

## **Meet the Club J Staff**



### **Torika White - PreK**

Torika White was born in Boston, Massachusetts and recently moved to Georgia from Birmingham, Alabama. She is Liberian-American; both her parents were born and raised in Liberia. She is currently enrolled at the University of Phoenix, pursuing a bachelor's degree in Accounting. She has a love of crafts, designing and teaching. One day she aspires to own a daycare center.



### **Julie York – Kindergarten Boys**

Julie is a senior who is completing her last semester at the University of West Georgia. She is studying Mass Communications with a focus in Public Relations. This is her first year working at Club J, but she has also worked with Camp Isidore Alterman for four summers. Julie loves working with children; when she is not working, she spends time reading, cooking, and baking.



### **Earl Finley – Kindergarten Boys**

Earl recently graduated from Regent University in Virginia Beach, Virginia with a master's degree in Government and a certificate in Law and Public Policy. Originally from Alabama, he has worked with children for the past ten years in Georgia, Arizona, and New York. Earl especially enjoys teaching children about science and how the world around them works. Ultimately, he wants to work as a Kindergarten teacher and eventually seek a career in education reform.



### **Aamela Avery – Kindergarten Girls**

Aamela Avery is currently a senior at Kennesaw State University majoring in History with a concentration in American Culture(s). She plans to teach after graduation and loves working with children from all walks of life. She has worked with and tutored children in countries such as South Africa and Ghana and loves playing an active role in any child's life because she truly believes that children are indeed our future.



### **Tara Brooks – Kindergarten Girls**

Tara Brooks, a native of New Brunswick, NJ, has lived in GA for nearly six years. She has a BS in Biology and currently working on her MAT in Secondary Biology. Tara hopes to teach science in a way that keeps students engaged and inspired, like Ms. Frizzle from the *Magic School Bus*. She likes cooking, fellowshipping, singing and painting.



### **Davia Walton – Kindergarten Girls**

Davia Walton is a sophomore at Georgia State University. She has worked at Camp Isidore Alterman and Club J in the past three years. She loves working with children and volunteering in her school and community. She hopes to become a pediatric nurse one day.



### **Kim MacKain – First Grade Girls**

Kim just finished her first summer at Camp Isidore Alterman and will be returning for her second year at Club J! She has always had a soft spot for children and previously worked as a nanny and Sunday school teacher. She attended Kennesaw State University studying early childhood education and mass media communication. Kim loves reading books, visiting haunted attractions and camping. Her favorite Club J activities are the art projects because she loves being creative and crafting.



### **LaToya Crayton – First Grade Girls**

Latoya Crayton is from Milwaukee, WI. She attended Central State University and majored in Business Management. Club J has been a great opportunity for her to get acquainted with her passion for working with children. She believes "the children are the future."



### **Zach Gerson – First Grade Boys**

Zach Gerson is an Eagle Scout with the Boy Scouts of America and is a graduate of Norcross High school. This was Zach's 10th summer overall working with camps and it was his first summer working with Camp Isidore Alterman. This will also be his first year working with Club J. Zach loves being outdoors, playing or watching sports, hiking, fishing, and swimming. When you can't find Zach working at a camp, Club J or at a sporting event, you will find him white water rafting on a river.



### **Teaira Blount – First Grade Boys**

Teaira graduated from Brookwood High School, where she was a cheerleader and a beta club member. She is now a sophomore at Georgia Perimeter College and has been working with children for over 3 years. She hopes to graduate with a Bachelor's in Business Management and one day own her own hair salon and day care center.



### **Ufuoma Osaetin Oyibo – Second Grade Girls**

Ufuoma Oyibo was born in Lagos, Nigeria. At the age of 9, she and her family moved to Kansas City, Missouri. Ufuoma graduated from the University of Missouri, Columbia, in 2009 with a B.S. in Psychology and a Multicultural Certificate. She now resides in Atlanta, Georgia and seeks to pursue her Master's in Social Work. Her passion in life is to serve children and their families, as well as her community. She is presently with Club J 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Girls and enjoys discovering new ideas with them.



