

Meet the Staff

The Director

Dr. Robert Smith is in his 15th year as Director of the Junior Scholars Program. He is also a professor in the Department of Mathematics and has been on the faculty for 39 years. He was awarded the Mathematical Association of American Ohio Section Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching and, for the past 16 years, he has been a national officer in Pi Mu Epsilon, the preeminent undergraduate mathematics honorary.

Dr. Smith loves working with young adults and thinks of the Junior Scholars as an extension of his family. You will see your "Sweet Summer Daddy" on a regular basis at meals, at events, and in the residence hall.

Head Resident Advisor

Welcome Junior Scholars! My name is **PJ Gassman** and I am a recent graduate of Miami University. I will be returning to Miami in the fall to pursue a master's degree in History. This is my second year with the Junior Scholars Program. I am a huge fan of card and board games, and have even been known to get up off the couch to go play soccer or ultimate frisbee. My door is always open.

Assistant Head Resident Advisors

Greetings Junior Scholars! My name is **Glenn Danielson** and I graduated from Miami this May with majors in Linguistics and East Asian Languages and Cultures. While my principal foreign language was Japanese, I also studied Spanish, Mandarin Chinese, and Korean. I absolutely love foreign languages and am curious as to what languages you speak or study. I also love music, the "universal language" as they say, and would like to know who you've been listening to lately. Bach? Miles Davis? Ben Folds? Let me know! I

think it's safe to say that we are going to rock out this summer!

Hello Junior Scholars! My name is **Hadley Nicholson** and I just graduated this year from Miami University. I majored in Special Education and will be moving to Alaska in August to teach in this field in a middle school. I am originally from Indianapolis, IN, and love to swim, read, and listen to music. I look forward to meeting all of you and get ready for a fun summer!

Senior Counselors

Hello, Junior Scholars. My name is **Rebecca Weisenberger**, but most people call me Becky. I live in Cincinnati and I am going into my third year at Miami University. I am pursuing a degree in Math Education from the Mathematics & Statistics Department. At Miami I am an RA for upper classman in Flower hall. I love Miami and I can't wait to meet everyone. !

I am **James Muruthi** from south of the Sahara, in a country called Kenya. I will be a junior starting next year focusing on poverty in third world countries. I look forward to working with the UN after graduate school. I love to make friends, questioning theories, playing soccer, and poking fun at my friends.



Counselor

Hey JSPers! My name is **Michelle Torbeck** and I am a junior Microbiology major here at Miami. As of right now I

am a pre-medical student, but I am also looking into a career of research in infectious disease and public health. My hometown is Harrison, OH, which is only about thirty minutes outside of Oxford. My passions are reading, swimming, running, tennis, MUSIC, movies, the sciences, my friends, my family, and having good times. I am a former Junior Scholar and would love to share my experiences in this awesome program with you. I am so pumped to meet all of you and to have an amazing summer!

Other Staff

Hi all! My name is **Polly Heinkel** and I am the Administrative Assistant/Bell Desk help for the 2008 Program. This is my third year in this position and I am loving every minute of it. I was also a Junior Scholar in the summer of 1996. I am a 2007 graduate of Miami in English Literature and this fall will be attending the University of Birmingham's Shakespeare Institute in Stratford-Upon-Avon in the UK. If you have any questions about anything please let me know. I am looking forward to a fabulous and memorable summer with you....Cheers!

Hello! My name is **Becky Jenkins**. I too am an alumna of the Junior Scholars Program and am now a junior at Miami Hamilton. I'm in the Computer Information Technology / Visual Media program, and hope to gain admission into the Studio Art Photography program in Oxford next year. I've spent the last ten years living in West Virginia, and am happy to be back at Miami. I'm looking forward to meeting all of you. Get ready for one of the most memorable summers of your lives!

Hey! My name is **Sally Watkins** and this is my second year with Junior Scholars. I am a junior at Miami this year and am majoring in Physics and Environmental Science. I skate for Miami's Figure Skating Team and love to work out in my extra time. I come from the beautiful city of Seattle, WA. I am excited to share these next six weeks with you all!