

# Deerfield Academy

## New Faculty Bios // 2020

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### **ANGEL ABREU**

Visual & Performing Arts Teacher

Angel Abreu '92 is thrilled to return to Deerfield as the 20'-21' Wallace Wilson Fellow. Angel is an artist, writer and educator who studied philosophy, art history and comparative literature at the University of Pennsylvania and New York University.

Angel's work resides in over 120 permanent museum collections around the world including the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), the Philadelphia Museum of Art and Tate Modern. Through his collaboration with the art collective Tim Rollins and K.O.S. and while a student at Deerfield, he was the youngest, at 14, to have a work acquired by and be listed on the artists' roster of MoMA in New York City.

The collective has reinvented itself and become Studio K.O.S. under Angel's leadership. In 2019, Studio K.O.S. had its first commercial exhibition since Rollins' passing at Lehmann Maupin Gallery in NYC. They have continued to conduct socially engaged workshops with youth and educators around the country. Angel and Studio K.O.S. are the 2020 honorees of Art Resources Transfer (A.R.T.). Recent honorees have been artists such as Kara Walker, Roni Horn, Lawrence Weiner and Glenn Ligon. In addition to Angel's work with Studio K.O.S., he continues his own painting practice based on literature, music and social practice in his Hoboken, NJ studio. Angel is on faculty in both the BFA Fine Arts and MFA Art Practice departments of the School of Visual Arts in New York City. He also serves on the Education Committee of The Bronx Museum of the Arts.



### **SHASTRI AKELLA**

English Teacher

Shastri Akella earned a PhD. in Comparative Literature at the University of Massachusetts Amherst where he previously earned an MFA in Creative Writing. In 2016 he received the student-nominated Distinguished Teaching Award that is conferred to two of the nearly 900 teaching assistants working on the Amherst campus. His teaching expertise includes climate fiction, creative writing, horror, Anglophone literature, and migration studies. His fiction and essays are available on *Guernica*, *Electric Literature*, *World Literature Today*, *The Rumpus*, *The Common*, *PANK*, and *Danse Macabre*. His academic writing is available or forthcoming in *Childhood in Stephen King's fiction* (Lexington Press, 2020), *Caregiving and Community in "Logan (2017)"* (McFarland Press, 2020), *Journal of Supernatural Studies* (2019), and *Making Strangers: Outsiders, Aliens, and Foreigners* (Vernon Press, 2018). He previously worked as a manager at the India, Dublin, and San Francisco offices of Google. He was part of a street theater troupe in India and at the university he led a group of students in the study of shows at the Fringe theater festival.



## **YOEL CASTILLO BOTELLO**

Language Teacher – Spanish

Yoel Castillo Botello holds a Ph.D./M.S. in Spanish Literature and Cultural Studies from Georgetown University, and a B.A. in Spanish from the University of Louisville. Previous teaching appointments include Grinnell College, Wabash College, the Pontifical Xavierian University in Bogotá, and Georgetown University -where he also served as the Assistant Director for the School of Foreign Service Spanish Program. Yoel's research interests in performance, book studies and the digital humanities have been a great source of inspiration for his teaching practice. He believes that students tend to learn better in environments where they can make use of their unique interests, nurture their talents, and fully express themselves. Besides his primary passion, teaching Spanish language and literature, Yoel enjoys his involvement with the performing arts and, in previous years, has been a member of a classical Spanish theater troupe and danced with flamenco ensembles in Spain, Colombia and the United States. He is a native of Eastern Cuba.



## **JORDAN BROWN**

Director of Summer Programs & Assistant Director of the Center for Service and Global Citizenship

Jordan is excited to join Deerfield's faculty after having lived in the Freshman Village on campus with his wife Heather for the past 3 years. He grew up in North Carolina and graduated from North Carolina State with a B.S. in Parks, Recreation, and Tourism Management with a concentration in Program Management. Throughout his career, Jordan has designed, developed and managed a variety of student programs including traditional camps, adventure recreation and educational travel programs. Most recently he has served as the Caribbean Director for Broadreach's live-aboard sailing and scuba trips, and helped to develop Explorica's outside sales initiative for New England teachers looking to travel abroad with their students. Jordan is a volunteer firefighter for Deerfield, enjoys hanging out with his dog Hatch, riding motorcycles, and traveling.



