



## Core Team Biographies

### MR. DENNIS SMITH

Dennis served in public education for nearly 20 years as a High School Visual Arts Teacher. As a 1998 graduate of High Point College-University, Smith received his BA degree in Art. Smith attended seven more colleges in search of his master's degree, including WSSU, UNCC, Gaston College, Savannah State University, Armstrong Atlantic



State University/ Georgia Southern, Emmanuel Christian School, & Covenant Bible College. As a Christian husband, father, pastor and teacher, Dennis Smith prioritizes honor. The highest honor a person can bestow is to first become the humble but effective steward of the Temple in which he/she lives. Our bodies were created with an assigned purpose as the Temple of the Holy Spirit. Most of us learn late in life that we are first obligated to serve the Lord. Once we become good at first things, we can then be made a ruler over many other things. The Lord kept His word and gave Mr. Smith access via dreams and visions to a design an algorithm that facilitates the efficiency in a school teacher's endeavor to create a field trip. Smith designed a piece of software which essentially creates a mobile classroom replete with all necessary components to allow a teacher to physically transport a group of students safely to and from the actual site where learning becomes firsthand and experienceable! Assembling first the software then the Core Team and all the necessary variables, bringing this vision to fruition has been the

preoccupation for Smith for more than 25 years. As you might imagine, the cost for such an undertaking has been substantial but perseverance and determination are just two of the many attributes present in Dennis' daily donning and pursuit of the completion of his vision and purpose.

Faithfulness accompanies Dennis' unyielding confidence in each member of his Core Team and as the visionary leader, Smith accentuates the equitability and uniqueness in the value present in each team member. Dennis Smith truly believes the same perspective is what must be present in our technology. If we treat our people like they truly matter from the perspective that they actually were assigned here by God, and then freely give honor where honor is due, how can that which we produce perform otherwise? The real way to honor God is to honor His presence in each one of His creations! That is our company's secret to success! Meet the AAT Core Team....



MRS. WANDA SMITH

Wanda Swindell Smith is the wife of Dennis Smith and the First Lady to the Church for the Broken. Her main and most important function for AAT is being the confidant and sounding board for Dennis. She currently serves as the Employee Relations Manager for AAT. Excellence is her motto, and she exemplifies that in every aspect of her life. Wanda's passion for helping people and making a difference in everyday life is unwavering.

Having completed both her associate and bachelor's degree in business administration from Strayer University (with Summa Cum Laude honors) she has held many positions throughout her career to include

Account Executive, Security Supervisor, and System Specialist to name a few. She is very astute and brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise in many areas that will help solidify important aspects of AAT.

The launching of a corporation is a magnanimous undertaking, and Dennis would not have been able to achieve lift-off without his confident and steady life mate! The Art's A Trip Core Team follows Wanda's lead. She has their attention, and they have her back!



MS. GINNIE WATSON

One of the primary reasons this company is still functioning today is NOT due to the founder himself but instead to the diligence, determination and hard work of Ginnie Watson (his sister). After retiring from Continental Tire, she became the first member of what is now known as the AAT Core Team. Ms. Watson has been with Dennis since the beginning tirelessly working and providing experience, guidance, and direction. She has been the glue that has kept the ship together and the directional navigation that kept it sailing in the right direction especially during turbulent and stormy seasons.

Ms. Watson has firsthand knowledge and understanding about every aspect of the company's operations and processes and to this day continues to provide outstanding faith and unmeasurable guidance and direction on a daily basis. Ms. Watson firmly believed in the future of

AAT since the beginning stages of Quick Quote, which was originally created and designed in Excel.

In 2013, Ms. Watson became a Teacher's Assistant with the Charlotte Mecklenburg School system where she spent the next 12 years acquiring and developing even more specialized skills that afforded her a deeper devotion and a greater understanding of the intersection between education, field trip value and student enrichment. Ms. Watson also serves faithfully as the Church Administrator for Church for the Broken in Kings Mountain NC. It is fair to say during the last 25 years of the emergence of AAT, Ms. Watson has proven to be a steadfast and unmovable confidant for AAT and her little brother. She is the sentinel who stayed awake!

#### MR. ERANDIKA SANDARUWAN

Erandika Sandaruwan is an accomplished Senior Technical Lead and Full-Stack Developer with

over 14 years of hands-on experience in architecting and developing enterprise-level, cloud-based solutions. At present, he leads high-performing development teams at SolisTech (Pvt) Ltd in Sri Lanka, with expertise spanning NET technologies, Blazor, Azure/AWS cloud platforms, and system optimization.