### **LeCoya Cancler – Second Grade Girls**

LeCoya Cancler is from Saint Louis Missouri and is currently attending graduate school at Clark Atlanta University to become a school counselor. This is LeCoya's second time working at Club J. She is passionate about working with children and is looking forward to the experience with the children at Club J. When LeCoya is not at Club J, she enjoys traveling, singing, listening to music, and being with her friends!



### **Samantha Goldberg – Second Grade Boys**

Samantha moved to Georgia this winter from Chicago to enjoy the tropical southern weather. She graduated from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Campaign in 2010 with a BS in Geology and a focus in Environmental Sciences. She loves the outdoors and working with kids, combining the two by teaching everything from sailing to survival skills. Samantha is happy to be here at the MJCCA to continue facilitating fun and meaningful experiences for kids outside the classroom.



### **Dylan Poland – Second Grade Boys**

Dylan is in his final semester at Georgia Perimeter College, and he plans on transferring to Georgia State University to pursue a Bachelor's in Communications. Dylan graduated from Norcross High School where he played football and performed with the chorus and theater departments. He loves all sports, being outside, and working with kids. Dylan hopes to find a career in advertising when he graduates.



### **Tia Colbert – Third Grade Girls**

Tia Colbert was born in Edwards, CA but raised in Fort Worth, Texas. She graduated from St. Augustine's College in Raleigh, NC with a BA in Psychology. After graduating, Tia relocated to Atlanta, GA in pursuit of continuing her education. This is her first year at Club J, and she loves working with children and has hopes to work in the education system. Tia also enjoys learning, sports, traveling, and art.



### **Toni Bonds – Fourth Grade Girls**

Toni Bonds is entering her second year at Club J and is very excited to be returning. She enjoys being with the children each day, teaching them as well as learning from them. Working at Club J has opened her eyes to seeing how she can be a better adult by getting in touch with her inner child; learning to blossom and grow through daily interactions with the kids. Toni's hobbies include book reading, ice skating, soap making and having bundles of excitement about Club J.



### **Ronald McRae – Third and Fourth Grade Boys**

Ronald McRae is a Graduate of Georgia Southern University with a B.S. in Kinesiology with a minor coaching. Ronald has worked with Club J for three years, and enjoys it greatly. Ronald also works with the Youth Sports program at the JCC and the Weinstein School. He truly enjoys working with children in many different aspects. In his spare time Ronald enjoys reading, watching sports, playing sports, and spending time with friends and family.



### **India Brown – Third and Fourth Grade Boys**

India was born and raised in Prince George's County, MD outside of Washington DC. She is currently pursuing a degree in Criminal Justice at Clark Atlanta University. She is scheduled to graduate in December 2013 and go on to pursue a degree in Law. She loves basketball and traveling, and she hopes to one day have her own girls AAU Basketball organization.



### **Tamarra Head – Fifth Grade Girls**

Tamarra was born in Wichita, Kansas and raised in the Mississippi Delta. She moved to Atlanta to complete her B.A. in Psychology at Spelman College, and has since focused on childcare and education. She returned to Club J in 2012, and has worked as a counselor for 2+ years total. She enjoys reading, dancing, and listening to music, and she has aspirations of becoming a dance instructor and bestselling author.



### **Mike O'Gorman – Fifth Grade Boys**

Mike was born and raised in Southeast Asia. He graduated from Rhodes College in 2006 with BA in International Studies. When not working at Club J he enjoys spending his time reading and playing soccer. One day he'd like to return to Southeast Asia to work at an International School.



### **Louis Vega – Club 678**

Louis was born and raised in the Bronx (NY) and was a member of the West Virginia University Football program from 1996-1999. He received a B.S from Glenville State College in Business Administration. Louis has extensive experience in the education department and coaching football. Louis enjoys increasing his financial IQ, reading, working out, and cooking.