## **AIDAN CARROLL**

Computer Science Teacher

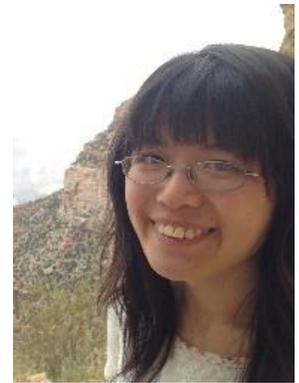
After growing up in NC, Aidan attended Carleton College in Northfield, MN. While there, he studied computer science and Japanese. He was involved in the Carleton athletics program, captaining the Men's volleyball club, assisting with the women's varsity volleyball team, and working as an assistant athletic trainer. He spent the fall of his Junior year studying abroad in Japan where he studied Japanese language and Culture at Nanzan University in Nagoya. He graduated with a BA in Computer Science. After graduation he worked as a systems and business analyst at TransEnterix, a medical robotics company. While working at TransEnterix he also coached boys and girls volleyball at North Carolina Volleyball Academy. In his spare time, Aidan enjoys playing computer and board games, rock climbing, and playing Frisbee golf.



## **LARA DU**

Math Teacher

Lara Du fell in love with the beautiful, magical subject of mathematics during her high school years. Because she initially struggled in her math classes, she sought out math puzzles for extra practice. By the summer of her junior year, she was completely hooked. Lara went on to major in math at University College London before coming to the US to do her PhD in Number Theory at the University of Michigan. She has been teaching math to a variety of teenage audiences since fall 2014, creating and implementing her own curriculums since summer 2017. Inside her interactive classroom, Lara works on developing students' confidence in tandem with their mathematical knowledge. She strongly believes that math is for everyone and a part of her work that she enjoys the most is mentoring non-stereotypical young mathematicians. Outside the classroom, Lara enjoys cooking, singing karaoke and playing board games with her students, as well as solitary meditation, crossword puzzles and long walks.



## **ARIANNE EVANS '16**

Teaching Assistant

Ariane Evans '16 is a recent Class of 2020 graduate from Bucknell University's Freeman College of Management with a BSBA in Managing for Sustainability. While at Bucknell, Ariane played on the University's Division 1 Women's Water Polo team, led excursions with the Outdoor Education and Leadership program, served as a Teaching Assistant and Freeman Fellow for the College of Management, and worked as a Residential Advisor in the senior apartments. In her most recent position as Senior Class President, Ariane collaborated with the Facilities department, the Bucknell Farm, and Outdoor Education to design and implement their senior class tribute project of building a fire pit constructed out of recycled materials at the campus farm. One of her favorite projects at Bucknell was starting a residential community for women's leadership and empowerment called "Sunnyside", which is now an official housing option. In her free time, you can find her jumping in any and all bodies of water, watching documentaries or laughing on the phone with her mom and two sisters. Ariane is thrilled to return to the Valley as a Teaching Assistant and all-around campus support system for the Big Green!



## **JOHN FAULKNER**

Visual & Performing Arts Teacher – Photography

After spending the last seven years in the Mississippi Delta working as the town planner for Wilson, Arkansas, serving as founding trustee and interim head of the Delta School as well as overseeing the construction of the new Hampson Museum for Native American art, John returns to his teaching roots in New England. As a visual arts instructor at Andover and Choate Rosemary Hall, he lived in a dorm and coached ice hockey and cycling. John has a B.A. in fine arts with a minor in art history from Stetson University and a MAE from Rhode Island School of Design, with a focus in photography (pardon the pun). Aside from teaching, John is passionate about mechanical design, including building and flying airplanes and restoring vintage German automobiles. John recently facilitated the design and construction of a solar array to power the Delta School. He will be the sabbatical replacement for Tim Trelease during the 2020-2021 school year.



