

# South Georgia

# String Project

## FACULTY & STAFF



**Dr. Kristin Pfeifer Yu** is violin faculty at Valdosta State University, where she is also **Director and Master Teacher of the South Georgia String Project.**

Dr. Pfeifer Yu received her Doctor of Music from Florida State University, where she was a teaching assistant to renowned violinist Eliot Chapo, former concertmaster of the New York Philharmonic and the Dallas Symphony Orchestra. She has been fortunate to work with conductors such as Robert Spano, Matthias Bamert, Andrés Cárdenes, Grant Llewellyn, Scott Yoo, and Scott Speck. Orchestral experience include the Lexington Philharmonic, Tallahassee, Pensacola, and Mobile Symphony Orchestras. She is current Principal Violin for Sinfonia Gulf Coast, and is violinist for the Sinfonia Gulf Coast Chamber Players. Dr. Pfeifer Yu is an active and registered Suzuki instructor, and was a Master Teacher for the University of Kentucky's String Project. Former mentors and teachers include pedagogue Almita Vamos, Michael Davis, Daniel Mason, Stefan Hersch, and Corinne Stillwell. Her former

students have graduated VSU to win graduate assistantships, orchestral, and teaching positions across the United States and South America.



**Dr. Laurel Yu** is viola faculty at Valdosta State University, where he also serves as **Administrator for the South Georgia String Project.**

Dr. Yu received his Doctor of Music from Florida State University. He is currently Artistic Administrator and Principal Viola for Sinfonia Gulf Coast in Destin, Florida, where he is also violist for the Sinfonia Gulf Coast Chamber Players. Dr. Yu has worked with conductors such as Matthias Bamert, Robert Spano, Andrew Litton, Donald Runnicles, Scott Speck, and Bernard Haitink, to name a few. He has also served as Principal Viola

for the Mobile Symphony Orchestra and has performed with orchestras such as the Pensacola Symphony Orchestra, Tallahassee Symphony Orchestra, the Southwest Florida Symphony Orchestra, Opera Naples, and the Naples Philharmonic.



**Dr. Tod Leavitt** is a classical and jazz bassist. He has performed professionally on both the acoustic and electric basses for over twenty years. As a classical bassist, Dr. Leavitt has performed with dozens of symphony orchestras throughout the United States and has been featured soloist with: Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp Festival Orchestra featuring the James Niblick Double Bass Concerto (2010); the Macomb Symphony Orchestra; the Great Lakes Symphony Orchestra; and the Xavier University Chamber Orchestra. He is currently the Lecturer in Contrabass at Valdosta State University (since 2008) and Principal Bassist of the Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp Festival Orchestra (since 2001).



**Mr. Phil Schredl** The 2017-18 season marks Phil Schredl's first season as Assistant Conductor of the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra and **Principal Conductor of the Valdosta Youth Symphony Orchestra of the South Georgia String Project.**

Mr. Schredl started his musical training during elementary school with piano lessons and once in middle school started to learn the String Bass. After moving to Texas, Mr. Schredl learned the trombone and started conducting as the drum major for his high school marching band, winning state his senior year. He received his Bachelors of Arts in Music from Texas Tech University and a Master of Music Education from the University of Colorado at Boulder. He is currently pursuing a Master of Music in Orchestral Conducting at Valdosta State University under the direction of Dr. Howard Hsu. Mr. Schredl has studied conducting with world renowned teachers as

Maestros Donald Schleicher, Kirk Trevor, Tomas Netopil, Adrian Gnam, Robert Gutter, and Arika Endo. Outside of music, Mr. Schredl enjoys traveling with his wife Amy, college football (Go Buffs!), snowboarding, and any outdoor activities.



**Ms. Kayleigh Bagley**  
**Assistant Administrator for the South Georgia String Project**

Kayleigh Bagley is currently a graduate student assistant at Valdosta State University where she is pursuing her Master in Music Performance. Ms. Bagley received her Bachelor of Music in bassoon performance at The Hartt School of Music in West Hartford, Connecticut where she studied with Marc Goldberg. Ms. Bagley is currently studying with Dr. Shannon Lowe in Valdosta. Ms. Bagley has experience teaching privately in Connecticut and is Assistant Administrator for the South Georgia String Project.



**Ms. Christina Wong** is a senior music major and works as a **Teaching Artist for the South Georgia String Project.**

She currently a senior music major studying cello under Professor Steven Taylor at Valdosta State University. She has been playing the cello and piano for over ten years. She is also the Music Director at St. Barnabas' Episcopal Church. She loves to read and play video games with her friends during her free time. Ms. Wong will work as Class Leader for Explorers A Low Strings, Intermezzo Strings, and Low String Pods.



**Mr. Julian Morales** is a senior viola performance major at Valdosta State University and works as a **Teaching Artist for the South Georgia String Project.**

Originally from Columbia, Mr. Morales is currently studying with Dr. Laurel Yu at Valdosta State University. He is a member of The Valdosta Symphony Orchestra and Albany GA Symphony Orchestra. He has attended Cartagena Music Festival, the Viola National Meeting with the Columbia Symphony Orchestra, and Festival Sinfonico in Pereira, Columbia. He also joined the Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp as viola sectional teacher. He will be the Class Leader for Explorers B, Ear Training, and Chamber Strings Pods.



