

## UPPER SCHOOL TEACHER BIOGRAPHIES

### **Tory Albertson**

*Tory grew up in Montana working at a wilderness adventure camp where he began to see the profound value of a life engaged in the growth of wisdom and virtue, and he has sought to share that passion with others ever since. Tory has a B.S. degree in Outdoor Education from Montreat College and a M.A. in Philosophy of Religion from Talbot School of Theology. Tory is a husband and a father, and works as a paramedic firefighter in Fairfax County. He also coaches fencing and cherishes any opportunity to be in God's creation -- especially on a mountain bike. Tory is looking forward to his first year teaching at CCS and we are delighted to welcome him to our faculty.*

### **Lonnie Barham**

*Lonnie Barham is a native of Frederick County; he graduated from James Wood High School and went on to major in history at Virginia Tech, graduating with a B.A. in History in 1971. He taught American History at Clarke County middle school (6<sup>th</sup>—8<sup>th</sup> grades) for 32 years. Lonnie lives in Winchester, VA, with his wife, Becky, who retired from Winchester Public Schools and is now a part-time teacher for a children's learning center. The Barhams have two children, Anne and Greg, and four grandsons (Colby, Luke, Colt and Chase), all of whom live in the area. Known for his engaging and descriptive storytelling abilities, Lonnie has made American history come alive for our students for the past 13 years.*

### **Lina Cahan**

*Lina Cahan has a B.S. in Mathematics from James Madison University. She taught in the Fairfax County School system, has extensive experience tutoring all levels of math as well as teaching SAT prep classes, and has even offered math classes to homeschoolers in her home in Lovettsville, VA. She is the mother of five children and has blessed the students at the Classical Cottage School for the past 9 years through her love and knowledge of high school math classes.*

### **Katheryn Caro**

*Katheryn Caro has a B.S. in Biology, graduating magna cum laude from the University of Dallas where she assisted with lower and upper level biology courses, wrote an anatomy lab curriculum, and developed a love for field studies while participating in native orchid research and avian diversity studies. Since 2011 she has tutored homeschooled high school students in the sciences, math, English, and literature, and since 2014 has taught the chemistry and biology classes at NOVA Catholic Homeschool Co-op. The mother of three, Katheryn is proud to have joined the CCS team in 2017 and we are delighted that she is returning to CCS for a second year.*

### **Janette Cascio**

*Janette Cascio is a professional cartographer and received a B.A. in Geography from Mary Washington College. Before homeschooling her children, she worked at the Defense Mapping Agency for 4 years as an air photo interpreter and at the U.S. Geological Survey for 12 years in mapping. Janette has been with the Classical Cottage School since its inception and this will be her 14<sup>th</sup> year teaching geography. We have been blessed by her involvement over the years as a parent, a teacher, and her service on the Board of Advisors.*

### **Sofia Cuddeback**

*Sofia grew up in a large, musical, homeschooling family. She started studying violin by the Suzuki method at the age of six and completed her studies under Dr. Suzuki at the Talent Education Institute in Matsumoto, Japan, earning her teaching certificate for Suzuki violin instruction through level ten. She currently teaches Suzuki violin privately from her home. In addition to her violin studies, growing up Sofia both played violin and sang in her mother's many choirs. At home Sofia's singing with her siblings ranged from folk songs and rounds to chant and polyphony, and everything in between. She served as director of music ministry and choir director at St. John the Baptist in Front Royal, VA, and has led numerous children's choirs for homeschoolers. Sofia currently leads a children's choir at a local private school. Still homeschooling three of her six children, she has been a CCS mother for six years. As our Choral Singing instructor, this will be the third year she has blessed our students with a love of music.*

**Joel Fouse**

*Joel earned a B.A. in Computer Science from Messiah College, and has spent eighteen years as a software developer with a focus on database driven web application development. He lives outside of Winchester on a 16-acre farm with his wife and seven of their nine children, three dogs, a cat, and a small herd of goats. We welcome Joel back for his second year teaching at CCS.*

**Jeannine Garber**

*Jeannine Garber retired from Clarke County Schools, where she taught eighth grade Civics and Economics. She graduated as a McMurrin Scholar from Shepherd University and obtained a Masters in Education degree from Shenandoah University. Jeannine has three adult children and a grandson and granddaughter. She has taught Economics, Civics, and Advanced Placement U.S. Government and Politics at the Classical Cottage School for 11 years. Thanks to her dedication, many of our students have achieved high scores on the AP U.S. Government and Politics exam and have received college credit for their efforts. Jeannine also developed an Economics & Personal Finance class for CCS that meets the Standards of Learning set forth by the Virginia Advanced Studies Diploma. We are so grateful for her willingness to continue sharing her teaching gifts with us.*

