

2020–2021 WSMS BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The primary responsibility of the Board of Trustees is to see that the School operates in the best interests of its students, teachers, and parents. The Board sets the purpose and policies of the School, ensures its financial stability, plans for its future, and hires the Head of School, who is responsible for the day-to-day operation of the School.



**Iva Mills,
President**

Iva Mills is the mother of twin WSMS alumni (2016). Iva served as co-president of the Parents Association for two years and assisted with the Annual Fund, Auction, Spring Fair and Admissions Committee. Iva grew up in San Diego, CA, and received her BA in political science from the University of California, Los Angeles, and her JD from American University Washington College of Law. Iva practiced law for ten years, first at a law firm, primarily in the area of advertising and marketing litigation, and later in-house litigating intellectual property disputes. Iva is also a Trustee of Trinity School, serves on the Acquisition Committee of the Studio Museum in Harlem, and previously served as a Trustee of Safe Horizon.



**Myles Amend,
Vice President**

Myles Amend 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 alumna who completed her two-year career at WSMS in 2011.



**Tim Daileader,
Vice President**

Tim Daileader, the father of Declan and Madeleine Daileader (WSMS '14), and husband of Maggan Daileader, is a partner in Drivetrain, LLC, a fiduciary services firm. Prior to this, Tim enjoyed a twenty-four-year career in investment management and research, and banking. Tim holds a Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) designation and serves as a director on several for-profit boards, and previously on the College Board of Advisors and in the Admission Ambassador program for Georgetown University. Tim graduated in 1992 from Georgetown University where he was a Baker Scholar.



**Mort Haque,
Treasurer**

Mort Haque is a portfolio manager at GoldenTree Asset Management, an investment management firm specializing in below-investment-grade corporate and structured credit markets. Prior to GoldenTree, Mort worked at Sound Point Capital as a portfolio manager and at Apollo Management in their capital markets group. He spent a number of years as an investment banker at Bank of America and J.P. Morgan in their leveraged finance and M&A departments. He is a graduate of Georgetown University (SFS) and Columbia Business School. Mort is married to Henna Khan, and they have two daughters who graduated from WSMS.



**Jennifer S. Conway,
Secretary**

Jennifer S. Conway is a partner at the law firm Cravath, Swaine & Moore, where she is a member of the Executive

Compensation and Benefits Department. 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, one who is a current student at WSMS and one who graduated in 2018. Jennifer and Victor also served as co-chairs of the first annual Fall Festival.



Dana Bliss

Dana Bliss is Executive Editor at Oxford University Press, where he oversees a book publishing program in social work and counseling. Prior to joining OUP in 2012, Dana worked at Taylor & Francis, another scholarly publishing company in New York. Dana was born and raised in downtown Manhattan, and began his educational journey at a Montessori preschool in Tribeca, before attending Friends Seminary and then Colgate University, where he earned his BA in philosophy and classics. He is a Fellow of the Library of America, a non-profit organization dedicated to the publication and preservation of the nation's cultural heritage through America's greatest writing. At WSMS Dana has served as co-chair of the Fall Festival, Class Rep Coordinator, and class rep, and has pitched in at the Auction and Hooked on Books events. Dana and his wife, Saya, live on the Upper West Side and have two daughters: one a current WSMS student and the other a WSMS alum.



Nikki Chase-Levin

Nikki Chase-Levin is a returning board member and former parent who served as the WSMS Events Director for five years. A graduate of Michigan State University with a BA in Journalism, Nikki's 25-year marketing career started at an entertainment publicity firm in Los Angeles in 1995, and continues here in New York City presently. Nikki has worked for some of the most recognizable consumer brands in the marketplace, including Captain Morgan Original Spiced Rum, Sony, Morgan Stanley, Discover Card and Miller Brewing Company. Her responsibilities included strategic planning for new and existing products, television advertising development, marketing communications, public relations programming and event planning. As the co-founder and president of Straight Line Marketing, Inc.—her independent consulting firm—she has counseled clients such as Pepsi, Smirnoff, Discovery Networks, and the lifestyle marketing agency, MKTG. Nikki and her husband Dave are the proud parents of Max (WSMS '14), Zach (WSMS '16), and two 70-pound labs ... Bubbles & Rocket!



Mary Pat Dowhy

Mary Pat Dowhy and her wife, Donna Canfield, are the proud parents of Pierce, a 2020 WSMS graduate! Mary Pat served for two years as co-president of the WSMS Parents Association, where she had the privilege of working alongside the dedicated families and administrators of this wonderful school on so many of its key initiatives, including the Auction, the Fall Festival and the Admissions Committee. Mary Pat received her BA from Fordham University and spent more than a decade working as a performer in theater, before moving to Los Angeles to continue her career in film and television. She returned to New York to accept a position with a strategic marketing firm, managing high profile clients such as Absolut Vodka and MillerCoors. Mary Pat served on the board of The Empire State Pride Agenda, a statewide political advocacy organization that championed LGBTQ rights, including marriage equality. Mary Pat is happy and grateful to continue serving WSMS as a trustee alongside such valued friends and community members.



