# **MAT Students - Class of 2009-2010**



#### MAT Students - Class of 2009-2010



# **Dana Bright**

B.A. Political Science Stony Brook University 2009

Secondary political science

I was born in New York City and grew up on Long Island, New York. I attended Stony Brook University and graduated in May of 2009, with a BA in political science. At Stony Brook I spent my senior year as a TA for two political science classes and I absolutely loved it. I have spent the last four summers working at a day camp as the gymnastics specialist. After completing the MAT program at Emory I hope to teach high school social studies in the Atlanta area. In my free time I enjoy exploring Atlanta.

http://userwww.service.emory.edu/~drbrigh/



### **Katie Buccellato**

B.A. English Minor: Secondary Education Wake Forest University 2009

**Secondary English** 

I was born and raised in Atlanta, Georgia. During my high school years, I was lucky enough to have amazing teachers who taught me how magnificent language and literature can be. Upon graduation, I left Georgia for Winston-Salem, NC, where I attended Wake Forest University. Four years later, I have graduated from Wake Forest with a B.A. in English, a minor in Secondary Education, and desire to open all students' eyes to the power and beauty of language. I am so excited to be a part of Emory's MAT program so that I can learn more about being the best teacher I can possibly be!

http://userwww.service.emory.edu/~kbuccel



# **Erin Claridy**

B.A. English
<u>University of Florida</u>

**Secondary English** 

My interest in English, books, words and all things verbal has been a part of me for as long as I can remember. Books have always been my refuge and balm. Regarding teaching, the only experience I have in that arena is in the rather unconventional context of a spoken word artist and as a lead/assistant teacher of a two-year-old classroom at The Goddard School. However, I look forward to developing more traditional and more progressive teaching skills while still a teacher candidate in Emory's M.A.T program. I was born and raised in Miami, Florida and moved to Georgia a couple of years ago. In my spare time I read, write, study and perform. I believe that education, regardless of the content area should prepare students to live and examine their lives more fully.

http://userwww.service.emory.edu/~eclarid



### **Ricardo Corrales**

B.S. Industrial and Systems Engineering

Georgia Institute of Technology 2005

**Secondary Mathematics** 

I attended the Georgia Institute of Technology, earning my Bachelor of Science in May of 2005. During my time at Georgia Tech I decided to become a teaching assistant for a computer science course that several of my peers were struggling with. I enjoyed the experience so much that I continued being a teaching assistant for six semesters. This experience made me look into teaching opportunities in the greater Atlanta area. After doing some research, I decided that the MAT program at Emory would be the most appropriate decision for me so I could get certified and obtain some experience before beginning to teach. I want to teach high school math with a focus in helping gifted students. In my spare time, I enjoy tennis, playing video games, and reading.

http://userwww.service.emory.edu/~rtcorra/



#### **Aba DeGraft-Hanson**

B.A. Comparative Literature Minor: African American Studies

**Princeton University 2008** 

**Secondary English** 

I grew up in Buford, GA where I was homeschooled before going to Buford High School as a 9th grader. I was pre-med for almost 3 years of undergrad, but I gradually became more and more interested in some of the problems of America's educational system, and decided to go into education after college. I taught 9th grade Language Arts for a year at Brookwood High School in Gwinnett County, and now I am excited to be in training at Emory before I go back to the schools.

http://userwww.service.emory.edu/~asdegra/



#### **Rachel Dobbs**

B.A. History and History of Art

University of Michigan 2003

**Secondary History** 

In 2003, I graduated from the University of Michigan with concentrations in both History and the History of Art. During my several years working in the non-profit sector on affordable housing initiatives, followed by several years running my own business in real estate, I spent much of my free time working with young people as a summer camp counselor, soccer coach, and tutor. This type of work with young people I found most challenging, rewarding, and interesting, and I decided to pursue a long-term career in teaching. I am motivated and enthused to begin this career in teaching with the incredible preparation of the Emory MAT Program.

http://userwww.service.emory.edu/~radobbs/



### **Susie Fernandez**

B.A. Psychology

**Emory University 2006** 

Middle Grades Social Studies & Language Arts I was born and raised in the Atlanta area, and attended Gwinnett County Public Schools. I love Atlanta, and cannot imagine living anywhere else! I graduated from Emory University with a degree in Psychology and went on to work in Psychiatry for three years, but realized that I had an underlying desire to teach. I decided to pursue that desire, and enrolled in the Emory MAT program. I hope to share my passion for social studies, especially history, with my future middle school students!

