
DEERFIELD ACADEMY

NEW FACULTY BIOS 2015

MARK ACTON, TEACHER OF SCIENCE

Before joining the Deerfield faculty in 2007, Mark taught as a Peace Corps volunteer in Burkina Faso and at a public magnet school in Maryland. He taught physics, coached rowing and cross-country, and lived in Doubleday for four years at Deerfield before leaving to teach science at a public charter school and a local high school. He is excited to return to the science department at Deerfield. He graduated from Williams College with a B.A. in Physics and earned a Ph.D. in Physics from the University of Michigan. He lives in Hadley with his wife and two children.

PATRICK AQUINO, TEACHER OF MATH

Originally from Yonkers, NY, Patrick graduated from Williams College in 2012 where he majored in Math and Economics. At Williams, Patrick was a member of the Williams Octet, an all-male a cappella group, and was also very active volunteering at the local elementary, middle, and high schools. Having fallen in love with the Berkshires, he stayed in Williamstown for two years after graduation, teaching middle-school math and coaching lacrosse and field hockey at The Pine Cobble School. Patrick joins the Math Department from Harvard University, where he completed his Masters in Education in 2015. Outside of teaching, Patrick is a big fan of many sports, particularly tennis and basketball. Other interests include behavioral economics and origami. He is looking forward to joining Deerfield as a teacher, coach, and advisor!

CHRISTIAN AUSTIN, TEACHER OF ENGLISH

Christian earned a Bachelor's degree in English Literature in 2007 and a Master's degree in Education in 2010. He began teaching in the public sector in 2009 at Mohawk Trail Regional High School in Shelburne Falls. There he taught literature and writing as well as coached tennis for six years. Christian grew up outside Rochester in western New York. He was a tennis player in both high school and college. During his undergraduate years at Elmira College, inspired by the writings of Mark Twain, Christian travelled the country by train, working as a travel journalist. More recently he has kept busy teaching at UMASS Amherst's College of Education and serving as a mentor for Master's teaching candidates. Christian enjoys snowboarding, reading, and spending time outdoors with his wife Elizabeth.

BRIAN BARBATO, FOOTBALL COACH

Brian Barbato comes to Deerfield from the University of New Hampshire, where he has served as Assistant Football Coach for the past seven years. In addition to focusing on skill development with the team, Brian was the regional recruiting coordinator for large areas in the Northeastern US. During his time with the Wildcats, UNH went 66 and 26 and maintained the longest streak of playoff appearances in the FCS. Brian studied sociology in college and soon thereafter earned a Masters of Education. He served as academic liaison for his team, enjoys downhill and cross-country skiing, and is skilled in video editing software.

CARRIE BROWN, TEACHER OF ENGLISH

Carrie and her husband John Gregory Brown are long-time proponents of residential academic communities, having taught side-by-side for many years at Sweet Briar College in Virginia, where they raised their three children. Most recently Carrie served for three years as Distinguished Visiting Professor of English at Hollins University. A graduate of Choate Rosemary Hall, Brown University (BA), and the University of Virginia (MFA), Carrie is the author of six novels and a collection of short stories. A seventh novel, *The Stargazer's Sister*, will be published in January 2016 from Pantheon Books, a division of Knopf/Random House. She and John Gregory -- and their handsome and shapely pug, James Brown -- look forward to this next chapter of their lives in Massachusetts.

JOHN BROWN, TEACHER OF ENGLISH

Born and raised in New Orleans, John Gregory Brown spent the last twenty-one years directing the creative writing program at Sweet Briar College in Virginia, where he lived with his wife, the novelist and fellow Deerfield faculty member Carrie Brown. He is the author of the novels *Decorations in a Ruined Cemetery*, *The Wrecked*, *Blessed Body of Shelton Lafleur*, and *Audubon's Watch*. His fourth novel, *A Thousand Miles from Nowhere*, will be published in 2016 by Lee Boudreaux Books, an imprint of Little, Brown and Company. He and Carrie have three grown children and one middle-aged pug.

SUE CARLSON, TEACHER OF HEALTH ISSUES

After graduating from Connecticut College in 1965 Sue moved to Avon Old Farms School with her new husband and started a 43 year long teaching career. They moved to Lawrence Academy in the mid 70's and Sue taught English and Human Relations and earned an MAT. Their family moved to Western Massachusetts in 1983 where Sue worked for Tapestry Health as a Community Health Educator. During those four years she directed the TEAM Players, an educational theater group, and completed her MSW at the University of Connecticut. Sue started work at Deerfield Academy in 1987 where she started the Health Education and Peer Counseling programs. Teaching, counseling and general school work kept her busy until 2008 when she retired to their new home in nearby Leyden. Since then she has thoroughly enjoyed retirement running a craft business, volunteering at Baystate Franklin Medical Center, taking courses, and spending time with her grandkids. The opportunity to return to Deerfield as a sabbatical replacement is an unexpected and greatly anticipated treat!

