

We're Still Here: Exploring Indigenous Cultures

UNC World View Global Fellows 2023-2024



Jennifer Bratyanski
Upper School History Teacher/Community Engagement Coordinator
Providence Day School

Jennifer Bratyanski has been teaching for 20 years both at the university and secondary level. She is in her 11th year at Providence Day School (PDS) where she is also their Upper School Community Engagement Coordinator. Jennifer was awarded a PhD from UNC-Greensboro in US History with a concentration in Civil Rights history. She received a Global Educators Certificate through PDS by working with Navajo Nation cultural coordinators and government officials. The amazing opportunities working with the cultural coordinators of the Catawba Cultural Center on service learning opportunities such as the planting of legacy trees for the entire Junior class as well as international students visiting Charlotte.



Maura Carroll
3rd Grade Teacher
Carolina Forest International Elementary, Onslow County Schools

Maura Carroll graduated from Meredith College in 2019 with her degree in child development with a K-6 teaching license. She is currently in her fifth year of teaching at Carolina Forest International Elementary School. She has taught third grade for three years and fourth for one year. You will currently find her in a third-grade classroom. She enjoys seeing the light bulb moment when students understand a new concept and can apply it every day. When she is not teaching you will find spending time with family and friends, watching Netflix, and playing with her dog Oakley.



Andrea Caruso
Upper School Science Teacher and Sustainability Leader
Durham Academy

Andrea is passionate about exploring the intersection of environmental stewardship and Indigenous cultures, issues of invasive species, and global patterns of resource extraction. Through education, she hopes to encourage a paradigm shift away from overconsumption and towards sustainable lifestyles and institutional practices. As an instructor at the School Year Abroad program in Beijing, China, she taught environmental science and place-based lessons on emerging environmental issues on the Asian continent. Andrea holds a BA in Environmental Studies from Binghamton University, and an MS in Biological Sciences from Fordham University. She is in her 6th year teaching science (AP Environmental Science and Chemistry) at Durham Academy. Since 2018, she has served as an advisor for the Student Sustainability Committee; she expanded her role to Upper School Sustainability Leader in 2022. In her free time, Andrea enjoys spending time outdoors, is an avid vegetable gardener and volunteer, and loves cooking and traveling.



Jordan Denoncourt
3rd Grade Teacher
Carolina Forest International Elementary, Onslow County Schools

Jordan Denoncourt graduated from UNC Wilmington in December 2018 with her bachelor's degree in Elementary Education with a concentration in Behavioral Studies. This is her second year of teaching, and she is at Carolina Forest International Elementary. She has been in third grade for both years. When she isn't in the classroom challenging minds and building connections, she is at home with her husband and two small children, or at the beach.



Allyson Duran
3rd Grade Teacher
Carolina Forest International Elementary, Onslow County Schools

I have been an educator in Onslow County Schools for 26 years. I earned a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from UNC Wilmington. I have always wanted to be a teacher and come from a family of educators. I strive to inspire my students and instill life-long learning through a variety of instructional strategies and techniques that engage and encourage students to be problem-solvers, thinkers, and decision-makers. As I mold the minds of our future global leaders, I am excited to be part of the UNC World View Fellows Program 2023-2024. This experience will deepen my knowledge of Indigenous peoples in North Carolina and give an opportunity to share what I will learn and to prove integrated themes related to Global Indigeneity in the curriculum.




Jennifer Joy
Media Specialist/Librarian
Clyde Erwin Elementary, Onslow County Schools

Greetings! My name is Jennifer Joy and I am excited to be joining the UNC World View Fellows. I started my teaching career here in North Carolina in 1999 upon graduating from the University of North Carolina, Wilmington. As a Marine Corps spouse I have lived in many places during our 28 years of active service to include Japan for nine years. My teaching career includes grades 1-6 and art. I earned my Masters of Library Science from East Carolina University and I am currently in my dream position of school librarian. I absolutely believe that you should never stop learning and that reading is beginning of a free person and society. My hobbies include: photography, reading, exercise, and traveling.



