
DEERFIELD ACADEMY

NEW FACULTY BIOS 2016

ELIZABETH (LIBBY) ANDERSON MATH TEACHER

Libby holds a B.A. in Mathematics from Smith College and is currently pursuing a Masters in Mathematics at Western New England University in Springfield, MA. After graduating from Smith, she spent five years working at Fidelity Investments in Boston, after which she launched a new career in teaching and has never looked back. Before coming to Deerfield, she worked at three other boarding schools: Choate Rosemary Hall in Wallingford, CT; Fountain Valley School in Colorado Springs, CO; and most recently, the Williston Northampton School in Easthampton, MA. During her time at the aforementioned institutions, she taught mathematics, held a variety of dorm affiliated positions including being a dorm head, coached a few different sports but primarily field hockey, and served on several committees including an eight-year tenure on the Williston Northampton School's faculty Diversity Committee. While at Williston, she was Chair of the Math Department for five years and directed the Math Resource Center. She and her husband are the owners of Lone Wolf, a breakfast restaurant in the heart of downtown Amherst. They live off-campus with their two children, their wily cat and their vivacious golden retriever.

STEVE AUGUST COLLEGE ADVISOR



Steve August has worked in baseball since 1990. He served the Boston Red Sox as Traveling Secretary from 1990 to 1995 and as Assistant General Manager through 1998. He worked with players and coaches at all levels, traveled with the team, and managed baseball operations. Prior to his career in baseball, Steve taught English and coached at independent schools until 1985. He earned his B.A. in English from the University of Massachusetts, and a Masters from Harvard University. From 1985 to 1990 he worked in Account Management at Hill, Holliday Advertising in Boston.

From 2000-2001 Steve co-directed Wolfe Associates, a baseball and hockey agency. In 2003 Steve founded the New England Baseball Club, (The Ruffnecks). The Ruffnecks have earned a reputation as a nationally recognized College Development Baseball Program. In 2010 Steve was awarded the John Mocny Award for Distinguished Service by the Continental Amateur Baseball Association. In 2011 the Ruffnecks were named National Program of the Year. Steve was also honored by the Massachusetts High School Baseball Coaches Association in 2012. He serves the baseball community as an advocate for players in the college recruiting process, working with student-athletes who aspire to play in college. Steve spearheaded the construction and was the CEO of the New England Baseball Complex, the only turfed baseball facility of its kind in the Northeast.

He and his wife, Anne, have two children, Sam and Jennifer, and a grandson, Niko.

BRYANT (BEAR) BENSON, MD, FAAP DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL SERVICES



Bear is originally from northeast Tennessee but has been living in the Pioneer Valley for over 15 years. He majored in Biochemistry at Rhodes College ('97) and received his Doctor of Medicine from the University of Tennessee, College of Medicine ('01) in Memphis. Bear moved to western Massachusetts to complete residency at Baystate Medical Center and is double board-certified in Pediatrics and Internal Medicine. He worked two years with the National Health Service Corps at the Community Health Center of Franklin County in Turners Falls, MA as a primary care physician. He then returned to Baystate Medical Center accepting a position as a pediatric hospitalist and Assistant Professor of Pediatrics with Tufts University. For the past eight years he has been teaching medical students, supervising residents and taking care of hospitalized children and adolescents. This is where he met his wife Susie who is a pediatric nurse. They, along with their daughter, Heidi, enjoy hiking, traveling and spending time at their cabin in Vermont. Bear and his family are very excited about joining the Deerfield community.

ANNA GONZALES ENGLISH TEACHING FELLOW



Anna Gonzales graduated from Swarthmore College in 2016 with highest honors in English literature and gender & sexuality studies, and as a member of Phi Beta Kappa. At Swarthmore, she worked on the college newspaper and long-form magazine, captained the rugby team, facilitated consent and healthy relationship workshops, and interviewed applicants as a member of the Admissions Office. Anna's academic interests include Victorian literature, Shakespeare's plays, 20th-century African-American literature, the digital humanities, and the intersections of gender, sexuality, race, class, and power. She is currently working towards her master's degree in education from the University of Pennsylvania through the Penn Residency Master's in Teaching program. Anna is originally from Denver, Colorado and enjoys skiing, cycling, and hiking. Anna has hoped to work at Deerfield as a teacher, coach, advisor, and dorm resident since she graduated in 2012, and is thrilled to rejoin the community and return to the Pioneer Valley.

