

## **Sanford School 2008-09 Profiles of New Faculty & Staff**

**Nathalie Cecil** joins the Sanford School as teacher of Upper School French. A native of Strasbourg, France, Mrs. Cecil earned her bachelor's and master's degrees from Eastern Washington University while her husband served our military as a pilot. Several years ago, she served as a teacher at Ursuline Academy before moving her family to Japan and then Hawaii to be with her husband. She is the mother of two children. Her son, Eric, will join the seventh grade at Sanford this fall. Her husband is a pilot for Continental Airlines.

**Cristina Cochran** has joined the Sanford faculty as a new member of the Upper School English department. A graduate of Sanford '04 and the University of Delaware '08, Cristina is well-prepared to make an immediate impact on her alma mater. A double major in English and History at UD, Cristina also has a strong background in dance and music. She worked her way through college with a variety of jobs and distinguished herself during an internship at Longwood Gardens. In her first year of teaching at Sanford, Cristina will be teaching Freshman English.

**Jennifer Funk** has been appointed to the faculty as Middle School Spanish teacher. She brings with her to Sanford a strong background as a teacher in the Brandywine School District and at Pencader Charter School. A graduate of the University of Richmond with a graduate degree from the University of Delaware, she also has worked in the business world, most recently as a supervisor of Spanish client services for the Vanguard Group in Malvern, PA. Her daughter, Margo, will be a first grader at Sanford this year. Her husband works as an Instructional Technology leader in the Brandywine District.

**Elise Haynie** joins the Sanford faculty as a Middle School History teacher and coach. She is a graduate of Germantown Academy and Dickinson College and comes from a family of teachers. Since graduating from college, Elise has been involved in teaching and admission work. Most recently, she has held a position in the Drexel University admission office. She has a wide range of interests, including helping with student government and clubs, and looks forward to coaching field hockey, basketball and lacrosse.

**Barbara Kanter** will be teaching in the third and fourth grades as a reading instructor. She is a graduate of the University of Cincinnati and she has earned two master's degrees- one from the Ohio State University, the other from the University of Delaware. She has a rich background in public education as a classroom teacher of elementary and middle school children. In addition, her breadth of experience includes working with mainstream and autistic children. She is very familiar with Sanford as the mother of Ben Para (grade 6) and Grace Para (grade 3).

**Katharine Kruczynski** is the new Lower School Librarian and Media Specialist.. A Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Cornell University with an advanced degree from Teachers College Columbia University, Mrs. Kruczynski is well known to many of our Lower School children and families through her work last year as a very effective long term substitute for two teachers (Christine DiUbaldo and Jen Bowen) when they were taking maternity leave. Along with her Sanford experience, she has been a teacher in Charles City, Virginia and Mobile, Alabama.

**Arden Miller** joins the Lower School faculty as a resource teacher in the Kindergarten. A graduate of Sanford '96, Arden was a student-athlete at Guilford College from which she graduated. Currently, she is enrolled part-time in a graduate program at Wilmington University where she is concentrating on elementary education. Her long association with our school includes a stint as a long term substitute teacher in the physical education and health department as well as fine work as a three-season coach of field hockey, basketball and tennis.

**Wendy Nashed** returns to the Sanford faculty as a fifth grade teacher after a six year hiatus which was spent raising her twin sons, Zaki and Jordan, who enter the Kindergarten this fall. Over the course of several years of teaching fourth graders at Sanford and, prior to that, as a fourth grade teacher in the Cecil County Public Schools, Mrs. Nashed developed quite a following because of her energy and passion for teaching. I should add that her two nieces, Leila and Maiya, are Upper School students at Sanford.

**Brady Nemeth** will hold a dual role at Sanford. He is the newly appointed Director of Extended Day and a reading instructor in the second grade. He is a graduate of Wilmington Friends and Guilford College and is well on his way to earning his graduate degree at Wilmington University. Brady has a wonderful background with children in a variety of settings, including teaching, extended day programs and coaching. His experience and his creativity should be great assets to his work at Sanford.

**Chad Smith** will be teaching Lower School and Middle School instrumental and general music. He is a graduate of Radford University where he earned distinction as a musician and as a leader. For the past two school years, he has been an elementary music teacher in the Bedford County (VA) Schools. His arrival will allow Sarah Kuwik to move into a role working with the Middle and Upper School band and ensemble program at Sanford.

**Michelle Stephens** is a graduate of Ursuline Academy and the University of Delaware where she excelled in the classroom and as an athlete. She joins the Sanford faculty as a Spanish teacher in the Upper School and as a coach of swimming and lacrosse. She attended Delaware on a swimming scholarship and captained her team as a junior and as a senior. Her impressive academic record earned her an Arco Petro Academic Scholarship.

**Staci Stocklos** arrives at Sanford with three years of teaching experience in higher education. A graduate of Franklin & Marshall College, Staci earned her M.A. in English at the University of Delaware. Her teaching experience includes time as an instructor at UD, Lehigh and Villanova. Outside of her academic life, Staci has been a professional dance instructor and a volunteer at a number of cultural institutions. At Sanford, she will be teaching Junior and Senior English.

**James Weeks** joins the Sanford faculty as English department chair and teacher. A graduate of the University of North Carolina, Jim taught for fifteen years at the Perkiomen School (PA) where he served as department chair, teacher and Director of Studies. Later, he moved to the Oldfields School(MD) where he wore many hats, including teacher, department head and chair of the faculty evaluation task force. His wife, Anne, is the Upper School Head at Agnes Irwin School. Anne and Jim have a grown son who lives in Newark. With thirty five years of teaching and administrative experience, Jim is ideally qualified to continue a tradition of excellence in the Sanford English department.