

STUDENT HANDBOOK



West Virginia

**Governor's
Honors Academy**

The World We Will Leave Behind

June 18-July 8, 2023

Fairmont State University

WELCOME to GHA Where every minute is an opportunity

What an enviable position you are in. You have read about GHA, and you have heard your friends—and maybe even your parents—rave about it. This summer, however, all the hearsay falls into the background as you experience GHA yourself.

We are proud to present the West Virginia Governor's Honors Academy at Fairmont State University. This unique program celebrates the achievement and potential of the state's most promising scholars and citizens.

Governor's Schools are truly a community effort. Funded by the legislature and requested in the governor's budget, all Governor's Schools of West Virginia are administered by the West Virginia Department of Education. The host institution, Fairmont State University, will ensure that GHA is like no other academic experience.

The information provided in this booklet should answer many of the questions parents/guardians have about GHA. Participation in this heralded program provides an opportunity for rising seniors to meet and interact with other students and adults in a rich academic environment that facilitates and encourages creativity, exploration, and collaboration. In some cases, students may receive scholarships from the college they choose to attend. The colleges - not the Honors Academy itself - award such scholarships.

We are happy to congratulate you not only for exploring the world of academia, but for having the wisdom to know that GHA is where you should spend a portion of your time this summer. The Governor's Schools have long been shining stars in our state's education opportunities. You are now part of that magnificent brilliance.

Table of Contents

Introduction to GHA and 2023 Theme.....4

Schedule of Events and Activities.....5

A Word from the Resident Director.....6

Policies and Procedures.....6

Living Accommodations8

Packing Recommendations.....9

Campus Recreation.....9

Harassment Policy.....9

Disciplinary Action10

Get to Know GHA 2023 Faculty and Staff11

Frequently Asked Questions.....23

Contact Information.....24

Directions and Campus Map.....25

Introduction

Please read through the information contained in this handbook carefully. It contains information on just about everything you need to know about GHA. If you have any questions that aren't answered here, contact Dr. Robin Payne or Dr. Keisha Kibler, co-deans of GHA at Fairmont State University, or Mr. Joey Wiseman, the coordinator of Governor's Schools. This handbook includes an introduction to the staff and a description of the Academy's theme.

The Governor's Honors Academy is an excellent opportunity for you to meet and interact with other accomplished students and adults in an enriching and invigorating academic environment. At GHA, you will explore topics of particular interest to you. You will be living and learning on campus at Fairmont State University as a representative of your school and county.

GHA will challenge you academically and spark your curiosity as you explore your dynamic world. Moreover, you will meet other talented and driven young West Virginians and develop friendships that will last the rest of your life. Only students who complete the Academy are known as GHA Scholars.

By accepting a position with this year's Academy, you agree to behave with integrity and treat others with respect. You will be required to abide by all rules and regulations included in this brochure. These guidelines are necessary for you to have the best possible learning experience.

We wish you a successful and enjoyable experience at the Governor's Honors Academy at Fairmont State University. We'll see you on Sunday, June 18!

The World We Will Leave Behind

During the 2023 West Virginia Honor's Academy at Fairmont State University, students will participate in academic and extracurricular activities that explore the embedded theme: "The World We Will Leave Behind." Through this theme, students will explore a wide range of contemporary issues through the lens of the past. Generation Z will assume the reigns of leadership in the wake of myriad upheavals related to unprecedented events like the recent COVID-19 pandemic as well as an on-going technology revolution, the potentially catastrophic impact of climate change, growing political strife, challenging socioeconomic uncertainties, and intensifying social justice movements. The 2023 GHA theme will enable students to better understand how we got to where we are so that they may better contend with the world they will inherit as they create a new world of their own. Programming will enable students to explore critical historical realities at the local, state, national, and global level so that they can best determine what aspects of our shared past that they wish to keep and revitalize in the future and which elements are best left behind.

Schedule of Events and Activities

Opening and Closing Dates

The West Virginia Governor's Honors Academy will begin on Sunday, June 18. Students will sign-up for a check-in time between 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. on that day. Families will be invited to dine with their child in the dining hall before the Opening Session, which will be held beginning at 1:00 p.m. Families will bid farewell to their child during the Opening Session.

The West Virginia Governor's Honors Academy will conclude on Saturday, July 8. Parents/guardians may arrive beginning at 10:00 a.m. for the closing Academic Showcase. Students must be checked out by noon that day.

Typical Daily Schedule

A typical week day during the WV GHA at Fairmont State will look like this:

- 6:00-8:00 Access to gym facilities
- 7:30-8:30 Breakfast
- 8:30-9:00 Morning Meeting
- 9:00-12:00 Class Time
- 12:00-1:00 Lunch
- 1:00-4:00 Class Time
- 4:00-5:30 Afternoon Activities
- 5:30-6:30 Dinner
- 7:00-10:00 Evening Activities
- 11:00 LIGHTS OUT

Special Events and Off-Campus Outings

- Sunday, June 18 Move-In and Opening Session (9:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m.)
- Friday, June 23 Day Trip to southern WV
- Saturday, June 24 Movie at Tygart Valley Cinemas
- Tuesday, June 27 Day Trip to Washington, D.C.
- Saturday, July 1 Outstanding Educator Luncheon (12:00-3:00 pm)
- Sunday, July 2 Hiking / Picnic at Valley Falls
- Monday, July 3 Black Bears Game and Fireworks in Morgantown
- Thursday, July 6 Launchpad Trampoline Park in Morgantown
- Saturday, July 8 Academic Showcase / Farewell (10:00-12:00)

A Note from your Resident Director

Greetings GHA community!

