BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF NEW FACULTY 2016-2017

MUSTAFA ABDUL-RAHIM – Mathematics and Computer Science: Mustafa is a graduate of Dartmouth College, with an AB in Engineering and an MA in Engineering Management. Most recently, Mustafa was coaching track and field at Exeter, and prior to that, at Southern Connecticut State University. Mustafa has competed nationally and worldwide in the decathlon and heptathlon, including taking part in two Olympic trials. He lives with his wife Rasheeda Abdul-Musawwir in Mem 4N.

ASHLEY M. BAIROS ’06 – Science: Ashley is a Choate graduate and has worked at Choate’s Summer Programs for seven years. She earned her BA at Middlebury and her MS in Environmental Science at Green Mountain College. Prior to Choate she taught for 2 years at Thayer Academy in Braintree, MA. Ashley also worked at the National Sports Academy in Lake Placid, NY, and played ice hockey at both Choate and Middlebury. Ashley lives in Mem 4S with her new dog, Scout.

SELENA L. GELL – Science: After completing her undergraduate studies at Brandeis, Selena taught high school science for two years in Arizona as part of Teach for America. She went on to earn her PhD in Molecular Biology from Brown. Since then she has been a Post-Doctoral Research Fellow in the Genetics Department at Harvard Medical School where she studied gene regulation and worked as an Adjunct Assistant Professor at Massachusetts College of Health Pharmacy Sciences. Selena lives with her husband, Bennett Prescott, in Arnold House 2.

AMIN ABDUL-MALIK GONZALEZ – Director of Admission (please see attached bio.)

MARK A. GOSZTYLA – English: For the last seven years, Mark has taught poetry, as a lecturer in the English Department at Tufts University. During this time, he’s also worked as a substitute English teacher at Hopkins and as a cross country and track & field coach at Yale University. He is a graduate of the University of New Hampshire, where he earned a BA in English and a MFA in Creative Writing. Mark lives in Delbos House with his wife, Amy, and their two children, Lillian (4) and Waverly (1).

KEITH M. HINDERLIE – Director of Equity and Inclusion (please see attached bio.)

MELISSA A. KOOMSON – Director of Community Service: Melissa spent the last year working in Breman Esiam, Ghana at the Heritage Academy. Prior to that she worked at Westtown School and Plymouth Meeting Friends School in PA. Melissa holds a BA in Spanish from Chestnut Hill College. She lives in Hall House 2/3 and will be joined by her husband, Kwesi, later this fall.
ALEXANDRA M. LONG – Assistant Director of Student Activities: A familiar face, Alex has worked in the Choate Communications Office for the past six years most recently as the Manager of Campus Events. Alex also grew up at Choate. She currently lives in 405 N. Main Street, 2nd floor with her son, Oliver (5).

CLAIRE LERCHEN MINNEMAN – College Counseling: Claire joins us having worked as a college counselor at Miss Porter’s School and Kent School. She earned her BA from Boston College, and an EdM from Harvard Graduate School of Education. Claire, her husband, Jesse (HPRSS teacher), and their dog live in 1690 House 2/3.

STEPHANIE A. NEUL – Mathematics and Computer Science: Stephanie graduated from Williams with a BA in Math and English and rowed varsity crew while she was there. She worked as an analyst at Morgan Stanley in New York this past year and for Choate Summer Programs this summer. Stephanie lives in Walsh 3 with her dog.

JENNIFER L. PELLETIER – HPRSS: Jenn graduated from Trinity College with degrees in Political Science and History. She was a member of the Canadian National Women’s Squash Team and a 4 year player for Trinity. Last year she taught history and coached squash and tennis at Westover school in Middlebury, CT. Jennifer lives in Pratt 5 with her partner, Josh Cardwell, and their two dogs.

JESSICA C. PFEL – Mathematics and Computer Science: Jessica holds a BS from Virginia Tech, an MA from New York University and both an MPhil and a PhD from Columbia University. She has taught at Fairfield University, Sacred Heart University, and West Orange High School (in NJ). Jessica lives in Pratt 2 with her husband, Patrick, and their children, Henry (10), Eliza (7), and Vivian (soon to be 5).

