

**Greetings from Our  
Educational Leadership Team  
School Year 2019/2020**

**Taryn R. Pereira, M.A.E.Ad.  
Elementary School Principal**



Taryn Pereira returns as the Elementary Principal for SY 19-20. Taryn has worked in education for almost 20 years. She has worked in both the U.S. and Kuwait. In addition to being a classroom room teachers for ten years, Ms. Pereira has been an early years and elementary school administrator.

**Joshua Henry, MBA MEd  
Elementary School Assistant Principal**



Joshua Henry is our new ES Assistant Principal for SY 19-20. He will begin his 8th year as an educator. Joshua has served as an Instructional Coach and Reading Specialist for the last two years here at AUS. Prior to AUS, Joshua worked for 5 years in Dallas, Texas as an upper elementary teacher and Assistant Principal. He looks forward to another year working with the amazing educators at AUS to help every student reach their highest potential as a scholar and global citizen.

**Kelly Buffurine, M.Ed.**  
**Middle School Principal**



Kelly Buffurine is our new Middle School Principal for SY 19-20. Ms. Buffurine was formerly the Elementary Assistant Principal at AUS. She has worked internationally as a Curriculum Specialist and Assistant Principal for a bilingual international school in Mexico City for five years. She has taught in elementary, middle and high school classrooms in Africa and North America. She is excited to build relationships with the middle school students and parent community this year.

**LaSandra E. White, Ed.S.**  
**Middle School Assistant Principal**



Ms. La'Sandra White is our new Middle School Assistant Principal for SY 19-20. Ms. White has worked in education in Doha, Qatar as a Principal for 3 years, Abu Dhabi, UAE as a Head of Faculty for 4 years and finally in the United States as a Teacher/EIP/Leadership for 11 years. She enjoys working with young people and helping them reach their goals.

Ms. White looks forward to contributing positively to the continued success of the AUS Community.

**Brenda Clements, M.Ed.**

## High School Principal



Brenda Clements is our new High School Principal for SY 19-20. She was formerly the AUS Middle School Principal for the past 3 years. She started with us in 2014 as a Mathematics Instructional Coach and Mathematics teacher. Prior to joining AUS, she served as a Principal, Assistant Principal, Academic Dean, School Improvement Specialist, and teacher in Atlanta Public Schools—Atlanta, Georgia. She has 23 years of experience in education.

She looks forward to continuing to lead and promote a culture of excellence and high achievement for staff and students.

## Lamica A. Esteen, M.Ed. High School Assistant Principal



Ms. Lamica Esteen is our returning High School Assistant Principal for SY 19-20. She has worked in education for 22 years as a Biology, Chemistry, and Physics teacher in the United States and later, beginning in 2009, as a high school and elementary administrator both in the United States and here in Kuwait. She has been in Kuwait four years and is now beginning her fifth year in Kuwait and her third year at AUS.

“Education is my passion and it fuels my drive for lifelong learning. I look forward to be able to train, coach and mentor other educators to educate and inspire our students and create a positive learning environment for everyone”

**Eric Chicas, M.A.**  
**Dean of Students**



Eric Chicas is our new Dean of Students for SY 19-20. He was formerly the Secondary Principal and Curriculum/PD coordinator at the Colegio Internacional de Carabobo in Valencia, Venezuela, where he worked for 7 years. Before that, he worked at the Escuela Internacional Sampedrana in San Pedro Sula, Honduras, as a high school English/Language Arts teacher for 5 years. Eric has a Masters in Educational Leadership from Framingham University, and a Master Educator's License from his home state of Iowa. He looks forward to becoming a part of the AUS family and helping our students become responsible global citizens.

**Kay Graham-Bright, M.A.Ed.**  
**Curriculum Specialist K-12**



Mrs. Kay Graham-Bright has 27 years in education that includes a wide range of experiences as a principal, assistant principal, and a teacher at both the high school and middle school levels. She also has had the honor of serving as a delegate with the American College Board in China. Her International experience also includes teaching in conjunction with the Chinese Culture and Education Center at the University of South Carolina. This provided experience as a teacher at Shijiazhuang High School in Hebei, China. Her most recent involvement in education has been within the realm of teacher preparation as a supervisor of student teachers at Converse College in South Carolina. She is currently an ABD doctoral candidate in Educational Leadership at the University of the Cumberlands.

Mrs. Graham-Bright looks forward to serving as the new Curriculum Specialist at AUS to enhance the numerous programs that are currently moving students forward as future global community leaders.

**Michael J. Winger, M.Ed.**  
**Associate Director, Educational Technology and Accountability**



Michael Winger returns as the Associate Director of Educational Technology and Accountability for SY 19-20. Michael was formerly a middle school principal and technology director in the United States before joining AUS in 2014. Michael started his professional career as a mathematics teacher. He has over 27 years of educational experience that includes classroom instructor, baseball coach, bus driver, technology director, principal and associate director. Michael is looking forward to AUS reaching its full potential as student enrollment and opportunities continue to expand.

**Jennifer J. Beckwith, Ph.D.**  
**Founding Director**



This is my 7<sup>th</sup> year at AUS and it is my privilege to continue as Founding Director of AUS. My experiences in education span over 35 years and 9 countries. (The US, the Netherlands, UK, Belgium, Germany, Italy, Bahrain, Japan and Kuwait. This year we will begin the process of developing a new Strategic Plan that will focus our professional learning through meaningful planning and ensure we explicitly define our values as a school. I am excited to welcome you to the new school year and look forward to seeing you around our campus.