

Updated New Staff Bio's 2021-2022

Leah Harger
ES Counselor



Leah grew up on the US east coast in Connecticut. She has been living in San Diego, California for the past two years while completing her graduate degree in Counseling.

Leah is thrilled to be here at LCS, her first international school experience!

Letitia West
MS/HS Science



Letitia joins us from the state of Connecticut. However, over the past 21 years, she has toggled teaching positions in Connecticut and LCS! In fact, she grew up in our backyard, attending Ghana International School.

Letitia has dual nationality, carrying both a Nigerian and a US passport. She earned both her bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

Letitia enjoys making beaded jewellery especially using locally sourced beads and creating bespoke pieces.

Gifty Kwaofio
ES Grade 2



Gifty hails from Montreal, Canada where she was born and raised. She recently acquired a Ghanaian passport and is now a dual citizen to Canada and Ghana. She is also trilingual and speaks English, Ga and French.

Gifty attended John Abbott College in Montreal and McGill University where she studied Kindergarten and Elementary Education earning her degree in elementary education. In her down time she likes to spend time playing board games with her family. Gifty shared, "I am really excited about coming back to my roots. Although I was not born in Ghana nor ever lived here, I feel a strong connection to the country."

"I am looking forward to learning more about my heritage and connecting with family members I have never met before."

Tracie Gunning
ES Grade 5



Tracie was born and raised in Manitoba, Canada, but over the last 14 years has called the world home. She has lived in Asia, South America, and shared “I am excited to be back in West Africa!”

Tracie earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Winnipeg, followed by a Bachelor of Education at the University of Winnipeg.

She holds a Master of Education with a focus in elementary reading from the American Public University.

Margaret Hebert
ES French



Margaret is from Marseille, in the South of France. She spent most of her growing years there until she moved to different places in France and French Guiana. She attended the University of Montpellier, earning a Bachelor’s degree in both Italian and French as a Foreign Language.

Her love for language was fostered by FLE (French as a Foreign Language) as well as language classes in Italian and Portuguese, a desire to see other parts of the world, and, especially, trips to Europe.

Teaching on the island of Mayotte and traveling to Kenya, Madagascar, and Reunion, has allowed her to experience other ways of living and thinking. Through her travels, Margaret shared “I see life differently.”.

Alicia Dean
ES Music

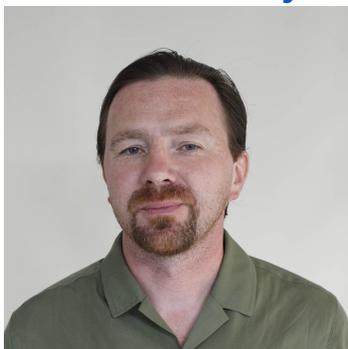


Alicia Dean hails from the most easterly province in Canada, Newfoundland and Labrador. She grew up surrounded by the Atlantic Ocean, engulfed in snow filled community run ski hills and engaged in various music programs throughout her childhood.

She completed her degree in Music and Music Education from Memorial University and her Fine Arts diploma with a concentration in music education from the University of Calgary and earned her Master of Education in Elementary Teaching, Mount Saint Vincent, Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Within the public schools, Alicia taught in several communities across Newfoundland & Labrador and Ontario, and at Cedar International School in the British Virgin Islands.

Graeme Boyd
MS/HS Library



Graeme hails from Glasgow, Scotland. He has two elder brothers who both live in Australia. Graeme has studied in London and Glasgow and recently completed a PGCEi at the University of Nottingham. Most recently Graeme has been working at Berlin Brandenburg School.

Previously he worked in Kuwait, China, Lebanon, and at St. Francis College in Brazil - his favourite! In his spare time Graeme enjoys playing golf. Growing up in Scotland he has been lucky enough to play some of the best links golf courses in the world.

He is looking forward to trying traditional Ghanaian cuisine.

Kelly Butler
ES Student Support Services



Kelly grew up in Chicago, Illinois. She spent 6 years in Los Angeles, and has been living in St. Thomas, a US territory in the Caribbean, for the last 10+ years. She holds a bachelor's degree in Special Education from Eastern Illinois University and a master's degree in Special Education from California State University, Dominguez Hills.

Kelly loves to travel, garden, cook and do yoga. Penny, her 42 pound coconut retriever, also traveled to Ghana with Kelly.

They are excited to explore their new continent together and meet all the other dog friends who are part of the LCS family.

Erin Foxmann
ES Grade 4



Erin is from the Washington, D.C. area of Maryland in the United States with Annapolis as her home base. Erin earned her undergraduate degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in Latin American Studies and her master's degree through Framingham State University (Casablanca, Morocco cohort) in International Education.

Being outdoors is important to Erin and she looks forward to finding a network of people and friends that have varied interests that take them outdoors. Erin and Michael's son, Redding, is an incoming sixth grader. He has a huge verbal vocabulary, LOTS of cousins, a budding palate, and a variety of interests.

Michael Foxmann
*HS Assistant Principal/DP
Coordinator*



Michael grew up near Detroit, Michigan and relocated to Chapel Hill, North Carolina after graduating from college. He likes to think of both places as home. Michael is currently pursuing a Master of Arts in Educational Leadership from Framingham State University.

Michael has been a musician for most of his life, playing bass and guitar, singing, and writing songs. Making music, especially with friends, is a key to his happiness.

He cannot wait to experience the music of Ghana first hand.