Victoria Feltman

Victoria Feltman is a nutritionist who specializes in family and childhood nutrition. Before going into private practice, Vicky worked at the New York Children's Health Project in the South Bronx, where she counseled kids and adults and taught nutrition education classes. Prior to becoming a registered dietitian, Vicky spent four years as an editor at O, the Oprah magazine, and later worked as a restaurant publicist in New York and Los Angeles. Vicky has a BA from Cornell University and an MS in nutrition from NYU. Vicky and her husband Josh have three sons, one who is a current student at WSMS, and two who have graduated. She is a member of the WSMS Admissions Committee and is actively involved as a parent volunteer.



Joseph Gilbert

Joseph Gilbert is married to Damaris Hernandez and is the father of Mariana and Ollie, both proud WSMS alumni. He joined NYU Langone Health in 2015, after working in the Preventive Medicine department at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai (ISMMS). He serves as a co-investigator for the NYU Children's Health and Environment Study (NYU CHES), a longitudinal study examining the environmental influences on growth and development of babies in utero, and the NYU Factors Influencing Reproductive Success and Time to Pregnancy Study (NYU FIRST), a prospective cohort study aimed at identifying environmental influences that lead to difficulties in attaining and sustaining a pregnancy to term. Joe graduated from Bridgewater State University with a BS in biology, and from ISMMS with an MPH.



Steven Han

Steven Han is a Portfolio Manager at Quent Capital, an equities fund focused on global, small cap investments, as well as a co-founder at Sypher Capital Management, a special purpose entity. Over the last 20 years, Steven has been an investor and advisor, primarily in the technology sector. Prior to his current roles, Steven worked across public equities, private equity, and management consulting. Steven holds a BA from Stanford University and an MBA from Northwestern University. Steven and his wife, Gee Young Lee, currently live on the Upper West Side. They have been active travelers over the

years and have lived in eight cities between the two of them. Their daughter, Lina Han, is a current WSMS student.



Natasha Kazmi

Prior to taking time off to raise her family, Natasha Kazmi spent fifteen years in a number of roles in the financial services industry, ranging from corporate banking to restructurings and asset management, across diverse geographies like Pakistan, Indonesia and the U.S. Natasha was a member of the 2014 WSMS Online Auction Committee, a member of the Admissions Committee, and chair of the Annual Fund. She is also involved in projects related to furthering girls' education in Pakistan's remote areas, and serves on Manhattan's Community Board 7. Natasha and her husband, Qaisar Hasan, are proud parents of two WSMS graduates. She earned a BBA and an MBA from the University of Karachi.



Nigel-Ann La Qua Williamson

Nigel-Ann La Qua Williamson was born and raised in Grenada, West Indies. She holds an MBA from Columbia University, and a BS and a BArch from the Bernard and Anne Spitzer School of Architecture at the City College of New York. Prior to taking time off to raise her family, Nigel-Ann spent nine years practicing architecture at HLW International and GKV Architects in New York City. She is currently working from the Columbia Startup Lab to develop her own tech company. Nigel-Ann serves at WSMS as a member of the Admissions Committee, was a class representative for two consecutive years, co-chaired the 2017 Sandsational, and is actively involved as an alumni parent volunteer. She also advises the ad hoc Real Estate Committee for Grand St. Settlement, and is an enthusiastic volunteer at the Hewitt School and Hillsong Church. Nigel-Ann and her husband, Marco Williamson, are proud parents of two WSMS alumni, Ayn and Adi Williamson, and Asa, who is excited to start at WSMS in 2022.



Scott Li

Scott Li is a managing director with CRG, a healthcare-focused investment firm that has committed over \$4 billion of assets. Scott has been dedicated to the healthcare industry as an investor, advisor, and executive for nearly 20 years. Prior to joining CRG in 2015, he

worked at Hammond Hanlon Camp and Lazard Freres as an investment banker focused on mergers and acquisitions. He was also previously the chief financial officer of pingmd, a venture-backed health IT company. Scott serves on the boards of several companies in the healthcare industry and is active in the community. He and his wife, Vernaliz, are committed WSMS volunteers; they co-chaired the WSMS Bulb Planting and Vern co-chaired the Fall Festival. A New Jersey native and long-time resident of New York, Scott lives on the Upper West Side with his family, which includes both an alum and a current student at WSMS. He received an AB in economics from Princeton University and an MBA from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania.

