

## TEACHER BIOGRAPHIES

### **Blackburn, Janice**

Janice earned a bachelor's degree from Christopher Newport University and completed graduate work at the College of William and Mary. She taught middle school students in Hampton public schools for eight years. Janice and her husband have cared for 36 foster children, eventually adopting 7 of them. They chose to homeschool their children to build strong relationships with them and to enable them to overcome the unique challenges their lives presented. Janice currently teaches *Geometry* at KEYS.

### **Blake, Cheryl**

Cheryl earned her bachelor's degree in psychology and sociology from the University of Michigan and her master's degree 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 Newport News. A veteran homeschooler, Cheryl homeschooled her daughter, Kelly, for 12 years. She was also voted the 2004-2005 KEYS "Teacher of the Year." Cheryl currently teaches *Biology* and *Anatomy & Physiology* at KEYS.

### **Boystel, Emma**

Emma comes from a life-long background of homeschooling and is proud to be a KEYS alumna. She has a bachelor's from Regent University in English with a minor in Biblical studies and a cognate in Communications. Actively involved in three book clubs, she is currently serving in her third year as the founding president of Regent University's English Club. In her free time, Emma shares her passion for literature and love of reading with preschoolers and senior citizens in the community. A gifted musician, she also gives private music lessons in violin, piano, and flute. Emma is currently teaching *British Literature* 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 homeschool their children, one of whom graduated from KEYS in 2006, 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.

### **Bryan, Cindy**

Cindy graduated from the University of South Carolina with bachelor's and master's degrees in music education. While her husband was stationed in Japan with the U. S. Air Force, she taught general music and directed four choirs at Okinawa Christian School International, played with the Okinawa Symphony Orchestra, and taught private violin lessons. Upon returning to the states, she taught elementary strings in Norfolk public schools. While homeschooling her two girls, she has continued to give private lessons and to play violin professionally; she is a member of Symphonocity—the symphony orchestra of Virginia Beach—and she serves on the board of directors for Bay Youth Orchestras. She is excited to be sharing her passion and love for the Lord and music with the students at KEYS. Cindy is currently the director of fine arts and teaches *Beginning Strings*, *Intermediate Strings*, and *Advanced Strings* at KEYS.

### **Bunch, Harriett**

Harriett holds a bachelor's 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). Harriet currently teaches *Elementary Geography*, *Elementary Science*, *Physical Geography*, *Cultural Geography*, and *Physical Education* at KEYS.

### **Clemens, Sonja**

Sonja, born and raised in Switzerland, speaks five languages. She graduated summa cum laude from the University of Berne, Switzerland, with a master's degree in English and a minor in contemporary history. Before moving to the United States 10 years ago, Sonja worked designing curricula and language courses for national and international companies. After she married and moved to the U.S., she was the head instructor for the Intensive English Program at a community college in Washington State for 6 years. Since moving to Virginia Beach, she has worked as a language specialist for a real estate company. Sonja currently teaches *French I & II*, and *German I* at KEYS.

### **Compton, Ida**

Ida earned a bachelor's degree in mathematics with an emphasis in computer science from Louisiana State University. She is the proud mother of four daughters. She has enjoyed teaching a variety of mathematics, chemistry, and physics courses. Ida currently teaches *Chemistry* at KEYS.

### **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 almost 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 I & II* and *Consumer Math* at KEYS.

### **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 *Primary Art, Elementary Art, Art in Mixed Media, Art in the Style Of..., Drawing and Painting I & II*, and *Art III* at KEYS.

### **Earlenbaugh, Doug**

Doug holds a B.A. and M.A. in Music Education from Wichita State University. Doug is currently the Fine Arts Department Chairman for Norfolk Christian Schools and directs their MS and HS bands, and Jazz Band. He has served 21 years in the US Army Reserves and is currently the Conductor and Associate Director of the 380<sup>th</sup> US Army Reserve Band in Richmond, VA. Doug is an active free-lance and performing woodwind artist in the Hampton Roads area, as well as Guest Conductor and Clinician for Honor Bands and Festivals throughout the 4-state area.

### **Flory, Cindy**

Cindy graduated with honors from Michigan State University with a bachelor's degree in music performance. While in college she taught music classes at a preschool and gave private music lessons. It was then that she found she had a passion to teach children and share music with them. In addition to homeschooling her own six children, Cindy has ministered in children's music and on praise and worship teams for many years. Cindy currently teaches *Music Theory, Meet the Composers, Beginning Band, Elementary Choir, and Senior High Chorus* at KEYS.

### **Gielow, Charlie**

Charlie graduated from Liberty University in 2007 with a degree in worship and music ministry. While attending Liberty University he was awarded the "Top Musicianship Award for Guitar" for both his junior and senior years. His work as a private guitar instructor progressed into group lessons at a local music academy in Lynchburg, VA, and he has taught various styles of playing to all ages, from 6 to 60. He served for a year as the youth pastor at Galilee Episcopal Church in Virginia Beach then left that post to start his own business, Gielow Music, which provides private guitar instruction to students all across Hampton Roads. He also currently assists as a worship leader at Greenbrier Presbyterian Church in Chesapeake. Charlie currently teaches *Guitar II, Guitar III, and Praise Team* 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 been homeschooling her own children for many years, and she was the co-founder of another successful homeschool co-op. The recipient of the KEYS "Teacher of the Year" award for 2008-2009, Susan currently teaches *Pre-Algebra*, *General Science*, and *Physical 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 PhD 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.