As your Resident Director, I want to welcome you to GHA! Congratulations on being accepted to the GHA experience, I am excited that you chose to accept the invitation to join us for three weeks at Fairmont State University.



As I am sure you have tons of questions about what GHA will look like, this handbook will help answer some of your immediate inquiries. The next few pages will detail some of the policies and procedures we have in place to help ensure you will have the best experience possible this summer.

During GHA, you will be staying in [Bryant Place](#). In this handbook, you will find more information about the accommodations in Bryant Place. We also included a list of items to bring and not to bring with you.

Please reach out to me with any questions. I look forward to seeing you on June 18th!

Ms. Caomi Fitz

gha@fairmontstate.edu

Policies and Procedures

Residency Policy

- Students are expected to remain on campus. Parents, family, and friends are **NOT** to visit. Emergency leave requests should be sent to the deans.
- Students may **NEVER** leave campus alone and without informing the appropriate GHA staff.

Visitation Policy

- Students may not entertain visitors, including family.
- If a student forgets something at home, parents may contact the deans to set up a time and place to drop off the forgotten items.
- Students are NOT permitted to visit other groups or residence halls while on Fairmont State's campus.
- Students may visit with members of a different sex ONLY in the residence hall lounges or common areas, not in student rooms.

Motor Vehicles

- Students may neither ride in nor operate a motor vehicle unless driven by appropriate GHA staff.
- GHA students are not permitted to bring a vehicle to GHA.

Cell Phones, Computers, and Personal Electronics

- Use of cell phones and other electronic devices is limited to trips and free time **ONLY**, unless otherwise approved or instructed by GHA staff. Students may keep their cell phones on them but should not use them during class or activity time.
- Our goal is for GHA students to connect with other GHA students during the academy.
- If you have a cell phone, you must give your RA your phone number. This will help with communication during events and field trips.

Attendance and Participation

- Students are required to attend and actively participate in all regularly scheduled classes and events.
- Missing an event or class for any reason must be approved.

Field Trips and Leaving Campus

- Students are required to follow established travel schedules, residence hall curfews, and established town ordinances regarding curfews for minors.
- When off-campus, students **MUST** stay in an RA-or faculty-chaperoned group at all times.
- Students may **NOT** leave Bryant Place without permission, and not at all after dark.
- Students **MUST** travel in groups of three (**3**) or more on campus if no RA or staff member is present.

Drug Policy

- Tobacco, alcohol, drugs, and other chemical substances (with the exception of prescription or OTC drugs that GHA staff have been made aware of) are **PROHIBITED**.

Other Policies

- GHA photo ID must be worn at all times.
- If the fire alarm sounds, everyone is to exit the building and assemble at designated safe areas for roll call.
- Dress clothes are to be worn at the Favorite Educator luncheon and the Farewell Luncheon.
- GHA t-shirts are to be worn as instructed on trips. Offensive writing or images on clothing is prohibited.
- Appropriate attire is required in classrooms, activities, field trips, and the dining hall.

Living Accommodations

Bryant Place is your home for three weeks. Please be respectful of each other, the building, GHA staff, and ESPECIALLY University Housekeeping. The RD, RAs, and Deans reserve the right to revoke privileges such as afternoon activity time should facilities not be kept up to standard.

- Students in Bryant Place have the luxury of living in a suite style room. The suite includes a private bathroom facility and a shared communal area between four students. Each suite contains four beds, two sinks, one common area, one shower room, and one restroom facility. Housekeeping does not clean student rooms or student restrooms. Therefore, during your time at GHA, you will be responsible for maintaining a clean space.
- You can view photos of the suite style rooms in Bryant Place [here](#).
- Stairwells are to walk from one floor to the next, not a place to hang out. Please keep them clean and clear.
- You will be issued a key to your room. A fee of \$150 will be charged to re-key your room if the key is lost or not returned.
- Students are to be in their rooms and in bed by **11:00 pm**, unless otherwise instructed by GHA faculty and staff. This means if an RA walks the halls, they should not be able to hear noise from your room or see light. The bathroom light is okay to leave on.

Mail

Care packages from home are acceptable, but please limit package delivery from websites such as Amazon. Please use the address below to mail packages or letters to a GHA student. **Do not use the address listed on the webpage for Bryant Place.** The resident director or RAs will help distribute mail to GHA students. Outgoing mail can also be dropped off during the day for pick up.

Address letters in the manner that follows:

[Student Name]

WV Governor's Honors Academy
c/o Honors Program at Fairmont State
• 1201 Locust Ave.
Fairmont, WV 26554

Trash

All students are responsible for removing trash from their rooms. There is a dumpster next to Morrow Hall. Please exit Bryant Place on the sixth floor and take a right at the end of the bridge.