Erandika began his professional journey at Virtusa and advanced through key technical roles, including a significant tenure in Singapore at Integral Solution (Asia) Pte Ltd. In parallel with his leadership roles, he maintains a thriving freelance career on Upwork, where he holds Top-Rated status and a 100% job success score. With a B.Sc. (Special

Honors) in Information Technology from the Sri Lanka Institute of Information Technology, Erandika is deeply passionate about clean architecture, scalable system design, and emerging technologies like AI, microservices, and modern front-end frameworks. He actively shares his knowledge through technical blogging and open-source contributions.

Today, Erandika holds the position of IT Director for Art's A Trip, LLC where for three years he has diligently perfected the development of Quick Quote and the Privestment platform.



#### MR. MARVIN CHAPPELL

Marvin Smith Chappell, Jr. is a 1976 graduate of Northwestern High school, Rock Hill SC. He is a dedicated, results-oriented professional with extensive experience in Business and Accounting. Known for innovation and problem-solving, Marvin has a strong ability to manage projects, collaborate with teams, and achieve organizational goals effectively. Marvin is an integral part of the company and uses his experience and knowledge in many areas including accounting, finance, inventory and contract review to name a few.

As one of the first additions to the AAT Core Team, Marvin has responsibilities that include assisting in developing company policies and procedures in our first-to-market educational field trip travel business. Marvin and Mr. Dennis Smith met when working together as Automotive Salesmen at a well-known Car Dealership in Gastonia NC. Their first encounter proved that Marvin had the heart and the skills our

business plan required, and that he was exactly the kind of person needed to help Smith launch the Quick Quote software.

His background and life experiences include shipping manager, offsite warehouse management, automatic transmission shop management, finance officer, computer installation and creating from scratch, a piece of technology designed to replace the strip ledger card system. Marvin has also served as the City clerk, treasurer and tax collector with the City of Kings Mountain where due to his performance and leadership he always received promotion through the ranks very quickly.

Marvin's Educational journey includes a degree in Accounting and Business Administration which he received from Cleveland Community College and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Marvin believes in giving back to his community and having been named the United Way secretary, he has also received the highly coveted Marvin Paul Harris fellow from his local Rotary Club.

One of Marvin's favorite pastimes is the sport of League Bowling. As a member of the Bowling Center management team, Marvin served as the Customer Service Coordinator for many years. Marvin and his wife Kim ran the bowling leagues and became significant members of the bowling community including coaching and youth development.

#### MR. ANTHONY "Tony" BRUMSE'Y

Tony brings our Core Team a focused emphasis on operations, quality, and compliance. Being a versatile and diligent operations safety and security officer, Brumse'y is continuously deliberating to gain optimal outcomes. Tony was born to be a part of the Art's A Trip journey. His diverse yet balanced experiences in community service and economic

development extend through his well-documented military leadership, as well as his private and corporate business contributions.

Anthony has a degree in Political Science and Business Management from Elizabeth City State University. As an expert in the Reconnaissance of Success and a decorated (history-making) 21 year Chief Warrant Officer Veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves, Tony has learned how to harness multiple elements, while strategically analyzing the utilization of unconventional resources to accomplish the mission

“Above and Beyond” is Tony’s personal motto. Following a long and storied career marked by intelligent leadership Brumse’y will now share with the AAT Core Team his secrets for maintaining composure while we navigate through the best and worst situations.

A great leader must follow as well, so Tony is devoted to constantly gaining knowledge and experiences, while simultaneously exemplifying servant leadership as the President of the Core Team Executive Committee.

Though one was never issued, Tony earned the title of Art’s A Trip MVP from the very first day he arrived. His daily mission reflects the company motto, “We Give Back!”



MRS. KELSEY F. FREY

Kelsey is a software engineer with over 10 years of experience in the fintech industry, specializing in building scalable, user-focused solutions that power modern financial systems. Her journey into tech began

after a fulfilling career as a teacher, where she honed skills in communication, adaptability, and problem-solving—traits that continue to serve her well in engineering.

Driven by a passion for innovation and continuous learning, she returned to school to earn a degree in technology from Purdue Global. Since then, she has contributed to projects ranging from digital banking platforms to data-driven financial tools, blending technical expertise with a strong understanding of user needs and business goals.