Lindsey Link
Instructional Coach
Onslow Virtual Secondary School, Onslow County Schools

Lindsey Link is the K-12 Instructional Coach for Onslow Virtual School (OVS). Lindsey has her BA in Liberal Studies and a Multiple Subjects Teaching Credential from Notre Dame de Namur University, Clear Credential Program Series Certificate from the University of California Los Angeles, and her M. Ed. Elementary Education from the University of North Carolina Wilmington. In 2015, she was honored to be recognized as the AVID site Teacher of the Year for her school. Lindsey has taught in California, North Carolina, Washington State, and, prior to returning to Onslow County last year, she spent three



years working as an instructional designer and researcher at the K20 Center for Educational and Community Renewal in partnership with the University of Oklahoma (OU). In March 2020, Lindsey was tasked with writing a literature review on online learning in the K-12 classroom, along with providing a recommendation on best practices. This literature review, along with a shorter brief, was shared with the Oklahoma State Department of Education and later sent to District Superintendents and principals to help guide them through the coming months. The work and research Link did during her time at OU set her up for success when she was offered the position with Onslow Virtual School where she gets to apply the theory and research to everyday scenarios. In addition to coaching at OVS, she also teaches Written Communication for the Military Academic Skills Program at Camp Lejeune and Integrated English Literacy and Civics Education at Coastal Carolina Community College. A Florida native and Marine Veteran, Lindsey greatly enjoys being near the ocean and participating in outdoor and water activities that allow her and her family to connect.



Heidi Maloy
Upper School Science Teacher
Cary Academy

Heidi Maloy is an Upper School science faculty member, beginning her 21st year, at Cary Academy in Cary, NC. She teaches advanced environmental science, advanced environmental policy, intro chemistry and a farming class. She thinks science is about doing and asking questions that might not be answerable at this moment. Her classes' focus on voices less heard to give her students a more grounded sense of their world and who has contributed to the vast knowledge in science. She received her BA in environmental studies from Lake Forest College and her MS in ecosystem ecology from the University of New Mexico. Before coming to Cary Academy, she taught science at Albuquerque Academy where her quest to understand Indigenous the importance of Indigenous knowledge began in earnest to better understand and meet the needs of her diverse students.



Tiekona McKoy-Harriott
English Teacher
White Oak High School, Onslow County Schools

Tiekona was born and raised in Jamaica, a tiny island nestled in the Caribbean Sea. She is a graduate of Shortwood Teachers' College and Church Teachers' College and currently holds a B.Ed in English Language and English Literature. She's been teaching English IV to grade 12 students at White Oak High for over a year now but has been teaching high school students for over a decade. She is a co-advisor of the Student Council Association at White Oak High. She looks forward to delving into the Fellows Program and exploring all it has to offer. She is a trained makeup artist who enjoys the 'soft life.' She spends her time reading personal development books, catching up on episodes of SWAT on Netflix, listening audiobooks and shopping online. She also enjoys soulful conversations and motivating others.



Kim Mellor
Instructional Coach (ELA)
Ephesus Elementary School, Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools

Kim Mellor is a National Board certified educator who has worked for more than 20 years with students from preschool to postsecondary levels. Selected as Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools' District Teacher of the Year in 2013, Kim currently serves as an Instructional Coach in the district at Ephesus Elementary School. She enjoys the process of converting global competencies to common core standards in the K-5 curriculum and collaborating to implement strategies that allow ALL students to see themselves in their learning. Kim earned her EdD in Educational Leadership and Cultural Foundations in 2019 from the University of North Carolina Greensboro. Her dissertation focused on culturally responsive and sustaining practices and was nominated for UNCG's Outstanding Dissertation of the Year. She also holds Master's degrees in both Elementary Education (Elon University) and Higher Education Administration (Appalachian State University) and a BA in early childhood education (UNC). A lifelong learner and travel enthusiast, she was an exchange student in Australia as an undergraduate and studied in Iceland during the summers of 2021 and 2023 as a recipient of the Fulbright-Hays Summer Seminar award. When she is not teaching, she enjoys hiking, kayaking, spin classes, reading, and time with family.



