

2022–2023 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 & Operations 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. Myles has been on the Board of WSMS since 2011 and served as President from 2016 until 2020. He is also a trustee of De La Salle Academy, a founding member of CASES's Independent School Leadership Group, a member of the CASE Commission on Philanthropy, 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.



**Jennifer S. Conway,
Vice President**

Jennifer S. Conway is a partner at the law firm, Davis, Polk & Wardwell, where she is a member of the Executive

Compensation Group. 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. Jennifer and her husband, Victor Manuel, have two daughters, both WSMS graduates. Jennifer and Victor also served as co-chairs of the first annual Fall Festival.



**Scott Li,
Treasurer**

Scott Li is a partner with CRG, a healthcare-focused investment firm. Scott has been dedicated to the healthcare industry as an investor, advisor, and executive for over 20 years. Prior to joining CRG in 2015, he worked as an investment banker for the healthcare industry and also previously served as 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.



**Tenille Skelton,
Secretary**

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

WSMS, she was an active 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 of Rise Outside, a guiding organization that provides adventure programming for groups who have traditionally encountered barriers to the great outdoors.



Lauren Basmadjian

Lauren Basmadjian is a Partner, Managing Director, Co-Head of Liquid Credit and Head of US Loans & Structured Credit within Carlyle's

Global Credit platform, where she oversees over \$48B of assets. She is based in New York and sits on the Investment Committees for all of Carlyle's US Loan and CLO investing activities. Lauren joined the Carlyle Group in 2020 after 19 years at Octagon Credit Investors, where she was a Partner, Senior Portfolio Manager and member of the Investment Committee. Before joining Octagon, Lauren worked in the Acquisition Finance Group at Chase Securities, Inc. In 2019, Lauren won Crain's 40 Under 40 Award, and in 2021 she won Private Equity International's Women of Influence award. She volunteers with Girls Who Invest, mentoring a new candidate each year. She graduated cum laude from the Stern School of Business at New York University with a B.S. in Finance and Economics. Lauren and her husband, Armen, have 4 children, Dahlia (12), Scarlett (9), Sonia (9) and Michael (3). Her daughters attend the Nightingale-Bamford School, and her son attends West Side Montessori.



Dana Bliss

Dana Bliss is Executive Editor at Oxford University Press, where he oversees a book publishing program in social work, counseling and

I/O psychology. 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 are the proud parents of two WSMS alumni, Nami (WSMS '17) and Emi (WSMS '21).



Michael Capilouto

Michael Capilouto and his wife Christine are parents of Cassis and Tristan, both alums of West Side Montessori School. Michael was an active volunteer while his kids attended WSMS, serving as a class representative and volunteer at many school events. Michael spent 30 years as a partner at the professional services firm EY, where he helped develop two service lines and served clients executing complex transactions including capital raising, acquisitions and sales. Michael also spent several years abroad working with non-US-based SEC registrants. Michael continues to stay involved with EY in a partner mentorship role. Michael and family are avid travelers and explorers. They returned to New York in the Summer of 2022 after spending a year abroad in Provence, France.



Nadine Carroll

Nadine Carroll currently serves as the Director of Teaching and Learning at De La Salle Academy, the only private, independent middle school in New York City for academically talented and economically less advantaged children. Nadine is responsible for faculty development, communicating with parents, and supporting the academic needs of all students. Nadine has extensive experience in education, starting from her work as a Center Director in 2001 for a Kaplan Educational Center, to her role as a 5th grade teacher and Lower School Chair at George Jackson Academy, where she worked for 10 years. Nadine received a BA in Sociology from Emory University, and a Master's in

Childhood Education from Bank Street College of Education, and is deeply committed to the work of supporting the academic and social needs of all children. Nadine is the mother of two current WSMS students, and married to Jimmy Carroll.



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. 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.



