

THROWBACK TEACHER FEATURE: MME EYKYN

By Emily Babb

With Madame Eykyn retiring at the end of this year, she says she is looking forward to cleaning her house, traveling to new places, such as a river cruise down the Rhine River, and, more immediately, planning her daughter's wedding. She also is hoping to start painting again, devote more time to planting her garden, and try new things, such as going to plays she used to be too tired to go to.

Though Madame is looking forward to certain aspects of retirement, there are things she will miss about teaching and GSSM. She likes the camaraderie of faculty and she falls in love with every class. Moreover, she loves teaching French, as she loves the culture and the language. She feels that GSSM is "the way teaching ought to be," since here, everyone has a voice, even the students.

With respect to teaching, she would encourage students to become teachers, as we need good teachers and it is a rewarding profession. She reminds us that teachers get the same breaks that students do, and that time off is always appreciated.

Having been with GSSM since 1990, Madame has seen the school undergo many changes. In 1990, the class sizes were much smaller, so the teachers knew everybody even if they did not have every student. Furthermore, one teacher taught one subject, so students would share the common bond of that one teacher. Also, though the rules can seem strict today, Madame Eykyn can assure us that they were much harsher at the beginning. Furthermore, with larger class sizes, there is more diversity among the students, which she also at-

tributes to the expanding reputation of the school, as more people from different backgrounds have heard of the school and want to come here.

When tasked to leave one piece of advice for current and future students, she suggests working hard, but not stressing out too much. She reminds us that though teachers push us, they will try to help us survive. Moreover, she encourages us to "enjoy even the tough stuff." She says that you have to know caterpillars before you know butterflies, meaning you have to endure sleepless nights and low grades to achieve the high grades and the strong bonds of friendship this school has provided. So, enjoy the caterpillars, because the butterflies are worth it.

SPOTLIGHT HARTSVILLE

By Kylie Fletcher

Crema is the new coffee shop in town. Located on West Carolina Avenue, two stores down from Burry Bookstore, it offers a variety of coffee, smoothies, and sandwiches. The atmosphere is minimalist, yet warm. During the day, you can study by the fireplace or at the desks by the window. On weekend nights, there is usually live entertainment or a game night, making Crema a great place to hang out with friends. The best part? Crema welcomes Govies. We get a 10% discount when we show our Governor's School ID. Be sure to stop on by!



Above: The fireplace in Crema.

MOVE OUT ADVICE

By Crystel Sylvester

The move out process is approaching quickly, so here are some tips to make your day much easier! Don't forget to bring boxes and storage containers for all of your things, versus having to hunt at the last minute. Try to have your parents or someone in your area take home the things you don't need beforehand; the less you have to do in one day, the better! Categorize your belongings and try to pack them together—lists are helpful with this. Finally, if you you're taking home a fridge, unplug it the day before move out to prevent leakage downstairs.

ANNOUNCEMENT!

Congratulations to the new co-editors-in-chief of the Govie Gazette, **Emily Babb** and **Jacqueline Tobin**! We are confident that the Govie Gazette is being left in very good hands. Additionally, congratulations to Dixie McCollum on her commitment to Wofford College, and Crystel Sylvester on hers to the George Washington University!



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ORIENTATION ISSUE

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AN OPEN LETTER TO THE CLASS OF 2017

First of all, congratulations on your acceptance to the South Carolina Governor's School of Science and Math! Please know that what you have accomplished is no small feat, and you should be proud of all the hard work that you've put in to be where you are right now. This will be your home for the next two years, and Orientation is a great time to get to know some of your future family. Don't be afraid to talk to people today! Everyone around you is just as excited and nervous as you are, like we were on our own Orientation two years ago.