KIA HALL MATH TEACHER



Kia Hall studied pure and applied mathematics (i.e., computer science), as an undergraduate and graduate student, respectively. In addition to working as a professional tutor, she has worked as a middle school science and mathematics teacher in Philadelphia, PA, a computer and social science high school teacher in Juticalpa, Honduras, and a computer science university instructor in Washington, DC. Always interested in hands-on teaching and learning opportunities, she has trained technical support professionals in a corporate environment, delivered outdoor science curricula in an arboretum, led high school crew teams in building nature trails, and mentored middle school students in afterschool robotics projects.

Outside of her work in mathematical and computational sciences, Kia Hall is also feminist research scholar based at Brandeis University's Women's Studies Research Center. She conducted grassroots development research in Honduras' Afro-indigenous Garifuna community with funding from a US Student Fulbright research grant. With Master's and doctoral degrees in international communication and international relations respectively, she studies transnational groups and structures, including the US in her study of the international. Joining the mathematics teaching team, Kia Hall looks forward to bringing the breadth of her experience to Deerfield through classroom teaching as well as co-curricular activities.

MARIA HERNANDEZ MATH TEACHER

Maria has taught mathematics for over 25 years. After immigrating to the US from Cuba as a baby, Maria grew up on the coast of North Carolina. She earned a B.S. in Mathematics from NC State University and an M.S. in Math from UNC Chapel Hill. Maria has taught at The North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics in Durham for over 18 years.

Her focus has been to develop lessons that engage students as active learners through the use of math modeling, real-world problems and the innovative use of technology. Maria has presented many talks and workshops for teachers who are interested in incorporating modeling into their math classrooms. When she's not doing math, Maria enjoys playing fiddle in a band with her husband and guitar player, Steve.

BOB HOWE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR



Bob spent the first 19 years of life living on the "Island," first as a fac brat and then a student. Twenty five years later, he returned to Loomis as the Athletic Director with his wife Amanda and their four daughters; Samantha (now 17), Erin (15), Kelly and Camryn (13).

In the 25 years away from Loomis Bob worked in construction with his own building company Howe Builders, and then in 1992, while under contract to build a house for his former teacher/coach Millbrook School Head of School, Drew Casertano, Bob was hired by Drew to live at Millbrook and be the school's Physical Plant Director and Head Hockey Coach. Amanda and Bob were both working on the faculty at Millbrook School from 1992-2004 before moving to Loomis. Amanda taught English, ESL and also a few years of German before they began having children. At one point Bob & Amanda had four kids, ages 4 and under!

The girls are dancers, swimmers, actors, soccer, hockey and lacrosse players and all six of them love the great outdoors. They have two cats whose names are Puck and Plie'. That tells you a great deal about our family!

KHIZAR HUSSAIN COMPUTER SCIENCE TEACHING FELLOW



Khizar Hussain is from Lahore, Pakistan where he finished high school. He has a major in Physics and minors in Computer Science and Mathematics from Dartmouth College. At Dartmouth, Khizar did research in Condensed Matter Physics as a James O' Freedman Presidential Scholar and is now moving on to some work on Tracking Algorithms in Computer Science. In his free time he likes reading fiction, hiking, playing soccer, ping pong, squash and volleyball.

EDRIK LOPEZ ENGLISH TEACHER



Dr. Edrik López has taught literature for 16 years. He began as a T.A. at the University of Florida and then at the University of California at Berkeley, where he received his Ph.D. in 2008. He was a professor of English and American Studies at Fairfield University in Connecticut for the next eight years. He was also the Director of the Latin American & Caribbean Studies Program. Dr. López's scholarly specialization has been ethnic American literature, particularly Latino/a literature.

In the co-curricular world, Dr. López is an avid grappler. After ten years of training, he earned the rank of black belt in Brazilian jiu-jitsu from American Top Team. He hopes to help coach softball or baseball in the spring and wrestling in the winter.

