

KEYS TEACHER BIOGRAPHIES – 2016-2017

Ayers, Michael

Michael serves as a certified interpreter for the Deaf. He has a strong understanding of Deaf culture and is gifted with interpreting music as well as sermons, speeches, conversation, and drama. He holds an Associate in Applied Science in ASL - English interpretation from Tidewater Community College and is working on a degree in human services. He has an amazing testimony of how God got hold of him, miraculously healed him, and made him a new man in Christ Jesus. His life is a walking testimony of the mighty work of our Father to change a life in an amazing way. Michael currently teaches *ASL II* and *ASL III, and ASL IV* at KEYS.

Blake, Cheryl

Cheryl earned her bachelor's degree in psychology and sociology from the University of Michigan and her master's and nursing degrees from the Hurley Medical Center School of Nursing, where she received the Outstanding Graduate of the Year award. Cheryl is a registered nurse who gives CPR instruction, administers standardized testing, and instructs nursing students at the Medical Careers Institute in Virginia Beach. A veteran homeschooler, Cheryl homeschooled her daughter, Kelly, for 12 years. Cheryl currently teaches *Biology, Anatomy and Physiology, Psychology with Christian Perspectives, and Forensic Science* at KEYS.

Boystel, Gary

Gary earned his bachelor's degree in history from Capital University, a Master of Aeronautical Science from Embry Riddle Aeronautical University, and a Master of Divinity from Regent University. A retired officer of the U. S. Air Force, Gary flew a variety of fighter jets and other aircraft in 5 countries during his 22 years of service. Gary and his wife Kim homeschooled their children, both of whom graduated from KEYS, and Gary serves on the KEYS Board of Directors. Gary currently teaches *Government and Economics, U. S. History, World History, and Virginia History* at KEYS.

Brown, Dawn

Dawn has worked in Financial Management and planning for years. She is a certified Dave Ramsey Financial Coach. She has worked in accounting, record keeping, accounts payable and receivable, as well as human resources. Dawn loves people and the Lord as she supports her husband, a pastor at Essential Church. Dawn currently teaches Personal Finance at KEYS.

Bryan, Cindy

Cindy graduated from the University of South Carolina with both a bachelor's and a master's degree in music education. While there, she gained valuable teaching experience working with beginning classes and private students, as well as directing orchestras in the USC String Project under the direction of Robert Jesselson and Pamela Tellejohn-Hayes (co-author of *Essential Elements*). She went on to teach music (K-12) and to direct several choirs at Okinawa Christian School International while her husband served in the USAF and they were stationed in Japan. She also played with the Okinawa Symphony Orchestra and taught private violin lessons. Upon returning to the states, Cindy taught beginning strings in Norfolk public schools until the birth of her two girls, who are homeschooled. She has been a guest conductor for All-City events in Virginia Beach and Newport News as well as an adjudicator for local orchestra festivals. Cindy is currently Assistant Concertmaster of Symphonicity as well as a member of the St. James String Quartet and Legacy. Cindy currently teaches *Beginning Strings, Intermediate Strings, Advanced Strings, and Chamber Strings* at KEYS, where she also serves as Fine Arts Director.

Bunch, Harriett

Harriett holds a Bachelor of Science degree in elementary education (K-8) and special education (K-12) from James Madison University; post-graduate studies include courses taken at Texas Woman's University. Harriet taught various elementary, middle, and high school courses—along with special education—to public school students before embarking on the journey of homeschooling her own four children. Her eldest daughter graduated with the KEYS class of 2009. One of Harriet's favorite passages from the Bible is Proverbs 3:5-6: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths" (NKJV). Harriett currently teaches *Primary Science, Cultural Geography, and Physical Geography* at KEYS.