http://userwww.service.emory.edu/~svferna/



### Jennifer Freeman

B.S. Biology Minor: Chemistry and English

<u>University of North</u> <u>Carolina - Chapel Hill</u> 2005

**Secondary Biology** 

I was born in Alexandria, VA but I was raised in Charlotte, NC. I went to UNC-Chapel Hill as a pre-med major, but as a result of several education internships and a Teach For America flyer at a bus stop, I left and immediately entered Teach For America 2005 corps. I taught 7th grade life science in downtown Atlanta, GA for four years before joining the fabulous 2010 MAT cohort. I am deeply committed to the improvement and restoration of public education, especially urban education. I love teaching and could not imagine myself doing anything else! I have touched 405 lives thus far and I won't stop until I reach 3,000!

http://userwww.service.emory.edu/~jrfree2



# Jeremey Fulk

B.A. History
Minor: Theatre

George Mason University 2007

**Secondary History** 

I am very excited to be at Emory. I grew up in California and was enlisted in the Marine Corps from 1994-1998. I have lived in Oregon, Okinawa, North Carolina, and Virginia. Also I have visited South Korea, Wake Island, Ecuador, and The Galapagos Islands. I have driven across the country four times and have at least passed through most of the states. I have a son, 15, and a new daughter, 6 months, and I thank my wife for her support during this intensive and rewarding program. The Marine Corps is where I gained my passion for history and an awareness of our connectedness to our past, present, and future. I am anxious to get into the classroom and share my passion with the students.

http://userwww.service.emory.edu/~jfulk/



# **Hayley Gallagher**

B.A. English Literature and Creative Writing

Agnes Scott College 2009

**Secondary English** 

I am a native of Roswell, Georgia who graduated from Agnes Scott College in May of 2009 with a Bachelor of Arts in English Literature and Creative Writing. I spent much of my undergraduate career tutoring my peers in writing and so discovered the joy of helping others think through their ideas and then communicate them through writing or speaking. I greatly enjoy reading, playing the flute, and writing creative nonfiction, but the passion that I aim to turn into my career is teaching. After completing the MAT program at Emory University, I intend to teach secondary English. I look forward to convincing my students that language and literature have purpose in their lives!

http://userwww.service.emory.edu/~hgallag



### Fahima Ife

B.A. Psychology

California State University, San Bernardino 2005

Middle Grades Language Arts and Social Studies I decided to become a teacher, to help eliminate the reality of oppression for so many people in our world. My goal is to provide a culturally relevant pedagogy to cultivate a sense of purpose within the students I teach. Once students gain knowledge of self, they can develop a critical consciousness to advocate for social justice in the communities around them. I have worked with urban students in elementary, middle and secondary settings in California and Atlanta. I love all forms of artistic expression, the earth and her people-groups, and eating tasty vegetarian food.

http://userwww.service.emory.edu/~fifeweu



#### **Andrew Lardie**

B.A. Biology

Reed College 2003

**Secondary Biology** 

I was raised in the Detroit area and lived for six years in Portland, OR before coming to Atlanta, where I have taught math and science in two schools over the past four years. In my free time I enjoy playing music, getting outdoors, and fiddling with technology.

http://userwww.service.emory.edu/~alardie



# **Karin Lessinger**

Associate in the Arts
<a href="https://example.com/oxford-college-of-Emory-university">Oxford-College of Emory
University 2007</a>

B.A. Educational Studies Emory University 2008

Middle Grades Social Studies and Science I was born and raised in Atlanta, attending schools in the DeKalb County School System. I received my Associate in Arts degree from Oxford College, my Bachelor of Arts degree from Emory University, and am now happy to be working on my M.A.T. here at Emory. Teaching has always been part of my life. In high school, I taught dance class to young children and throughout college I was a T.A. and worked at daycare centers. My junior and senior year of college, I worked as a lead teacher in the Pre-K classroom at The Emory Autism Center. This job confirmed the fact that I wanted to be a teacher. I am excited to teach middle grades social studies and science and hope to create new and fun ways to learn for my future students.