SAM CHAPIN, HISTORY TEACHING FELLOW

Sam joins the Deerfield Faculty as a Penn Fellow after graduating with honors in History at Williams College in 2015. At Williams, Sam wrote "'The Mecca of a Thousand Noble Aspirations: The Struggle for Freedom in New Bern, NC 1862-1866," an undergraduate thesis on Wartime Reconstruction in coastal NC, which received the Robert Dalzell Prize for primary research. Sam walked on to the crew team at Williams, rowing all four years and serving as co-captain his senior year. In addition to athletics, he sang in an a cappella group and worked as a teaching assistant for the history department. A native of Raleigh, North Carolina, Sam cultivates his southern roots through his passions for basketball, barbecue, and the blues.

EMMA COFFIN, TEACHER OF SCIENCE

A *cum laude* Smith College graduate, Emma majored in Chemistry and minored in Exercise and Sports Studies. While at Smith, Emma did independent research with a Chemistry Department professor on the efficacy of social media technology tools in teaching organic chemistry. She was a four-year member of the soccer and ski teams, and captain of the ski team. In her time at Smith, she earned All American honors and Academic All American honors and was the freshman, sophomore and junior Athlete of the Year. In addition to her sports commitments, Emma worked as a chemistry, biology and lab report master tutor. She spent her summers as a teaching intern at Northfield Mount Herman. Before coming to Deerfield, Emma worked at a small private school in Maine for three years where she taught chemistry, biology, AP biology and kinesiology. She also was a head dorm resident and coached varsity girls' soccer and skiing. A Carrabassett Valley Academy alumna, Emma looks forward to returning to western Massachusetts and being part of the Deerfield community.

DELANO COPPRUE, TEACHER OF ENGLISH

Following a brief minor-league baseball career, Delano studied honors literature at Rutgers College, where he majored in English and minored in Art History. After Rutgers, Delano moved to New York City where he completed his graduate studies in English and Comparative Literature at Columbia University. While at Columbia, Delano wrote his doctoral thesis on the formation of jazz as a cultural form in 19th- and 20th-century American literature. He continues to write about and to discuss the interdisciplinary nature of jazz and has published books and scholarly articles on Mark Twain, Zora Neale Hurston, Herman Melville, nineteenth-century African-American history, music, spirituality, and sports.

Delano's teaching career began at Columbia, where he taught literature and writing for thirteen years, and he continues to find the classroom an exciting place to explore finely crafted sentences and to enter into the great conversations about the human condition.

Along with his love for novels, poetry, philosophy, music, writing, and all aspects of creativity, Delano enjoys baseball and cricket, cycling and hiking. With his wife Margaret Mack, a classically trained singer and voice teacher, Delano is part of the Deerfield community where he is a teacher, coach, and advisor.

KAYLA CORCORAN, TEACHING FELLOW

A member of the Class of 2010, Kayla returns to Deerfield to join the History Department, the Center for Service and Global Citizenship, and the Office of Inclusion and Community Life. After graduating from Deerfield, Kayla spent a year at King's Academy in Jordan, serving as a Junior Fellow in the Academic Support Department. In 2015, she received her B.A. in English from Georgetown University, where she graduated magna cum laude and received departmental honors for her thesis on Marxism, globalization, and the post-colonial travel memoir. While at Georgetown, Kayla also studied history and Arabic, worked on agricultural and educational development projects in Rwanda and Romania, and led domestic service-immersion programs for Georgetown's Alternative Breaks Program. Through the University of Pennsylvania, Kayla is working towards her Masters in Education through the Penn Residency Masters in Teaching Program.

J.D. DEVAUGHN-BROWN, TEACHER OF COMPUTER SCIENCE

J.D. DeV Vaughn-Brown has been studying computers since his youth. J.D. built his first computer at the age of eight and has loved computers ever since. J.D. attended North Carolina State University where he graduated with a B.S. in Computer Science and was a part of the hip hop dance group, Fusion. He then obtained his M.S. in Computer Science from the University of Massachusetts. At UMass J.D. worked under Beverly Woolf, doing research in Intelligent Tutoring Systems. His focus was on developing an ITS designed for gifted and high-achieving students. J.D. was an adjunct faculty member, at Deerfield, for a year before becoming full-time faculty in Fall 2015. J.D. is joined on campus by his son Peyton, who is eight, and his mother Melinda, who is also an educator.