**Abigail Gomez**

*Abigail Gomez was born in New York, and has lived in Virginia for the past 20 years. She earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Virginia Tech in 2007, concentrating on found object sculpture and recycled art. She studied drawing, painting, and jewelry making at Santa Reparata International School of Art in Florence, Italy. In December 2015 she completed the requirements for a Master of Fine Arts in painting from the Academy of Art University in San Francisco. She has shown her artwork internationally, and continues to work on international collaborations with her colleagues in Cuba. In 2016 Abigail was appointed to the position of Commissioner on the Virginia Commission for the Arts, by Governor McAuliffe. Along with serving as a State Commissioner, Abigail serves on Artist Advisory Boards for the Top of Virginia Artisan Trail Network, the Shenandoah Arts Council, and the Museum of the Shenandoah Valley. She also serves on the Arts Advisory Panel at the Institute of Immigration Research at George Mason University. She is the owner and artist at Pretty Girl Painting, a fine art and mural painting business located in Winchester, VA. She is also co-owner of Jack Knuckle Gourmet, Winchester's first gourmet food truck. Abigail has taught art at Mountain View Christian Academy as well as private art classes, and has taught at the Shenandoah Valley Discovery Museum, the Shenandoah Arts Council, and the Boys and Girls Club of the Northern Shenandoah Valley. This will be Abigail's third year at CCS, where she has encouraged and guided our students through Studio Art, Art History, and also Yearbook.*

**Diane Gum**

*Diane Gum has traveled the world as the daughter of a US Air Force officer and a German mother. She finally put down roots here in the Shenandoah Valley where she has lived with her husband and three children for 22 years. She home-schooled her children through high school and supported them through their college graduations. For approximately 12 years, she also taught several popular classes-including Cooking, Sewing, Apologetics and Strategy Games - at S.A.I.L., a homeschool co-op in Winchester, VA. Diane has a heart for teenagers and has worked with them in some capacity for most of her adult life. We are blessed to have her share her enthusiasm for strategy games with our young people at CCS!*

**Josh Hummer**

*Josh Hummer earned a law degree from the University of Virginia School of Law, where he participated in Moot Court. He has been practicing law for over twelve years and opened his own law firm in Winchester in 2017. His practice centers on representing local and national businesses and nonprofits in civil issues. Josh serves on the board of directors of many philanthropic organizations, including the Child-Safe Center, NW Works, and the Winchester/Frederick County Triad. He also serves on the Seventh District Disciplinary Committee of the Virginia State Bar. Before law school, Josh studied computer science and speech at BJU, where he debated competitively, winning best speaker for the Novice Division in the National Educational Debate Association annual debate championship. Josh was homeschooled from the sixth grade through high school, and now he and his wife Jill enjoy homeschooling their own children. He has been a parent at CCS for three years, and we are pleased to welcome him to our faculty for the 2018-19 academic year.*

### **Christy Landers**

*Christy Landers has a Bachelor's Degree in Spanish & International Studies, as well as her Master's in Spanish. She has taught all levels of Spanish, Pre-K through College, at both private and public schools, and has been teaching at Lord Fairfax Community College in the evenings since 1998. Christy plays tennis and soccer, and loves to travel. Her husband teaches Spanish in Loudoun County where he also coaches baseball. They have four outgoing, fun children: Havana, Javier, Alejandro, and Rigoberto. The Landers family speaks Spanish at home and they love playing kickball together. Christy has family in both Spain and Cuba, so Spanish is in her blood. She loves teaching others the language and cultures of all of the Spanish-speaking countries. We are delighted to welcome Christy to her second year at CCS.*

### **Sebastian Langenberg**

*Sebastian Langenberg is from Amissville, VA, and currently lives in The Plains. He attended the University of Mary Washington, where he studied classics and took extensive classes in Ancient Greek as well as Latin. He was awarded the Greek award, which is given to the graduating senior who shows excellence in Greek studies. After college, he attended a year of law school at the Mississippi College School of Law before deciding to begin a career in real estate. He is currently with Long and Foster Realty. This is the 4th year that Sebastian has shared his knowledge of Greek with our students, and next year we are pleased to welcome him to our Latin faculty as well.*