Korey Mitchell
Art Teacher
White Oak High School, Onslow County Schools

Korey Mitchell is currently an art teacher at White Oak High School in Jacksonville, NC. Previously she taught art for three years at Southwest Middle School in Jacksonville. Korey is also the yearbook advisor and coaches three sports. She has more than 22 years of teaching experience at all levels within the public school system. Korey earned her master's degree in art education from Mansfield University in Pennsylvania. Korey and her husband moved to North Carolina from update New York and love living in North Carolina!



Aisa Nones
1st Grade Teacher
Aurelian Springs Institute of Global Learning, Halifax County Schools

Aisa Nones was an educator for 13 years in the Philippines and currently teaches first grade in a dual language school program in Aurelian Springs Institute of Global learning in Littleton, North Carolina. She likes travelling and loves learning about new cultures, traditions, food, and dances of different nations. She has been exposed to diverse cultures around the world since she started travelling since, she was six years old. She is also a social studies teacher and excited to impart to her students and colleagues everything she will learn and experience from the UNC World View program.



Wendi Pillars
Science and English as Another Language Teacher
Jordan-Matthews High School, Chatham County Schools

Wendi, NBCT and military veteran has been teaching for nearly three decades, working with students from "k-gray", both stateside and overseas, in military and civilian contexts. Her son is a high school senior this year where she teaches Biology, ESL, and Earth Science in Siler City, NC. She is the author of two books, and her book Visual Impact: Quick, Easy Tools for Thinking in Pictures recently earned a silver Global Book Award. As an award-winning educator and speaker, she is a consummate creative and an autodidact who loves exploring places, cultures, ideas, languages, and all things nature. Her experience researching seabirds in the Arctic among Siberian Yupik Eskimos was a pivotal moment in how she began to view global education, as she realized how deep her knowledge gaps were regarding Indigenous populations within our own country. She knows there is much to learn and is grateful for this opportunity right here in NC.



April Pulcini
5th Grade ELA/Social Studies Teacher
Richlands Elementary, Onslow County Schools

April Pulcini is in her fourth year of teaching at Richlands Elementary School in Richlands, NC. April is a retired United States Marine who decided to pursue teaching after traveling the world and noticing the importance of a quality education. She has her BA in psychology with a minor in sociology and received her MAT degree in Elementary Education from UNCW's Watson College of Education. During her time at UNCW she was introduced to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals which she has incorporated into her social studies lessons. She encourages her students to explore global issues, become local and global changemakers, and embrace varying perspectives. In her free time April enjoys spending time with her husband and three daughters. She is looking forward to participating in the 2023-24 UNC Word View Fellows Program!



Cindy Rains
Social Studies Teacher
Immaculata Catholic School

Cindy Rains is in her 25th year of teaching at Immaculata Catholic School, where she first taught 5th grade for 8 years and has now moved on to teaching middle school for the past 9 years. Before teaching at Immaculata, Cindy had also taught at CIS Academy in Durham, teaching 10th grade social studies and 11th and 12th grade English, and at Person County Alternative High School, where she taught a variety of social studies classes. She earned her Masters in Social Studies Education at North Carolina State University. Cindy also worked for a time at Duke University's Center for Child and Family Policy on a variety of programs dealing with youth violence and behavior. Cindy's interests include the study of geography, the use of primary resources, and watching election returns. She loves reading mysteries, walking her dogs, and working in the yard.



Brittany Riggs
3rd Grade Teacher
Carolina Forest International Elementary, Onslow County Schools

Brittany Riggs graduated from UNCW in 2014 with a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education with a concentration in science and a minor in Psychology. In 2021, she completed an add on licensure for AIG certification. She is currently in her tenth year of teaching, seven of which have been in Onslow County Schools. Brittany teaches third grade at Carolina Forest International Elementary and is the Beginning Teacher Coordinator. Teaching is her passion, and she loves to bring that experience to her students each day. When she is not teaching, she enjoys spending time exploring the outdoors with her husband and three-year-old daughter, reading, and enjoying all life

has to offer.