Don't worry about the math placement test, because no matter what math class you end up taking, you'll have a

great teacher to support you all the way through. Just do your best and don't panic! You've made it this far for a reason. This is all just so that you are placed in the class that you fits you the best. Feel free to ask anyone here for advice today—teachers, current faculty/staff members, etc. We're all really excited to meet you! Everyone here signed up to be here, and even woke up early on a Saturday to do so! Also, be sure to explore the school while you're here; you can visit the art room or check out the Student Activity Center, also known as the SAC. The next two years here will be life-changing, at the very least. That might

sound scary, but it's wonderful in a lot of ways. You'll meet some of the best friends you'll ever have while you're here, and you'll learn more than you ever thought possible. That applies both academically and otherwise; you'll learn everything from biomes to hydrogen bonds to how to live with a roommate. Our two-year adventure is coming to a close, but the time we spent here was truly unforgettable. Though it was challenging in a lot of ways, we'd do it again a thousand times over, if given the chance. We wish you the best of luck in all your endeavors! Your co-editors-in-chief, Crystel Sylvester & Dixie McCollum Class of 2015

RESEARCH ADVICE

With summer research coming up, here is some advice on the research experience, whether you're interning at one of the traditional universities, setting up your own experience, or going out of the country. The experience consists of six weeks of on-site research, writing a full-length research paper, creating a formal presentation, and presenting at least twice.

1. Don't worry if you're a week in and still aren't sure what's going on. It can take up to two or three weeks to fully understand the concepts behind your research.
2. Carefully read any articles that your mentor gives you. They're important for understanding your research and therefore writing a good paper and giving a good presentation. Maybe take notes while you read or highlight key passages.
3. Start your research paper as early as possible, depending on what your advisor requests. At the very least, try to have a detailed outline coming into senior year; it makes life much easier.
4. Good luck to the Class of 2016 with their summer research projects!

HUMANS OF GSSM

By TK Cornish

“I’m ready for graduation.”
- Victoria McCarthy



STUDENT LEADERS 2015- 2016

By Crystel Sylvester & Dixie McCollum

Congratulations to the newly elected 2015-2016 Student Council Officers! The senior officers selected for next year are Hamza Ahmed, Jacob Bhoi, Konnor McDowell, Sam Sisney, Lotta Keller, Emily Milz, Mark Pierce, and Shreya Shankar. Next year, the council will focus on connections between the new Residential Life Coordinator and the student body, will continue discussion for the academic improvement committee, and will finalize purchases for Govie Bikes. They will also collaborate and create new ideas to improve the GSSM community.

The newly selected 2015-2016 Natural Helpers are as follows: Grace Brueggman, Crystal Carpenter, Kaleigh Collins, Neelia Heath, Lydia Henderson, Anna Kulangara, Allison McLane Emily Milz, Mariana Obando Velez, Hemani Patel, Alex Adams, Hamza Ahmed, Mario Krussig, Tiger Mou, Johnny Peterson, Shane Ragusa, Justin Smith, Frank Webb, and Michael Schwartz. Natural Helpers are responsible for guiding the incoming junior class, as well as lending a helping hand whenever necessary.

Finally, our 24 newest Ambassadors include: Emily Babb, Emilia Ballow, Jake Bhoi, Eleanor Burch, Elizabeth Carpenter, Jeffrey Chen, Collin Edwards, Harper English, Kylie Fletcher, Valerie Hinsch, Tom Holt, Andy Hsu, Zac Johnson, Lotta Keller, Rae Lee, Cayla Odom, Danny Patel, Jacob Rabinovitch, Shreya Shankar, Sam Sisney, Alex Sizemore, Amanda Steel, Rebecca Wang, and Lauren Yam. These students will assist the Admissions Department with recruitment by participating in Preview Days, Shadow Days, SmartTalks, etc. Congratulations to all!

TEACHER FEATURE: DR. (PROFE) GOWAN

By Emily Babb

On April 1st, Dr. Gowan’s world grew a little bit bigger, as his wife gave birth to their second child, Sofia. Gowan and his wife speak Spanish at home; he says he strives to make Spanish normal. He does not want his kids to grow up embarrassed to speak Spanish, so despite potentially appearing crazy, Gowan speaks Spanish everywhere, from their home to in public.

