

## **New Wheaton Academy Employees: 2010-2011**

**Chris Browne: Dean of Spiritual Life:** Mr. Browne, his wife and two children come to WA from Northbrook, IL where he currently teaches Bible at Christian Heritage Academy and is involved extensively with a variety of Christian ministries. He is a graduate of Moody Bible Institute, earned his MA in Organizational Leadership from Judson University and spent two years serving in the U.S. Army.

As the Faith Field Coordinator for The Gallop Organization, Chris has had the opportunity to be involved in research and lead an international network of Christian leaders. He has experience both as a youth pastor and lead pastor in the local church. He is founder of Massive Surge Network and serves as President of EngagedChurches.com, two parachurch organizations dedicated to training and equipping biblical leaders. Chris has extensive experience with curriculum having written a four year, Christian high school Bible curriculum and a manual for Awana Club that was used to train over 10,000 senior pastors. Chris has spent significant time coaching church leaders and their teams to discover their strengths and implementing biblical equipping ministries. Mr. Browne's extensive ministry time with teenagers and his comprehensive research of Generation Y, has made him into an effective and sought-after consultant, trainer, writer and speaker in both profit and non-profit arenas.

In his spare time, Chris can be seen riding his motorcycle and enjoying the outdoors. He cites possible WA co-curricular interests as leadership groups, football, Business Club, Camp Out, and Bible Studies. He is an avid reader and researcher. Chris cites involvement with Awana while growing up, his intense study of God's Word while serving overseas, and his 18 year marriage of serving God together as significant spiritual influences in his life.

Chris's passion is to help young people discover and deepen their personal relationship with Christ, helping them discover their God-given talents, while simultaneously expanding their biblical worldview. Chris sees teenagers as not just the future of the church but today's active participants. Chris notes that the Academy's history and vision for developing students as well as the school's commitment to build a culture of collaboration among the faculty and staff was a draw to WA. He is excited to provide leadership for the spiritual life curriculum (Bible instruction, cross disciplinary integration, praise & worship, hands-on local service, international ministry impact, prayer, in-depth Bible study, accountability and encouragement) at the Academy and looks forward to partnering with Living Curriculum Educators, WA parents and the local church.

**Leigh Ann Erickson: English Teacher:** Mrs. Erickson comes to Wheaton Academy most recently from Collins Academy High School in Lawndale, IL. Prior to Collins, she taught for five years in New York at Long Island City High School where in addition to her English classes she served as Head of the Drama Dept. directing traditional dramas, musicals and one act plays. She also provided leadership for Long Island City's Great Books Program. Leigh Ann holds a B.A. in English from the University of Delaware and a M.A. in Adolescent Education/English Concentration from Pace University in New York City. Leigh Ann is excited to have the freedom to fully integrate God's Word into every aspect of education and look at all of life with her students through a Biblical Worldview. She is looking forward to joining a team of colleagues committed to collaboration. She cites the qualities of Wheaton Academy's Living Curriculum Teacher as a significant draw since it represents her personal views of education and the role of the teacher.

Leigh Ann loves to teach freshmen believing that times of transition are such an opportune time for influence and support both in and out of the classroom. She also looks forward to transitioning to the Academy environment with parent participation and support and a greater focus on student learning. Leigh Ann is known for her passion for books and sharing her passion for learning with all students. The Academy's growing commitment to connect with people and places different from our suburban world is of great interest to Leigh Ann. Mrs. Erickson is a discipler by nature and has demonstrated a consistent pattern for impacting students through personal interest and attention to knowing students. We look forward to her influence at the Academy.

**Rebekah Jordan: Spanish Teacher:** Ms. Jordan joins the Wheaton Academy faculty from the great Northwest, Portland, Oregon. As a product of a Christian high school she went on to graduate of Linfield College with a BA in Spanish/Secondary Education and Portland State University with a MA in Foreign Languages and Literature/Spanish. She taught most recently at Portland State University and Fowler Middle School. Rebekah

enjoys Latin American Art and especially loves to travel as evidenced by her recent trips to Costa Rica, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Mexico. With a decade of experience, she maintains a strong interest in ballet. She loves to sing and has a passion for the outdoors: hiking, camping and running. In the future, Rebekah would love to continue to travel, run a marathon, become certified as an ESL teacher and learn Italian and Portuguese.

Rebekah has been active as a leader in the youth ministry of her local church. She loves to connect and spend time with teens. Rebekah is known for her gift of encouragement and desire to build others up. Rebekah sees an effective teacher as being one of the significant influences in a teenager's life, partnering with mom and dad and the local church. Rebekah is known as a creative teacher, with high standards, who loves to bring music, art and role playing into the classroom. She is excited about helping our Spanish students be very successful. We believe Rebekah's passion, gifts and journey of life experiences uniquely qualify her to be a high impact Living Curriculum Teacher at Wheaton Academy. We are excited about her joining our team and becoming a part of our community.

**Kearsten Karrick: Bible Teacher:** Ms. Karrick comes to Wheaton Academy from Indiana Wesleyan University where she earned her B.A. Degree in Biblical Literature / Christian Ministry and History. As Student Body Chaplain, Kearsten had responsibilities to facilitate chapel services, provide devotionals for various student groups, speak in chapel, organize and lead prayer gatherings, and mentor Resident Hall Chaplains. As a Resident Hall Chaplain herself, she had the opportunity to facilitate personal growth in the spiritual disciplines, lead weekly Bible studies and encourage regular prayer gatherings for her resident young ladies.

Ms. Karrick has spent significant time working in the local church creating weekly social activities, leading worship and Bible study gatherings, doing one-on-one discipleship and leading mission trips. Kearsten also has experience serving in educational settings. As an intern to Teen HEART Inc., she trained high school student leaders to communicate and uphold personal values with integrity and respect, and actively presented abstinence education to middle school students. Kearsten has experience providing educational tutoring for special needs students.

Kearsten is absolutely excited about joining the Wheaton Academy team and using her passion to communicate and engage with teenagers at various spiritual states. We are excited about Kearsten's serious and deep commitment to nurturing her own spiritual health, her authenticity, her listening ear, and her passion to make God's Word and the truth of Scripture relevant. Kearsten will be teaching Bible and no doubt will become heavily involved in the lives of our students and in our school community.

**Christina Shim: ESL Coordinator / English Resource Teacher (PT):** Ms. Shim earned both her B.S. in Speech and Hearing Sciences and M.A. in Teaching English as a Second Language from the University of Illinois. Ms. Shim is an experienced ESL instructor having worked at Solex College, College of DuPage, Harper Community College and the University of Illinois. She also worked at World Relief serving refugees and immigrants making the transition to the U.S. and the English language. Ms. Shim will continue to teach a class at Harper Community College next year and assume the new part-time role of ESL Coordinator at Wheaton Academy. She will teach a new class at WA, *English Resource*, specifically designed both for our international students and any student who could use extra English support. Ms. Shim will also continue to provide tutoring, as she did this year, for WA students as well as coordinate our other tutors.

While tutoring some of our international students this year, Ms. Shim not only came to love our kids, but really felt drawn to become more involved in our International Boarding Student Program. Her passion for working with those who use English as a second language meshed perfectly with our growing need for more academic support. We appreciate the fact Christina has gotten to know and has already worked closely with many of our teachers. No doubt she will slide seamlessly into her new and expanded role as ESL Coordinator. Christina also looks forward to helping within our International Program with evaluation of English abilities of applicants, new student orientation and ongoing individual support throughout the year. Christina is known for her Christian character, sincerity, caring spirit, high standards and strong relationships with her students. We look forward to her positive and expanded impact on our school this coming year.