## **JOHN HARDY GIESKE**

Math Teacher

Hardy is very excited to join Deerfield's faculty. He has been teaching in boarding schools for 16 years at St. Andrew's School (DE), Lawrenceville School, and most recently at Western Reserve Academy in Ohio where he was the chair of the Math Department. He chose a life in boarding schools, and Deerfield in particular, because he enjoys immersing himself among his students, empowering them to lead their communities, and helping them face all manner of challenges in their lives. A graduate of Duke University with majors in English and Mathematics, Mr. Gieske also holds an MFA in Fiction Writing and took a gap year aboard a sailboat. He lives on campus with his wife (Vanessa), two children (Dash and Junie), dog (Fergus), and cat (Peggy Sue).



## **BILL GRIFFITHS**

Math Teacher

Bill joined Deerfield Academy in the fall of 2020. Prior to Deerfield, he taught at a private college preparatory school in Kansas City, Missouri for 17 years. His affinity for teaching fills him with gratitude for the time he shares with his students. In his career, Bill has experience teaching a wide range of courses in mathematics, coaching football and basketball, and mentoring students. He believes abstract thought is the key to personal enlightenment and a path to becoming a better person, and he considers learning mathematics one of the best ways to develop critical and abstract reasoning skills. He admires the subtleties and beauty contained in mathematics and strives to engage his students to develop their own appreciation for the subject.

Bill and his wife Charlotte grew up outside of Chicago. They like to spend their free time traveling, seeking out new experiences, and exploring culture through food, arts, and entertainment. Bill also enjoys working with his hands, playing board games with friends, and engaging in philosophical discussions. Bill and Charlotte are excited to explore their new home in Massachusetts and become engaged members in the community.



## **EMMA HODGE**

English Teacher

Emma graduated from the University of Sheffield in 2009 with a dual Bachelor's degree in French and English Literature. To continue following her passion for both of these subjects, immediately after graduation she moved to Bordeaux, France, where she stayed for four years. During this time, she taught English at the Université Montaigne, the institution from which she also earned her master's degree in literature. Before moving to Deerfield in 2019, Emma taught English at the Pembroke Hill School in Kansas City, MO. Emma coaches cross country and basketball, and is thrilled to be in New England, which reminds her an awful lot of where she grew up in old England.



## **BOWEN KELLEY**

History & Social Science Teacher

Since his teenage years, much of Bowen's educational and professional trajectory (as well as travel) has centered on the African Continent. Following his graduation from Choate Rosemary Hall in 2009 and UNC-Chapel Hill in 2013 (majoring in African Studies and French), Bowen worked for a study abroad program in Cape Town and a college access organization in his home state of North Carolina before earning a Fellowship at African Leadership Academy in Johannesburg, South Africa. After serving in a college counseling capacity for one year, Bowen transitioned into a teaching role at ALA and for five years actively contributed to the Academy's signature African Studies Department. During his tenure as Humanities faculty at ALA, Bowen developed electives entitled The African Diaspora and Africa Through the Lens, created mini-units with titles as diverse as Who is an African? and Afrofuturism and the African Renaissance, facilitated a series of PD workshops for international educators seeking to ethically incorporate African Studies content into secondary school curricula, and conducted curriculum-building research in the American South and Senegal. At Deerfield, Bowen is excited to learn from his colleagues in the History & Social Science department, to explore African and Latin American history comparatively, and to facilitate immersive discussion and media-heavy learning experiences for his students.