SOFIA TIRADO PONTES – English: After earning her BA in English and Spanish at University of Notre Dame, Sofia received her MA in Comparative Literature from Rutgers University. Last year she was an English Teaching Fellow at Phillips Academy Andover, and this summer she worked at Choate Summer Programs. Please congratulate Sofia, her wedding is this weekend! Sofia and soon to be husband, Pedro Pontes, live in Further Cottage 2.

JASON A. RAITI – Chief Investment Officer: (see attache bio)
BROOKE A. REA – English: Brooke earned her BA in English Literature from Bucknell University and her MA in English Education from the Teachers College Columbia University. She has tutored extensively since then, along with instructing swimming and water polo. More recently, Brooke went on to earn her MFA in Creative Writing from Sarah Lawrence College. Brooke lives in Richardson 2/3 with her partner, David Fichera, and David’s children Trey (almost 15) and Wylee (13).

STEPHEN J. SIPERSTIEN – English: Stephen’s degrees include a BA from Wesleyan, an MA from Boston College, and most recently his PhD from the University of Oregon. Stephen has taught at Boston College, Stonehill College, University of Oregon, and a year of high school at the Vail Ski and Snowboard Academy. Stephen lives with his wife, Jemma, in 413B North Main Street, and they are expecting their first child this fall.

CATHRYN S. STOUT – English: After graduating with a BA from Wellesley College, Cathryn was a columnist and reporter in Memphis, Tennessee. She then went on to receive her M.A. in Southern Studies from the University of Mississippi and is in the process of completing her PhD in American Studies at St. Louis University. She has spent multiple summers as a writing instructor for Choate Summer Programs. Cathryn is living in Richardson 1 with her partner, Raymond Montgomery, who will be joining her in October.

YUXIN XIE – Science: Yuxin graduated from MIT with a BS in Chemistry and then went on to receive her MS in Chemistry from the University of Chicago. Since then she has been tutoring all subjects, including test prep, at C2 Education Bridgewater. She lives in Nichols Garden.

HEATHER A. YORK – Science: Heather has spent the past 4 years working as an assistant biology professor at Buena Vista University in Iowa, and prior to that, 5 years at Doane College in Nebraska. She received her BS in Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior and her BA in Spanish from the University of Minnesota, and her PhD in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology from the University of Kansas. Heather lives in Spencer S with her husband, Walter Schwarz, and their daughter, Zoey (almost 7).

ADJUNCTS – This year we have several adjuncts joining us. A few of them were here briefly last year.

CATHERINE ADAMS – Arts: Catherine taught drawing for us last winter and this spring will teach jewelry. She resides in Guilford and has a BFA from Tyler School of Art, Temple University.

YASIN AHMED – Muslim Chaplain: Yasin is completing his MA at Hartford Seminary and holds a BA from Rutgers University. He will assist with the spiritual life of our Muslim community members.
EMILY BRENNER – HPRSS: A previous Choate HPRSS teacher, Emily returns to us for the fall and spring as a sabbatical replacement. Emily holds a BA from Wellesley College and an MA from Yale University. She lives in Wallingford with her husband, Dean, and children, Zach and Kate.

CLARA DUAN – Chinese: Clara will be covering for Carol Chen-Lin’s sabbatical this fall. This spring she completed her MA from Brandeis University. She also holds an MA from Minzu University of China (Beijing, China) and a BA from Hefei Normal University (Hefei, Anhui, China)

KENNETH LOVELL – Arts: Ken taught Core Concepts last winter in the Choate arts department. He returns this fall to teach Digital Media Design. Ken holds a BFA from Indiana University and an MFA from Yale University. He resides and works in Hamden.

HANNAH MORRIS – French: Another familiar face, Hannah is a former Choate French teacher and will be covering this winter for Anne Armour’s sabbatical. Hannah is a graduate of Dartmouth College (AB) and Middlebury College (MA). She lives with her husband, Will Morris (Associate Dean of Students/Director of residential life) and their children (Ella, Liam, and Nora) in Mead.

