

**Corey Alderdice,
M.A. English, 2006
B.A. English, 2004**

By Madelyn Chambers

**Director, Arkansas School for
Mathematics, Sciences and the
Arts**



“Be willing to pursue territory and passions in your studies that are inherently and uniquely your own. If you are passionate about it, others will help you support and cultivate that passion.”

Corey Alderdice graduated from Western Kentucky University with a bachelor’s degree in English in 2004 and a master’s degree in English in 2006. He is currently the Director of the [Arkansas School for Mathematics, Sciences and the Arts](#) (ASMSA), a residential high school for gifted and talented students in Hot Springs, Arkansas.

Alderdice studied English because of his life-long love of reading and competitive speech and debate. “For me, an English major was a way to both do something that I enjoyed immensely and at the same time refine my communications skills for a variety of different contexts.” Alderdice obtained a graduate assistantship through [WKU Forensics](#), where he continued pursuing his passion for critical theory at the graduate level.

Alderdice’s participation in a study abroad course at Cambridge University with the late Dr. Pat Taylor provided him “the opportunity to see myself as part of a bigger world.” His composition courses with Dr. Dale Rigby also encouraged him to “explore my writing style and find my voice.” The WKU Forensics program also allowed Alderdice to compete for national and international titles and earn distinction for WKU.

During the last year of his master’s degree, Alderdice was hired as the Planning Coordinator for [The Gatton Academy](#), a two-year residential STEM school for high school juniors and seniors. He became the Assistant Director when the academy opened in 2006. Alderdice knew that his experience developing The Gatton Academy would help him enrich ASMSA’s arts program when he became the Director of ASMSA in 2012.

As the Director, Alderdice mainly works with operations, legislative affairs, and fundraising for ASMSA. “My job is to first, secure the necessary resources for our faculty and students to do incredible things and second, to get out of their way and let them do what they do best, which is teach and learn.” In 2014, Arkansas Business named him to their annual list of “40 Under 40” leaders in the state. Alderdice feels honored to be the longest-serving director of ASMSA, and he look forward to participating in the “intellectual heartbeat” of his community for years to come.

When he isn’t working, Alderdice loves reading an “eclectic mix” ranging from sci/fi and fantasy to critical, cultural, and leadership theory. He also shares his interest in video games with his 8-year-old son.

Alderdice advises students to seek out practical applications of their education and pursue opportunities for experience. “Perhaps the greatest mistake that undergraduates make is that they believe the credential alone will carry them forward. How you are putting that skill and that knowledge into practice as a student, as an emerging scholar, through writing papers, submitting for publications, and presenting at conferences is also equally important.”