Castillo, Mary

Mary Castillo earned a bachelor's degree in Psychology from Liberty University and a master's degree in Pastoral Counseling from Liberty Theological Seminary. As a military wife, she taught in a number of Christian schools for grades 3-12. She has enjoyed homeschooling her own three children for all subjects. Mary currently teaches *Elementary Language Arts* at KEYS.

Cook, Aaron

Aaron is a graduate of Virginia Tech, summa cum laude, with majors in music performance and music technology and minors in computer science and math. He served as rank captain for the Virginia Tech Drumline and as drummer for the Hokies Pep Band. He recently performed as part of the Showcase Performance Company at Carnegie Hall. He has a vast amount of experience as a worship team leader, having served in several different congregations over the past six years, and he has led both youth and adult worship teams. In addition to his technical proficiency, Aaron brings a rich understanding of the role that music can play in opening one's heart to the Lord. Aaron currently teaches *Geometry, Beginning Guitar, Intermediate Guitar, Advanced Guitar, Praise Team, Beginning/Intermediate Percussion, and Advanced Percussion* at KEYS. **Please contact the KEYS office or Cindy Bryan at finearts@keysofva.org if you are interested in private lessons.**

Cook, Carole

Carole earned a Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Arts in mathematics and statistics, cum laude, from Miami University. She has taught and tutored math at all levels from algebra through calculus (and beyond) for more than 30 years, including the years she spent homeschooling her own four children. The KEYS Teacher of the Year for 2006-2007, Carole currently teaches *Algebra II* at KEYS, where she also serves as Administrative Director and Academic Co-director.

Cover, Allyson

Allyson is first and foremost a wife, mother, and grandmother. She began teaching art in 1987 at First Baptist Christian School in Suffolk. After two years, she left the classroom to begin homeschooling. Ten years and two graduates later, she returned to the art classroom, first at Alliance Christian School in Portsmouth and later at KEYS. For the past several summers she has directed and taught a fine arts camp at Westminster Reformed Presbyterian Church in Suffolk. Allyson currently teaches *Elementary Art, Art in Mixed Media, High School Drawing and Painting I, High School Drawing and Painting II and Art III* at KEYS.

Delgado, Ileana

Ileana earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Secondary Education from Old Dominion University and has worked as an interpreter at CHKD hospital. She is a native of Puerto Rico and is fluent in both Spanish and English. She has also taught Spanish at homeschool co-ops in the area. She has a warm personality that the students love. Senora Delgado currently teaches *Spanish II and Spanish III* at KEYS.

Estes, Edward

Mr. Estes earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in engineering from Virginia Tech in 1979, and a Master of Business degree from Old Dominion University in 1987. He became a Professional Engineer in 1983. He has worked for Westinghouse as a Quality Control engineer for the naval nuclear program, a civil engineer for MMM Design Group, and a structural engineer and project manager for the Naval Facilities Engineering Command where he was the design manager for numerous facility projects, which included the Naval Medical Center Portsmouth hospital replacement project and the Norfolk Naval Shipyard Pier 3 and Pier 5 replacement projects. He recently retired as the Executive Director for the Navy Crane Center, a command that provides cranes; and weight handling equipment policy, engineering, and training to Navy activities worldwide. Ed currently teaches *Precalculus and Physics* at KEYS.

Furbish, Evie

Evie is a proud KEYS alumnus whose ASL career began with the first sign language class ever offered at KEYS. Since graduation, she has completed the requirements for the Career Studies Certificate in American Sign Language through Tidewater Community College and has become a state-certified ASL interpreter. She is currently also pursuing national certification in ASL interpretation. Evie also serves as a music interpreter at Redeemer Presbyterian Church in Virginia Beach. She is excited to share the love of Christ with the Deaf community, and she is looking forward to sharing her love of Deaf culture and American Sign Language with the students at KEYS. Evie currently teaches *Elementary ASL I, Elementary ASL II, and ASL I* at KEYS.

