



A LETTER FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR

Dear members of the WSMS community,

Once again the academic year is off to an auspicious beginning. WSMS and WSMS-TEP students and faculty returned to find a terrific new space on the fifth floor: the gym now hosts two private spaces for interviews on the balcony level; an adult (!) bathroom; and extensive storage housing PA materials and the tables and chairs which transform the space into a TEP classroom every weekend. The sun shines in through brand new sparkling windows. If you have not seen it yet, I encourage you to make the journey.

Please join me in celebrating another year in which our children reached new levels of accomplishment, our parents gave of their time and talent supporting the school in so many different ways, and our faculty once again showed us how lucky we are that our children are (or were) at WSMS. The resounding success of the Twos Program has prompted the permanent implementation of that option for families. WSMS-TEP has continued to provide professional (teaching) and academic (the new Concordia master's degree) opportunities for our faculty, and serves as the source of student teachers and well-trained new employees in our classrooms.

I can't tell you how grateful I am to the WSMS community for your ongoing generous support of school activities—including the annual benefit and the An-

nual Fund—that support financial aid for some 20% of our students. WSMS was founded in 1963 with the mission of diversity and community involvement, and with 50-plus years of unstinting support we have never failed to achieve those goals.

As always there are so many people who deserve our deep and limitless gratitude: Head of School Mimi Basso, who never stops thinking of ways to improve what the rest of us see as just fine; Board members, who are featured in an article in this issue; PA leadership and all the many volunteers—too numerous to count—who make the community vibrant, exciting and inclusive; esteemed faculty, whose highest priority is providing the best educational start for every child; administrative staff, who often work behind the scenes but are vital to the success of everything we do; and friends and families all of whom generously support us in so many ways. And finally our thanks to last year's Annual Fund, Auction and Fall Festival Co-Chairs: Natasha Kazmi, Angela and Allen Lamb, Katie Cameron, Nikki Chase-Levin, Jason Santiago, Jennifer Conway, Wendy Heilbut, Victor Manuel, Caroline Russo and Rielly Vlassis, for helping to bring our community together in celebration and support.

With best wishes to all for 2015-16!

Alexander H. Southwell '76
President, Board of Trustees
(Madeline '07, Lucas '11, Gemma '14)

2015-2016 WSMS BOARD OF TRUSTEES

When one thinks of any respected school, invariably it is the head of school that first comes to mind. The head is the visible interpreter of the school's mission and vision, and is the key person responsible for ensuring academic excellence and administrative best practices. Yet it is the partnership that exists between the head of school and the board of trustees—volunteers who take on the important responsibility of ensuring that the school delivers on its mission over the long haul—that plays a critical role in the school's long term viability.

The board ensures that the school operates effectively and efficiently by working closely with the head of school, who has the day-to-day responsibility to implement the policies and procedures approved by the board. It is critical that the board represent the various stakeholders in the organization and bring the critical expertise necessary for current and long-term success.

The board's primary roles are to support and oversee the head, provide strategic guidance, monitor performance and results, and ensure fiduciary and ethical integrity. This year, the 2016-2021 strategic planning process and the 2016 NYSAIS re-accreditation will entail significant board involvement on every level.

At WSMS the board is composed of committees that reflect these vari-

ous areas of responsibility. Standing committees include Executive, Audit and Compliance, Finance and Investment, Development, Nominating/Governance, and Compensation and Management Development. Ad hoc committees include Real Estate, Public Relations, Strategic Planning, etc.

Members of the board include current and former parents, the current PA copresidents, and a faculty representative. They represent a range of backgrounds and experience that provide us with the professional expertise so critical to the leadership, governance and fiscal practices that will ensure our future.

Over the years we have also had as board members individuals from other educational institutions, who provide a different perspective. Past such trustees have included NYU education professor Gordon Pradl, head of Early Steps Jackie Pelzer, Barbara Root, former Director of Admissions at Sacred Heart (she had also been a WSMS parent and PA president), and Harriet Burnett, Director of Admissions at Friends Academy and the parent of two WSMS alumni.