Laundry

Laundry facilities are located on the sixth floor of Bryant Place. All laundry machines are free of charge.

Cafeteria

Breakfast, lunch, and dinner are served in the Falcon Center cafeteria. Hours will be announced when you arrive. A salad bar is available for lunch and dinner. Vegetarian options are offered at all meals, and every effort will be made to accommodate special dietary needs.

Packing Recommendations

What to Bring	Suggested Items	What NOT to Bring
Bedding (Twin XL sheets, pillow, blankets) Towels, wash cloth Beach towel Swimsuit Hand soap Trashcan (trash bags provided) Cleaning supplies (Clorox wipes, bathroom cleaner) Shower caddy Toiletries Clothes hangers Laundry detergent Laundry bag Two dress outfits Comfortable shoes Refillable Water Bottle	Laptop or tablet Umbrella Sunscreen Musical instrument Board Games Hat Chargers for electronics Power strip Desk lamp Mini-Fridge (4.6 cubic feet max) Headphones Light jacket Fan (the building is air conditioned) Snacks Foam mattress pad	Microwave Any open flame items Pets Extension cords Small cooking appliances (anything with a heating element)

Campus Recreation

Fairmont State University's Falcon Center will be opened for GHA students at specific times during the daily schedule to participate in wellness activities. The track and weightlifting room will be available for GHA students from 6:30am- 8:00am. GHA students who wish to work out in the morning must sign up with an RA.

The Falcon Center will also be available during afternoon activity time. Students can sign up to swim, play games, lift weights, basketball, volleyball, soccer, ping pong, etc. Students must always be accompanied by a GHA staff member while in the Falcon Center.

Harassment Policies

Harassment of all kinds will not be tolerated at GHA. Harassment includes any action or behavior that mocks, demeans, puts down, disparages, or ridicules another person or group. Bullying of all kinds is considered a form of harassment. Sexual harassment is any sort of discrimination, unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature.

If you are a victim of harassment, please report to either the RD or one of the Deans. In these situations, you should report to whomever you are most comfortable speaking to. Together you can discuss the incident and create a plan to address the issue at hand.

Disciplinary Action

Certain behavior is incompatible with the philosophy of GHA. As representatives of your schools, communities, counties, and the state of West Virginia, you are expected to be exemplary citizens. All staff members are responsible for disciplinary action in response to misbehavior. In other words, every staff member is the “boss.” There are three levels of discipline, determined by the nature, frequency, or severity of the infraction and they are not necessarily sequential:

1. Verbal reprimand by staff with written notice to the Deans;
2. Written warning by the Deans. Parent/guardian will be notified, and;
3. Dismissal from GHA.

The Deans, in consultation with the appropriate faculty, staff, and the State Director, will make final decisions regarding dismissal from GHA.

Should a student be dismissed, the Deans will immediately contact the student’s parents or guardians. A dismissed student must be picked up by a parent/guardian within 12 hours of dismissal. While waiting to be picked up, the student will pack personal belongings under staff supervision and be separated from other Academy members. A letter stating the reason for dismissal will be sent to the parent/guardian, high school principal and county superintendent of schools.

Be advised that Fairmont State University and the West Virginia Governor’s Honors Academy will cooperate with all university, local, and state authorities regarding investigations or illegal activities.

Causes for Disciplinary Action

Students who leave campus without authorization, leave the room after “room check” during off-campus travel, engage in activities threatening the safety of themselves or others including leaving assigned groups when off campus, or who violate the tobacco, alcohol and controlled substance abuse rule will be dismissed immediately. There will be no second chances.

Other reasons for dismissal include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Unexcused absence
- Disobeying visitation policies;
- Unauthorized use of a vehicle;
- Unauthorized riding in a vehicle with another person;
- Tampering with fire alarms or security systems;
- Harassment/ bullying;
- Failure to follow faculty, staff, or campus security’s directions;
- Behavior unbecoming of a member of GHA.

***If you have any questions or concerns about these policies, feel free to ask your RA or any other member of the GHA staff. These policies are in place to provide you with a safe, fun, and enriching experience.

Get to Know Our Faculty and Staff

Robin Payne, Co-Dean

Robin Payne is the Director of the Honors Program and an Associate Professor of History at Fairmont State University. She received her doctoral degree in United States history from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2010. She earned her baccalaureate and master's degrees at Washington State University. She has been the recipient of the William A. Boram Award for Teaching Excellence (2023), the Faculty Recognition Award (2015) and the Foundation Faculty Fellowship Award (2018) during her tenure at Fairmont State University. She has presented her scholarship at the national conferences of multiple nationally recognized historical organizations, such as the Berkshire Conference on the History of Women and the Organization of American Historians, and her work has appeared in the *Journal of Women's History*. Dr. Payne originally hails from the Pacific Northwest, has called West Virginia her home for the past ten years. In her down-time, Dr. Payne is usually hanging out with her husband, Kevin, and their three daughters – twin fourteen-year-olds and a precocious first grader. You're likely to catch them binge-watching the latest Star Wars or Marvel spin-off on any given weekend. Dr. Payne also enjoys knitting and reading!