Gowan’s favorite part of GSSM is that the students have a genuine passion for learning and are highly motivated. He sees the desire to learn as the most important factor in education, as it is much easier for someone who is willing to work hard to learn than someone who is incredibly gifted but is not willing to put effort into their schooling. He also notes that his colleagues make his job special, as they are a close group.

In college, Gowan was able to study abroad. He did a homestay in Mexico and in Argentina. From his host family in Mexico, Gowan developed his passion for the Spanish language and culture. However, he attended classes with students all from his same town in the United States, so it was in Argentina, where he attended classes with Argentinians, that his language flourished. In Argentina, he played roller hockey, wherein he was able to travel with the team across the country, which enabled him to form friendships with people from Argentina and thus giving him a deep exposure to the country. If Gowan could give one piece of advice to students at GSSM, it would be to do a homestay study abroad program in a country that does not speak English, as you will learn new perspectives, meet friends, and improve your language skills.



Above: Dr. Gowan’s two children, Anton and Sofia.

ADVICE FOR JUNIORS

By Kylie Fletcher

Get involved! Doing extracurriculars is a great way to get to know people.

Pack warm clothes. Even though it will be still be hot when you move in, the school stays pretty cold, so you’ll want a jacket or a blanket.

Eat healthy and exercise. Staying healthy will help you study/feel better.

Discuss boundaries with your new roommate. It might feel awkward, but it is important to set some rules initially to prevent future roommate issues.

Make sure you give yourself a break on the weekends. Even if it is just going out to eat with your friends on Friday night, it is good to give yourself a chance to have fun.

Be flexible. There will be times when things do not go your way, but it is important to not let it get to you.

Pack items to decorate the walls with, such as pictures or posters. It will make your dorm room seem much homier.

Curtains are often overlooked, but very important. The windows in the dorms have blinds, but do not block out much sunlight.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

By Palak Trivedi

“Don’t be dismayed by goodbyes. A farewell is necessary before you can meet again. And meeting again, after moments or lifetimes, is certain for those who are friends.”

- Richard Bach

This quote is from Richard Bach, an American writer widely known as the author of the 1970s best-sellers, *Jonathan Livingston Seagull* and *Illusions: The Adventures of a Reluctant Messiah*, among others. I chose this quote in particular because it is now that time of year when things begin to wrap up as juniors begin planning out their summers and talking about research and seniors prepare for graduation. It is a bittersweet time of the school year and nobody can comprehend how quickly the year has gone by and how little of it is left. However, I feel that this quote truly exemplifies our sense of community here at GSSM. We may have to say goodbye now, but we must be certain that we will meet again someday because the friendships that we have made here are friendships that will last a lifetime. So as we begin to brace ourselves for graduation, we should remember that these friends are also our family and this will not truly be goodbye.

PROM 2015: MASQUERADE

By Palak Trivedi

Prom 2015 was an amazing experience that was shared with great friends. It started off with a blast with people coming downstairs to greet one another, preparing to depart for dinner with their dates and friends. Some got into their cars and others onto the bus to have dinner at various restaurants in Florence and Hartsville, such as Mellow Mushroom, Outback, and Bizzels. Many students stopped to get dessert from Krispy Kreme or Brusters as well.

Everyone arrived at the Prestwood Country Club by 9:30 pm, but by then, the music and dancing were in full swing. The Prom King and Queen titles were given to Shawn Patel and Taylor DeHart (commonly known as Jay Z and Beyoncé) from the senior class and the Prom Prince and Princess titles were given to Sam Sisney and Jacqueline Tobin from the junior class.

Towards the end, each senior was named, and they walked through the crowd of juniors cheering for their beloved friends who are getting closer and closer to departing after graduation. In the end, all friends joined together in a circle to sing along to one last song to bid farewell to our seniors; some tears were shed. Finally, the Prom Committee wrapped everything up; a huge thanks to them for all their hard work!

