



Kinkaid New Faculty and Staff 2023-2024

ADMINISTRATION



CHARLIE GRAMATGES **Head of Middle School**

Charlie received a B.B.A. in Information and Operations Management from Texas A&M University and a M.A. in Education and Human Development from The George Washington University. Charlie comes to Kinkaid from Presbyterian School where he served as Head of Middle School. Prior to this, he was the Head of Middle School at St. Thomas' Episcopal School. Charlie has held several teaching and administrative positions in his career including: Faculty and Assistant Lacrosse Coach at St. John's School; Dean of Students, Faculty, and Head Varsity Lacrosse Coach at The Episcopal School of Texas in San Antonio; and Upper School Diversity Coordinator, Faculty, and Coach at Episcopal School in Dallas.

LOWER SCHOOL



BEONKA CALDWELL **Fourth Grade Teacher**

Beonka has a B.B.A. in Management and Marketing from University of Houston. Beonka comes to us from West Memorial Elementary where she was a Fourth Grade ELA Teacher. Before this, Beonka was a Registrar and Admissions Associate at British International School of Houston and previously worked as the Middle School Registrar for The Kinkaid School. Beonka holds a Texas Teacher EC - 6th Grade Certification through Texas Teachers of Tomorrow.



ANN PHAN **Assistant Teacher**

Ann graduated from San Jose State University in San Jose, California with a B.S. in Occupational Therapy. Ann most recently taught second grade at Holmquist Elementary School in Houston, Texas and previously served as a substitute teacher for pre-kindergarten through fourth grade. Ann holds a Grade EC-6 and English as a Second Language Supplemental Certification.



NATALIE RALEY **Fourth Grade Teacher**

Natalie is a graduate of Texas A&M University where she received a B.S. in Interdisciplinary Studies with a concentration in Language Arts and Social Studies. Natalie joins Kinkaid from Valley Oaks Elementary where she most recently served as a Fourth Grade Teacher and as a First Grade Teacher prior to that. Natalie has also worked as a Second Grade Teacher for the summer school program at Spring Branch Independent School District. Natalie holds English as a Second Language Supplemental Grades EC-8, English Language and Reading/Social Studies Grade 4-8, and Core Subjects EC-6 Certifications.

MIDDLE SCHOOL



JULIANA AVILES **Cooney Fellow**

Juliana will serve as the 2023-2024 Cooney Fellow in the Middle School. Juliana is graduating in May 2023 with a B.A. in Sociology and French, and she is a graduate of St. John School in Houston, Texas. Juliana has volunteered as the President of Active Minds at Trinity University where she was also the Social Chair for the Trinity University Latino Association and the recipient of the Trinity University Trustee's Scholarship.



CLARK ELLIS **Science Teacher**

Clark graduated from Oklahoma State University with a B.S. in Secondary Education, Science. Clark most recently taught 8th Grade Physical Science at St. John's School. Prior to this, Clark was a Physics Teacher and Department Head at Harding Charter Prep in Tulsa, Oklahoma and previously held teaching positions at Booker T. Washington High School and Edmond North High School in Oklahoma.



AMY CARRION **Reading Specialist**

Amy holds a B.S. in Teaching and Learning from University of Houston and a M.Ed. in Literacy Studies from University of Texas Arlington. Amy joins Kinkaid from Meyerland Performing and Visual Arts where she served as a Teacher Specialist. Amy previously taught as a Bilingual Teacher at Crispo Elementary School. Amy is a Certified Academic Language Practitioner (CALP) as well as a Level 1 Dyslexia Practitioner from Neuhaus Education Center.



TAMARA SELL **Director of Learning Services**

Tamara holds a B.A. in Special Education from Central Washington University and a M.A. in Education from California State University in San Marcos, California. Tamara comes to Kinkaid from Emery/Weiner School where she served as a Middle School Learning Specialist. Tamara has also held positions as a Learning Specialist and Resource Specialist at Isidore Newman School in New Orleans, Louisiana and Rancho Buena Vista High School in Vista, California.



AARYN SILVA **Librarian**

Aaryn received a B.A. of English and History from Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas and a M.A. in American Civilization from the University of Texas. Aaryn joins The Kinkaid School from Spring Branch Middle School where she was a Librarian. Prior to this, she worked as the Education Coordinator for The Heritage Society, held the Archivist/Curator position at Sam Houston Regional Library and Research Center, and taught fourth grade at Roosevelt Elementary and Rusk Elementary in Houston Independent School District. Aaryn obtained the School Librarian Certification from University of North Texas.

UPPER SCHOOL



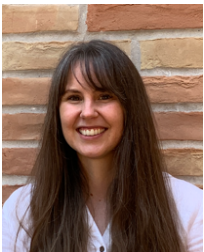
STEPHEN AYRES **Mathematics Teacher**

Stephen graduated from University of Georgia with a B.S. in Mathematics and received a MBA from the University of Southern California Marshall School of Business. Stephen has held positions at Teach for America as a School Director and Data Management Director and was the Dean of Instruction and a Mathematics Instructor at YES Prep Public School in Houston. Prior to joining Kinkaid, Stephen was a Pathways Operations Manager at Amazon in Memphis, Tennessee.