This year we welcome incoming trustees Jennifer Conway, Allen Lamb, Jason Santiago, and Kelly West. Trustees are elected for three-year terms.



**Alexander H. Southwell,
President**

Alex is a partner at the law firm Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher, where he is a member of the White Collar Defense and Investigations and the Information Technology and Data Privacy practice groups. Alex previously served as an assistant United States attorney in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York and is also an adjunct professor of law at Fordham University School of Law, where he teaches a seminar on cyber crimes. Alex graduated from Princeton University and New York University School of Law. He is also a proud alum of WSMS, having been born and raised on the Upper West Side, where he still lives with his wife, Sandy, and their three children.



**Myles B. Amend,
Vice President**

Myles is Associate Head of School for Advancement at Trinity School, where he has worked since 2000. Prior to that he served as Director of Development and Finance at Rice High School in Harlem; as Principal of Tampa Catholic High School in Tampa, Florida; and as Associate Director for Institutional Advancement and Governance at the Museum of the City of New York. He is a graduate of Iona College and holds master's degrees in History from New York University and in Independent School Leadership from Columbia University Teachers College. He is also a trustee of De La Salle Academy and a past president of the New York City Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals. Myles and his husband, Marc Thomas, are parents of a WSMS alumnus who completed her two-year career at WSMS in 2011.



Maggan Daileader,
Treasurer

Originally from Stockholm, Sweden, Maggan graduated from the University of Florida with bachelor's and master's degrees in accounting, and later from New York University with an MBA in finance. She spent nine years in finance at IBM, another seven years in banking at Scotia Capital and The Royal Bank of Scotland, and then changed careers to be a yoga teacher, an integrative therapist, and a stay-at-home mom. Maggan and her husband, Tim, are parents to two WSMS graduates. Among her many roles as a WSMS parent, Maggan twice served as the Co-Chair for the Spring Fair and has been a regular participant of the Admissions Committee interviewing parents of prospective WSMS students.



Suzanne Day, Secretary

Suzanne is the proud parent of two WSMS alumni and served as the WSMS Director of Admissions from 2008 to 2013. Before joining the WSMS administrative team, she also volunteered as the WSMS Parents Association Co-President for two years and worked on the WSMS Admissions Committee. Suzanne received her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of North Carolina and worked as an oncology clinical pharmacy specialist for 12 years prior to starting her family. Suzanne and her family relocated to Washington, Connecticut, but continue to spend time in the city and remain involved in many NYC-based organizations.



Nissa Booker

Nissa is a graduate of Spelman College where she majored in English. After realizing journalism was her calling, she took a job with ABC News in Washington, DC, working her way through the newsroom to the office of talent development. There Nissa found her interest to lie in training and development. After several years of recruiting and hiring entry-level talent and spearheading development programs, she left ABC News and joined a start-up owned by AOL where she is responsible for managing the editorial recruiters. Nissa is the proud mom of two WSMS alumni. Nissa worked on her Montessori teaching certification through the WSMS-TEP program.



Kristen Chae

Kristen and her husband, Boris Arabadjiev, are the proud parents of three WSMS graduates. Kristen is co-founder of aParently, a technology startup formed in 2014 that helps parents streamline information and manage the parent communities in the schools their children attend. Prior to her current venture, she launched two other businesses, Little Apples Photography and GlobeArc, and spent over ten years working in the finance industry at Merrill Lynch and, most recently, at Barra, Inc., a portfolio research analytics company. Kristen has been involved with WSMS since 2007. She was the PA Co-President for two years, co-chaired the Auction, interviewed parents for admissions, and served on the Spring Fair and other committees. She is a graduate of Boston University.



