

## About the Staff

**Susu Barden** is in her 11<sup>th</sup> year of teaching 1<sup>st</sup> grade. She holds an M.A.T. from U.S.C. and says, "Teaching First Grade is the best career! No two days are ever the same, and it is never dull! They keep me on my toes and make me smile everyday. We have a BLAST! Watching children progress is extremely gratifying and something I truly adore and feel passionate about. I love to go to the beach and spend time with my family! ". She also loves to fish, read, dance, cook, and shop!

**Cole Benoit** has played lacrosse for 20 years and coached for 7. He played lacrosse for St. Anne's Belfield (high school) in Charlottesville Virginia and for Elon College. His coaching career began in Austin, Texas and he had two undefeated seasons in six years. Coach Benoit is looking forward to camp at Heathwood this summer and providing "the best one-on-one training of any camp available". With instruction from at least six instructors, including a couple of MLL players, each camper will have a lot of individual attention. Special attention will be given to fundamental stick skills, shooting and some tips for becoming a top-level lacrosse player.

**Ashly Berry** brings considerable experience and expertise to her new role as Volleyball Coach at Heathwood. She holds a bachelor's degree from Western Kentucky University (WKU), where she served as assistant volleyball coach, recruiting coordinator and camp director. Coach Berry served as volleyball team captain on an athletic scholarship for WKU's Division I program. She has also worked in the legal and real estate professions.

**Heath Blackard** has been an English teacher and a coach for 11 years. He holds a Masters at Teaching from Agnes Scott College and earned his undergraduate degree from UNC-Chapel Hill. He has coached both girls' and boys' Varsity basketball teams and has worked with many Division I players. He looks forward to teaching campers to play basketball with passion and integrity.

**Barbara Bryan** has taught children's music at Heathwood for 23 years. A woman of many talents, Mrs. Bryan teaches voice lessons, directs plays and is an accompanist for many music events at school. She and Ms. Heard taught "Musical Fairy Tales" camp last summer and had lots of fun acting, singing, dressing up in costumes and making fun snacks with the campers. They performed "Jack and the Beanstalk" for their parents on the last day. The fairy tale for this summer will be a "surprise."!

**Lori Byrd** has taught Spanish at Heathwood Hall for 12 years. She has a degree in Language & International Trade with specialty hours in the FLES (Foreign Language in Elementary Schools) program. "I love scrapbooking, arts & crafts and try to incorporate them into my lessons with the language. Spanish is not just a class for me, but a passion. I am energized when I see young kids embracing the language & opening their minds to new worlds and cultures. Learning new words and phrases in another language gives them a sense of accomplishment and success. I love being a part of that experience."

**Bill Cherry** is the Director of Technology at Heathwood Hall, has degrees in both Math and Education and has taught computers to students of all ages for 30 years. Bill says, "I have been working with students for 30 years, training them how to use a computer to bring out their creative side. Some of the areas we have explored are graphic art, video editing, claymation stop-action video, computer programming, web design and comic book design.

**Ashley Clarke** has been an Associate Teacher in the Lower School at Heathwood for 8 years and taught Art for 5 years prior to that. She has a Master's degree in Art Education from the University of Georgia. All About Girls is the perfect camp for little girls who love to play dress up, make things, and just be "girlie!!!"

**Lynn Manning Cooper** taught English at Heathwood for three years and served as a tutor in the Academic Achievement Center. She has a BA in English with a minor in Art History and a MAT with a focus on secondary level English. Lynn graduated from Heathwood in 1996. When she is not busy chasing her two daughters, she attempts to tutor grumpy teenagers! She is also proud to have helped start the Fresh Start for All Diaper Drive last year, raising 19,000 diapers in three hours for Harvest Hope.

**Miranda Hagen** worked for Morrison & Associates in Washington, D.C. preparing individuals for Congressional testimony, court appearances and job interviews. She is trained in protocol and etiquette. Her consulting practice includes training businesses, private clubs and community organizations as well as private coaching for adults and children. She is also the proud mother of an active seven-year old son.

**Lori Hancock** has a Master's Degree in English Education/MAT, and has for 12 years taught everything from 1st to 12th grade. Her area of expertise is British Literature, and she taught AP English at Spring Valley High School before her daughters were born. Lori says, "I LOVE reading and applying what I learn to my life, and I hope to convey that to the students. I think that it is vital to have a grasp of various historical periods, and the American Girl series really puts that on their level and makes it interesting for them. I adore children of all ages; I am a kid at heart, and I feel that my passion for learning and reading is contagious!"

**Leyden Hane** has taught Nursery School at Heathwood for twelve years. She has a B.A. in Early Childhood Education & Child Psychology from Hollins College, and a M.Ed. in Divergent Learning from Columbia College. She loves working with children and is the mother of two young children of her own. She also enjoys running, going to the beach and supporting Clemson football. She was born and raised in Jacksonville, FL.

**EG Heard** holds a BA in Theatre from the University of South Carolina, and has been teaching drama to kids of all ages for seven years. Ms. Heard is so excited to be teaching Fairytale Camp for the second year with Mrs. Bryan. Campers can look forward to a fun week of acting, singing, arts and crafts, and a performance of their favorite fairy tale complete with costumes!