DEIRDRE CARR **Mathematics Teacher**

Deirdre graduated from University of Virginia with a B.A. in Physics. Deirdre has previously served at Kinkaid as a Middle School Math Teacher and more recently as a long-term substitute teacher for the Upper School. Deirdre has taught middle and upper school at Convent of the Sacred Heart in Greenwich, Connecticut where she also coached soccer and lacrosse.



LAUREN COUBLE **World Language Teacher**

Lauren graduated from University of St. Thomas with a B.A. in Liberal Arts and holds an A.A.S in Translation and Interpretation. Lauren has worked as a Tutor and Executive Function Coach for Applerouth Tutoring Services in addition to teaching Middle School and High School English, History, Geography, Philosophy, and French at Lycee International School de Houston. Lauren expects to graduate with a M.A. in English, Linguistics from Texas Tech University in 2023.



WILLIAM (BILL) EPPS **History and Social Sciences Teacher**

Bill received a B.A. in History from Colby College in Waterville, Maine, a M.A. in History from University of Connecticut, and a Ph.D. in History from The University of Texas at Austin. Bill has worked as a History Teacher, Coach, Student Activities Director, and Dorm Parent at the Canterbury School in New Milford, Connecticut and has also taught as an Assistant Instructor at The University of Texas in Austin. Most recently, Bill served as an Upper School History Teacher, Department Chair, and Grade Level Coordinator at The Emery/Weiner School, where he received the 2017 Rav Preida Teaching Excellence Award.



ANGELA FLOWERS **English Teacher**

Angela received a B.A in English from Mount Holyoke in South Hadley, Massachusetts and a M.A. in Private School Leadership from Teachers College at Columbia University. She comes to Kinkaid from Instruction Partners where she served as an Educational Advocate and Strategist. Prior to this, Angela held various teaching and administrative positions including Director of Alumni Leadership and Engagement at Teach for America, Head of Curriculum and Interim Head of Upper School at St. Francis Episcopal School, and English Department Chair at St. John's School in Houston, Texas.



JAMES MCCRINK

English Teacher

James holds a B.A. in English, a B.A. in Religious Studies, and a M.A. in English from Florida International University. James has previously worked as an English Teacher at Ransom Everglades School and Our Lady of Lourdes Academy in addition to serving as an Adjunct English Instructor at Miami Dade College in Miami, Florida. Prior to his career in education, James was a federal employee of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. James expects conferral of a Ph.D. in English from University of Kent in Canterbury, United Kingdom, in 2024.



OLEN RAMBOW

Mathematics Teacher

Olen is a graduate of Rice University where he earned a B.S. in Physics, a B.S. in Math, and a M.S. in Physics. Olen previously worked at The Kinkaid School from 2014 through 2022 as a Mathematics Teacher in Upper School. Olen returned to Kinkaid as a long-term substitute teacher in 2023. Prior to Kinkaid, Olen held teaching positions at The High School for the Performing and Visual Arts, Village High School, and Beijing World Youth Academy.



LETTY REZA

Mathematics Teacher

Letty received a B.S. in Mathematics and a M.S. in Mathematics from University of Houston. Letty returns to The Kinkaid School from St. John's School where she most recently served as an Upper School Math Teacher. Letty first joined Kinkaid in 2016 and held positions as a Middle School and Upper School Mathematics Teacher as well as Director of EMSI. Prior to joining Kinkaid, Letty worked as a Math Teacher for Jefferson Davis High School in the Houston Independent School District. Letty also held positions at University of Houston where she was a Project Manager of the Scholar Enrichment, Lecturer, and a Math Instructor for the Summer Bridge Program. Letty has served as an Adjunct Professor in Math at Houston Community College and Lone Star College.



CLAUDIA SALINAS

Dean

Claudia graduated from Grinnell College in Iowa with a B.A. in Political Science and holds a M.A. in Educational Psychology from Pepperdine University. Claudia has held several positions in college admissions and counseling, including Deputy Director of Admission at Rice University, Regional Associate Director for University of Rochester, Director of Admission West for Syracuse University, and Associate Director of Admission for the College of Engineering at Cornell University. Most recently, Claudia was a Senior Consultant and Director of Community Engagement at College MatchPoint in Austin, Texas.



LIZ TANNER

Learning Specialist

Liz received a B.A. in Psychology from Southern Methodist University and a M.Ed. in Reading Intervention from University of St. Thomas. Liz comes to Kinkaid from Lamar Consolidated Independent School District where she has served as an Educational Diagnostician. Liz previously worked at Beaumont Independent School District as an Educational Diagnostician and prior to this held several teaching positions in Lower School at St. Vincent De Paul Catholic School in Houston, Texas. Liz holds certifications in Early Childhood Education, ESL Texas Teaching, Educational Diagnostician, and Reading Specialist.