### **Daniel LaPre**

*Dan LaPre has a B.A. in History from Roberts Wesleyan College, and an M.A. in Public Policy and Juris Doctorate from Regent University. He worked as an aide for Senator Dan Coats of Indiana from 1991-1994, as Deputy Chief of Staff for Representative Charles Norwood from 1995-2003, and as Director of Congressional Relations for the American Manufacturing Trade Action Coalition from 2003-2011. Dan retired in 2011 to start a maple syrup farm, which his family named Vale of the Blue Ridge Maple Farm. Dan's family has been involved with the Classical Cottage School for several years, and this will be the 4th year he will share his passion for history with our high school students.*

### **Cynthia Leahy**

*Cindy Leahy has been an educator for over 30 years. From 1983 to 2002, she taught at Clarke County High School, where she taught English, Biology, Aesthetics and International Baccalaureate Philosophy, supervised International Baccalaureate extended essays and served for 8 years as English department chairperson. In 1991 she was named the Potomac Edison Teacher of the Year for excellence in innovation for the teaching of writing. She has developed the Progymnasmata and Omnibus courses at the Classical Cottage School and has been teaching these classes for the past 15 years. Cindy is one of the founders of CCS and serves as a Board of Director as well as our Director of Instruction. She also offers seminars to prepare students for Advanced Placement exams in English Literature and English Language & Composition. Cindy has instilled a deep love for literature and writing in so many of our students, and we are so grateful that she continues to share her gift of teaching and years of experience with the CCS community!*

### **Leigh Ann Lynch**

*Leigh Ann Lynch began homeschooling when her oldest started preschool. Four children and many years later, she has two in college and two remaining at home. A teacher by training, she earned a Masters in Elementary Education from the College of William and Mary after receiving a BA in English from Emory University, as well as additional graduate classes in child development from JMU. This is Leigh Ann's 7th year teaching at CCS while also serving on the board and coordinating the Grammar School classes. She is grateful for the privilege of speaking into the lives of grammar and upper school aged children.*

### **Becky Marks**

*Becky Marks holds a B.A. in Psychology from California State University, Fullerton and a Master's Degree in Social Work from Gallaudet University. She teaches American Sign Language and Deaf Culture classes at Lord Fairfax Community College and also at the S.A.I.L. homeschool co-op in Winchester, VA. Becky is passionate about deaf culture and American Sign Language. She and her husband have five children and have been homeschooling since 2004. We are pleased to welcome Becky to her first year teaching at CCS.*

**Patrick McCarthy**

*Patrick McCarthy grew up in a military family before settling in the Washington area, where he began his teaching career in 1978. For the next twenty-eight years, he taught history at St. John's College High School (in the District) and Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (Alexandria, VA). In 2016 Mr. McCarthy moved to Winchester, which he describes as a wonderful town possessing a rich historical legacy among other cultural (and natural) riches. Offering our students a broad and deep knowledge of human history and its implications in the greater plan of Salvation history, Patrick returns for his second year of teaching an honors history class at CCS.*

**Hartley Schearer**

*Hartley Schearer has a B.A. in Classics from Hampden-Sydney College and an M.A. in Education from James Madison University. He was a Latin teacher and co-Librarian at Randolph-Macon Academy from 1968 to 1973 and at Daniel Morgan Middle School from 1973 to 2000. The Schearers have visited most of the Roman world around the Mediterranean and are passionate about sharing their travel experiences with our students. This will be Hartley Schearer's 13th year teaching at the Classical Cottage School. Many students (and parents) greatly appreciate his quick wit, his excellent command of the classroom, and his talent for teaching Latin in a manner that both engenders respect from our young students and makes a difficult subject quite enjoyable.*

**Susan Schearer**

*Susan Schearer has a B.A. in Classics from Randolph-Macon Woman's College and an M.A. in Classics from Indiana University. She taught Latin at Handley High School in Winchester, VA, from 1970—2000. She has been teaching at the Classical Cottage School for the past 15 years and has introduced our students to the joys and challenges of Junior Classical League conventions and Certamen, which are her two favorite Latin-related opportunities. Her travels throughout the Roman world for well over fifty years have provided her with pictures to illustrate almost all Roman sites and customs. She provides a glimpse into these adventures with monthly Roman Culture enrichment sessions in lieu of the fifth hour class, usually on the second Thursday of each month. A nationally-renowned Latin teacher, Susan Schearer has ignited a passion for the classics in numerous students throughout her stellar 50+ year teaching career. Susan and her husband Hartley have helped to build one of the strongest Latin programs in the nation for homeschoolers at CCS. We are privileged that they continue to serve our families with tireless enthusiasm.*