Henaghan, Mary

Mary has had a passion for teaching and performing as long as she can remember. She has been performing since the age of seven, mainly with choirs and choral performance groups. Mary performed at Disneyland, sang with the California State Honor Choir, and had a lead role in her church choir's dramatic musical, even performing on television. In 2001, Mary began serving in the children's ministry. She has choreographed and directed puppet performances at Atlantic Shores' "Summer's Best Week" and has taught shadow puppet, black light puppet, and drama classes. Mary currently directs her church's middle school youth drama program in addition to teaching and mentoring girls in the middle school ministry. Her desire is to train and equip students to use their gifts to further the kingdom of God. Mary currently teaches *Principles of Drama and Advanced Drama* at KEYS.

Hudson, Susan

Susan attended Longwood University and Old Dominion University, earning a bachelor's degree in elementary education. She then taught in Virginia Beach public schools for five years. During that time Susan produced "On the Spot"—a quarterly television program featuring her students—and was named "Teacher of the Year." She is active in Masterworks, a local performing arts company, and has written and directed many children's musicals and ballets. Susan has homeschooled all her own children, and she was the co-founder of another successful homeschool co-op. Susan currently teaches *Middle School Math, Pre-Algebra, General Science, Physical Science, and Earth Science* at KEYS.

Jervey, Tabmitha (Tab)

Dr. Jervey graduated from Norfolk State University with a bachelor's degree in biology, followed by two years of research at the National Cancer Institute, NIH, in Washington, D.C. She then earned her Ph.D. in biomedical sciences (molecular virology) from Eastern Virginia Medical School. Until 2009, she served as an assistant professor of biology at Norfolk State University, teaching biology, genetics, biochemistry, and pathophysiology; Tab now remains at Norfolk State University as an adjunct professor of biology. In her spare time, Tab holds health education seminars through her small business, My Health 4 Life, teaching groups how to eat healthily. Tab currently teaches *Biology and Marine Biology* at KEYS.

LaPlatney, Lori

Lori earned a bachelor's in Secondary Education from Auburn University with double majors in English and Spanish. She also completed her master's in education at the University of Southern Mississippi and twenty-one hours toward a master's in Spanish from the University of Rhode Island. Lori has taught in a number of different community colleges as she and her family have been stationed around the country. Lori currently teaches *Spanish I* at KEYS.

Mayberry, Rebecca

Rebecca graduated from Oklahoma State University. She completed her first two years as a secondary education major with an emphasis on English and drama. She graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Leisure, a major that allowed her to utilize medical training, psychology, and recreation as a combined means of treatment for adults recovering from head traumas and strokes as well as elderly individuals suffering from dementia and schizophrenia. She believes passionately in education with a biblical worldview and has devoted the past twenty years of her life to instilling God's truths into her four children. All four have become great students. Rebecca's hobby is reading; she is passionate about analyzing and delighting in all types of literary genres. Rebecca currently teaches *American Literature, British Literature, and Speech and Debate* at KEYS.

McCormick, Amanda

Amanda received her bachelor's degree in music education from Old Dominion University, where she was principal flute in the ODU Wind Ensemble and the ODU Symphony Orchestra. In her senior year, Amanda performed the last movement of the Reinecke Concerto with the ODU Orchestra as the winner of their Young Artist Competition. She is a student of Patti Watters and a member of Sigma Alpha Iota. Amanda currently maintains a large flute studio in Chesapeake in addition to teaching at KEYS. Her students have been selected for District II and IV middle school and high school bands and the Governor's School for the Arts. She is a member of the advisory board of Hampton Roads Flute Flaire. Amanda currently teaches *Beginning Band and Intermediate Band* at KEYS. **Please contact the KEYS office or Cindy Bryan at finearts@keysofva.org if you are interested in private lessons.**

Melton, Meghan

Meghan earned a B.A. in Russian Area Studies and an M.A. in English from Old Dominion University. As a military wife, she has served as an Adjunct Instructor at community colleges in Virginia and Kentucky as well as at the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. She has taught her own children through a classical school model with two days in the classroom and three days at home. She stated that Christian beliefs and values are now counter-cultural and that a strong faith is vital. In Kentucky, she was asked to prepare students for the AP English exam. Meghan currently teaches *AP English* at KEYS.