Derrick Savage
Social Studies Teacher and Department Chair
White Oak High School, Onslow County Schools

Derrick Savage is a high school Social Studies teacher with 16 years of experience in a variety of educational settings. He has his BA in Elementary and Special Education from Holy Family University, his MSEd in Educational Administration from Capella University, where he also recently completed his PhD in Educational Psychology. After teaching Special Education for 10 years, he moved to North Carolina where he has been teaching Social Studies and is currently the department chair at White Oak High School, where he also coaches 3 Varsity sports. He is hoping to expand his knowledge to better assist his students and other faculty members. When he is not in the classroom or on a field, he enjoys going to the beach, reading, and spending time with his family and his two dogs, Harper and Cameron.



Sheila Singh
4th Grade Teacher
Ephesus Elementary School, Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools

Sheila Singh is a fourth grade teacher in Chapel Hill. She holds a master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction and recently renewed her National Board Certification. Teaching is a second career for her, after earning an MBA and working in marketing for several years. This will be her 18th year of teaching. While most of her career has been in North Carolina, she also taught fourth grade overseas for three years at the Anglo-American School in Moscow. When she has a free moment, she enjoys reading, traveling, watching too much TV, and spending time with her family.



Lindley Swift
Associate Professor of English
Guilford Tech Community College

Since 2006, Lindley has dedicated her career to Guilford Technical Community College (GTCC), where she's had the privilege of teaching English and Humanities. Her professional journey has been enriched by a background in international peace development, which has allowed her to foster a global perspective in and out of the classroom. As the co-coordinator of the Global Scholars of Distinction program and co-advisor for Model United Nations at GTCC, she's had the pleasure of nurturing the next

generation of global leaders. Beyond academics, Lindley enjoys time spent outdoors with her family and dogs, as well as exploring the world through travel.



Joanne Van Eycke
Music Teacher
Parkwood Elementary School, Onslow County Schools

Joanne Van Eycke MA, MT-BC, has been a board-certified Music Therapist since 2003 and a licensed music teacher since 2007. She received her bachelor's degree from Montclair State University and her master's degree from New York University. She creates unique programs such as group and individual music therapy, therapeutic instrument lessons, yoga, singing and vocalization groups, socialization groups, communication groups and movement groups for children with and without special needs. She has seen successes in a variety of settings such as public schools, private schools, medical centers, clinics, summer camps and private practice. She currently resides in Jacksonville North Carolina and is enjoying the opportunity to bring music therapy and music education to the community of Onslow County Schools and Parkwood Elementary School. In addition to singing and playing the guitar, Joanne enjoys gardening with her family in her free time.



Christina Vasbinder
English Teacher
Northside High School, Onslow County Schools

Christina Vasbinder is entering her 12th year as an English teacher and currently works at Northside High School in Onslow County, North Carolina. She is originally from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and graduated from Clarion University of Pennsylvania with a Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education/English. Christina is passionate about Literature and she strives to help her students grow their relationship with reading. When she is not teaching, Christina enjoys spending time with her husband, her five-year-old son, and their 7 dogs.



Christopher Willis
Social Studies Teacher
Onslow Virtual Secondary School, Onslow County Schools

Hi, I am Christopher Willis. I currently live in Swansboro NC where I teach 8th grade Social Studies at Onslow Virtual School. I am originally from Canada and have lived and taught in Colombia, so I consider myself lucky to have all those experiences. I have a wife and daughter and enjoy lots of hobbies outdoors. My educational background includes degrees in Environmental Studies and Geography as well as in Education. I always try to bring and promote a wider, global perspective to my classes, and I am excited to participate in this opportunity with UNC World View.