Jennifer S. Conway

Jennifer is a partner at the law firm Cravath, Swaine & Moore, where she regularly advises public and private companies on executive compensation and employee benefits matters, principally in connection with mergers and acquisitions, initial public offerings and other business transactions. Jennifer is a graduate of Georgetown University and Columbia Law School. She is also a member of the Steering Committee of the Kate Stoneman Project, an organization devoted to the advancement of women in the legal profession. Jennifer and her husband, Victor Manuel, have two daughters, a current student at WSMS and a baby born May 2015. Jennifer and Victor also served as co-chairs of the first annual Fall Festival.



Kathleen Friery

Kathleen Friery has more than 20 years experience as a network newsmagazine producer. At ABC, she was a producer and supervising producer for the award winning shows "20/20" and "Good Morning America." At CNN, Kathleen was Senior Producer for "Connie Chung Tonight" and, until 2010, was the Executive Producer of "Anderson Cooper 360." For her work with Cooper, Kathleen won four Emmy Awards. She also contributed to the coverage that won Peabody Awards for Hurricane Katrina and the 2008 Presidential Primary Campaigns and a DuPont Award for coverage of the Tsunami Disaster in South Asia. Kathleen graduated from Potsdam College with a BA in Political Science and has a master's degree in journalism from NYU.

Kathleen is married to Bill Ritter. Their daughter graduated WSMS in 2014.



Amy Groome

Amy and her husband Peter have two sons who attended WSMS. Amy spent many years working in marketing communications, specializing in global brand development for luxury and lifestyle businesses, and held positions at Avon Products, Nautica, and StarMedia Network, a Latin-American Internet company. Amy also holds a certificate in Integrative Nutrition and has worked as a health counselor, helping individuals with food choices and overall well-being. She is a native Californian and fluent in Spanish. Amy is a graduate of Georgetown University.



Alexandra Jarislowsky

Alex is the mother of twins who graduated from the Garden class in 2011. She is married to Kevin Snow. Alex was born in Montreal, Canada. She graduated from Brown University in 1991 and received her MBA from Harvard Business School in 1996. She has held positions at Capital Research Group, a mutual fund company in California, and at Porter Orlin LLC, a long/short hedge fund in New York. She is currently with her father's company, Jarislowsky Fraser Limited, a Canadian-based investment firm.



Allen Lamb

Allen has been a Wall Street professional focused on the intersection of media and technology since the mid-2000s, and has also been a digital media entrepreneur. In his capacity as a finance executive, Allen was most recently with The Raine Group, a boutique merchant bank focused exclusively on entertainment, digital media and sports; his latest project as an entrepreneur is Cheddah, a mobile app for millennials. Allen holds a bachelor's degree in engineering and a master's degree in computer science from Cornell University, in addition to an MBA from the MIT Sloan School of Management. He resides on the Upper West Side with his wife, Angela, and two children, Mitchell, who completed WSMS in 2015, and Darby who is enrolled in the Twos Program.



Jae K. Lee

Jae and her husband, Scott Millstein, have two children who attended WSMS. Jae was actively involved as a parent volunteer while at WSMS, and served as a Parents Association Co-President. She graduated from Colgate University and Fordham School of Law, and has been at Jazz at Lincoln Center since 2010.



Aima Raza

Aima is co-founder and President of the Peace Project Inc. (PINIC), a non-profit organization that seeks to create safe and peaceful communities in countries around the world by promoting peace education in schools, interfaith projects, and sponsoring various community-based initiatives. Prior to PINIC, Aima worked as a management consultant focusing primarily on the financial services industry. She graduated from Fordham University School of Law in 2003 and holds a master's in Global Affairs from NYU. Aima's twin boys, Rafay and Mikhail Khan, graduated from WSMS in 2014. Aima is married to Agha S. Khan.



Joanna Hagan Rego

Joanna is the mother of one current WSMS student and one WSMS graduate. She is an active WSMS volunteer, having served as co-president of the Parents Association and co-chair of the 50th Anniversary Celebration & Auction. Joanna received her BA in English Literature from Brown University. Before having children she worked for fifteen years as a theater producer, overseeing such productions as "Martin Short: Fame Becomes Me" on Broadway, Nickelodeon's "Blue's Clues Live!" tour, and comedian/actor Wayne Brady in Las Vegas. She is married to Matthew Rego.



