

# FLORIDA ASSOCIATION FOR THEATRE EDUCATION

# 2022 - 2023

## **SLATE 2022-2023:**

### **Executive Board**

President, Lisa Vorreiter

President-Elect

Secretary, Gary Graff

Treasurer, Kristen Neander

### **Members-at-large**

Jeff Grove

Betsy Pavlovich

Patt Martin-McNorton

### **Board of Directors**

Edna Bland

Kevin Pace

Ozzie Quintana

Courtney Hess

Karen Monroe

Lissen Ellington

Jennifer Bunnell

Monica Andrews



### **Monica Rae Andrews**

Monica Rae Andrews is a product of Florida theatre education. She graduated with honors in Theatre from Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School before earning her BFA and MA in Musical Theatre from the University of Central Florida. She is the proud Theatre Director and Thespian Troupe 7219 Sponsor at Monarch High School in Coconut Creek and a Steering Committee member of South Florida Cappies.



### **Edna Bland**

Edna M. Bland “Miss Edna” is a certified educator, teaching artist and puppeteer who has honed her craft at The Kennedy Center, Shakespeare’s Globe Theater, and Lincoln Center Education’s Juilliard School.

As a puppeteer, she was mentored by Carroll Spinney, “Big Bird” of Sesame Street. She was honored to be one of the exhibiting artists for the Ballard Institute and Museum’s Living Objects: Celebration of African American Puppetry at the University of Connecticut. She also had the privilege to be a puppeteer for Jane Henson’s Nativity for two touring seasons. Edna is the creator of the edutainment brands, Lovely Day Creative Arts, and Sock n’ Sew Puppets. In 2021, she was one of the recipients to receive the 400 Distinguished Award by the US Congress commemorating the 400 years of African American History for her work as an educator and teaching artist serving her community.

Before becoming an educator, Edna worked in the entertainment industry for such companies as The New York Emmy Awards and Sony Music Entertainment.

As an arts advocate she serves as a board member for Florida Association for Theatre Education (FATE) and Puppeteers of America (PoA). Chairs: Florida Jr. Thespian District 2, PoA’s Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, and FATE Middle Schools. She is PoA’s interim Southeast Regional Director and serves on the Florida Division of Cultural Affairs Grant and The Kennedy Center’s VSA (arts and special needs) Conference Content committees.

She has a M.F.A. in Entertainment Creative Writing, M.S. in Entertainment Business, B.S. in Organizational Management and A.A.S. in Music Business. She is currently a theatre arts instructor at a fine arts magnet school in Sanford, Florida where she is credited with having the only puppetry arts elective program in the nation.

## **Jennifer Bunnell**

Jennifer Bunnell has been teaching Theatre for fourteen years in Santa Rosa County. As a former English teacher who reluctantly agreed to teach that one period of Theatre that everyone else refused, she knows exactly how important FATE is when it comes to providing support and training for Florida's Theatre teachers. Jennifer has enjoyed serving on the FATE board for the past three years and hopes to continue to serve and help FATE grow.



## **Lissen Ellington**

Lissen's love of theatre began as a young child and continued through high school as she trained at Dreyfoos School of the Arts, focusing on musical theatre and costuming. After graduation, she obtained her Bachelor's from Florida State University and her MBA from Northwood University. Lissen spent 10 years in the business world focusing on events and marketing. She was able to parlay her knowledge of events and marketing to her love of theatre in her current career as a Theatre and Business Educator with Palm Beach County Schools. Lissen was named as the representative of the State of Florida to work with EdTA and the Connect Arts Network to create lesson plans focusing on SEL, DEI, and PDs. Lissen was the recipient of the English-Speaking Union's 2019 Teaching Shakespeare Through Performance

Scholarship for Palm Beach County to study Shakespeare at The Globe Theater in London. She was also the recipient of FAAE's 2020-2021 Advancing Arts Education for the Southern Region. In her spare time, Lissen can be seen performing on stages around the tri-county area, running half marathons at Disney, and is in her 11<sup>th</sup> year with the Junior League of the Palm Beaches.



## **Gary Graff**

Secretary Gary Graff has taught in Miami-Dade County Public Schools for 31 years. He currently serves as the District 8 Thespian chair and FATE Board Secretary. He is a Past President of FATE. Gary has been recognized as Theatre Educator of the Year by both FATE and DATE. He was also the Hialeah high School Teacher of the Year in 20218. Over his career he has directed over 120 productions.



### **Jeff Grove**

Jeff Grove, a long-time FATE member, board member, and executive committee member, earned his B.A. and M.A.T. at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He has taught at Stanton College Preparatory School in Jacksonville for 37 years and has chaired the school's aesthetics department for 24 years. He worked as an item writer for the Florida Performing Fine Arts Assessment team. He has presented workshops at FATE conferences. A former chair of Florida Thespian District 2, he has directed both mainstage and one-act plays that were presented at the Florida State Thespian Festival, and he has served on the Florida State Thespian mainstage selection committee. He has adjudicated individual events and/or one-act plays for Florida Thespian Districts 3, 4, 8, and 12, and has adjudicated one-act plays for the Florida Theatre Conference. He is the co-author of seven published one-act plays, and he mentors young playwrights through his school's annual night of student-written one-acts.