Dr. Keisha-Moraé Kibler, Co-Dean

Keisha-Moraé Hopkins Kibler, a national board-certified teacher, grew up in the mountains of Bluefield, WV. She taught English language arts in Preston County for 15 years. In 2018, she joined the faculty as an assistant professor at Fairmont State University in the College of Education, Health and Human Performance where she teaches future teachers. Dr. Kibler facilitates professional learning opportunities for K-12 educators throughout WV. Specifically, she plans and implements a range of supports for teachers in their journey towards National Board certification. She has earned accolades for her dedication to teaching, professional learning, and the mentoring of beginning teachers such as the Di Tosto and Marockie Outstanding Supervising Teacher award at WVU and the Fairmont State University Teaching in Excellence Award. Her hobbies include reading, writing, and experiencing life with her husband, Jeremiah, and fur-baby, ZuZu (the shih tzu). She is very excited to begin her sixth year with GHA.

Ms. Caomi Fitz, Resident Director

Caomi Fitz has worked in Residence Life on Fairmont State University's campus for 3 years in the Honor's Hall, and is a recent graduate from Fairmont State University. They studied Psychology, Studio Art with a 3-D concentration, and minored in Women and Gender Studies. Ms. Fitz has an interest in accessibility and accommodation within different environments and is beginning her career in Human Resources in the Fall. This year will mark Ms. Fitz's third experience with GHA, and she is excited to help facilitate another fantastic experience for all of the students! During her free time, Ms. Fitz enjoys honing their skills as an artist, playing animal crossing, and catching up on Netflix shows and new movies.

Ally Quigley, Head Intern

Ally Quigley is a recent graduate from Fairmont State University. She studied English, concentrating in Literature and minoring in Professional Writing. During her time at Fairmont State, Ally was the President of the Honors Association and the Creative Sustainability Council. Her time in leadership has gained her many memories and fun experiences during college! In the Fall, she will be starting her Master of Arts in Professional Writing & Editing at West Virginia University. There she will be teaching introductory English courses as a Teaching Assistant. She hopes to one day teach at the college-level and/or work on a college campus. In her free time, she enjoys watching movies and playing guitar and piano. She was a Resident Assistant at GHA 2022 and is excited to be back as an intern this year!



Tori Gastón, Intern



Tori is a senior here at Fairmont State University. She is looking to graduate in the Fall and studying both English Literature and Spanish with plans to be a high school Spanish teacher. She is originally from New Jersey, although she was born in the Bronx, New York. West Virginia was never in the cards for her until 2018 when her parents made the decision to move to this beautiful state! Because of that, she has picked up the hobby of hiking and enjoying the outdoors. She loves reading in her spare time and working out, especially since she has one more rugby season upcoming!

Trinity Rollins, Videographer

Trinity Rollins is a current junior at Marshall University. She is working toward a BA degree in Video Production, and minoring in Studio Art. She is passionate about film, photography, and traditional art, like painting and collage. Her personal work can be found @trinity.is.typing on Instagram.





Toneta Akers-Toler, Faculty

Toneta Akers-Toler is a founding member and artistic director of West Virginia Dance Company (WVDC); the only professional touring dance company in West Virginia. Toneta's awards include the 2005 WV Governor's Arts Awards for "Excellence, the Arts" & 2011 for "Arts Education", WV Women of the Year in the arts in 1999 and the National Association of Regional Ballet Award for Choreography in 1984. In 2019 Toneta was nominated for the Mid-Atlantic Foundation's Alan Cooper Award and in 2021 Toneta was nominated for the prestigious NEA individual artist fellowship. Toneta has taught on WVDC tours extensively in WV as well as 14 other states and Brazil. She has served many positions at Theatre West Virginia such as dancer, actress, choreographer, and master teacher for Theatre WV since 1973. This summer will be her 8th year of serving the WV Governor's Honors Academy to now be held at Fairmont State University. A magical time of dance for her was serving students at the Pineville Dance Theatre for 45 years. Toneta holds a dance degree from the Conservatory of Dance Point Park College, has three certifications from American Dance Festival held at Duke University and has a certification from the Dance Kinetic Institute in New York City.

Adam Booth, Faculty

Storyteller Adam Booth is the 2022 West Virginia Folk Artist of the Year, awarded at the Governor's Arts Awards. He blends traditional mountain folklore, music, and an awareness of contemporary Appalachia to create original, forward-thinking story artistry. Adam's professional telling appearances include premiere storytelling events across the United States, including the Kennedy Center Millennium Stage, the International Storytelling Center, the National Storytelling Festival, and as a Spoken Word Resident at the Banff Centre (Alberta, Canada). He is a member of the Recording Academy and serves as the inaugural Storyteller-in-Residence at Shepherd University.



Hugh Costello, Faculty



Hugh is a native of Clarksburg, WV. He earned a BS in Mechanical Engineering from WVU and then an MS in Mechanical Engineering from MIT. He held various positions as a lead and senior design engineer for over 25 years including stints at Oak Ridge National Laboratory and GE Aircraft Engines. His design work has included robots, manufacturing automation machines, automated military tanks, mining equipment and hydraulics, and aircraft turbine engines. Hugh is licensed as a Professional Engineer in the State of West Virginia.