Lesley Tait
Head of School



Lesley is originally from the very south of the South Island of New Zealand, where she grew up as the oldest of four children. As an adult though, she spent most of her time living and working in a beautiful beach suburb just north of Auckland city. Lesley graduated with a Bachelor of Education and Teaching Certification from Otago University, a college situated in Dunedin, New Zealand. She then went on to gain her Master in Educational Administration (Honours) and also a postgraduate diploma in Educational Technology, both from Auckland University in New Zealand.

Lesley and her husband Dave first ventured into the world of international schools in 2012 when they both accepted positions at the American Cooperative School of Tunis, Tunisia. After six years at ACST, Lesley moved on to a position at the American School of Brasilia, in Brazil where she served as the Interim Head of School. Although their children are grown, Dave and Lesley are the proud owners of a Tunisian street dog, called Didi. She is named after the famous queen of Carthage, Queen Didon.

Lesley likes to run and has done so her whole life. Unfortunately over the years she has become a lot slower, but still likes to get out there on the open road.

Annie Tunheim
HS Humanities



While Annie called Miami, FL home as a child, she headed towards the mountains of Denver, Colorado after graduating college. There, she met her husband, Sam, and began raising their three sons until a 2012 teacher exchange stint in Australia opened their eyes to living overseas.

She spent the last two years in the foothills of the Himalayas as an MYP Language & Literature teacher and Extended Essay Coordinator at Woodstock School. Having transitioned from a legal career, she will start her 7th year of teaching at LCS. Son Alex (grade 11) is happiest when his hands are either on a guitar or a chess piece. He's most looking forward to doing some surfing. Kenyon (grade 8) is an animal lover and leads a Dungeons & Dragons group at his current school.

He is looking forward to horseback riding and, with his eldest brother Jackson going off to college, having his own room for the first time in his life.

Sam Tunheim
MS/HS Art

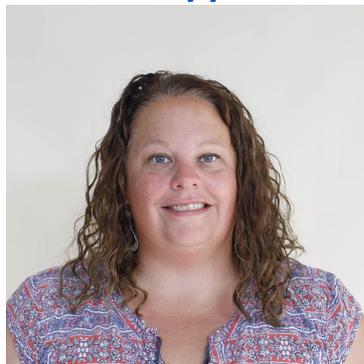


Sam came to LCS from the Woodstock School in the mountains of northern India surrounded by thick forest and lots of beautiful Langur monkeys.

Sam spent his first 23 years in Santa Cruz, California then moved on to Colorado for the second half of his life where he met his wife, Annie and started a family. Sam has heard lots of good things about life in Ghana, such as the warm and friendly people, the food and overall lifestyle.

He is super excited to become part of the LCS community and contribute to its vision of growing joyful impassioned learners.

Amanda Waterkotte
MS Student Support Services



Amanda is originally from Bainbridge Island, Washington which is located a ferry ride across from Seattle. Amanda has earned her bachelor's degree from Montana State University and a special education degree from Pacific Lutheran University. She has been teaching for 15 years. Most recently, while working at the Inter-community School of Zurich, she once again started working in the mainstream classroom teaching English.

She became involved in working with the learning support team to create a positive co-teaching model to help students needing extra support and differentiation in her classroom. Amanda was heavily involved with creating a PDP program in which she worked alongside the leadership team creating programs to help support students' social and emotional needs. This is still an area in which she is truly passionate about.

Amanda and James have two daughters, Ava who is 8 years old and will be going into 3rd grade and 6 year old Bryn, headed into 1st grade. Both girls love swimming and cannot wait to swim in the school's pool. Lilly, their 13 year old labrador, is truly an international dog having travelled from the US, to Paraguay, Switzerland, and now Africa.

James Waterkotte
MS/HS Band



James grew up in Phoenix, Arizona. Post college he spent his time in Seattle Washington. He earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Oklahoma and a master's degree from Endicott College. James taught MYP Music in Zurich, Switzerland for the past 7 years.

He is interested in educational technology and how it impacts learning. Of course, his first hobby is music - playing trumpet and Ukulele. Besides that, he loves surfing and camping. The pandemic has also made him realize that he loves being around friends and cooking. James is most excited to get back to teaching Band. The last 7 years he has been teaching general music and has very much missed conducting and leading groups of musicians.

James shared, "Ghana is very different from Switzerland; I feel it's very important for me and my children to experience different cultures."

Maureen Harder
MS Math



After 12 years of traveling with her Navy family Maureen settled down in Washington State where she raised two children and a number of dogs. Maureen earned her bachelor's degree from Washington State University and a Master's in Curriculum and Technology from Lesley University in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

For the past 32 years Maureen has taught in Ritzville Washington teaching all subjects in grades 6-8 including math, geography, science, technology and coaching volleyball. Maureen was drawn to teach at LCS because of the diversity of its teachers and students. She is excited to learn from the LCS community.

Brian Milburn
ES Grade 4



Brian was reared in Naperville, Illinois, a suburb of Chicago, USA. His teaching has taken him from small towns in the Mississippi River Valley of Wisconsin and Minnesota to Singapore, Argentina, Nepal, Sri Lanka and now Ghana.

Brian holds degrees from the University of Wisconsin - La Crosse, Bachelor of Science and St. Mary's University of Minnesota, Master of Instruction. Brian has taught Grades 1 - 6 in both U.S. public and international schools. He enjoys swimming and has participated in open water swims.

He also enjoys birding and a good book. Brian is very excited to be living in Africa and learn a bit more about the world we share. This will be his 26th year of teaching.