



Word of Mouth

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Welcome to New Faculty and Staff

By AJ Burrows and Ramsey Riddles

Mr. and Mrs. Giszack

Our new principal Mr. Todd Giszack is very cheerful and encouraging. He starts the student's day each morning with a positive word from the podium. His upbeat approach can be easily seen as he interacts with students and staff around the campus. In addition to his responsibilities as principal, Mr. Giszack will be sponsoring two clubs this year – the Community Service Organization and the Environmental Awareness Club.

Although this is his first year at Oak Hill Academy, Mr. Giszack has been involved with boarding schools for nearly his entire



career. He taught Chemistry and Biology for seven years. Then he was part of an Administrative Team for eight years. Most recently, he was an Academic Dean (aka principal) for the past seven years.

Mr. Giszack received a BS in Biology from Virginia Tech. He spent several years working in the private sector; however, he felt called to work with students. This calling sent him back to school. He attended Radford University where he earned an MS in Education with a focus on Curriculum Design and Instruction.

Mrs. Katherine Giszack is the Director of Admission and works with the leadership program on campus. Mrs. Giszack earned an undergraduate degree in English with a teaching license from Virginia Tech. She earned a Master's in Education with TESOL concentration and ESL teaching license from Radford University. Mrs. Giszack has been working in the field of education for 20 years.

Together, the Giszacks have three children. David is a third grader at



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WOM

Trivia Contest

The first current OHA student to correctly respond via email (mhaas@oak-hill.net) receives a snack assortment from Ms. Haas.

Question—Using OHA years of teaching, what is the combined years of experience of the teaching staff?

Welcome to New Faculty & Staff cont.

Grayson Highlands Elementary School. Jared, who is 18, is studying in China this year, and Micah, 20, attends Liberty University. Rounding out the family is Piper, a chocolate Lab.

In his free time, Mr. Giszack enjoys the outdoors. He likes everything from hiking to fishing to deer

hunting. Mr. Giszack is excited to be back in the mountains stating, "It feels so great to be back in the mountains," after spending nearly 20 years living in the Piedmont region of Virginia. During her free time, Mrs. Giszack loves to journal about life and write reflectively. She also enjoys traveling throughout Europe and Asia.

What makes Oak Hill such a great place to be? Mr. Giszack says, "I'd have to say the students. I really think OHA has some amazing young people in our student body." Mrs. Giszack shared, "I love the positivity of the Oak Hill Academy community and the warm welcome my family has received."

Mrs. St. Cyr

The Spanish class is energetic with a wide variety of activities being led by new teacher Mrs. Leslie St. Cyr. In addition to teaching all levels of Spanish, Mrs. St. Cyr is part of the Residential Life community as a Resident Manager for Williams-Berry, the senior boys' dorm.

Mrs. St. Cyr received a BS in Hospitality Management from Florida International University. Prior to life at Oak Hill, Mrs. St. Cyr worked as a Sales

Coordinator for a hotel near Disneyland in California and as an Activities Director and Administrative Assistant at a boarding school in Oregon.



October 17th. The family also has two cherished dogs, Romeo and Yoda. If you noticed a Disney™ theme, this is accurate as Mrs. St. Cyr is a fan of all things Disney.

She also enjoys playing darts and video games. Mrs. St. Cyr likes movies and shared that her favorite food is a Street Taco. She loves our beautiful campus and the amazing views of the Blue Ridge Mountains.

Her family includes her husband, also a Resident Manager for Williams-Berry, and young son D'Artagnan, who will be four years old

Mrs. Fisher

The lovely and talented Mrs. Jessica Fisher plays two primary roles on campus. During the mornings, she teaches the English as a Second Language (ESL) classes. Then in the afternoons, she applies her



talents as the Admissions Assistant. Mrs. Fisher also sponsors international trips, TOEFL testing, and an International Weekend in May. In addition to two years of teaching experience, Mrs. Fisher has

also worked as a freelance translator, translating Korean to both English and German.

How does Mrs. Fisher know German? She studied German language at Studienkolleg Goethe

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Welcome to New Faculty & Staff cont.

Universität in Frankfurt, Germany. She also has a Bachelor's of Music in Performance specializing in classical flute from Queensland Conservatorium Grffith University in Brisbane, Australia.

Mr. and Mrs. Dacons

The OHA Library is lively with many students, new librarian and learning specialist Mrs. Dacons, and during select moments, sweet baby Cameron who is eight months old. Mrs. Dacons comes to Oak Hill with 11 years of experience in the Philadelphia School District. She earned her undergraduate degree from LaSalle University, majoring in elementary education, special education, and American studies. During her time at LaSalle, Mrs. Dacons also minored in Leadership and Global Understanding. She went on to earn a Master's Degree in Education with a concentration in English as a Second Language from Penn State University.