## **MARA KOHLS**

Teaching Assistant

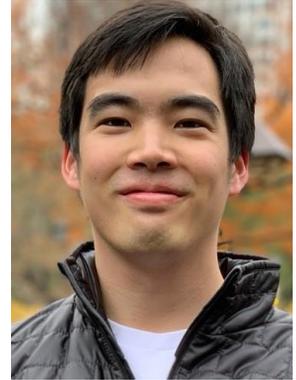
Mara is excited to join the Deerfield community this year as a Teaching Assistant. Her key responsibilities will be to assist students, faculty and staff as we all adjust to our new COVID-19 surroundings and environment. Her career spans more than twenty years doing alumni relations work at both Virginia Tech and most recently at Carnegie Mellon University where she served as the Sr. Director of Engagement Strategies. In that role, she oversaw the regional and identity networks, volunteer management and alumni partnership opportunities with the Grace Hopper Celebration of Women in Computing and the Tony Awards. Mara earned both her BA (music education/flute performance) and MFA (arts administration) degrees from Virginia Tech and is an avid Hokie. Mara grew up in northeast Texas, and the "y'all" migrated to Deerfield with her. She is married to Jim Perry who has joined the Physics faculty, and they have five children between them, all finding their own unique paths.



## **KIYOMASA “KIYO” KUWANA**

Teaching Fellow – History & Social Science

Kiyo comes to Deerfield after completing his Fulbright grant in South Korea, where he taught English to middle and high school students for a year. A product of a boarding school education himself, Kiyo is excited to join the Deerfield faculty and re-immense himself into the rigor of boarding school life. He earned a BA in History and Education at Brown University, and he wrote a senior thesis that explored the intricacies of postwar memory, as seen through recent Japanese films on the special-attack pilots. Born in Japan and raised in Japan and the United States, Kiyo created a document that facilitates Japanese immigrants’ transition to the Rhode Island education system. In his free time, Kiyo enjoys watching baseball and listening to various genres of music. As a Penn Fellow, Kiyo is working toward earning a Master’s degree from the University of Pennsylvania.



## **MONICA MATOUK**

English Teacher

Monica grew up in Beirut and Cairo, attending French and Arabic schools before moving to the U.S her Junior year of High School. She did her undergraduate work in Literary Studies at Middlebury College and then earned her MA and Masters of Philosophy from Columbia University in Comparative Literature, as well as an MA in English from Middlebury's Breadloaf School of English Literature.

Monica taught French and English at St. Andrew’s School in Delaware for 16 years, where she also served as Academic Dean. She then moved to King’s Academy in Jordan for 10 years before coming to Deerfield. She teaches English and lives in the Manse with her husband John Austin, their dog Olive, and two cats, Zeitoun and Zaatar.



## **LEAH MOORE**

Teaching Fellow – English

Leah received a B.S. from Cornell University in Human Development with minors in English and Inequality Studies. While attending Cornell, Leah was a Cornell Tradition Fellow, a student employee of the Cornell Commitment Office, and was very active in community engagement work. Leah served as Co-President of the Community Partnership Funding Board, a grant funding board that supports the development of community action projects all over the country. Leah was also the Vice-President of Compass: The Cornell & George Junior Republic Partnership, an organization that works to develop and manage after-school programming at a local school. Through this partnership, Leah principally led “Poetic Justice,” a club dedicated toward exploring poetry and other forms of creative expression. In addition to this community work, Leah served as a teaching assistant for various classes in Cornell’s Human Development department, and conducted research on moral-decision making in a lab studying the intersection of psychology and the law. Leah loves listening to music, watching movies, reading, writing, and exploring mountains. She is very excited to join the Deerfield community as a Penn Fellow in the English Department.



## **TIM MORRIS**

History & Science Teacher

Tim comes to Deerfield after teaching history at Medford High School and coaching tight ends for the Tufts University varsity football team. Tim is a 2013 graduate of Williams College where he earned a bachelor's degree in history and leadership studies. At Williams, Tim was a four-year varsity football player and starter on the 2010 undefeated NESCAC championship team. Upon graduating, he spent one year as a teaching intern at Phillips Exeter Academy and, subsequently, five years on active duty as a United States Marine Corps officer. Tim's desire to teach continued to grow as he served alongside young Marines all over the world, including in Africa and the Middle East. Following active duty, he completed a Master of Arts in Teaching at Tufts University. In addition to teaching history, Tim has coached football, wrestling, and track and field in the past and looks forward to supporting Big Green athletics in any way that he can. He and his partner Nancy can often be found trail running, practicing yoga, and enjoying the outdoors and are excited to join the Deerfield community.