SAM MORRIS ENGLISH TEACHER



Sam graduated from Dartmouth College in 2014 with a major in English and a minor in Classical Languages. While at Dartmouth, Sam rowed on the lightweight crew and worked in the Appalachian Mountain Club high huts. After graduating, Sam moved to Princeton, New Jersey to teach English and Latin at The Hun School. During his two years at Hun, he also coached cross-country and rowing, and led the outdoor club. For the past several summers, Sam has been guiding 50-day canoe trips across northern Quebec and Ontario and looks forward to arriving on campus just a few days after this summer's trip ends.



MELANIE ONUFRIEFF COLLEGE ADVISOR

A native of Berkeley, California, Melanie Onufrieff graduated from the University of Pennsylvania with a degree in Biology. While at Penn, she discovered rowing and began a 25-year involvement in the sport. After three years of coaching first-year rowers at Rutgers and Princeton to gold and silver medals at the EAWRC Championships, she spent thirteen years as the head women's rowing coach at Cornell and Columbia and earned more EAWRC medals, along with national rankings and NCAA Championship appearances.

Next she joined the coaching staff at Clemson, where she served both as coach and recruiting coordinator. A highlight from that stint was an ACC Championship. She also spent four summers developing Olympic hopefuls as an assistant coach with the US National Team.

Most recently, Melanie coached high school athletes at the Asheville (NC) Youth Rowing and the Baylor School in Chattanooga, TN.

Melanie comes to Deerfield with her black lab, Ellie, and will work with the college advising team, and oversee girls' rowing.

STEVE PEISCH DIRECTOR OF INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC



Dr. Steve Peisch received both a Bachelor of Music with honors and a Masters of Music with honors from the New England Conservatory of Music. Steve studied violin, conducting, chamber music, North Indian classical music, and improvisation, and he majored in composition and theoretical studies. Steve taught theory to undergraduates in the Conservatory College and then ran the Preparatory Theory Program in the Extension Division. Steve taught at Lawrence Academy for twenty-eight years, where he was music director, choir director, and chair of the arts department; he has extensive experience helping young people create their own music. While at Lawrence, Steve directed the Lawrence II Program, which allowed students to design individualized courses of study around a subject like music, psychology, or visual art; he was a founding member of the Ninth Grade Program, a student-centered, interdisciplinary, skills-based approach to the ninth grade; and for several years he ran a highly successful summer day camp called Summer Mix, which combined visual art, drama, dance, and music with tennis, soccer, and swimming. Since leaving Lawrence, Steve taught English and French at Chelsea High School, published two pedagogical articles in *Massachusetts Music News*, and developed a consultancy called *New Directions in Arts Education*. He is currently Director of Choirs for the Hamilton-Wenham High School and Miles River Middle School. Steve is a commissioned composer who has created music in a wide variety of styles, including modern classical, rock, blues, traditional country, and folk, and several of his compositions have been licensed by gettyimages.

THOMAS POUSONT CHORAL DIRECTOR



Singing and choral music has held a central place in Thomas' life from an early age; his career as a choral director began at age sixteen. Thomas earned his BA in Music from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, and his Masters and Doctorate in Music from McGill University in Montreal. Before returning fulltime to the States, he was a course lecturer at McGill, teaching keyboard musicianship and music theory, as well as the College Organist at the Presbyterian College, Montreal. He lived in Dresden and Weimar, Germany, while completing his doctoral research with a grant from the Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst. Not a stranger to Deerfield, Thomas has been the Director of Music at the First Church of Deerfield since 2003, and a teacher of voice, piano and organ at the Academy since 2005.

ADAIRE ROBINSON THEATER TEACHING FELLOW



Adaire Robinson received her B.A. from Emerson College, where she graduated Magna Cum Laude in Theatre Education and Acting. Over the last year she has taught at The Cambridge School of Weston (student teaching placement), the Emerson College Pre-College Summer Acting program, and at William Diamond Middle School in Lexington, where she directed and co-wrote the original work "Moderate to Severe Progress." In the autumn of 2016, Adaire will be starting the first year of her Master's with the PRMT program.

Her studies at Emerson included acting and directing classes, stage combat, playwriting, and devised theatre, as well as technical/ production design. Her work as a teaching student had a strong focus on education for personal and emotional growth, community development, and social justice, all of which are core elements of her teaching philosophy today.

Adaire was raised in the Pioneer Valley and is a proud aunt to three wonderful girls.