**Ashley Herring** has been teaching theatre and all its aspects for over 10 years. She has performed for much longer and was a very happy company member with Trustus Theatre and frequented the stage at Workshop Theatre and the performing arts center. She holds a Masters of Arts in Educational Theatre from New York University. She believes that an ensemble arts experience is a venue to explore all aspects of thinking and learning. She looks forward to giving students the opportunity to be a part of the creative process from the beginning to the very end. Theatre is so supportive of all types of learners and the instruction during Puppet-making Camp will allow them to shine!

**Jeneal Huddleston** has been teaching for 33 years as a first grade teacher, speech language pathologist and is a certified teacher of the deaf and hard of hearing. She holds a Masters plus 30 degree in Speech Pathology and Audiology in addition to the Certificate of Clinical Competence (CCC) from American Speech Language Association (ASHA). Her undergraduate work was

done at Ohio University and the University of Delaware. Her Master's degree is from South Carolina State University and she has taught at Wade Hampton Academy, Orangeburg School District #5 and currently has her own consulting business working with various school districts within the state. Ms. Huddleston says, "Sign language is the third most often used language in the United States. Deaf people are doctors, lawyers, engineers, teachers, scientists, construction workers, etc., just like the rest of our population. Many deaf people talk, others sign and some do both, using a system called total communication. The *football huddle* started with a deaf football team at Gallaudet University. Story telling can be fun in sign language.

**John O'Cain** played basketball as a student at Francis Marion University. His studies in sociology and physical education were good preparation for his teaching career. He has taught for 17 years and he especially enjoys teaching the game of basketball to all ages.

**Curtis Player** is the Assistant Athletic Director at Heathwood and has taught Intermediate/Middle School math and coached soccer for 14 years. He holds a degree in Economics with a concentration in Mathematics from Hampden-Sydney College. In addition to playing and coaching soccer, his favorite pastime is spending time with wife and toddler daughter.

**Becca Reynolds** is a former Heathwood student and graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with a degree in Education in 2004. She has extensive wilderness education experience with students of all ages having worked for Inside Out, Inc., a leading organization that provides experiential education in an outdoor setting for students from schools throughout the country. She also served as Assistant Director and Head of Outdoor Pursuits for many years at Camp Arrowhead in Tuxedo, NC. Becca is a 2002 graduate of the National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS) and is a certified Wilderness First Responder, lifeguard, and Rock Site and Ropes Course Manager. She is an experienced backpacker and rock climber, and has also served as a lead teacher in the 2nd grade and 5-year old kindergarten at Heathwood Hall.

**Helen Roman** has a BA in Secondary/Middle School English and Language Arts from Clemson University with 14 years of teaching experience. She has a genuine love of grammar, sentence structure, and creativity and an amazing ability to make learning grammar FUN!

**Tom Simpson** was an elementary school classroom teacher for four years and is in his tenth year of teaching technology to middle and elementary school students at Heathwood. He earned an MAT in Elementary Education from USC. His first real exposure to computers came while working as an illustrator and graphic designer, so his favorite computer activities are always artistic and creative.

**Nancy Somera** has been a teacher and coach for 20 years. She has 25 years of Division I collegiate volleyball experience as a player and coach. She played at the University of Southern California and became the assistant coach there before becoming Head Coach at Oregon State and University of South Carolina. She also has 20 years experience in running volleyball camps. Coach Somera says, "We know how to teach the skills in a fun way that will excite children about the game. We emphasize lots of movement and communication. Kids who have come to our youth volleyball camps in the past have said it's the best camp they attended that summer."

**Jeff Whalen** is the Athletic Director at Heathwood Hall and has coached basketball for 31 years as well as teaching physical education throughout that time. He has coached football, golf,

baseball and lacrosse as well. He has earned his degree in Physical Education from State University of New York at Cortland. Coach Whalen looks forward to teaching “the fundamentals for basketball which I believe are vital to the success of any young player who wants to continue to play the game as they get older.”

**Greg Whitmire** is a former Junior Davis Cup coach for South Carolina, a USTA Zonal coach, and a former high school and collegiate tennis coach. Greg is the head tennis pro for Prouts Neck in Maine in the summer months and a visiting tennis pro for Johns Island Club in Florida in the winter. He also directs the very popular junior tennis program for Heathwood Hall during the school year.

**Mikala Wilson** teaches Physical Education in the Lower School at Heathwood. Her specialty areas are softball and basketball but she loves all sports. Mikala has spent over half of her life around athletics, and loves working with children. She especially looks forward to making a difference in children’s lives through athletics.

**Stan Wood** is in his 27th year as a faculty member at Heathwood and has served as Director of the PEAK program for 13 years. He previously served as Athletic Director and was head coach of several varsity sports including boys’ basketball and track. Stan graduated from the University of South Carolina in 1983 with a degree in Physical Education, and is a 1986 and 1998 graduate of the National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS). Stan was recognized by the Richland County Conservation District as Conservation Teacher-of-the-Year in 2001. He is an experienced kayaker, mountain and road biker, backpacker, mountaineer, and adventure racer. Stan also has an advanced SCUBA certification and is a certified rescue diver.