ATHLETICS & PHYSICAL EDUCATION



MARY GROSJEAN **PE Teacher, Coach, and Volleyball Program Head**

Mary holds a B.S. in University Studies, Sports Conditioning from Texas A&M University. She comes to Kinkaid from Robert E. Lee High School in Goose Creek Consolidated Independent School District where she was the Head Varsity Volleyball Coach and held additional roles including Girls Strength and Conditioning Coach, Assistant Varsity and JV Softball Coach, and High School Chemistry Teacher. Prior to this, Mary was the Club Director at Texas Eastside Volleyball Club in Baytown, Texas where she also served as Head Coach.



ALTHEA WOLFE **Athletic Trainer**

Althea graduated from Baylor University in Waco, Texas with a B.S. in Health Science Studies and a Masters of Athletic Training. She has interned as Athletic Training at Allen High School and F.C. Dallas Academy in Frisco, TX. Althea conducted her MAT Clinical experience at Baylor University and served as an athletic training intern at Allen High School and FC Dallas.

VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS



CHARLES HARRISON **Choir and Music Director**

Charles received a B.A. in Music from Prairie View A&M University and a M.M. in Applied Music from University of Houston. Charles comes to Kinkaid from Presbyterian School where he was a Middle School Choir Teacher, and his professional experience includes serving as the Music Director for HITS Theatre, Conductor for The Phillip Hall Singers, and Director of Music for Jones Memorial United Methodist Church. Charles has also held positions as Choir Director for The Rice School/La Escuela Rice, and Music Instructor at Daily Elementary School and Peck Elementary School in Houston, Texas.



CAT MARTINEZ **Visual Arts Teacher**

Cat received a B.F.A in Sculpture from University of Houston. Most recently, Cat has been teaching Fundamentals of Sculpture as an Adjunct Instructor at University of Houston while also holding the position of Assistant to the Managing Director at The Community Music Center of Houston. As a visual artist based in Houston, Cat has exhibited work in many exhibitions, including Lawndale Art Center's 2021 *Big Show*, The Station Museum Contemporary Arts Exhibition and Symposium *In the Sun* in 2021, Overlapping Territories *Diverse Works Symposium* in 2022, and Project Row Houston *Round 55: The Drive By II* in 2023. Cat is the recipient of the University of Houston Cynthia Wood Mitchell 2021-2022 Fellowship scholarship where she is a current M.F.A candidate.

CLEF



JENNIFER KEHLER

Assistant Director – Center for Leadership, Entrepreneurship, and Finance

Jennifer graduated from Kansas State University with a B.S. in Mass Communication and Women's Studies and an M.A. in English and Women's Studies. Jennifer previously worked at The Kinkaid School from 2004 through 2020 as the Upper School Coordinator of Student Life where she oversaw student leadership programming, including the Peer Mentor Program, Community Groups, and the Upper School Governing Council. She also served as an Upper School English Teacher and the Program Head for Middle and Upper School Cheer. Most recently, Jennifer served as the Director of Engagement for the Center for Spiritual and Ethical Education in Washington, DC.



ANTHONY (TONY) WATSON

History and Social Sciences Teacher, CLEF

Anthony graduated from The John Hopkins University with a B.A. in International Studies and a M.S. in Finance and Business Information Systems. He furthered his studies with a MDiv in Medieval History, Islamic Studies from Harvard University and holds a Ph.D. in History from the University of Cambridge, Cambridge, England. Prior to joining Kinkaid, Anthony taught History, Economics, and Finance at Woodberry Forest School in Virginia. Anthony has also taught and lectured at several universities, including: Adjunct Assistant Professor at Brown University and West Virginia University Institute of Technology; Visiting Lecturer at The John Hopkins University and McDaniel College in Westminster, Maryland; and Teaching Fellow at University of London and Harvard University.

NEW POSITION ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADMINISTRATION

PETER BEHR has been named Assistant Head of School from Head of Upper School

ALEX SPENCER has been named Head of Upper School from Assistant Head of Upper

LOWER SCHOOL

AUSTIN ATEN has moved from Cooney Fellow to Pre-Kindergarten Assistant Teacher

MIDDLE SCHOOL

ERON GRANT has moved from Upper School Counselor to Middle School Counselor

Sarah Mitchell has been named 7th Grade Dean and Teacher

UPPER SCHOOL

TAMASINE ELLIS has been named History and Social Sciences Department Chair and Teacher

JAY GLYNN has moved from Middle School Counseling Psychologist to Upper School Counseling Psychologist

JOSH RAMEY has been named Interim Assistant Head of Upper School and Dean of Students

ATHLETICS & PHYSICAL EDUCATION

JOANNA NICOLAOU has been named Administrative Assistant in addition to current position of Cheer Program Head

VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS

AARON GIRLINGHOUSE has been named Production Coordinator from Dance Teacher

ANGELIQUE JAMAIL has been named Creative Writing Director from Upper School English Teacher

ANJALY THAKKAR has been named Dance Teacher & Choreographer from Upper School Mathematics Teacher

CLEF

ED HARRIS has been named Director – Center for Leadership, Entrepreneurship, and Finance (CLEF) from History and Social Sciences Department Chair and Teacher