She resides on campus with her husband, daughter, and a sweet beagle

While teaching English and music in a school in South Korea, Mrs. Fisher met her husband Mr. Griff Fisher. The couple was wed in the Fall of 2018. They are looking forward to adopting a puppy later this year. During her

named Muggsy. Mrs. Dacons has two sisters and expects frequent visits from her parents and her husband's parents to see Cameron grow up on 'The Hill.'

Mr. Dacons has a long history with Oak Hill dating back to 2003 when he was part of the Gold Team and the senior class. Back on campus this year, Mr. Dacons is now the Resident Manager for Dixon Hall as well as an Assistant Coach for his former team. Mr. Dacons also attended LaSalle University, earning an M.B.A in Finance/Business Systems and Analytics. However, Mr. Dacons started his collegiate career at Temple University where he earned a B.A. in Sociology and a Master's of Education with a focus on Sport Recreation Administration.

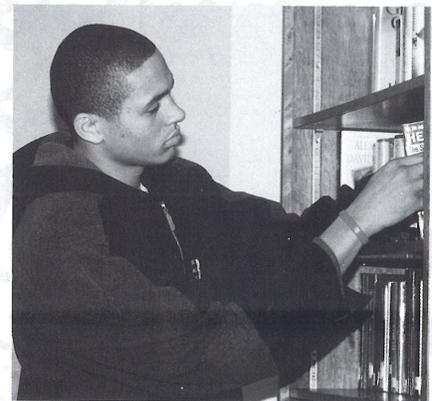
During their free time, Mr. and Mrs. Dacons both

free time, Mrs. Fisher likes traveling, yoga, and watercolor painting. She enjoys the wildlife, amazing mountain views, and wonderful people of Oak Hill Academy.

love sports. Mr. Dacons enjoys hunting and fishing, while Mrs. Dacons likes watching sports and attending live concerts. Mrs. Dacons likes to stay active with jogging and being outdoors. Mr. Dacons also likes a good game of cards.



Mr. Dacons is glad to be back on 'The Hill' and part of the basketball program. He enjoys the scenery and community. Mrs. Dacons loves the warm welcome her family has received from the staff, faculty, and students.



Dion take a few minutes to make sure everything's in order.

Photo courtesy of the 2003 Hilltopper (OHA Yearbook)

Welcome to New Faculty & Staff cont.

Mr. Conley

Our newest Rotating Resident Manager for the boys' side of campus who is also an Assistant Red Team Coach is Mr. Conley. Although this is his first year of coaching and being a Resident Manager, Mr. Conley has a history with OHA as he worked at basketball camps here for many years. He played basketball in college at Emory & Henry College where he studied Economics, and then transferred to Asbury University to continue his studies as well as his time on the court. Mr. Conley graduated from Asbury

University with a BA in Business Administration.

Mr. Conley hails from Virginia, having lived in Lynchburg, Floyd, and Galax, where his parents and older brother still reside. Engaged to Miss Lauren Fleming, Mr. Conley is excited about his wedding in August of 2020. During his free time, Mr. Conley enjoys being active. He likes working out, running, and playing basketball. His love of sports continues to include working at basketball training camps, being an active member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and watching his

favorite teams and players compete on TV.

Outside of sports, Mr. Conley appreciates listening to music, attending First Baptist Church in Galax, and singing.

What stands out about OHA to Mr. Conley is the welcoming environment and tremendous people. He is pleased to be part of this community and working with everyone, especially the remarkable students.



Ladies' Volleyball

By Tobi Salami

Ms. Ann Brooks is the Head Coach of the volleyball team. She also coaches tennis in the spring and works as a Resident Manager for Hough first floor. She studied Mass Communication and Recreation at Emory and Henry College where she played volleyball and tennis competitively. When she's not running drills at practice or being a loving, supportive Resident Manager, Ms.

Brooks likes to watch T.V., take walks, fly in hot air balloons and color. She also has a great love for music and can be spotted DJ'ing dance parties in the girl's dorm. Family is very important to Ms. Brooks. She has a son named Lance, and two sisters and a brother who come to games frequently to support her. Coaching the volleyball team is a very rewarding



experience for Ms. Brooks. She enjoys the thrill of a close set and "working with such an amazing group of young women."

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Ladies' Volleyball cont.

Ms. Mikki Haas is the assistant coach of the team. She is primarily a teacher and stays very busy on campus. When she is not coaching volleyball, Ms. Haas sponsors various clubs from dog walking to spa club and art club. She is also very involved with Girls Inc. of Bristol, where she takes students to volunteer. The school newspaper, online news blog and senior multimedia showcase are some other things that keep her engaged. Ms. Haas received a Bachelor of Arts degree in education from Temple University in Philadelphia, which is an hour away from her hometown of Allentown, Pennsylvania. She also has a Masters of Education and Instructional Technology certification from Kutztown University. Ms. Haas has a son Shawn, Oak Hill class of 2014, and a Patterdale Terrier named Phantom. Her experience coaching this year's team is positive. She enjoys "working with the team and seeing players grow in both confidence and ability."