Particularly interested in bridging the gap between complex systems and intuitive user experiences, Kelsey has a passion for when education and technology intertwine. This is her impetus for working with AAT. Kelsey believes that she will be the instrument God uses to modernize the Quick Quote user interface. We call it, “Kelsification!”

Frey is married to another Core Team member. Donald Frey (DJ) is our liaison to Kelsey. If it had not been for DJ’s passion for honoring God, we never would have met. They have 3 beautiful children who will always be the driving force behind the Frey family’s desire to live exemplary lives!.



DR. TONY L. HEMINGWAY

Dr. Hemingway is a retired superintendent with 29 years of service across rural, suburban, and urban public-school districts. His career spans roles from classroom teacher to Chief Human Resources and



Strategic Planning Officer, where he was recognized as South Carolina's 2024 Human Resources Administrator of the Year.

Dr. Hemingway has spearheaded transformative efforts in student achievement, teacher retention, and leadership development throughout his leadership journey. As superintendent, he drove measurable progress in academic outcomes, operational efficiency, and leadership development.

His purpose on the AAT Core Team is to spearhead the perfection of all school system contracts as well as to lead our Internal Acquisitions Team to our ultimate goal of contractually facilitating at least 4500 public school systems!

A proud Claflin University, Cambridge College, and South Carolina State University graduate, Dr. Hemingway is also a dedicated member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

He is a published author and the founder and CEO of EdVantage The HemingWAY, a consulting firm committed to continuous improvement, leadership development, and fostering high-performance.



MR. FORREST LOCKLEAR

So impressed by the arrival of Mr. Locklear to the AAT Core Team, Dennis coined the term, *fiscalogist*, which best describes what contribution Locklear is

here to make. *Fiscalogistics* is the purposeful navigation through the complexities of fiscal responsibility without losing integrity or the faith of those individuals committed to serving alongside us.

Creating a corporation which will reshape the educational field trip industry is no easy task. The Lord knew Dennis and Wanda would need a confident Captain to help sail through uncharted waters. Forrest Locklear is the passionate angel sent by God to inspire, harness, and cultivate the talent in AAT's collaborative, mission-driven environment. Having already been named the future AAT CEO, Locklear believes that every individual brings a unique perspective that can enhance not only the workplace but also the broader communities we serve. At Art's A Trip, he is committed to personally and professionally supporting the growth of each Core Team member by introducing meaningful cultural experiences. He loves to take people to dinner. Locklear understands what it takes to bring global exposure, not only for our cyber platform called Quick Quote, but also for each participant on our Core Team.

With strong analytical and critical thinking skills, Forrest thrives in dynamic settings, making thoughtful, effective decisions quickly. Whether guiding a team, connecting leaders across destination cities, or contributing to innovative Art's A Trip initiatives, Forrest's background as a Regional Director over warehouse logistics for a company which hosts the contract to nationally manage Spectrums warehouses, undergirds his ability to bring energy, adaptability, and an unwavering dedication to success.

Above all, Forrest Locklear is committed to making a positive and lasting impact on the next generation of leaders—empowering them with the tools, experiences, and support needed to lead with purpose and vision. “My goal, said Forrest, is to be a catalyst for growth,

development, and transformation for individuals and communities alike.”



#### MS. SHANA ROBINSON

Shana is a proud recipient of The NAACP Image Award of Cleveland County. A native of Carson, California, Shana Robinson began singing at the age of 5 in church. She is the daughter of the late Rev. Dr. James and Carolyn Griggs Robinson.

She brings to AAT many years of knowledge in the aviation industry as a former customer service agent and now currently a flight attendant for the largest major airline in the world in terms of passengers carried, and daily flights! She is Chairperson of Transportation and office manager for Arts A Trip.

Shana has dedicated ALL her spare time to making our office immaculate. As soon as her plane lands, she drives directly to the AAT office. So focused and dutiful is Shana’s contribution to our journey, that the Core Team has coined a phrase, “work like a Shana!” Eventually she will be able to get back to doing all the things she enjoys, like spending time with family and friends, singing, exercising, nature trails, reading, and painting.

Shana is a graduate of Kings Mountain High School, where she won The Kiwanis Talent Show singing "How Great Thou Art" which awarded her an A.J. Fletcher Music scholarship to Elizabeth City State University, majoring in Music Education.