**Ms. Deborah Stevens** is a junior violinist from Savannah, GA and is **Teaching Artist for the South Georgia String Project.**

Ms. Stevens has been playing violin for 11 years and studies violin with Ms. Nina Lutz at Valdosta State University. Deborah has performed with the Savannah Arts Academy Orchestra, Armstrong Atlantic Youth Orchestra, Allstate Orchestras and the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra. She has served the past 2 years as a class teacher and assistant throughout various classes in the South Georgia String Project. Deborah hopes to obtain her masters in Music Therapy to use music's healing and therapeutic powers to assist others. She will be teaching Class Leader for Chamber Strings and Intermezzo Strings.



**Mr. Terell Lopez** is a sophomore double bassist at Valdosta State University and is **Teaching Assistant for the South Georgia String Project.**

Mr. Lopez is currently a BA Music Education major. Starting in the fourth grade, Terell has studied classical bass for nine years. A graduate of North Springs Charter High School, Mr. Lopez has performed in numerous concerts and has even played for two of his high school's productions. He has previously been an accompanying student teacher with the Atlanta Music Project and has performed with the group several times. Mr. Lopez will be assistant for

Chamber Strings, Intermezzo Strings, and VSYO.



**Ms. Syanne Potts** is a sophomore music major at Valdosta State University and is **Teaching Assistant for the South Georgia String Project**.

Ms. Potts has been playing violin for almost nine years. She loves music, and it has always helped her through any situation, and she just wants others to love music as much as she does! She will be assistant for Explorers B, Chamber Strings, and VSYO.



**Ms. Sydney Sloan** is a sophomore cellist at Valdosta State University working as a **Teaching Assistant for the South Georgia String Project**.

Ms. Sloan is business administration major and a music minor. She graduated from Douglas Anderson School of the Arts in Jacksonville, Florida. She started on the cello in fourth grade in her elementary school's string program. Her goal is to work in the field of human resources but still play her instrument and work with kids. She will be assistant for Explorers B and Class Leader for Low String Pods.



**Ms. Keila Medina** is a freshman at Valdosta State University and works as **Teaching Assistant for the South Georgia String Project.**

Ms. Medina is from San Pedro Sula, Honduras. She started to learn violin and came to Valdosta State University as an international student. She is currently enrolled as a Music Performance Major studying with Dr. Pfeifer Yu. She had the opportunity to volunteer for a year as a Child Support Worker in Cambodia through the Mennonite Central Committee, and another year and a half in Akron, Pennsylvania. Her dreams and goals are to be able to reach children and young people at social risk in underdeveloped countries through the power of music.



**Mr. Jose De Leon** is a freshman at Valdosta State University and works as **Teaching Assistant for the South Georgia String Project.**

Mr. De Leon studies with Professor Steven Taylor at Valdosta State University. He has been playing cello for five years and is attending VSU on track for a degree in music education. He loves to attend musicals and live music performances. He is excited to join the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra as well as the South Georgia String Project in hopes to spread the love of music to the next generation. Mr. De Leon has performed both in the pit and onstage for musicals back home in Florida. He will be working with Explorers A and VSYO.



**Mr. Eddy Fabrizio Castellanos** is a freshman at Valdosta State University and works as a **Teaching Assistant for the South Georgia String Project**.

Mr. Castellanos is originally from Honduras and is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Music Performance studying violin with Dr. Kristin Pfeifer Yu. He began studying violin at the age of 10. He is a graduate of the Victoriano Lopez Music School in San Pedro Sula, Honduras. He has participated in different orchestras such as: San Pedro Sula Symphony Orchestra, Honduras Philharmonic Orchestra, and recently Cancun Camerata Orchestra in Mexico. Currently he is a member of the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra and will assist with Explorers A, Ear Training, and Pods.



**Mr. David LaBarre** is a freshman at Valdosta State University and works as a **Teaching Assistant for the South Georgia String Project**.

Mr. LaBarre was born in Concord, MA and moved to Tallahassee at the age of 9 years old. A graduate of Lawton Chiles High School, directed by Christopher Miller, Mr. LaBarre has been playing violin for 14 years. In those years, he has been a part of the Florida All-State Orchestras for 5 years. He has also taught Taekwondo at Killlearn Lakes Taekwondo with students ranging from ages 4 to 60 years old. As well as majoring in music performance, he plans to minor in computer science to be able to get an internet security job along with the musical career of his choice. Mr. LaBarre is a Violin Performance major at Valdosta State University studying with Dr. Kristin Pfeifer Yu. He will assist with Intermezzo Strings, Pods, and VSYO.



**Ms. Julia Graves** is a freshman at Valdosta State University and works as a **Teaching Assistant for the South Georgia String Project.**

Ms. Graves is a freshman at VSU pursuing a BA in music. She has been playing violin for 12 years and has lived in Tallahassee, FL her whole life until moving to Valdosta to start at VSU. She loves music and learning, and has been in orchestra since 5th grade. She had the amazing opportunity to play at the National Orchestra Festival in Pittsburgh last year with her high school chamber orchestra, where she was also the Orchestra President during her senior year. She organized many fundraisers and events and is excited to pass on the knowledge of music in the future. Ms. Graves will be an assistant for Explorers A and VSYO.