Eva Fennimore is a senior in her second year at Oak Hill. She is from Durham, North Carolina. Off the



court, she keeps herself busy by going fishing and painting, but she also values her rest. She enjoys listening to alternative pop music, and her favorite artist is Blackbear.

Maria Lovett is a senior currently residing in South Korea. This is her third year on the volleyball team. She enjoys bettering her writing skills in Mr. Pease's English 12 class. In her down time, Maria plays soccer and dances. Her favorite musical genre is pop, and she is also a fan of Blackbear's soothing music.



Jade Renaud is a senior from Palo Alto, California, in her fourth year at Oak Hill. She has played on the team for three years and hopes to continue playing after high school. She enjoys challenging her mind in her favorite class,



Honors World Religions. After school, Jade loves to hang out with her old friends and make new ones.

Andie Schultz is a junior from Georgia. This is her second year at Oak Hill and her first year on the volleyball team. Her favorite class is anatomy because she is curious about the inner workings of the body. In her spare time, Andie enjoys listening to A Tribe Called Quest. She is also an artist and spends lots of time drawing. Andie recently shared her talents creating caricatures for families attending the local elementary school's fundraiser.

Campbell Hunroe is a junior from Virginia in her second year at Oak Hill. She is very passionate about volleyball and has played the sport for six years. In school, her



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Ladies Volleyball cont.

best class is U.S history. When she is not busy studying, Campbell watches Grey's Anatomy and Space Jam.



Bridget Hoffman is a junior in her fourth year on 'The Hill.' This is her first time playing volleyball, and she is enjoying learning new things alongside her teammates. She has an interest in science and her favorite class is chemistry. Bridget finds pizza to be the food she likes the most. She is interested in a variety of sports including soccer, wrestling, basketball, and baseball.

Candace Drew, from Philadelphia, is a sophomore in her second year at OHA. This is also her second year playing volleyball. She is very active in the school's music program, and her favorite class is History through Music. After school, she likes meeting new people and singing with her friends.



Arthurline Mulbah, of Liberia, is a sophomore in her second year at Oak Hill. This was her first time playing volleyball, and she has learned a lot from her coaches. Her favorite class in school is math because it challenges her. Off the court, she lets loose by singing and dancing.

Haley Vestri is a sophomore from Austin, Texas. This is her first year at Oak Hill Academy and her first-time playing volleyball. Haley is passionate about caring for others and tries her best to be a supportive presence on campus. After school, she enjoys playing her ukulele and getting extra practice to strengthen her volleyball skills.

Chloe Alario is a freshman in her second year at Oak Hill Academy. She has played volleyball for two years and enjoys the time on the court with her friends. In school, she likes her English and science classes. When



she's not at school or on the court, Chloe loves fishing at Lake Samuella or socializing with her friends at the campus store.

The Volleyball Team is supported by two dedicated managers.

AJ Burrows, a senior, is in his third year on 'The Hill.' AJ is also the manager of the Red Team and an Honor Court member. He enjoys his time in Honors Spanish III with Mrs. St. Cyr. During AJ's down time, he socializes at the campus store with many friends. He is always ready for a slice of pizza!

Mason Bennett is an eighth grader in his first year at Oak Hill. He has proven to be very helpful to the team, and they are glad to have him around. His favorite class at OHA is Algebra I. After school, Mason enjoys reading and listening to Guns n Roses.



Soccer

By Lauren Oberman

Andy Smith of Point Pleasant, New Jersey, is the Head Coach of the Oak Hill Soccer Team. He applies his knowledge of athletics and conditioning to coaching soccer. He teaches Sports Management, Health and PE, Basketball Training, and Girls' Advanced Fitness. He lives on campus with his wife Zara who is from New Zealand and sweet new puppy, Kona. His favorite sport is basketball, and Kevin Garnett is his favorite player.

Mr. Johnson, the Assistant Coach of the Soccer Team and Head Coach of the Baseball Team, is from Sugar Grove, Virginia. Mr. Johnson recently graduated from Radford University with a Bachelor's in Biology and Psychology. At OHA, he teaches Chemistry, Biology, Earth Science, and Anatomy. He has two dogs named Apollo and Zeus. In his free time, Mr. Johnson enjoys fishing, hiking, kayaking, video games, and working with animals. He enjoys coaching because it is a great way to improve not only oneself but others in a positive way.

