

# FWCD WELCOMES

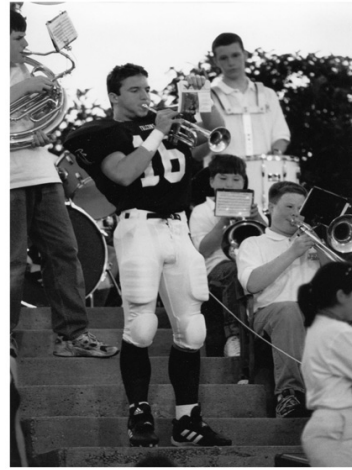
Six New Teachers Start Their First Year at FWCD During our Fiftieth Year

## NATALIE ROSENTHAL

reporter

Room 213 has an exciting new air to it, and students will feel it immediately when they walk in to see Jordan Hampton, US math teacher. Hampton is an FWCD alum and graduated in 2001. Hampton never had a class in Mr. Hoover's room, but has enjoyed seeing some familiar faces from his high school days, like Mrs. Robinson, Mr. Arnold, Dr. Aldridge, Mrs. Hamilton, and Ms. Wakeland. Although Hampton and Colin Douglas '06, US history teacher, both graduated from FWCD, they never knew each other. Hampton is married with a two-year-old daughter.

"Taking her to school today [for the first time] was so hard." As a student, Hampton had no intention of returning to FWCD, especially as a high school math teacher, but while studying architecture and engineering at Texas Tech University, he decided that sitting behind a cubicle for the rest of his life would not be as fun as returning to his alma mater. In high school, Hampton was a go-getter; living a double life as the football jock and the band geek. He showed his passion for football when he taught and coached at Joshua High School for five years, Brewer High School for one year, and now at Fort Worth Country Day. Hampton loves coming back to Country Day to teach and coach the students. He has always loved watching and playing sports and is a big fan of the Dallas Cowboys.



Jordan Hampton '01 plays the trumpet during his senior year at Fort Worth Country Day. Luckily, he chose to come back and teach at his alma mater. Photo courtesy of FWCD

## WILLIAM NEWTON

reporter

Between Maryland and Virginia lies the capital of the United States: Washington, D.C. This is where Andrew Thomas, US history teacher, met his wife, as well as where he was hired for his first job. He met his wife while interning at Capitol Hill during his final semester of college. His first job was at the White House, working as an assistant to the Chief of Staff of the Office of National Drug Control.

Since then, Thomas has taught history for ten years, and he and his family (his wife and three children) have moved to Fort Worth. Now, he can be found in Upper School room 211.

Besides his obvious interest in history and government, Thomas also has a strong interest in Superman and baseball. He proudly displays the well-known superman logo on his coffee mug, and he has multiple pictures of his "favorite comic book hero" on his classroom wall. His love for the sport of baseball, on the other hand, is much more personal to him.

"It keeps me closer to my dad," Thomas said.

Along with the multiple references to superman and baseball found around his classroom, there is also a long line of college pennants hanging down the top of his walls. It is one of Thomas' goals to extend that line of pennants across his entire classroom.

"These college banners represent opportunities in life... especially outside of Texas," Thomas said.



An expressive Andrew Thomas gives a lecture to an economics class. It's no surprise that Thomas teaches AP United States History, AP Government and Politics, and Economics with his background working in Washington D.C. His enthusiasm for history shows in his interactive teaching style, as shown above. Photo by Alex Doswell '16

## ABBY STEINSIECK

reporter

In one of the back classrooms of the Visual Arts building is Lauren Cunningham, US art teacher. For the students' first project there is a tower of cardboard boxes in the middle of the room, surrounded by easels and desks. At the front of the room is a small living room like area, with a few chairs and a carpet, topped off with a coffee table and books. It's cozy, and she offers tea to all of her students.

Relocating to Fort Worth from the "Peach State," Cunningham is Georgia-born, has a B.A. in Studio Art which covers a wide range of the different visual arts from Davidson College in North Carolina and an M.F.A. in Sculpture from the University of Georgia in Athens. She worked at the High Museum in Atlanta, Georgia and the Georgia Museum of Art on the University of Georgia campus in Athens. There she worked as a preparator, someone who prepares the art in the exhibits to be shown. Her art has also been shown in juried shows, a show where work is submitted to a panel and work is selected to be shown in the exhibit, in major cities including New York and Philadelphia.