For the last 14 years, Hugh has taught Engineering and Calculus as an Associate Professor at Fairmont State University. He has also taught applied Calculus at WVU and Graduate studies in Engineering Management at FSU. In 2022 he was the proud winner of FSU's Boram Award for teaching excellence.

Currently, Hugh resides with his wife, Sandra, in Fairmont, WV. They have four adult children and two grandsons. He loves teaching and being a new grandpa.

Karen Gergely, Faculty

Karen Gergely is a socially engaged artist and educator originally from Morgantown, WV. She holds a BFA from Shepherd University and an MFA in Fine Art from the University of Cincinnati, DAAP. She is currently working as an Associate Professor of Art at Graceland University in Lamoni, Iowa, where she teaches in the Honors Program and serves as head of the Art and Design department. Gergely teaches a myriad of studio, art history, and social engagement courses and recently received a grant from the Iowa Private Academic Libraries Open Educational Resources (OER) Project. She serves on the Services to Artists Committee (SAC) as part of the College Art Association that helps identify and address concerns facing artists and designers. Gergely's artistic practice is rooted in cultivating a sense of community through artistic expression among groups of all kinds. Her work can be found at <https://www.karenergely.com/>. Gergely is an avid adventurer, long distance hiker and bike-packer #askmeaboutit.



Rebecca Giorcelli, Faculty

Dr. Rebecca Giorcelli currently serves as the Interim Dean as well as the Director of Assessment for the College of Business and Aviation at Fairmont State University (FSU). As a tenured professor, Dr. Giorcelli teaches the undergraduate Project Management courses for the Information Systems Management program as well as several graduate courses for the MBA program. During her time at Fairmont State, she received many teaching awards and fellowships as well as faculty development grants. Dr. Giorcelli earned her B.S., M.S. and Ph.D. in Industrial Engineering from West Virginia University. Fun fact: She was the first female to receive a doctorate in Industrial Engineering from West Virginia University. Rebecca teaches fitness classes for the Fairmont State Falcon Center as well as local fitness facilities. She also enjoys traveling, playing piano, and spending time with her two sons, Trey, and Tyler.



Matt Hokom, Faculty

Prof. Matthew Hokom has taught in the English Department of Fairmont State University since 2001. His academic interests include American Literature, Greco-Roman literature and philosophy, and mythology.





Dan Hollis, Faculty

Dan Hollis is an award-winning journalist and professor of media with Marshall University's W. Page Pitt School of Journalism and Mass Communications. He was named the 2012 West Virginia Professor of the Year by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and was a two-time finalist, in 2020 and 2021, for the Faculty Merit Foundation West Virginia Professor of the Year. His creative work focuses on telling West Virginia stories, and he has earned three prestigious Edward R. Murrow regional awards for his work. Hollis was a 2022 inductee in the West Virginia Broadcasting Hall of Fame and a 2020 inductee into the W. Page Pitt School of Journalism and Mass Communications Hall of Fame.

Cody Hood, Faculty

Cody is a Teaching Assistant Professor for the School of Mathematical and Data Sciences at West Virginia University. In 2021 he earned his Ph.D. in Mathematics with an emphasis in Research in Undergraduate Mathematics Education focusing on student understanding of the definite integral in an application context. He received his Bachelors of Science in Math in 2013 along with his Masters of Science in Math in 2015, both at WVU. Cody is a coach for the West Virginia National Math Team, where every year 20 of the top performing high school students across the state travel to Penn State for a national math competition. Cody has taught at the Governor's Honors Academy since 2014 and he looks forward sharing his knowledge and gaining even more. In addition to relishing his time at GHA, Cody has a particular interest in running and statistical and data analysis, with an emphasis in fantasy football.



Thomas Lawson, Faculty

Dr. Thomas Lawson is an Assistant Professor at Fairmont State University. Dr. Lawson primarily teaches courses in media, journalism, and communication. His research concerns the rhetorical processes at work in the formation of online communities, as well as speculating more ethical and productive processes. In his spare time, Dr. Lawson enjoys exploring West Virginia and listening to improvisational and experimental electronic music.

Nathan Myers, Faculty

Nathan Myers is an Associate Professor in the Department of Humanities at Fairmont State University. He teaches courses in literature, writing, film, and sustainability.



Ian Nolte, Faculty

Ian Nolte lives in Huntington, West Virginia and teaches for the English Department at Marshall University. He is passionate about writing, filmmaking, and digital media—and how those things intersect. His classes explore the nuts-and-bolts of how stories are put together. This is his fifth time teaching at the Governor's Honors Academy, and he is excited for this year's experience.



Anup Poudel, Faculty

Anup Poudel is currently a Ross Assistant Professor of mathematics at the Ohio State University. He has a PhD in mathematics from the University of Iowa and a MS in mathematics from Loyola University Chicago. His mathematical interest lies in the field of quantum topology which deals with using algebraic tools to understand topological spaces (which are very geometric in nature).