JOE GRIMM, TEACHER OF MATH

Joe Grimm is coming to Deerfield directly after completing a Ph.D. in Math from the University of California, Davis. Joe's doctoral research focused on the analysis of partial differential equations. During his doctoral studies he also worked part-time teaching remedial reading and assisted with math classes ranging from introductory calculus to graduate analysis. Before starting graduate school Joe earned a bachelor degree in Math and Physics at Swarthmore College. While in college he wrote a humor column for the school paper. Joe grew-up in the suburbs of Massachusetts and New Hampshire, and went to the Souhegan Cooperative High School where he twice had the opportunity to compete in the National Envirothon. After living in Berkeley for five years Joe is looking forward to a return to New England.

DANIEL JACKSON, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Daniel Jackson comes to Deerfield with 13 years of experience as Director of Vocal Music Activities at Olympia High School in Orlando, Florida. Under his direction, the Chorus Department has performed around the country, earned first place finishes in numerous choral festivals, and nurtured students who have been accepted to the Eastman School of Music. Outside of school, Daniel gave private voice lessons and coaching, was Chancel Choir Director for ten years at the Presbyterian Church of the Lakes, and served in various capacities with the Garden Community Choir. Daniel is passionate about teaching in a humble and disciplined environment that allows students to express their unique qualities while also learning appropriate technique. He moves to Deerfield with his wife Jennifer, and daughter Savannah.

MEGHAN JIMENEZ, SCIENCE TEACHING FELLOW

Meghan earned her B.S. in Engineering from Harvey Mudd College in 2014 before moving around the world to join the Singapore Institute for Neurotechnology at the National University of Singapore, where she researched advanced upper limb neural prosthetics. She has also worked on projects such as tissue engineered treatment for traumatic brain injuries and minimally invasive brain tumor removal devices.

Outside of the lab, Meghan enjoys playing sports, making music, dancing and traveling the world. Following an amazing experience teaching engineering design to middle school students at Exploration Summer Programs, she decided to pursue a newfound passion for teaching, which led her to join the Deerfield Science Department as a part of the Penn Residency Masters in Teaching Program.

Meghan is excited to become a part of the Deerfield community and share her passion with her students.

SARA LENTRICCHIA, SCIENCE TEACHING FELLOW

Sara Lentricchia graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Astrophysics from Swarthmore College in May of 2015. During her time at Swarthmore College, Sara conducted research in both physics and astronomy and worked as a Science Associate helping students with problem sets and studying for exams. She also worked as an instructor in the Science For Kids program during the summers of 2013 and 2014 where she helped teach general science to underprivileged students from Chester, Pennsylvania. Sara played on the varsity lacrosse team at Swarthmore College, continuing her life-long participation in athletics. She grew up in Babylon, New York, where she was captain of her high school lacrosse, volleyball and basketball teams and played cello in the school orchestra. Sara's interests also include attending concerts, acting, caring for animals and exploring the outdoors. As a teacher, Sara hopes to guide her students in discovering and fortifying the connections between their disciplines of interest in and out of the classroom.

ELLIE MCDONALD, TEACHER OF LANGUAGE

Ellie McDonald earned her BA from Bates College in 2012 with a double major in Spanish and Art and a concentration in Education. Additionally, she played a year of lacrosse. Upon graduating, she was honored with the Gilbert-Townsend Fellowship, awarded to a senior of outstanding ability who plans to pursue graduate work in modern languages or literature. Directly following her graduation from Bates, she entered Middlebury College to earn her MA in Spanish Linguistics (2013) and lived abroad in Madrid, Spain for 9 months of the program. She comes to us from two years of teaching Spanish, coaching JV Field Hockey and Lacrosse and living on corridor at Westminster School in Simsbury, CT. Ellie will live in Johnson, will coach Field Hockey and Lacrosse and will teach four sections of Spanish.

CASSIEL OWENS, COUNSELOR

Cassiel is a native New Yorker who has made her home in the Valley for the last 15 years. During that time she earned her BA in Child Development and Eastern Philosophy from Hampshire College, and her MSW from the Smith College School for Social Work. While at Smith, she was selected to participate in the school's first international field placement in Chiang Mai, Thailand. For the past seven years, Cassiel has practiced throughout the Pioneer Valley, providing clinical support to women and children, most recently as a School Adjustment Counselor at the Northampton High School. She will join the Deerfield community with her husband David and their son, Frederick.