### **Courtney Hess**

Courtney Hess is an educational theatre consultant and theatre teacher in Palm Beach County, Florida. She has been teaching for 18 years and currently runs the Drama Academy choice program, Musical Theatre program, and Dance program at Watson B Duncan Middle School. Most of her time is spent directing student work and sharing her love of dance, art, and theatre but she also likes to work as BG or scripty for TV/Film. She has a Master's degree in Theatre from the University of Houston, a B.A. in Theatre and B.A. in Studio Art from Florida State University, as well as a B.A. in English from Florida Atlantic University. She is lucky to have a theatre major husband who helps her tech, two awesome theatre kids, and a cat who is indifferent to showtunes.



### **Patt Martin-McNorton**

Patt Martin-McNorton is in year 37 as a classroom teacher, has been a FATE member since 1986, and is currently the theatre teacher at Sandalwood HS in Jacksonville, FL. As a department of one, Patt juggles large classes as well as directing an active Thespian Troupe and producing several shows each year. Ms. M and her students manage the auditorium, providing technical theatre support for other clubs, meetings, assemblies, and performance events. When not at school, which is rare, Patt enjoys quilting, her koi pond, riding motorcycles, and spending time with her grandchildren. Patt is certified in Theatre, English (ELA), Journalism, and Speech with endorsements in middle grades and ESOL. Her Masters is in Curriculum and Instruction.



**Karen Monroe**

Karen Monroe currently is the Theatre Director and Thespian Troupe 5850 sponsor at Choctawhatchee High School in Fort Walton Beach. She has been an educator in Florida for the past eighteen years. This will be her fourth year serving on the FATE Board. Karen is also the co-chair of District 10 Junior Thespians. She graduated from the University of Florida in 2004 with a BA in Theatre Education.



**Kristen Neander**

Kristen Neander is the Director of Theatre at Citrus High School in Inverness, FL. She has been teaching at her alma mater for over twenty years. Prior to becoming a theatre teacher, Kristen worked as a stage manager and toured with such productions as Carmen and West Side Story. Favorite directing credits include Into the Woods, Hay Fever, Sonny DeRee’s Life Flashes Before His Eyes, La Dispute, Rumors, Candid, Puffs, and Cinderella. Kristen appeared onstage as The Countess with F(Actor) Theatre in their production of Picasso at the Lapin Agile. She is the Florida State Thespian Chapter Director Elect. She is also the Past President and current Treasurer for the Florida Association for Theatre Education. Kristen received her Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees in Theatre from Florida State University.



**Kevin Pace**

Kevin Pace has been Director of Theatre Arts at Osceola Fundamental High School in Seminole, Florida for the past 9 years. During this time, his program has been very proud to host the Florida high school premiers of Disney’s the Little Mermaid in 2016 and We Will Rock You: The Music of Queen in 2018. The OFHS Theatre Arts Program has grown into a leadership training program giving hands on and practical experience in all aspects of show production and utilizing exclusively student leadership and labor to produce five shows a year entirely in-house. He also serves as a member of the FATE Board of Directors, the Chair for District IV Thespians, and works as a theatrical sound engineer around the Tampa Bay Area.



### **Betsy Pavlovich**

Since 1984, Betsy has worked at Lake Highland Preparatory School, where she now teaches drama skills and theatre production for the Lower School, 1st through 6th grades. Using theatre games and improvisation as a vehicle for teaching both theatre and general life skills, her curriculum enhances awareness, spontaneous thinking, and cooperation, stretches imagination and creativity, improves communication, expression, and character development, and enhances the use of the actors' instrument: mind, body, and voice. Betsy has been active in community theatre, conducts improvisational workshops to help others get connected through drama, has served on the Board for FATE, the Florida Association for Theatre Education, an organization which promotes theatre in our schools, since 1998, and has been a member of FATE since 1990. Betsy is proud to have made a profession of bringing drama to life for young students and is an advocate of drama as an educational vehicle for life skills.



### **Nicole Quintana, Past President**

Nicole is a Miami born Latina with over 20 years' experience in Miami Dade county. She has a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre from FIU with emphasis on Design and Directing. She has put on over 50 musicals and is currently the Miami Arts Studio Director of Musical Theatre. She is passionate about the arts and is Past President of FATE. In 2022 she was awarded an honorable mention for the Tony Awards Excellence in Education. She is a mother of 2 and wife of Ozzie Quintana with whom she happily works with at MAS.



### **Ozzie Quintana**

Ozzie Quintana has been a Theatre Arts teacher for twenty years and has been an advocate for theatre and the study of Improvisation as a tool to not only gain confidence in students and adults, but also as a tool to learn life skills. He has been a FATE member since 2002 and has taught workshops in improv and technical theatre at FATE Conferences for several years. He is a FATE Teacher of the Year Award recipient and an award-winning playwright, sound designer, and light designer. He is proud to be a Board Member for FATE.



**Lisa Vorreiter**

President Lisa Vorreiter has taught theatre in Hillsborough County for 36 years. She also serves on the District 9 Thespian Board of Directors. Many of her former students have gone on to professional careers as actors, technicians and designers and can be found working across the world on cruise ships, in theme parks, in film and television, in regional theatres and on Broadway.