**Julie Shanabrook**

*Julie Shanabrook was an Echols Scholar at the University of Virginia with a concentration in Biology, and received a Masters in Physical Therapy from Boston University. She is grateful to the CCS community for the homeschooling opportunities it has given to her now graduated daughters, as well as the fulfilling roles as teacher of Prima Latina, Study Skills, and Chemistry. Julie has enjoyed building on her high school years of Latin through the wonderful CCS Latin program and looks forward to another fun year of helping to develop the next class of enthusiastic young Latin students. Julie especially likes using hands-on, multisensory teaching to engage these young scholars. Salvete, discipuli!*

**The Rev. Dr. Thomas W. Simmons IV**

*Father Tom lives in Purcellville with his wife Tait and their five children. He has been a priest of the Episcopal Church since 1998, has earned two master's degrees, in Divinity and Education, and was awarded a doctorate in Homiletics in 2017. He has served as Rector of St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Purcellville since 2002. Before giving his life to the Church, Tom served as an Army infantryman and a Capitol Hill staffer in the House and Senate. Tom loves preaching, coaching, woodworking, shooting, playing strategy games, and delights to see people's lives change for the better. This will be the fourth year Tom will guide our students in the study of rhetoric at the Classical Cottage School.*

**Debbie Snyder**

*Debbie Snyder has a current California Teaching Credential from Pepperdine University, California. She has been an educator for over 30 years, teaching various subjects in public, private, and homeschool classrooms. For the last twenty years, both on the West Coast and on the East Coast, she has been actively involved in speech and debate as a teacher, board member, and coach. We are delighted to welcome Debbie back to CCS for her fifth year with our faculty.*

**Deanna Solomon**

*Deanna Solomon graduated Magna cum Laude from the University of Texas with a Bachelor of Arts in Classical Studies and a Concentration in Latin. Her studies took her to Greece and Italy, where she spent time traveling throughout mainland Greece and Italy. In 2015, she earned a Master of Education with High Distinction, earning a Gold Medallion, through Liberty University. In 2017, she earned an Education Specialist Degree in Curriculum and Instruction, also with High Distinction. She has over twenty-eight years experience teaching and tutoring in the private, church and home school environments, including fourteen years teaching Latin. An avid learner from the School of Life, Mrs. Solomon is passionate about Precept Bible Study, classical education, learning classical languages, reading great literature, sewing, and gardening. Deanna and her husband John are the parents of three boys: Taylor, Zachary and Mitchell, along with a wonderful “daughter in love” – Emily. Deanna not only blesses our program as a dedicated and creative teacher, but she also serves as the Classics Department Chair, the Registrar, and is a member of the Board of Advisors.*

**Kelly Summers**

*Kelly Mallory Summers is native of Winchester, but with a nomad's soul having lived in Dallas, San Diego, Honolulu, Norfolk, and Jacksonville, FL. A former Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney for Portsmouth and Norfolk, Summers has a J.D. in law, an M.A. in Government, and an M.S. in Forensic Science. She has used her education and trial experience to homeschool her three children for the last nine years, and hopefully, to make her classes as entertaining as possible. We are delighted to welcome her back for a second year teaching middle school history.*

**Gabrielle Whalen**

*Gabrielle Whalen received a B.S. from the College of Mount St. Vincent, and an M.S. from SUNY Stony Brook. In her 26 years as a registered nurse she has worked as a Neonatal Nurse Practitioner, flight nurse, and has taught at the college level. Gabrielle currently works part-time in the ER at Children's National Trauma Center in Washington, D.C., while raising and homeschooling her 10 children. We are excited to welcome Gabrielle to her first year teaching at CCS!*

**Jen Wright**

*Jen has been homeschooling her four boys and teaching at CCS for 10 years. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Industrial and Systems Engineering from Virginia Tech and worked as an Operations Research Analyst and an Applications Programmer for US Airways and EDS for 10 years. She has a passion for math and physics and enjoys sharing these topics with her students. In addition to being a parent and a teacher at CCS, Jen has served as Bookkeeper and on the Board of Advisors for several years. We are grateful for her continued involvement and for the gracious, humble manner with which she continues to serve our families and students.*