parent volunteer, serving on many committees, including two years as Parents Association co-president. Tenille received her BS in finance and accounting at Tulane University. She has ten years of experience in real estate finance and capital raising, having spent her career at The Carlyle Group, Goldman Sachs and TPG. Tenille is a member of the board of Grand Street Settlement, a non-profit organization that provides programs and services to over 10,000 under-served New York children, families and seniors, and serves on its Executive Committee and Ad Hoc Real Estate Committee. Tenille is also a member of the board, as treasurer, at GrandLo Cafe, a social enterprise of Grand Street Settlement, that provides meaningful job skills for at-risk youth.

volunteer over the years, most recently serving as a co-chair of the Auction and Fall Festival. Liz and her husband, Ben Swinburne, are the proud parents of Josephine ('16), Vivian ('19) and current WSMS student, Isabel. Liz has over ten years of experience in pharmaceutical marketing and advertising, working at agencies like Sudler & Hennessey and LM&P. Liz received her BA in Psychology from SUNY Geneseo, and her MA in Psychology with a focus on cognition, perception and neuroscience from NYU.



Kelly Morrison Opdyke

Kelly Morrison Opdyke and her husband, Jonathan, are the proud parents of three WSMS alumni. She has served as a WSMS trustee

since 2017. Kelly spent ten years as a senior technical advisor for Cicatelli Associates Inc., a public health non-profit headquartered in New York City, where she led projects providing technical assistance to community-based organizations on the collection and use of data for nationally recognized initiatives including the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program and the Avon Foundation Breast Health Outreach Program. She previously interned as a research assistant with the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, and provided administrative support to continuing medical education programs at the School of Sleep Medicine in Palo Alto, CA. She spent her early career in digital marketing, co-leading an email marketing practice at online ad pioneer Beyond Interactive. At WSMS she served as a class rep, member of the Admissions Committee, two-time co-chair for the Fall Festival, and co-chair of the Annual Fund Committee. She also served on the PTA Executive Board for the Anderson School (PS 334) from 2014-2020, including two terms as co-president. She received her Master of Public Health from Columbia University (2005), and BA in psychology from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor (1998). Kelly and Jonathan both serve on the Dean's Advisory Council at the University of Michigan's School of Education.



Jing Wang

Jing Wang was born and grew up in China, and came to the states to pursue graduate study after getting his BS in physics from Peking

University. After receiving his PhD from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 2004, he joined Tricadia Capital LLC, a \$4.2B multi-strategy credit hedge fund, and has since worked there for fourteen years as a partner and portfolio manager, trading U.S. and European fixed income and equity derivatives. In 2018 he joined Millennium Partners L.P., a \$36B hedge fund, as a portfolio manager. Besides work, Jing would like to dedicate more time to philanthropic efforts and nonprofit organizations. He is married to Yi Zhang. They have two sons, Dillon, who graduated in 2019, and Aaron, who graduated in 2016.



**Gillian Weindling,
Parent Representative**

Gillian Weindling is currently serving as co-president of the Parents Association and has been an active parent

volunteer since 2014. Gillian received her BA in Women's Studies from Barnard College. Prior to starting a family, she worked in advertising at McCann-Erickson in their New York office as an account manager, and then moved to Tokyo for three years to teach English. Upon returning to the United States, Gillian spent eight years as the Chief Operating Officer of a boutique corporate financial restructuring firm with offices in New York, Chicago and Los Angeles. Gillian and her husband Adrien are the parents of Sofia (class of 2017), Margaux (class of 2019), and current WSMS student, Elyse.



Kelly West

Kelly West is currently the Director of Admission at The Browning School. Kelly first joined the Browning faculty in 2003, where she served

as an Assistant Teacher, Head Teacher, and then Acting Head of Lower School, before moving to Admission. Kelly received her MA from the Steinhardt School of Education at NYU and a BA in psychology from George Washington University.



**Cailyn DeBie,
Faculty Representative**

Cailyn DeBie (Faculty Representative) has been connected with WSMS for almost a decade. Starting in the teacher

education program (TEP), she is now in her fifth year as a head teacher in the early childhood program, and mentors future Montessorians as a field consultant. She holds a bachelor's degree in legal studies and philosophy from Nova Southeastern University, a master's degree from Concordia College, and New York State certification in Early Childhood and Special Education. Cailyn is passionate about empowering and optimistic leadership principles, and hosted a personal development book club for teachers during the 2019-2020 academic year. Furthermore, she deeply values the power of children's literature. In 2017 she introduced and supported efforts to implement our library cataloguing system, Libib. She continues to be actively involved in recommending inspiring and diverse literature to meet the evolving needs of our community and enhance our collection.



Tenille Skelton

Tenille Skelton and her husband, Travis Skelton, are the proud parents of two WSMS alumni. During her time at WSMS, she was an active



**Liz Martorella,
Parent Representative**

Liz Martorella is currently serving as co-president of the Parents Association. Liz has been an active parent