Mitchell, Christine

Christine earned a bachelor's degree in education from Robert Wesleyan College and a master's in bilingual education from the State University of New York, Brockport. She has taught all levels of Spanish from elementary through college (ODU). Christine grew up in Bogotá, Columbia as a missionary kid. Her bilingual background allows her to bring more than just a comprehensive knowledge of Spanish. She also has a first-hand understanding of the methodology necessary for learning a foreign language and the cultures of the native speakers. Christine currently teaches *Spanish II* at KEYS.

Moore, Delbra

Delbra earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Bob Jones University and a Master of Science from Ohio State University. She has taught a wide range of classes including Biology, General Science, Psychology and Family Living, English and Composition, and interdisciplinary history, literature, and

theology courses. Delbra has worked in both homeschool and private school settings and loves students. She has also mentored other teachers. Biblical worldview is the center of all that she does. Delbra teaches *Earth Science and Middle School World History* at KEYS.

Parker, Sharon E.

Sharon graduated magna cum laude with a Master's of Music Education from Old Dominion University. While pursuing her degree, she was chosen to sing in the F. Ludwig Deihn Chorale, and she also performed in the opera *Die Fledermaus*. She performed in Richmond, Virginia at the Collegiate Composer's Symposium and in the Lincoln Center, in New York City, with the ODU Concert Choir. Old Dominion is also where she earned her Bachelor of Science in Music Education degree. Sharon has been a part of the homeschooling community for over 25 years through participating in co-ops with her four children, serving as Fine Arts Director of Oaktree Academy, directing award-winning homeschool choirs, and teaching private voice and piano lessons in her home. Kempsville Presbyterian Church is her home church, where she is on the worship team as a vocalist and in the Celebration Choir as an alto. Sharon currently teaches *Elementary Music/Choir, Mixed Choir, and Concert Choir, and A cappella choir* at KEYS.

Rapaka, Gloria

Gloria is a native French speaker from Port-au-Prince, Haiti; she is fluent in three languages, including Classical French, Creole, and English. Her father is a pastor, and from her youth she understood the Gospel, making the choice to follow whole-heartedly after the Lord. She has a bachelor's degree in biblical studies from Zion Bible College and a master's degree in education from Regent University. While at Regent, she wrote her master's thesis on how to incorporate biblical principles into a French I curriculum. Gloria has experience teaching all levels of French, both in Christian schools and as a private tutor. She is currently homeschooling her own children and welcomes this opportunity to help other homeschooling families gain a love of French culture and a fluency in the French language with an eye toward using that knowledge to advance the Gospel. Gloria currently teaches *Elementary French, French I, French II, and French III* at KEYS.

Silva, Juliana

Juliana is an honor graduate from Felician College, where earned a Bachelor of Science in biology. Over the years she has taught various high school lab sciences, including biology, chemistry, physical science, and earth science. Juliana has endeared herself to KEYS students over the past two years as she has served as our Middle School Worldview teacher as well as a long-term substitute for various science classes. As a pastor's wife, Juliana shares the love of the Lord by serving in various capacities. She also expresses a clear understanding of how to incorporate biblical worldview into each curriculum. Juliana currently teaches *Chemistry* at KEYS.

Spear, Svetlana

Svetlana Razjivina Spear is a native from Russia. She has taught languages for over twenty-five years. She majored in English and minored in Russian at the Tyumen State University in the USSR. As a young lady, Svetlana witnessed the inner peace of the Christians who lived in her native Russia. She wanted that peace as well and turned her life over to Jesus, the Prince of Peace. Svetlana currently teaches *Russian I* at KEYS.