### **Vernesa Wattley – Sports**

Vernesa Wattley is a recent high school graduate of Dunwoody High School and is now current student at Georgia Perimeter College. Her intended major will be either Biology or Journalism. She has played basketball for over 13 years and has played AAU basketball in Tampa, Florida for 3 years. Vernesa has worked as an assistant coach and camp counselor for Back 2 Basics Kids Foundation and this past summer she worked Camp Isidore Alterman as a Sports Activity Director. She has also volunteered at various summer camps including the Bob Serria YMCA in Tampa, FL. Vernesa is no stranger when it comes to working with kids. She is a current member of Dunwoody's High School Leadership Team, which mentors incoming high school freshmen and also served as a mentor to Vanderlyn's third grade kids. She still mentors kids of all ages and instills good morals, values, and how to make all dreams become a reality. She has a deep passion to give back to a community that once molded her into the well-rounded person she is today and is passionate about working with kids. In her spare time, Vernesa enjoys hanging out with friends, listening to music, going to the park, shopping and making people laugh.



### **Jonathan Veazey – Homework Room**

Jonathan Veazey graduated from New York University with a degree in Film and Television. He began working at Club J in the fall of 2009. Before that he was a tutor for many years, and spent a year teaching math in a New Orleans public school. Jonathan is currently working toward a Master's Degree in School Counseling at Mercer University.



### **Zahra Bailey – Homework Room**

Zahra is a graduate of Clark Atlanta University with a bachelor's degree in business administration, concentrated in supply chain management. She is originally from San Jose, California. She has worked with children for years; from tutoring to teaching dance and cooking. Zahra loves poetry, movies and mentoring children.



### **Alyssa Schwager – Homework Room**

Alyssa Schwager is a recent graduate from the University of Maryland with a degree in Elementary Education. She was born and raised here in Atlanta and was a camper and staff member at Camp Isidore Alterman for many summers. Now that she is home, she is excited to work with your child in the homework room.



### **Lauren Little – Homework Room**

Lauren was born in Newark, NJ and is a graduate of Emory University with a major in Sociology and minor in Anthropology. In her spare time she loves volunteering, watching movies, and reading. She has worked at JCC for five months as a facilitator at CIA and a homework counselor at Club J. She enjoys being able to spend time with the Club J kids and help them learn!



### **Korrie Silpe – Homework Room**

Korrie was born and raised here in Atlanta. She attended camp at both Zaban and Camp Barney Medintz growing up. Korrie was also actively involved in B'nai B'rith Youth Organization (BBYO) on the council, regional and international levels as a teen. She is married with two boys, Drew Silpe (12 years old) and Chase Pena (8 years old). Korrie has always had a love for working with children of all ages as a teacher's assistant, dance teacher, and especially as a parent. She is excited to work with your child in the homework room.



### **Brandon Barker – Activity Runner**

Brandon was born in Akron, Ohio and has resided in the great state of Georgia for 17 years. While growing up in Ohio he attended the Boys & Girls Club of America where he learned teamwork, acquired character and excelled in AAU sports competing in Pennsylvania, Michigan and Kentucky. Although he has only worked at Club J for one year, the experience and love for child buoyancy and development is gratifying beyond measure. Brandon is looking forward to his second year with Club J. He intends to further his education in counseling and music.



### **Katherine Hunt – Check Out Table**

Katherine is a junior at Georgia State University pursuing a double major in Political Science Pre-law and Law and Society. After graduating in the spring of 2014, she hopes to attend law school at Yale or The University of Chicago. Throughout her four years in high school, Katherine accumulated over 100 hours of community service, many of which were spent working with inner-city children. In the past year, she has spent many hours as a volunteer reading tutor at Powers Ferry Elementary School. Katherine began working at the JCC in May as the camp photographer for Camp Isidore Alterman. In her free time she enjoys running, photography, reading, spending time with friends, and keeping up with politics. Katherine is excited to work at Club J because she loves working with kids and believes in teamwork, encouragement, and positive reinforcement.