captain. Now, she choreographs and directs her dance theatre company, *Fine House*, and guides students to create personally authentic, visceral expression in the classroom and beyond. Mrs. Clark is a member of both Actor's Equity and the Screen Actor's Guild. She has choreographed and performed genres spanning opera to fringe festivals to music videos. Highlights include *Wicked*, *Taboo*, *Footloose*, *Fosse* and the documentary film, *SHOWBUSINESS: The Road to Broadway*. During the *Hole in the Wall Gang Camp*, *Fandango*, Galas; Lori worked with many greats including Paul Newman, Bernadette Peters, Kevin Kline, and Meryl Streep. Lori has taught and set new work in Europe, across the U.S. and locally, at Northfield Mt. Hermon and Bement. She joined Deerfield Academy in 2010, and has contributed choreography to numerous dance concerts and the musicals, *Cabaret* and the *Spring Musical Revue*. Lori lives with her husband, Ben, at Clarkdale Fruit Farms with their sons, Emerson and Elliot.



MARISSA CORNELIUS

History Teaching Fellow

Originally from Los Angeles, California, Marissa attended the University of Alabama for her undergraduate years on a full-ride academic scholarship and as part of the Honors College, graduating summa cum laude. There, she majored in secondary education and history and minored in political science. She worked with multiple educational non-profits and volunteer programs while in school, quickly realizing her passion for the classroom. She has worked in school placements in multiple secondary schools in western Alabama. The summer before her senior year, she was a Teaching Fellow

for the charter network Uncommon Schools, during which she taught eighth grade English in Newark, New Jersey.

Additionally, she served as an opinions writer and the Opinions Editor for the Crimson White, the University of Alabama's student newspaper. She is currently working towards her master's degree in education from the University of Pennsylvania through the Independent School Teaching Residency. In her free time, Marissa enjoys cooking, playing with cats, playing the piano, and yoga. She is thrilled to be joining the Deerfield community.



JEFFREY CROSBY

Science Teacher

Jeff earned a Bachelors degree in Biology and a Doctorate in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology.

After a postdoctoral fellowship and a few year teaching at a liberal arts college, Jeff joined the faculty of Episcopal High School in Alexandria, Virginia where he served as a dorm parent, coached and taught biology, chemistry and physics for nine years. He then spent the next twelve years at St. Paul's School in Concord, New Hampshire. Children grown, he then headed to the west coast where he spent the next three years teaching at the Catlin Gabel School in Portland, Oregon. An avid hiker, Jeff enjoyed the Pacific Northwest, but missed boarding school life. He will be joined by his wife Lesley who is relocating from Vail, Colorado. Jeff is an experienced football and baseball coach, enjoys playing the piano and horn when he and Lesley are not out on the trail.



MELISSA DICKEY

English Teacher

Melissa Dickey is a poet and writer. She moved to Deerfield in 2014, accompanying her husband Andy Stallings who teaches English here at DA. Together, they have four children. For the past few years, Melissa has been the kids' primary caregiver, while continuing to write essays and poetry. She published her second book of poems, *Dragons*, in 2016. Her first book, *The Lily Will*, was published in 2011. Both books are available from Rescue Press. Her poems and essays have appeared in Kenyon Review Online, the *Spectacle*, the *Laurel Review*, *Columbia Poetry Review*, *jubilat*, *Puerto del Sol*, and elsewhere.

A native of New Orleans, Melissa moved to Seattle to attend the University of Washington, where she earned a BA in English with a concentration in writing. She received a fellowship from the Michener Center for Writers at the University of Texas at Austin, and then attended the Iowa Writers' Workshop, where she earned her MFA. She has taught literature and writing most recently at Tulane University and Bard Early College in New Orleans.



BROOKE FERNANDEZ

Associate Athletic Director

Brooke is originally from Bloomfield CT, and attended Loomis Chaffee School for all four years of high school, before going on to St. Lawrence University. At St. Lawrence, Brooke double majored in History and Anthropology and was a four-year defensive standout for the Saints women's hockey team. In her career, Brooke was a four-year member of the ECAC All-Academic team and a finalist for the ECAC Hockey Student-Athlete of the Year in 2013. Brooke comes to Deerfield after serving as an Assistant Women's Hockey coach at Middlebury College for the past two seasons. Prior to Middlebury, she was at Brewster Academy for two years. Brooke enjoys hiking, watching HGTV, sports (playing or watching), reading, and is always looking to learn/try new things. Brooke is excited to be closer to her family and return to boarding school life at Deerfield.