http://userwww.service.emory.edu/~klessin/



### Sarah Lunceford

B.A. Spanish

Minor: Religious Studies

**Rhodes College 2007** 

Middle Grades Social Studies & Language Arts I was born and raised in Louisiana. For college, I moved from the home of Jazz to the home of Rock and Roll to attend Rhodes College in Memphis, Tennessee. I earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Spanish, with a minor in Religious Studies. After graduation, I moved to Guatemala where one of my jobs was to teach English to Guatemalan youth and adults. Upon returning to the United States in the fall of 2008, I continued teaching English as a Second Language (ESL) and tutored middle school students with learning and behavioral disorders. Teaching allows me to be a part of students' discovery of the world around them, and I love seeing their eyes open to new ideas. In my free time, I enjoy taking walks, experimenting with new recipes, and reading.

http://userwww.service.emory.edu/~sluncef/



#### Mei Ou

BA, English University of Georgia '05

Middle Grades Language Arts and Social Studies I was born in Guangzhou, a city in the southern part of China, and have lived in Atlanta since I was two. I consider myself a native Atlantan and have come to love the variety of culture that is found all over the metro area. Upon graduating from Dunwoody High School, I was accepted into The University of Georgia. The professors in the English department not only nurtured my interest in English literature, but also encouraged my ambitions in teaching. My prior teaching experience as a second grade teacher at Victory World Christian School also furthered my pursuit of a career in teaching, especially in multicultural settings.

http://userwww.service.emory.edu/~mxou



# **Kathryn Pierce**

Associate of Arts

Oxford College of Emory
University 2005

B.S. Biology Emory University 2007

**Secondary Biology** 

I attended Oxford College and Emory College of Emory University, earning my Associate of Arts and Bachelor of Science. After graduating in May of 2007, I began exploring options of incorporating my Biology major into a meaningful profession. Before beginning the M.A.T. program at Emory, I worked in a remedial educational program with children in grades K-12. This informal teaching experience opened my eyes to the possibility of combining my passion for Biology with a newfound passion for teaching. I aspire to teach high school biology with a particular focus in urban areas. Additionally, I hope to delve into and have an impact on the policies that shape our educational infrastructure. In my spare time, I enjoy jogging, artwork, and gardening.

http://userwww.service.emory.edu/~kdpierc/



### **Katie Plemmons**

BA English, Theatre

<u>University of Southern</u> <u>California</u> 2009

**Secondary English** 

I was born in Atlanta and moved to Tucson, AZ, when I was twelve. While in high school in Tucson, I had an amazing English teacher. I had always loved to read, but my teacher made literary discussions so engaging that I knew I wanted to continue studying English. While at USC (Fight on, Trojans!), I discovered an interest in education. The classes I took for my minor, as well as a course called "Theatre in Education," led me to pursue a Masters in the Art of Teaching and teaching credential. Fortunately, this decision has brought me back to Atlanta and to Emory.

http://userwww.service.emory.edu/~kplemmo/



### **Michelle Redmond**

BA History

<u>Agnes Scott College</u> 2009

**Secondary History** 

My name is Michelle Redmond and I am a participant in the Master of Arts in Teaching Program at Emory University. I am currently specializing in Secondary History. I received my Bachelor of Arts in History (Cum Laude) from Agnes Scott College in May of 2009. There I specialized in African History and African American History. I am an enthusiastic and passionate person who loves volunteering in the community. I look forward to teaching in a diverse environment.

http://userwww.service.emory.edu/~mredmon/



# **Christian Samples**

BBA - Marketing

The University of Texas at Austin 1994

Middle Grades Mathematics and Social Studies After a career in Benefits Administration, I began to look for a more fulfilling line of work. When I read about the shortage of Math teachers in Georgia, I decided to commit myself to Math education. I enrolled at a local university and began the process of rejuvenating my dormant higher Math skills. My goals as a teacher include eliminating the fear of math that many students acquire in school and advocating for an amendment to the Constitution guaranteeing the right to and the equality of a public school education for all residents of the United States.

http://userwww.service.emory.edu/~crsampl/



# Stephanie Soltau

B.S. Industrial and Systems Engineering Minor: Business Administration University of Florida 2003

Middle Grades Mathematics and Science I am originally from Kingston, Jamaica and moved to Gainesville, Fl for university. I come to the MAT program after careers in IT consulting and capital procurement. During the last few years, I was a part time tutor at a local elementary school in Atlanta. It was this experience that inspired me to apply to the MAT program at Emory. During my free time, I enjoy yoga, gardening, and going to the beach.

http://userwww.service.emory.edu/~ssoltau/