Stevens, Karen

Karen has been sewing for over 30 years, including 13 years of creating elaborate costumes as a seamstress for the Academie de Ballet and Dance Centre. Her experiences as a seamstress include wedding dresses, interior design projects, light upholstery, quilting, custom clothing design, and alterations. She is also skilled in various forms of needlework and other handcrafts, including

scrapbooking and the creation of custom greeting cards. Karen currently teaches all levels of *Sewing* at KEYS.

Sitterding, Laurie

Laurie earned her bachelor's degree and collegiate teaching certificate in English, psychology, and theater arts from the College of William and Mary. Her post-graduate education includes coursework toward a Master of Arts degree in biblical counseling and toward a Master of Education degree in educational therapy. She taught in Virginia Beach public schools for four years before she began homeschooling her own four children. Laurie has been teaching guitar and piano lessons for over thirty years, and many of her students have gone on to play in a variety of worship contexts. In 2006, Laurie completed the NILD (National Institute for Learning Development) training to become a certified educational therapist, and she has been employed as an editor with HEAV (Home Educators Association of Virginia) since 2010. Laurie currently teaches *Middle School Creative Writing* at KEYS.

Totheroh, Kathy

Kathy is an honor graduate from the University of Arizona, where she earned a bachelor's degree in secondary education with an English major and a Spanish minor; she also earned a Master of English degree with an emphasis in ESL (English as a Second Language) from Arizona State University. Kathy taught English, Spanish, and ESL for nine years in public and private schools in Arizona and Virginia, then homeschooled her own three daughters for over twenty years. Kathy served as academic director and teacher in two other homeschool support groups for ten years before becoming co-founder and academic director of KEYS. She loves challenging students to become passionate in their walks with Christ. Kathy currently teaches *Intermediate Writing and Grammar and Advanced Writing and Grammar* at KEYS, where she also serves as Executive Director.

Wallace, Robert

Bob earned his associate's and bachelor's degrees in theology and history from Oral Roberts University (magna cum laude) and his Master of Arts in public policy and his Juris Doctor degrees from Regent University. He served as a member of the U. S. Coast Guard and then spent nearly 13 years in law enforcement, where he was twice honored as adjunct "Teacher of the Year" for his work with the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) program. Bob became interested in biblical worldview studies after he left law enforcement and worked as the director of education for one of the top ten most influential grassroots, public policy organizations in the nation. He has become convinced of the need for solid, biblical worldview training, especially in light of the nation's and the church's devolving ability to translate principle into practice. A homeschooling parent himself, Bob currently teaches *High School Worldview Analysis* at KEYS.

Whittemore, James

Jimmy brings to KEYS a passion for ministry and excellence in performance. A former homeschool graduate, he is currently pursuing his bachelor's degree in music at Old Dominion University. Jimmy's primary instrument is trumpet; he has had extensive instruction in jazz and classical music, playing for many years in groups at the district and state levels as well as in Bay Youth Symphony Orchestra. He is also a worship leader at his church, directing the choir and the sanctuary orchestra. He has substituted for the KEYS jazz band many times and was well respected for his leadership. As well as being an excellent musician, he has shown himself to be a man of integrity who is filled with the love and joy of the Lord. James brings excitement to the program and serves as a wonderful mentor to our students both musically and spiritually. James currently teaches *Concert Band* at KEYS. ***Please contact the KEYS office or Cindy Bryan at finearts@keysofva.org if you are interested in private lessons.***

Zimmerman, Nanette

Nanette holds a Bachelor of Science degree in life science with a minor in microbiology from Penn State University. She has taught in both Christian and public schools and has tutored in a number of settings. She also homeschools her own children. Mrs. Zimmerman is best known for her joy and her ability to thoroughly and clearly explain math concepts to students. She serves not only as a math teacher but also as a Christian mentor. Nanette currently teaches *Elementary Science and Algebra 1* at KEYS.