When not doing math, he likes to travel, play tennis, and hike. He has taught at the Governor's Honors Academy in the past and is thrilled to teach again this year.

Alyssa Schwartz, Faculty

Dr. Alyssa Schwartz comes from Jamestown, New York and is the Director of Bands and Professor of Flute and Musicology at Fairmont State University, Director of the Morgantown Community Orchestra, Development Coordinator for Black Diamond Philharmonic, and Senior Instructor of Flute and Piano through West Virginia University's Community Music Program. Previously, she has served as Contributing Faculty in Flute at Dickinson College in Carlisle, PA and as a Lecturer of Music Theory and Music Education at West Virginia University. She debuted at New York City's Carnegie Hall in November 2017 and returned for a second performance the same month as a result of winning 1st prize in the 2017 Golden Classical Music International Competition and 2nd Prize in the 2017 Concert Artists International Music Competition. As a recording artist, Alyssa has released two albums with her



flute quartet, BETA, in 2017 and received her first multiple-CD recording grant from Polyphony Arts Management in 2020. This three-year project will see the release of her debut solo album in 2023 and a concerto album in 2024. Alyssa has been featured with physicist and composer Dr. Domenico Vicinanza by the Washington Post and the BBC for their cutting-edge work in presenting scientific data sonically, and the pair have presented at the 2023 SXSW and NASA's Virtual SC20 Conference.



John Shirley, Faculty

John Shirley is an educator, practitioner, and GHA alum (1995) who holds a BA in English from Bridgewater College and both an MLitt and an MFA in Shakespeare and Renaissance Literature in Performance from Mary Baldwin College, where he completed a semester-long internship in the education department of the American Shakespeare Center as part of his graduate studies. He is especially interested in text analysis and performance, otherness, religious and supernatural imagery and themes, and the intersections of Shakespeare and pop culture.

John currently is Resident Dramaturg and Director of Education for The Rustic Mechanicals, West Virginia's only professional Shakespeare company, as well as a freelance dramaturg whose work includes projects with Theater Alaska, West Virginia Dance Company, West Virginia Wesleyan College, and Young Audiences of Virginia. He also contributed pastiche dialogue to the reconstructed script used for

the first-ever North American performance of Phillip Massinger's 1631 tragedy *Believe As You List* and twice participated in the annual Piccolo Spoleto arts festival as a writer-performer with No Shame Theatre.

This is his twenty-fourth summer working with GHA.

Doug Squire, Faculty

Doug Squire is a Charleston native and a Nitro High graduate. He attended GHA in 1998 at WVU and has taught at GHA since 2011. Having earned both his BA and MS in mathematics from WVU, Doug was on the mathematics faculty at WVU from 2006-2021. In 2010, he won the Eberly College of Arts and Sciences Outstanding Teaching Award, and in 2011, he won the WVU Foundation Award for Outstanding Teaching. He later taught for a year at George Washington High School in Charleston and currently is a Master Instructor at The Art of Problem Solving. He is coauthor of the textbook *Applications of Calculus*. He likes to play racquetball, ski and is a huge WVU fan. Let's go Mountaineers!



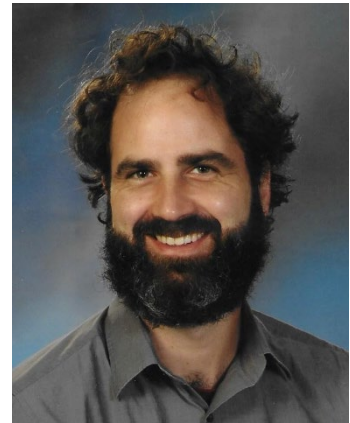


Angelica Starcovic, Faculty

Angelica Starcovic (she/her/they) is a 23-year old artist from Cameron, West Virginia. She holds a Bachelor of Science in psychology with a minor in studio art from Fairmont State University, and is currently a Master of Fine Art candidate at Syracuse University in the school of Visual and Performing Arts. Using image, installation, and assemblage, their artworks investigate her body and the social connotations that influence self-perceptions through a feminist lens. Inspired by the feedback loop of culture, consciousness, and belief, her work reveals the experience of searching for meaning in yourself against the status quo. She has shown work in New York and Los Angeles, and has been awarded artist residencies in Los Angeles and Greece. When she isn't in the studio, she can be found playing with their cats Pippi and Fern, in the woods somewhere, or out with friends.

Vern Walker, Faculty

Vern Walker studied within a Great Books program at the University of Notre Dame and earned his doctorate in the Comparative Literature department at Binghamton University in upstate New York. He is always curious about how literary and political theory come together in creative ways, and both his undergraduate thesis and PhD dissertation focused on reimagining the concepts of civil disobedience and pacifism. For close to nine years - in between and after his formal studies – he has lived and worked within pacifist, anarchist communities called the Catholic Worker. There he met his wife, and together they now have three growing children ages nine, seven, and four!