LENA NICOLAI – Science: A resident of Choate for the past 17 years and the current KEC Greenhouse Manager, Lena will be teaching biology for the entire school year. Lena has an AB from Harvard University and an MS from the University of Michigan. After obtaining her MS, Lena did several more years of research in ecology at the University of Michigan. She lives with her husband Joe (Program Director of the KEC) and their son, Zev ’18 in the KEC.

NICHOLAS PAUL – HPRSS: Nickie covered last winter in psychology for Tianlin Ford’s maternity leave. She joins us again this year, but for the entire year. Nickie has a BA in psychology from the University of Miami, Oxford, OH and a Ph.D. in behavioral neuroscience from the University of Connecticut. She resides with her husband and son in Farmington.

JORGE RODRIGUEZ – Spanish: Jorge will be teaching Spanish this fall and winter. He holds a BArch from Pontificia Universidad Catolica in Santiago, Chile and a MArch from Iowa State University. Jorge lives in Wallingford with his wife, Jesse, and their two children.

Please welcome the class of 2016 and best wishes to all!
Dear Members of the Faculty and Staff,

I’m thrilled to announce the appointment of Amin Gonzalez as our next Director of Admission beginning July 1, 2016. Amin joins us from Yale University, where he is Associate Director of Undergraduate Admissions and Co-Director of Multicultural Recruitment. Below is the announcement that we will be posting later today on our website so you can learn more about Amin. He will be visiting campus from time to time over the next few months as he works with Ray on the transition so I would encourage you to introduce yourself to him if you have the opportunity. I hope you will join me in warmly welcoming Amin and his wife Khadija, along with Ismael (18), Zayd (12), Noor (6), and Safiya (4), to the Choate community.

All the best,
Alex

Amin Abdul-Malik Gonzalez has been appointed Director of Admission at Choate Rosemary Hall beginning July 1, 2016. He succeeds Ray Diffley who is leaving Choate to become the first Director of the Association of Independent School Admission Professionals’ Center for Admission and Enrollment Management Leadership located in Madison, Conn. Mr. Gonzalez brings with him to Choate significant experience and expertise in higher education as an admission officer and adviser, and in independent secondary schools as a teacher, coach, adviser, and college counselor.

Since 2008, Mr. Gonzalez has served as Associate Director of Undergraduate Admissions and Co-Director of Multicultural Recruitment at Yale University, where he has represented Yale College to those in the Middle East, North Africa, Turkey, Latin America, India, and Pakistan as well as California and New Haven. He has also served as a voting member on the international admissions committee and supervised Yale’s partnership with QuestBridge, which has admitted more than 800 high achieving low-income students to Yale since 2007.

Prior to his Yale experience, Mr. Gonzalez served as Associate Dean of Admission at Wesleyan University and Swarthmore College. At the secondary school level, Mr. Gonzalez served as Co-Director of College Counseling at McDonogh School in Owings Mills, Md., and taught history and coached football and wrestling at George School in Newtown, Penn. and Northfield Mount Hermon School in Northfield, Mass. Throughout his career, he has manifested a genuine commitment to academic excellence, innovative approaches, and institutional access.

Mr. Gonzalez, who grew up in Spanish Harlem, was an Albert G. Oliver Scholar at Loomis Chaffee School in Windsor, Conn. He went from there to Wesleyan University in Middletown, Conn. where he earned a B.A. in History as a Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellow. As a result of his multicultural background, independent school education, and extensive international experience, he is both bilingual and cross culturally competent, and brings to Choate a personal flexibility and breadth of experience that will permit him to make meaningful contributions to the Choate community. Indeed, he is eager to return to a secondary school setting in a leadership role that will allow him to make a greater impact at an institutional level while moving the School’s enrollment management objectives forward.