## **JIM PERRY**

Science Teacher

Jim Perry joins the Deerfield Community this year after 11 years at The Kiski School in Saltsburg, Pennsylvania. While at Kiski, Jim taught both freshman and Advanced Physics, as well as Algebra 1, Algebra 2, and Calculus. Jim also served 5 years as the Associate Dean of Students, 5 years in the College Counseling Office, 7 years as the Chair of The Honor and Discipline Counsel, and 9 years as the Head Football Coach. Jim lived on campus during his 11 years at Kiski and served in the role of Dorm Head on two separate occasions. Jim brings with him 20 years of experience working at Independent Boarding Schools in both Western Pennsylvania and in New England. Jim has previously served as an Independent School Admissions Officer at Westminster School in Simsbury, Connecticut, and Director of Senior School Admissions at Shady Side Academy in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Jim started his teaching career at St. Paul's School in Concord, New Hampshire.



Jim earned his undergraduate degree in Physics from The State University of New York at Buffalo, his Masters in Taxation from Robert Morris University, and his Juris Doctorate from The University of Pittsburgh. Jim, and his partner Mara Kohls, have 5 children between them; Lacey (26), Justice (24), Morgan (22), Harriss (19) and Xavier (17).

## **SARAH ROSENTHAL**

Counselor

Sarah has focused the majority of her career on working with children, adolescents and families, first in the Boston area and now in Western Mass. She is thrilled to be joining Deerfield Academy on a full-time basis. Sarah grew up in upstate New York and graduated from Barnard College with a BA in English Literature. She received her Master's in Social Work at Smith College School for Social Work. She has worked in a variety of academic and healthcare settings in the Boston area and the Pioneer Valley.

Her clinical approach incorporates Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT) and Narrative Therapy as well as tools and techniques from cognitive behavioral therapy, psychodynamic therapy and mindfulness practices with the goal of helping students decrease stress levels and improve overall wellbeing.

Outside of work, she can often be found exploring the outdoors with her husband, two daughters and delightfully unpredictable dog, Nemo.



## **ROWENA SCHENCK**

Teaching Fellow – Science

Originally from the North Shore of Massachusetts, Rowena graduated from Amherst College in 2018 with a BA in Biochemistry and Biophysics. While at Amherst she played for the varsity lacrosse team, captaining the team her senior year, and worked as a chemistry and geology TA. After graduating, she received a Fulbright Study/Research Award and moved to Dunedin, New Zealand to pursue an MSc in Marine Science at the University of Otago. In New Zealand, Rowena studied the paleoclimate and paleoenvironment of Port Pegasus, Stewart Island and in her free time explored NZ while hiking, skiing, and surfing. Along with her passion for exploring the outdoors, Rowena enjoys baking, gardening, and yoga. She is currently pursuing a master's in education through the University of Pennsylvania Independent School Teaching Residency and is thrilled to return to the Pioneer Valley and join the Deerfield community.



## **R. J. SHAMBERGER**

Teaching Assistant

R.J. Shamberger '16 is excited to join Deerfield's faculty this Fall. He is a recent graduate of Williams College with a B.A. in Economics. R.J. grew up in Charlotte, North Carolina and is an avid Duke Basketball fan. In his time at Williams, R.J. led the Society of the Griffins - an affinity group dedicated to improving experience of Black men both on-campus and the surrounding Berkshires. He also devoted much of his time to supporting other minorities communities on-campus, such as Black feminists and undocumented students. In his free time, R.J. enjoys reading financial literature and studying personal finance habits.

At Deerfield, R.J. enjoyed his roles as a Senior Proctor, Captain of the Track & Field Team, Student Council Class Representative, and contributing to the community however possible. He can't wait to begin the year with you all.