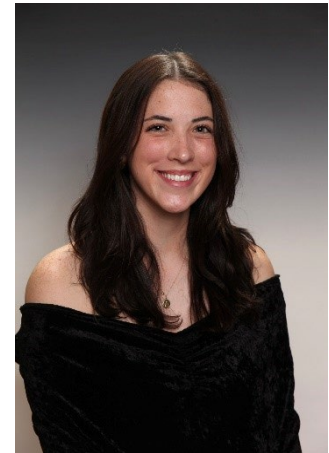


Ceili Alder, Resident Assistant

Ceili is from Caldwell, WV. She is currently a rising sophomore at Sweet Briar College where her main courses of study are biology and dance. She also works for the outdoor program at her college, so she loves leading hikes and camping trips. You can geek out with her about anything arts, nature, or science related!

Victoria Blickenstaff, Resident Assistant

Victoria Blickenstaff is a senior marketing student at Marshall University. At Marshall, she stays involved as a Resident Advisor, Sales Team Coach, and Vice President of Finance in her sorority Delta Zeta. Victoria is passionate about sports and is excited to complete her merchandising internship with Legends at the Professional Golf Association Championship this May. Upon college graduation, she hopes to continue working in the sports business world, with dreams of one day working in Major League Baseball.

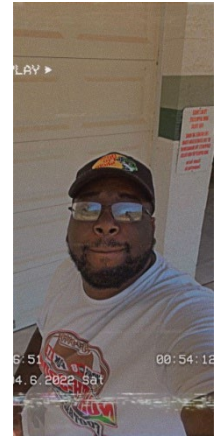


Ta'Marra Cook, Resident Assistant

Ta'Marra is a senior at Marshall University, double majoring in health sciences & psychology, with minors in addiction studies and women's & gender studies. Ta'Marra's first year as a Marshall resident advisor will be this coming fall semester, but she currently resides as a desk assistant in the residence halls. She is a Presidential Ambassador for Marshall, working closely with Marshall's President for campus events, and will be the upcoming Diversity Officer of the Psi Chi Society. She serves as a health sciences and psychology student representative, helping with campus tour days and speaking with prospective students and their families on her majors and college experience at Marshall. She enjoys working and interacting with younger individuals as she helps in any way with their college experience. In her free time, she likes to cook, watch TikTok, go on road trips outside of WV with her friends, and capture pictures of her adventures.

Taeshon Crudup, Resident Assistant

Taeshon is a criminal justice major from Morgantown, WV who graduated from Fairmont State University in 2022 and is getting his master's degree in criminal justice. He is active in multiple activities/ groups such as resident assistant in Prichard Hall, Black Student Union, and a preschool teacher at Presbyterian Child Development Center. Taeshon is a huge sports fan in particular football and baseball. He loves traveling, especially visiting North Carolina to visit family. After GHA, he plans on working as a youth correctional counselor.

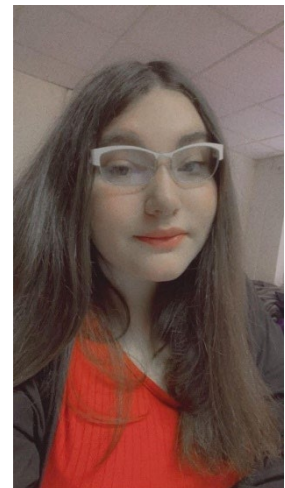


Zachary Fancher, Resident Assistant

Zachary is a graduate student at Fairmont State University working toward a Master of Education in Multi-Categorical Special Education with Autism. In 2021 he graduated from Fairmont State University summa cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts in History with a minor in Women's and Gender Studies and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science. His undergraduate research focused on the glass ceiling and its effects on women in/running for elected office. While an undergraduate student at Fairmont State, he was active in Student Government, Falcons w/ PRIDE, College Democrats, and a variety of social justice oriented activities/groups. Zachary currently works as a special education teacher in Marion County, WV at West Fairmont Middle School where he teaches 7th and 8th Grade Math. He thoroughly enjoys working with young people, learning, and advocating for his students. He is incredibly passionate about education and having a positive and lasting impact in the individuals he encounters. Zachary loves Coca Cola as well as his dog Gus and cat Cleo.

Madison Haderman, Resident Assistant

Madison Haderman is a senior enrolled at Fairmont State University. She is currently pursuing a major in History alongside a minor in Philosophy. She holds the position of Resident Assistant at Morrow Hall. Her hobbies are crocheting, reading, and watching movies.



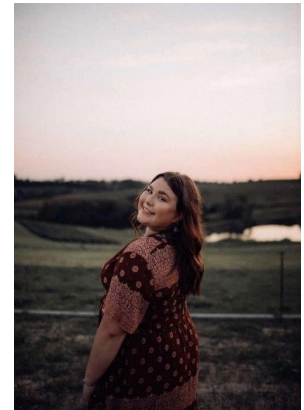


Hannah Hudson, Resident Assistant

I am a junior studying psychology and community health. I am also a Spanish minor. I enjoy crochet, reading, drawing, making jewelry, and collecting stuff. My goal is to get my Ph.D. In clinical psychology.