Jason E. Santiago

Jason E. Santiago is currently an investor at Stripes Group, a \$1.5B private equity fund that invests in Internet and consumer products companies. Prior to joining Stripes Group, Jason was an investment banker at Cowen and Company in both New York and San Francisco, responsible for the execution of growth equity financings, and a director at PRIMEDIA, responsible for enterprise-wide Internet product development. Jason started his career as an entrepreneur, co-found-

ing two Internet technology companies, and then leading them through acquisition and IPO. Jason was born in Puerto Rico and has an MBA from Columbia Business School, where he was an Alberto Verme Scholar, and a BA in Architecture and Planning from Columbia College. Jason and his wife Casey have two children. Their daughter is a current WSMS student and their son, who graduated WSMS in 2015.



Michael Seckler

Mike has been an entrepreneur since 1996. His current business is Euclidean Technologies, an innovative investment management firm that uses cutting edge statistical computing to evaluate individual companies as potential long-term investments. Prior to Euclidean, Mike co-founded the pioneering "software as a service" firm, Employease, which was acquired by ADP. He graduated from Williams with a dual major in Geology and History. He and his wife Caren have three daughters who graduated WSMS.



Cordell Spencer

Cory was born and raised in Montreal, Canada. He attended the University of Western Ontario and Harvard Business School, and spent over twenty years at Morgan Stanley where he served in multiple capacities, including strategic advisor to corporate boards, and co-head of the Global Investment Banking business. He was also appointed to Morgan Stanley's Management and Operating Committees. Since 1998, Cory has served as a pro bono consultant to the Partnership for New York City. He and his wife, Elizabeth Canino, are parents to two WSMS alumni.



Kelly West

Kelly West is currently the Director of Lower School Admission at The Browning School. Kelly first joined the Browning faculty in 2003, when she served as an assistant teacher, head teacher and then Acting Head of Lower School, before moving to admissions. Kelly received her MA from the Steinhardt School of Education at NYU and a BA in psychology from The George Washington University.



**Lindsay Forbes,
Parent Representative**

Lindsay was born and raised in Vancouver, Canada. She has a BSc in Forestry from the University of British Columbia and a JD from the University of Toronto. Prior to starting her family, Lindsay practiced commercial real estate law in Vancouver and New York. She is now developing the U.S. East Coast market for EAB Tool Co., a power tool accessory company founded by her father and marketed in over 2,700 retail outlets in North America. Lindsay and her husband, Ali Dibadj, are the proud parents of a WSMS alum and a current WSMS student.



**Iva Mills,
Parent Representative**

Iva is the mother of twins, who began attending WSMS in Fall 2013 in the Twos Program. Iva has been an active parent and is currently serving, for a second year, as Co-President of the WSMS Parents Association. Iva also participated with the WSMS Annual Fund and volunteered with the Auction and Spring Fair committees. She received her BA degree in political science from the University of California, Los Angeles, and her JD from the Washington College of Law at American University. Iva practiced law for 10 years: at a law firm, primarily in the areas of advertising and marketing litigation, and later in house litigating intellectual property disputes. She is married to Scott Mills.



**Guiliana de Grazia,
Faculty Representative**

Giuls is head teacher this year in 3Wam and 3Wpm, teaches Montessori Philosophy at WSMS-TEP, and volunteers with organizations promoting communication and leadership opportunities. In particular she is a faculty leader at SEED (Seeking Educational Equity and Diversity), a peer-led professional development program that promotes change in curriculum, campuses, workplaces, and communities through self-reflection and interpersonal dialogue. Giuls has her AMS primary certification from the Institute for Advanced Montessori Studies, and degrees from the University of St. Andrews, Scotland (MA in English Lit and Art History), St. John's College, Annapolis, MD (MA in Liberal Arts), and Bank Street College of Education (MEd in Early Childhood and Special Ed).