Cunningham says there is a misconception of art teachers and artists being messy.

"Let the art be messy and the room be clean," Cunningham said.

A good rule of thumb for high school students. She is excited to be teaching at FWCD.



Lauren Cunningham instructs Nicole Johnson '17 on a sketching activity. Cunningham's humorous personality makes being in her class a fun experience. Photo by Alex Doswell '16

# NEW FACES

**BRIANNA ORDOÑEZ & KATE NOLAN**  
reporters



Daniel Lancaster's sophomore English class gathers around their beloved teacher for a picture. Lancaster teaches sophomores and seniors in his English 10 and AP Language and Composition classes. **Photo by Alex Doswell '16**

Today the FWCD Upper School's English department has a very special new member, Daniel Lancaster. Before coming to teach at Country Day, Lancaster taught as an English teacher at Paschal High School. He said that there was a difference in "professionalism" between the students at Paschal compared to those at FWCD. Not only did Lancaster teach at Paschal but he also taught at Western Hills and Tarrant County College.

When asked why he chose to major in English and later teach he said, "I believe that English is everything, it can connect to everything."

He continued saying that English had always been his strong suit and he could never teach math. Lancaster shows the characteristics of a very dedicated teacher and someone who loves what they do, being enthusiastic and ready to teach every day. He has quickly captured the hearts of his students and fellow co-workers.

Delaney Fleming, a sophomore, described him as "one of the best new teachers FWCD has had. He has different thoughts that make his class entertaining."

Lancaster is currently attending The University of Texas at Arlington studying for his Ph.D. in English.



**OLIVIA LINCOLN**  
reporter

After 23 years of living in Maui, Hawaii, Sherri Reed, US Biology and AP Environmental Science teacher, has moved back to her home state of Texas. She taught at a private college preparatory school named Seabury Hall before making the decision to move back to the mainland to teach at FWCD.

For the most part, FWCD and Seabury Hall are similar except for the fact that the campus is much more open in Hawaii. How awesome would it be to go to school in Hawaii? At FWCD, most Upper School students can be found socializing or working on homework in the Commons, and in Hawaii all of the students sit outside on the grass surrounded by the ocean and colorful, tropical plants, both things that Texas doesn't have a lot of.

Reed has taught high school students for a total of 28 years.

"I teach because it keeps me young," Reed said with a smile. "Being with kids all day is so rewarding, and I learn a lot from them."

Unsurprisingly, she misses the island life, the beach, snorkeling, and being outside all day. Unfortunately, Texas weather isn't always as pleasant as Hawaii weather. Reed is also glad to be back in Texas because she and her husband are much closer to her parents, siblings, and daughter.



Sherri Reed expands on a topic in her freshman biology class. She teaches freshman regular biology and AP Environmental Science. **Photo by Alex Doswell '16**

**ROSS BIGGS**  
reporter

From the moment I found out that Ravi Pillalamarri, US math teacher, was from Maryland, I knew we had a connection. Even though we were from different parts of the state and I was only born there and lived there for 7 months, I lived there long enough to recognize our birth-place bond.

Pillalamarri went on a nationwide search for a new job last year and felt that FWCD would be the best fit for him. He teaches Accelerated Algebra 2, Calculus AB, and Modeling Calculus. Pillalamarri says that teaching here is a totally different experience, but likes it a lot and says everybody is very nice. He claims that it is totally different being able to rely on the majority of the students to actually complete all their homework, and also do it well.

"It is not an uphill battle every day discipline and academic wise," Pillalamarri said.

Pillalamarri said. With more persistent students, it makes for a tougher teaching job as well.

"It is important that you keep up with your students because they are moving at the same pace you are," Pillalamarri said.

Having the luxury of being able to plan ahead is very nice. He says that at his old school, even if you tried to plan ahead, so many people wouldn't do their work that it was often just a game of catch up. Pillalamarri's dry, hilarious sense of humor make for a great FWCD teacher.



Ravi Pillalamarri uses his smartboard to demonstrate the lesson to the class. He teaches Accelerated Algebra II, Modeling and Calculus, and AP AB Calculus. Pillalamarri, although a serious and effective teacher, is also talented in that he incorporates humor into the lessons he teaches. **Photo by Alex Doswell '16**