Francesco Brusadin is a senior from Italy. His favorite



class is Boy's Advanced Fitness, but science is his favorite subject. He loves BBQ Ribs and enjoys listening to Ligabue and Jay-Z.

Thomas Cunanan-Reid is in his second year at Oak Hill and has been playing soccer for three years. He is also a member of Red Team Basketball. During his free time, Thomas likes to play basketball, chess, Fortnite, and NBA 2K20.

Amar Diouf is a senior and has been playing soccer for four years. Amar loves sushi. When listening to music, he prefers Youssou Ndour. Amar's favorite class at Oak Hill is CC English with Mr. Pease. He also enjoys math.

Michael Hill is a senior from Richmond, Virginia, and a member of the Red Team. He has been playing soccer for five years. Mike's two favorite classes are Sports Medicine and English 12. Mike likes pizza and listening to XXXtentacion.

Anees Abdul-Raheem is a senior out of New Jersey

who has been playing soccer for four years.

Anees is also a member of the Red Team. He enjoys listening to G Herbo and likes to

dance. He is always up for a run to Chick-Fil-A.

Senior Jordan Phelps has been playing soccer for four years. His favorite class at Oak Hill is Algebra 2. When school is out, Jordan enjoys playing basketball and listening to Gunna. Jordan's favorite place to eat is Chipotle.

Ian Robinson '20 is in his tenth year of playing soccer. He enjoys College Credit English with Mr. Pease. During his free time, Ian likes to watch Man in the High Castle. Ian's favorite food is steak.



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Soccer cont.

Phoenix Bailey '21 has been playing soccer for two years. He also enjoys engaging in soccer, playing airsoft, and hanging out with friends. His favorite artist is Gury Dolph. Phoenix says he loves bacon.

Junior Jonathan Dumez has been playing soccer for 16 years. During his free time, Jonathan enjoys relaxing in his room eating Ethiopian food. Jonathan's favorite class is Weight Lifting, and he also likes English II with Ms. Tobin.

Justin Banks '21 is a basketball player in his first year of playing soccer. He loves basketball and plays at every opportunity. He enjoys listening to NBA Youngboy. During school, he looks forward to English II with Ms. Tobin. Justin's favorite food is shrimp fried rice.

Junior Josh Mosely's favorite subject at Oak Hill is English with Boys Advanced Fitness being his favorite class. Josh has been playing soccer for 11 years. In his free time, Josh enjoys playing basketball.

Jervonio Rigby (who goes by his last name only) is a junior in his second year at



Oak Hill. Rigby has been playing soccer for three years. His favorite after school activity is fishing. In his free time, Rigby enjoys playing basketball, guitar, and listening to music.

Gideon Wepner is a junior and has been playing soccer for 11 years. When he has free time, he enjoys wrestling and participating in sports. Gideon's favorite musical artist is J.Cole. He appreciates all types of Hispanic cuisine.



Emeka Nnamani, a junior, has been playing soccer since he was a young child. His two favorite classes are Spanish and Pre-Calculus. Emeka relishes Jollof Rice. He often listens to Burna Boy.

Junior Shakeim Outten has been playing soccer for six years. In his free time, Shakeim likes to listen to music and watch movies. His favorite class is PE, and he enjoys learning Spanish.

Clement Kimani is a junior. Clement's favorite class is Anatomy. During his free time, he enjoys playing 2K and listening to music. His favorite food is fried chicken.

Lucca Giganti, a sophomore, has been playing soccer for two years. Lucca frequently listens to Lil Baby. His preferred food is chicken tenders. Lucca's favorite class and subject are English.

James Siegling's favorite subject is Earth Science, but his favorite class is Basketball Skills Training with Coach A. Smith. He loves playing basketball. James is a fan of all kinds of pizza.

Freshman Eren Ozcan has been playing soccer for eight years. When he is not playing soccer, he enjoys playing basketball and listening to J.Cole. Eren enjoys Algebra; however, his favorite class is Modern World History.

Asa Bryan '23 has been playing soccer for six years. He enjoys the Ancient World History class with Mr. Hebold. When Asa



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Soccer cont.

has some free time, he listens to Smokepurpp or watches Netflix. Asa is also interested in computer programming.

The team has two managers.

Ramsey Riddles is a senior from Fairfax, Virginia. His favorite classes are 21st Century Journalism and Christian Ethics. When relaxing, Ramsey prefers to listen to Playboi Carti. He



loves tacos.

Sophomore Alex Palmer has been playing soccer for two years but decided to take on the manager position this year. Alex's favorite class is AP Computer Science. In his free time, Alex

likes to play lacrosse and video games. Alex loves steak. He also enjoys Punk music.



ESL Class Feature

By Zhiwen (Wendy) Hu

Welcome to

OHA



Wendy Hu ♥



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