### **Layman, Allison**

Allison is a graduate of Fu-Jen University in Taiwan with a bachelor's degree in library science. She taught for two years in a public elementary school in Taiwan and then served with YWAM (Youth With A Mission) for over ten years as a part of church planting team in Taiwan. She and her husband planted the first church in a Hakka village in Taiwan before moving to the United States in 1997. Allison taught two years of Mandarin Chinese at Norfolk Christian High School before joining us at KEYS. Allison currently teaches *Elementary Chinese*; *Chinese I, II, & III*; and *Chinese Art I & II* at KEYS.

### **McHenry, Stephanie**

Stephanie earned her bachelor of science in elementary education from Charleston Southern University and her master's degree in mathematics education (K-12) from Old Dominion University. While working on both of her degrees, she enjoyed tutoring math at a variety of levels. More recently she taught College Algebra at Old Dominion University. After giving birth to her first child she chose to stay at home with her daughter to be a full-time mom and wife. This opportunity at KEYS has allowed her to do both of the things she loves the most – be a mom and a teacher.

### **Pence, Brenda**

Brenda earned a bachelor's degree and collegiate teaching certificate from Longwood College and a Master of Education, with endorsement to teach the hearing impaired, from Western Maryland College. She taught at the Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind in Staunton, Virginia for nine years, during which time she received national certification as an interpreter for the Deaf. In 1986 Brenda moved to Virginia Beach, continuing to teach young deaf children in the Virginia Beach public schools, where she was named "Teacher of the Year." Brenda retired in July of 2007 after 30 years of teaching, and she currently works as an interpreter for a video relay service. She is also involved in the deaf ministry at Kempsville Presbyterian Church and goes on short-term mission trips to Central America, ministering to the deaf. Brenda currently teaches *Elementary ASL (American Sign Language)*, and *ASL I, II, & III* at KEYS.

### **Plaster, Debra**

Deb attended Macomb Community College in Michigan, where she completed studies in music education. A veteran homeschooler, Deb owns Home Educators Exchange and works with Moore Expressions book store. She served on the original BEACH (Beach Educators Association for Christian Homeschooling) board and coached BEACH Breaker Sports for more than 10 years. Deb has directed handbells and church youth and adult choirs; she has also played an assortment of woodwinds in community and church orchestras. Deb has taught Bible studies and courses in speech and debate, study skills, and writing in several homeschooling venues for more than 15 years. She was a co-founder of KEYS, and served for many years as the fine arts director. Deb currently teaches *Beginning Bells, Advanced Bells I & II, Speech and Debate, and Study Skills* at KEYS.

### **Ruiz, Diana**

Diana grew up in Puerto Rico and came to the U.S. in 2008 to marry a Navy man. She earned a bachelor's degree, cum laude, from the University of Puerto Rico and a Master of Fine Arts degree from Turabo University. She has taught art and worked as a recreational therapist for the past several years. Diana is excited about sharing her native language with students; she currently teaches *Spanish I, II, & III* 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 an educational therapist, and she has been employed as an editor with HEAV (Home Educators Association of Virginia) since 2010. Laurie currently teaches *Elementary Language Arts, Creative Writing, and Acoustic Folk Guitar for Beginners* at KEYS.

### **Smyder, Joe**

Joe earned a bachelor's degree in Physics from the University of Rochester in New York. After serving eight years as an officer in the Navy, Joe went on to earning a Master's degree in Education from Old Dominion University. Following his graduate work, he received a Virginia State Teacher's Certificate and taught Physics and High School Math at local Christian High Schools for ten years. For the last two years, Joe has been home schooling his two daughters, enabling him to get to know each of them much better and to be a more active participant in all aspects of their educations. He has also been teaching Geometry at his daughters' home school co-op since the 2010-2011 school year and is a private tutor for Math and Physics. *Joe currently teaches Physics 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 *Sewing* at KEYS.

### **Totheroh, Kathy**

Kathy is an honor graduate from the University of Arizona with a bachelor's degree in secondary education, and she earned a Master of English degree with an emphasis in ESL (English as a Second Language) from Arizona State University. Kathy taught for nine years in public and private schools in Arizona and Virginia, and has homeschooled her own three daughters for over twenty years. Kathy served as academic director and English 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 *American Literature, Intermediate & Advanced Writing and Grammar, and Writing for College* at KEYS.

### **Totheroh, Rachel**

Rachel Totheroh graduated magna cum laude from Taylor University with a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and a minor in music. At Taylor she played in the Wind Ensemble, Orchestra, and musicals. She currently plays in Symphonic Artistry and has also played in All Virginia State Bands, Indiana Intercollegiate Band, and The Muncie Symphony Orchestra. Along with her passion for music, she is enthusiastic about working with elementary aged students. Rachel currently teaches *Elementary Recorders* and *private Clarinet lessons* at KEYS.

**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 *Worldview Analysis* and *College Prep—Real-Life Survival* at KEYS.