Olivia O'Connor, Resident Assistant

Olivia O'Connor is currently in the Political Science, National Security and Intelligence, and Criminal Justice programs at Fairmont State University. She holds the Board of Governors Position for the Student Governors Association and is a member of Epsilon Iota chapter of Delta Zeta. She is working as an Assistant Teacher at a DayCare which she very much enjoys. In her free time she loves to golf, hike and explore swimming holes in WV, dance and sing, and binge watch many movies and TV shows. She loves all things Disney and even was accepted and participated in the Disney College Program for the Fall of 2022.



Carlos Serrano, Resident Assistant

Carlos is currently pursuing a Masters in English Literature concentrating on science fiction dystopian literature. He teaches a liberal studies course at UNC Charlotte that focuses on technology, literature, and the "cost of progress" in science fiction. If he is not reading or lesson planning, you can find him playing video games like Overwatch 2 or Final Fantasy 14.

William Strawderman, Resident Assistant

William is a Junior at WVU. He is a student pilot working towards his commercial pilot's license. He enjoys sports and his favorite team is the Baltimore Ravens. In his free time, he likes to hang out with his dog, play video games, and play magic the gathering. He is looking forward to getting to know everyone at GHA!



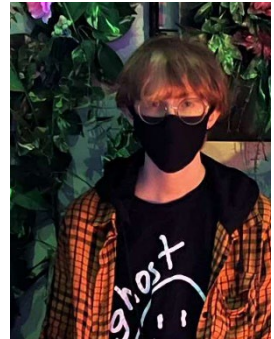


Caroline Telano, Resident Assistant

Caroline is currently a Junior at Concord University. She is from New Jersey and has lived in West Virginia for the last nine years. She currently studies Sociology emphasizing in Criminology with a minor in Psychology. After she graduates her goal is to pursue a Master's and PhD in Sociology at West Virginia University. In her downtime, she enjoys watching true crime, playing video games, and trying new foods.

Jasper White, Resident Assistant

Jasper White is a Studio Art major currently attending Fairmont State University and is getting ready for their senior year. They are making artwork under the cross-media concentration, and really enjoy pottery, printmaking and digital media. Jasper also enjoys spending their spare time doing other fabric and yarn-based projects and playing videogames. They have previously attended Governors School for Math and Science and Governors School for the Arts as a student, and have been to Governors Honors Academy both as a student and an RA. They are very excited to be returning this year as an RA again.



Frequently Asked Questions

1. Can I miss any part of GHA?

- A.** No. The commitment to GHA is for the full program, and you will be excused only for a verified emergency. Everyone is expected to attend the entire time with no exceptions for weddings or other planned events. Extenuating circumstances will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the Deans of the GHA.

2. Will there be time to check e-mail?

- A.** Yes. There are times during the day when students may go to a number of places to check e-mail or to do computer research. In addition, the campus has Wi-Fi, so you can use your personal devices to check for messages.

3. Can my parents or friends visit during GHA?

- A.** No. GHA is designed so that you can be totally focused on the activities planned for you. Parents, other family members, and friends are not permitted to visit. Those from the Fairmont area need to pay special attention to this.

4. Will I get the classes I request?

- A.** Possibly. The classes are assigned on a first-come, first-served basis. We do attempt to see that students are enrolled in their first or second choice in either the broad-based or intensive class. Although you may not get your top choice, there are no bad choices.

5. Can I choose my roommate?

- A.** No. GHA assigns roommates on a random basis, and deliberately attempts to separate students who attend the same school or county. This is designed to encourage you to meet new people and engage with others outside of your comfort zone.

6. Will attending GHA enhance my scholarship opportunities?

- A.** *Some* colleges and universities award financial aid over and above other scholarships for students who complete GHA. You will need to check with the respective institution financial aid office to see if they offer such a scholarship. Scholarships are not financed by the Governor's Schools--neither are they guaranteed.

7. Will I receive college credit for the GHA classes?

- A.** No. The classes at GHA are for your enjoyment and intellectual and academic enrichment. Although you will work hard in the classes, they are not designed to meet the requirements of a college-credit course.

8. Will I really enjoy living with all these rules?

- A.** Of course you will. Students who attend GHA say that they are the best experiences of their high school career. You will not be "giving up" your summer; instead, you will be gaining tools and making memories for a lifetime.

Contact Information

Mailing Address:
WV GHA
c/o Honors Program
1201 Locust Ave
Fairmont, WV 26554

Robin Payne
Dean
304-367-4197, rpayne4@fairmontstate.edu
For emergencies only: 919-259-1012

Keisha Kibler
Dean
304-367-4394; kkibler@fairmontstate.edu
For emergencies only: 304-288-5352

Directions and Campus Map

When Driving I-79 South:

- I-79 South to Exit 132 (South Fairmont Exit). At light, turn right onto Route 250 North.
- Follow 250 North and at 2nd light turn left onto Country Club Road.
- At 1st light, turn right onto Locust Avenue.
- At 3rd light, turn left at the main entrance to campus and proceed up hill to parking.

When Driving I-79 North:

- I-79 North to Exit 132 (South Fairmont Exit). At the light, turn left onto Route 250 North.
- Follow 250 North and at the 4th light turn left onto Country Club Road.
- At 1st light, turn right onto Locust Avenue.
- At 3rd light turn left at the main entrance to campus and proceed uphill to parking.