“ln close collaboration with dedicated colleagues, I’m excited to champion Choate’s commitment to attracting and enrolling exceptional students, of widely divergent backgrounds and talents, who will enrich the life of the School,” Mr. Gonzalez said. “I look forward to helping extend Choate’s recruitment reach across the country and overseas and to serving as a resource for students who are embarking on a truly transformative experience.” On a personal level, he notes, “I am eager to immerse myself and my family in a dynamic and supportive residential community.”
Dear Members of the Faculty and Staff,

I am pleased to announce the appointment of Keith Hinderlie, Ph.D. as Director of Equity and Inclusion beginning July 1, 2016. Keith joins us from The Barrie School where he is Director of Student and Family Services. Below is the announcement that we will be posting later today on our website so you can learn more about Keith. I hope you will join me in warmly welcoming Keith, his wife Holly, son Jaden, and daughter Kayla, a soon-to-be freshman at the University of Maryland, to the Choate community.

All the best,
Alex

Keith Hinderlie, Ph.D. has been appointed Director of Equity and Inclusion at Choate Rosemary Hall beginning July 1, 2016. In this newly created position, Dr. Hinderlie will serve as an academic and institutional leader in these areas, guiding Choate’s evolution as a community.

Dr. Hinderlie comes to Choate from The Barrie School in Silver Spring, Maryland, an independent school serving students pre-K through grade 12, where he served as Director of Student and Family Services. A licensed psychologist, he brings to Choate more than 20 years’ experience as a school administrator and educator working with students and adults in both independent and charter schools, among them Milton Academy (MA) and Graland Country Day School (CO). He also served as Director of Programs, Program Development Consultant, Director of Counseling, and Consulting Psychologist to the SEED Foundation, the SEED School of Maryland, and the SEED School of Washington D.C., the first public charter boarding school in the U.S.

Dr. Hinderlie holds a B.A. in psychology from the University of New Hampshire, and a master’s degree and Ph.D. in counseling psychology from Boston College. Over the past 12 years, he has taken on increasing responsibilities as an educational leader and consultant, and has become a nationally recognized expert in promoting diversity, inclusion, and multicultural practices in schools. For many years he has served as a resident faculty member of the Diversity Directions Independent School Seminar, and as a speaker at professional development workshops at a variety of NAIS schools.

Some of his specific projects and workshops have included climate assessment (Kinkaid School - Houston TX), bias awareness (Maret School – Washington, DC), supporting African American male students (Dalton School – New York, NY), preparing the adult community for diversity (Casady School - Oklahoma City, OK), bully prevention programming (Waynefleet School - Portland, ME), and economic diversity (Sidwell Friends School – Washington, DC -Washington Episcopal School – Bethesda, MD).

Mr. Hinderlie says he has a deep affinity for boarding school communities where the teaching and learning environment is 24/7. “What attracted me to Choate Rosemary Hall, in particular, was the impressive groundwork of the School’s Diversity Education Committee and the Choate Diversity Student Association. It was clear to me from my interactions with the individuals leading these groups that there was a grassroots effort to address issues of equity and inclusion in Choate’s community. In a relatively short period, under the leadership of Dr. Curtis, Choate has made a commitment to develop a school-wide approach to diversity, inclusion, and multicultural competence and is in good position to do some great things to make the community even more richly diverse.”
To Choate Faculty and Staff:

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Jason Raiti, Chief Investment Officer in the Investment Office, reporting to Alex Curtis, Headmaster, effective August 1, 2016.

Jason comes to Choate from Eastman Kodak in Rochester, NY, where he had direct oversight of the allocation of the company’s $5 billion benefit pension assets. Prior to this position, Jason was the Associate Director of the Investment Office at Wesleyan University.

He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics from Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire and certifications as a Chartered Financial Analyst and Chartered Alternative Investment Analyst.

As CIO, Jason will work closely with the Investment Committee to achieve the objectives for the School’s endowment. He will also be responsible for maintaining productive relationships with current and prospective fund managers, monitoring their organizations’ investment activity and performance. His experience in the investment and endowment fields will make him a valued addition to the School.

Jason lives in West Hartford with his wife, Tricia Raiti, oldest son Owen (5 years old), and the new addition Henry just turned 1.

Welcome to Choate Rosemary Hall!