

[HOME](#)[STAFF](#)[RAS](#)[INSTRUCTORS](#)[COURSE DESCRIPTIONS](#)[ACTIVITIES](#)[FAQ](#)

## Meet the Staff

Scroll down to meet the wonderful staff that help put all this together!

Skip to: [Rick Reidy](#) | [Christina Dearman](#) | [Kelly Born](#) | [Tammy Bassham](#) |  
[Shawn Nikah](#) | [In Ronen](#) | [Jay Hairston](#)



### Rick Reidy

DIRECTOR, TEXAS GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL

Richard F. Reidy is an associate professor of Materials Science and Engineering at the University of North Texas. He has a B.A. from Rice University (Chemistry and Biochemistry) and an M.S. and Ph.D. from Penn State (Metals Science and Engineering). He has published over 53 technical papers and received over \$1.4 million in external research grants. In 2005, he testified on nanotechnology before the Research Subcommittee of the US House of Representatives Committee on Science and Technology. His current research is on semiconductor materials, antibacterial wound care, and advanced body armor. Throughout his academic career, he has actively participated in K-12 science education: science fair judging, Science Day programs, and on site demonstrations. During summers, sixteen students from the Texas Academy of Mathematics and Science have conducted research in his laboratory-- most recently developing novel wound care products using silver nanoparticles.

### Christina Dearman

CURRICULUM COORDINATOR

Christina T. Dearman is a gifted specialist for Denton ISD. She has a B.A. from Texas Christian University (Religion & Art History with a Minor in Art), a M.Ed. from UNT (Special Education, Gifted Ed.), and is currently completing a PhD from UNT

(Curriculum and Instruction with a concentration in Gifted Education.) She has taught in various capacities from pre-k through secondary, serving as an honors level teacher, pull-out teacher, running school wide enrichment programs and teaching Saturday enrichment programs. She has also taught at the undergraduate and master's level.

Her vision for what gifted education can be stems from her own experiences in high school in which she was selected to participate in a pilot program for AP Art History. Weekly she traveled from her home school to the Art Institute of Chicago to take classes under art curator Jeanne Osgood. Students were allowed to peruse not only the exhibit areas, but the inner workings of the institute to gain better insights into art history and museology.



*Christina in front of Degas' Four Dancers at the National Gallery of Art, Washington DC.*



## Kelly Born

STUDENT LIFE COORDINATOR

Kelly has a Bachelors of Social Work from Stephen F. Austin State University. She worked as a Residence Hall Director at Bruce Hall for 4 years, supervising and advising the residents and staff. During her time at UNT she completed her teaching certificate enabling her to teach Kindergarten through 8th grade. Kelly is currently a 5th grade teacher for Denton ISD.

## Tammy Bassham

ASSISTANT STUDENT LIFE COORDINATOR

Tammy graduated from Texas A&M University - College Station in 2001 with a BS in Recreation, Parks & Tourism Sciences. Since that time she has immersed herself in the pursuit of life education. Her experiences involve outdoor education, film making, massage therapy, arts administration, festival/special events planning, and non-profit management. When not working, Tammy enjoys sitting outside with a good book, friend or journal as she dreams up future projects over a calming cup of herbal tea! She also loves indie rock, laughing, and very dark chocolate!





## In Ronen

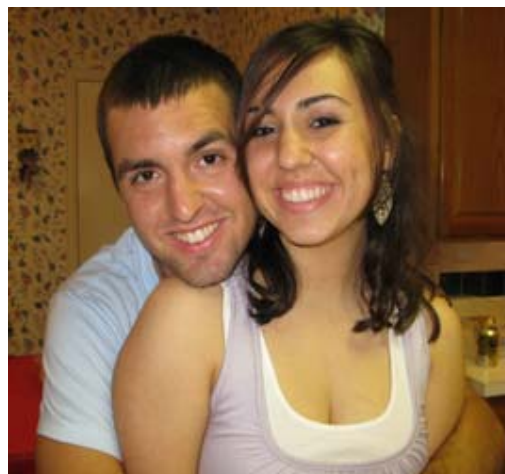
CURIE HOUSE DIRECTOR

In is a fashion design student at UNT going into her last year. She has worked with TAMS for two years as a Resident Assistant and is going on to a third year as a Program Adviser. She enjoys working out, making clothes, and spending time with friends. In is looking forward to a second summer with Texas Governor's School.

## Shawn Nikah

BOSE HOUSE DIRECTOR

Shawn loves current events, other cultures, politics, and drinking water that is room temperature. He also enjoys good conversation, the outdoors, and learning new things. He asks a lot of questions, but this is because he is a naturally hyper-curious guy and wants to get to know you better. His favorite foods are Thai, Persian, and Indian food along with the occasional steak or hamburger. After graduation he hopes to do some backpacking across Europe and spend time in France working for the circus as a contortionist.

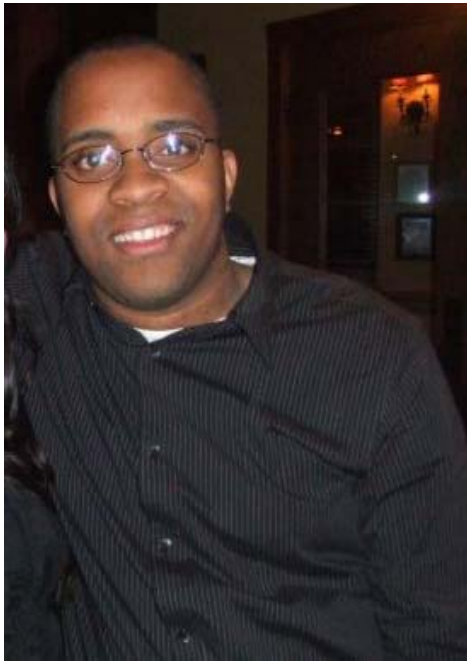


## Jay Hairston

EULER HOUSE DIRECTOR

Jay was born and raised in Houston Texas and now holds a BM in music education from the University of North Texas. He worked for the Texas Academy of Mathematics and Science for 3 years in both Resident Assistant and Program Advisor positions. When Jay is not working or in class you will often (but not often enough) find him in a practice room trying to perfect his skills on the clarinet. Jay is starting his masters degree in Clarinet Performance at the Ohio State University this fall after which he hopes to become an Adjunct Professor of clarinet at a university while he is auditioning for performing jobs. Outside of composing





major works for clarinet and performing in nifty concert halls, Jay loves to watch movies with friends. Jay says, 'There is nothing more relaxing than ordering a pizza and renting a movie with your blockbuster movie pass.'

*This page was last updated on June 04, 2008*