BENJAMIN GRIMM

Philosophy & Religion Teaching Fellow

Ben Grimm comes to Deerfield directly from Harvard University, where he graduated summa cum laude with highest honors in the Comparative Study of Religion with a language citation in Swedish. He graduated first in his class and is a member of Phi Beta Kappa. His senior thesis entitled "Being Muslim, Becoming Swedish: Swedish Muslim Identity and the Challenge to Secular Nationalism" explored how Muslims in Sweden reconcile religious identity with secular national norms using two years of ethnographic fieldwork and was awarded the prestigious Hoopes Prize. In addition to secularism, Ben's academic interests include South Asian folk practice, devotional poetry, and American paganism. He will be the Philosophy & Religion Teaching Fellow starting in Fall 2018.



Outside the classroom, Ben is a musical theater performer, ballet dancer, and photographer: at Harvard, he appeared in numerous productions and premiered an original one-man cabaret. He is thrilled to be joining Deerfield's thriving arts scene while serving as a Teaching Fellow. Ben is from a small town called Canandaigua, New York, which despite its rurality endowed him with no ability to handle the outdoors.

PANNAPA HERABAT

Math Teacher

Pannapa Herabat is a graduate of Carnegie Mellon University with BS, MS and PhD degrees in Civil Engineering. Originally, from Bangkok, Thailand Pannapa was awarded the distinguished King's Scholarship and also attended Tabor Academy before receiving her degrees from CMU. She was an assistant professor and associate dean at the School of Civil Engineering, Asian Institute of Technology in Thailand for 8 years before her move back to the U.S. Her engineering expertise was in pavement and bridge engineering. In the past 10 years, Pannapa has been a math tutor at Deerfield working with students at all levels in mathematics from Algebra I to Multivariable Calculus. Pannapa is mother to Gunn Herabat, DA class of 2011. Gunn is also a graduate of CMU in mechanical engineering and philosophy. He is now pursuing an MBA at CMU's Tepper School of Business.



PARKER LAWLOR

Computer Science Teaching Fellow

Parker graduated from Middlebury College in 2018 as a Computer Science and Geography joint major. At Middlebury, Parker was a member of the varsity lacrosse team as well as a Green Dot Ambassador, a bystander intervention program designed to prevent situations of power-based violence. His senior research project integrated his academic interests in computer science and geography along with his love of lacrosse to reevaluate the host location of the NCAA lacrosse championship weekend. He is currently working towards a Master's of Science in Education from the University of Pennsylvania. Parker was raised in Carlsbad, California and loves to spend time in the outdoors hiking, mountain biking, and surfing. During his junior year, he studied abroad in Norway where he embarked on many hiking trips through Norway's fjords and national parks. When he is not outdoors, Parker enjoys reading historical nonfiction and playing board games. He is thrilled to become part of the Deerfield community as a teacher, coach, and mentor after teaching at St. Paul's School and Taft the past two summers.



GARY MARX

English & History Teacher
Wilson Fellow

Gary is an investigative reporter at the Chicago Tribune and a three-time Pulitzer Prize finalist, most recently in 2015 for a series that documented how hundreds of Illinois youth were assaulted, raped and prostituted at state-funded residential treatment centers. He began his journalism career as a freelance writer in Africa and has spent more than a dozen years overseas as a foreign correspondent, primarily in Latin America. Gary was one of a handful of American journalists based in Havana, Cuba from 2002-2007 but he was eventually expelled by the Cuban government for his reporting on human rights and other issues. Gary has worked in Iraq, Somalia and other conflict zones. He has a BA from Harvard and MA in African Politics from the London School of Economics. Gary has two children -- Ana, who is a senior at Brown, and Andres, who will be a freshman at Wesleyan. Gary enjoys yoga, hiking, theater, and any live music.