JOSH RELIN, DIRECTOR OF COUNSELING

Josh grew up on Cape Cod and graduated from Skidmore College with a degree in Psychology and Music. He moved to Berkeley, CA to explore the West Coast, and worked for several years at a non-public school for traumatized adolescents. He graduated from the Wright Institute with his doctorate in clinical psychology and returned to Massachusetts to complete his internships at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Josh stayed on at UMass's counseling center, providing treatment and support to a wide segment of students and staff. His primary specializations involved promoting healthy masculinity on campus and serving student veterans' needs.

Josh utilizes Narrative and Acceptance and Commitment (ACT) therapies while also incorporating psychodynamic, cognitive-behavioral, and mindfulness strategies to help others to realize preferred values, manage symptoms, and reduce stress. He has also spoken regionally

and nationally over the past few years promoting strength-based approaches for counseling centers.

Josh was an accomplished classical violinist as a child, but discovered bluegrass and Americana in college and never looked back. In his twenties he toured and recorded with bands in CA and MA, and he still plays whenever he can. Josh is a baseball fanatic and played baseball and tennis throughout his childhood. He is thrilled to be moving to Deerfield with his wife Megan and two young children to start this new chapter in their lives.

JULIE SCHLOAT, TEACHER OF ENGLISH

In 2002 Julie graduated from Middlebury College, where she earned her BA cum laude in English, played varsity basketball, and worked as an editor for the college newspaper. Julie then began her teaching career at Blair Academy. During her five years at Blair, Julie taught English and AP Art History, coached basketball and golf, advised the school newspaper and yearbook, and served as a sophomore academic monitor. In the summer of 2007, Julie finished her MA from the Bread Loaf School of English and then taught for a year at the Browning School in New York City before joining us at Deerfield. Since arriving at Deerfield, Julie has served as a *Scroll* advisor, peer tutors advisor, girls varsity basketball coach, and assistant academic skills coordinator. She is thrilled to be back in the classroom full-time teaching in the English Department. Julie lives in Field Dormitory with her husband, Mike, who also teaches English, and their two sons, Carter and Macrae.

KHALEH THOMAS, TEACHER OF SCIENCE

Dr. Khaleh Thomas recently concluded her graduate studies in Biochemistry at the University of South Carolina, Columbia. Khaleh received her B.S. in Chemistry from Valdosta State University, where she also played varsity women's basketball. After undergrad, she visited South Africa to study the AIDS pandemic and disparities in healthcare systems. An interesting fact about Khaleh is that she and her sisters all graduated at the top of their respective high school classes. Before entering graduate school, Khaleh worked as a quality testing chemist at the local pulp and paper mill in her hometown Brunswick, GA. Her research interests include enzyme kinetics in relation to metal cofactor biosynthesis in bacteria. When not teaching or doing research, Khaleh enjoys playing the piano, traveling, working out, reading crime novels, and volunteering as a mentor at her church. Khaleh moves to Deerfield with her lovely wife Tiffany.

HEATHER WAKEMAN, GLOBAL STUDIES INTERN

Passionate about travel, community, leadership and the environment, Heather received her master's of science in natural science education & environment and natural resources from Teton Science Schools and the University of Wyoming. During her time at Teton Science Schools, she taught place-based experiential education in Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Parks, and at the University of Wyoming, Heather worked as a teaching assistant for science professional development. As an undergraduate, Heather attended Bucknell University for a B.A. in women's and gender studies, where she conducted award-winning research. Most recently, she was the leadership instructor for Broadreach's Sailing & Leadership college program, a 34-day, sailing-intensive 800nm trip through the arc of the Caribbean. Heather has visited over 20 countries, loves to sail, ski, fish, and SUP.

SUSAN WATSON, COUNSELOR

Susan graduated from Yale in 1998 with a major in Psychology, and she completed her doctorate in Clinical Psychology at Harvard in 2007. While at Harvard her research focused primarily on the intersections of race, body image, and eating disorders. She then moved to New York City for an internship in child and adolescent psychology at the NYU Child Study Center and Bellevue Hospital. After living in Manhattan for two years she completed a postdoctoral fellowship at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee. A native Mississippian, Susan returned to her hometown and worked as a staff psychologist at a physical rehabilitation center in Jackson, MS, for six years before joining Deerfield's counseling center. In addition to her clinical work, Susan loves teaching and has served as a teaching fellow at Harvard and as adjunct faculty at Rhodes College. In her spare time she can often be found running after her twin daughters and son, but she also is an enthusiastic traveler, novel reader, and scuba diver.