She's done many performances of "The National Anthem" for the city of Kings Mountain for over 20 years. She also performed "The National Anthem" for The Charlotte Knights, The Charlotte Panthers, NFL Veterans Golf Tournament, City of Charlotte Veterans Day Observance, ESPN Bass Masters Tournament, and Central Piedmont Community College during George W. Bush's visit to Charlotte (43rd U.S. President). She is also a former member of The Oratorio Singers of Charlotte, accompanied by The Charlotte Symphony.



as

#### MRS. JENNIFER PATRONI DAVIS

With 19 years of experience in education, Jennifer Davis has dedicated her career to enhancing the learning experience for students through innovative teaching and meaningful field trip opportunities. Davis spent three years as a second grade teacher, ten years teaching fifth grade, and six years as a math interventionist for kindergarten through fifth grade students.

Throughout these roles, Jen has collaborated closely with colleagues to plan impactful lessons and field trips that provide students with firsthand experiences that reinforce and enhance classroom learning.

Having served in various teacher leadership roles and participated in curriculum and assessment planning teams, Jen has a deep understanding of state curriculum standards and their connection to real-world applications. She knows how critical planning and attention to detail are when organizing field trips that benefit students

academically and socially. Her background in teaching and leadership, along with her logical, critical thinking skills, enable me to effectively bridge the gap between schools and businesses during the field trip planning process. As a parent of three, Jen also understands the emotional and social growth that field trips provide for children and teens. These experiences foster independence, teamwork, and resilience, while providing opportunities for children to engage with the world in significant ways. She recognized the financial pressures many families face in supporting these experiences, which drives my passion for making field trips accessible for all students.

Says, Davis, “I also understand the worry caregivers feel when those they love travel without them and the trust it takes to allow them to participate. I am committed to easing those concerns by ensuring every field trip is well planned, safe, and enriching.”



MRS. TAMISHA DIXON

Tamisha is a Vice President and Cloud Security Engineer at one of the nation’s largest financial institutions, where she has served for six years. With over 18 years of experience leading global teams, cultivating talent, and solving complex challenges, she has earned a reputation as a strategic and impactful leader. In addition to her corporate work, Tamisha brings more than a decade of entrepreneurial experience including time as a mentor, certified life coach, and

therapeutic foster parent—helping individuals from all walks of life reach their full potential.

Committed to shaping the next generation, Tamisha has recently mentored Computer Science and STEM students at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte and Phillip O. Berry Academy of Technology. She is also a dynamic speaker and workshop facilitator, passionate about leadership development, emotional intelligence, and helping others successfully navigate corporate life.

While on hiatus from pursuing her Master's in Cybersecurity Technology Management, she balances her professional and academic pursuits with family life as a devoted wife and bonus mom to two rising college sophomores. She resides in the vibrant city of Charlotte, North Carolina.

Originally from the Mile High City, Tamisha has always had a love for travel. A transformative tennis trip to Costa Rica after high school graduation sparked her global curiosity and shaped her worldview. Today, she co-owns a travel agency with her mother, a retired U.S. Postal Service professional. Tamisha is honored to help serve **Art's A Trip**, a meaningful initiative that expands students' horizons through culturally rich travel experiences before they embark on their life journeys.

MR. BILLY DIXON

Billy Dixon is the Co-Owner of a prominent security firm and the owner of several successful businesses based in Charlotte, North Carolina. With over 20 years of leadership experience across the Physical Security, Financial Technology, Entertainment, and Automotive industries, he has held key positions with Fortune 500 companies while also launching and scaling multiple ventures. His strategic insight and operational acumen have earned him a reputation as a trusted leader in the security technology sector, known for driving innovation, upholding integrity, and creating long-term impact.

A proud native of the Mile High City, Billy is deeply committed to community upliftment. He dedicates time to mentoring youth in Chicago, empowering young men to overcome adversity and pursue meaningful opportunities. As a devoted husband and proud father of three young adults—two of whom are entering their sophomore year of college—he finds joy in both his family's academic accomplishments and their shared values of excellence and perseverance.

Travel is another passion that fuels Billy's commitment to family and personal growth. As a former AAU basketball and competitive dance team dad, he has spent years supporting his children's pursuits across the country. He firmly believes in exposing young people to new environments as a way to broaden their horizons and inspire greater possibilities for their future.