BRADLEY MOSER

Science Teacher

Brad joined the Deerfield faculty as a physics teacher in 2018. He grew up in the farm country of southeastern Pennsylvania, where he fell in love with math as a kid. After earning a B.S. in Physics at Lebanon Valley College, he then earned an M.S. at the University of Delaware and a Ph.D. in Physics at the University of Connecticut. As a graduate student, he fell in love with teaching. His first position after graduate school brought him further north to teach physics at the University of New England. After eight years in the university environment, Brad eagerly joined the boarding school community.

Brad's scholarly interests include physics education research and teaching physics for the life sciences. Recently, he has enjoyed learning about the physics of the human body and medical imaging and bringing these topics into the classroom. Brad also loves to ponder the implications of the tiny world of quantum mechanics, the vast dimensions of cosmology, and their connection to the human spirit. He can always be drawn into long hours of conversation about these topics.

Brad moved to Deerfield with his wife, Lena, newborn son, Ilya, and two cats. The family loves hiking, birding, meditation, and sharing hearty laughs.



ELIZA MOTT

English Teaching Fellow

Born in Indiana and raised in Michigan, Eliza graduated with highest honors from Princeton University in 2016, concentrating in Art and Archaeology and earning a certificate in Creative Writing. During her senior year, she wrote two theses: an art history thesis on Marcel Duchamp and a collection of poems. At Princeton, Eliza was editor-in-chief of the Nassau Weekly, a docent at the Princeton University Art Museum, and leader of a consent activism group called SpeakOut. She has held internships at the Peggy Guggenheim Collection in Venice and MoMA PS1 in New York. Eliza comes to Deerfield after spending a year and a half living in Laos through a fellowship with Princeton in Asia. While there, she worked for the Luang Prabang Film Festival, learned the Lao language, and developed an unusually high spice tolerance. A member of the Class of 2012, Eliza is thrilled to return to the Valley as a Penn fellow.



PRUDENCE MUNKITTRICK

History Teacher

Before coming to Deerfield, Prudence spent four years teaching world history and psychology at Carolina Day School in Asheville, NC, in addition to being the assistant field hockey coach. Prudence holds a Master's Degree in Security Studies from Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service and a BA in African Studies and Human Rights from Bard College. Prudence has traveled extensively abroad, including living in Senegal while she completed field work for her undergraduate thesis on Mauritania's role in the war on terrorism. For a number of years before teaching, Prudence lived and worked in Washington, DC, where her professional research interests were focused on the intersection of counterterrorism and human rights, with a focus on Africa. Having attended boarding school in her home state of Connecticut, Prudence is excited to have the opportunity to transition from a day school and looks forward to being a part of the Deerfield community.



MOLLY NICKERSON

Science Teacher

Molly comes to Deerfield after three years in the science department at The Hotchkiss School. She was a UPenn Teaching Fellow for her first two years, earning her M.S.Ed., before joining the Hotchkiss faculty full-time at the end of the Fellows program. While there, she taught biology and Core science, served as a dormitory head, and coached Varsity Soccer, Varsity Cross Country and JV lacrosse. Prior to Hotchkiss, Molly graduated magna cum laude from Brown University in 2015 with a degree in biology. At Brown, she developed a passion for education, spending a few of her summers interning at St. Paul's Advanced Studies Program in Molecular Biology and Marine Biology. Molly also found a love for running and rock climbing in college and trained for long distance races. As a Boston area native, she is looking forward to finding new routes to run in the western half of the state. She will join the soccer and lacrosse coaching staffs at Deerfield and live on campus.



NINA OTTERSON

Math Teacher

Nina graduated from Columbia University with a Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering. She has worked in boarding schools for 18 years teaching math and coaching girls' lacrosse and basketball. Nina previously taught and coached at Phillips Exeter Academy, The Lawrenceville School, Peddie School, and The Hotchkiss School. Nina is a regular presenter at NCTM math conferences and recently finished a three-year term as part of the National Writing Committee for MATHCOUNTS competitions. Nina loves teaching problem solving and sharing her building and creating skills with her students. She will reside on campus in the freshman village with her husband and they will both look forward to college break visits from their four children.