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 has 20 years of investment experience across public and private equities and credit. He is currently a Portfolio Manager at Sypher Capital, which is focused on public and private growth investments. Prior to this role, he was a Portfolio Manager at Quent Capital, a global, small cap hedge fund, and held investment roles at Hudson Bay Capital, Freshford Capital, and H.I.G. Capital. Steven began his career in management consulting for the technology sector. Steven holds a BA from Stanford University and an MBA from Northwestern University. Steven and his wife, Gee Young, currently live on the Upper West Side with their daughter, Lina, a WSMS alum.



Geoffrey Karapetyan

Geoffrey Karapetyan and his husband, Jay Serpe, are the parents of two current WSMS students. In addition to being a dad, Geo is the Vice President of Partnerships and Business Development at NBCUniversal, where he focuses on Peacock and manages digital partnerships for the Olympic Games. He earned an MBA from New York University, and a BA in Comparative Literature from Columbia University. He served as a class rep in his first year in the WSMS community, and is grateful to serve the community. Geo and his family live on the Upper West Side.



Ankur Keswani

Ankur Keswani and her husband, Rohit, are proud parents of current WSMS students Isha and Saavan, and baby Rishi. While at WSMS,

Ankur has truly enjoyed working with our amazing parent community, and has had the honor of serving as the Co-Chair of WSMS Gives in 2020 and the Co-Chair of the Annual Fund in 2021, co-heading the Gratitude Campaign in 2020, and being a class rep. Prior to focusing full-time on raising her family, Ankur worked in finance and has over 20 years of experience in credit trading, investing and risk management. Most recently, she was the Head of Corporate Credit at Serengeti Asset Management, where she helped manage over \$1 billion in assets, and led several successful turnarounds and post-bankruptcy workouts. Prior to joining Serengeti, Ankur spent more than nine years at Goldman Sachs, mainly as a High Yield and Distressed trader. Prior to moving to trading, Ankur was a II-ranked High Yield Healthcare research analyst at Goldman. In 2017, Ankur was added to the Hedge Fund Journal's Top 50 Women in Hedge Funds. She received her B.A. with Honors from Oxford University in Philosophy, Politics and Economics. Ankur grew up in India, Hong Kong and Singapore, but New York is where her heart belongs.



Lilian Kim

Lilian Kim and her husband, Scott Kim, are proud parents of Grayson (Collegiate, 5th grade) and Taylor (Brearley, 1st grade) Lilian is a native of

Los Angeles, and also lived in San Francisco for over a decade. Lilian has been an active parent volunteer, serving as co-chair of the Auction Committee, a volunteer on the Annual Fund Committee, and a member of the Admissions Committee, and she was active in various projects on the decor of WSMS. Lilian received her BFA of Merchandising and Design at the Academy of Art University in San Francisco. Prior to taking time off to raise her family, she worked in various roles at Gap, Inc., focused on merchandising and production. Currently, Lilian designs a line of children's clothing and accessories, in addition to working as a production stylist.



Nigel-Ann La Qua Williamson

Nigel-Ann La Qua Williamson was born and raised in Grenada, West Indies. She holds an MBA from Colum-

bia 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. 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 Marcus Meets Malcolm community organization in Harlem. Nigel-Ann and her husband, Marco Williamson, are proud parents of two WSMS alumni Ayn (2016) and Adi (2018), and Asa who is currently at WSMS.



Liz Martorella

Liz Martorella has been a part of the WSMS community since 2013. She was an active parent volunteer in the years that her daughters at-

tended WSMS, including two years as co-president of the Parents Association, and as a co-chair of the Auction and Fall Festival. Liz has over ten years of experience in pharmaceutical marketing and advertising, including her time at well-known specialty agencies Sudler & Hennessey and LM&P. As an account manager, Liz was a key player in the strategic planning and conceptual development of promotional and educational programs directed at medical professionals and patients. Her marketing experience spans many therapeutic categories, including Parkinson's disease, osteoporosis, prostate cancer, antibiotics, antivirals and osteoarthritis. Liz received her BA in psychology from SUNY Geneseo, and her MA in psychology with a focus on cognition, perception and neuroscience, from NYU. She was part of a research team investigating the intersection of memory and emotion in the brain, and published findings in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, a peer-reviewed scientific journal. Liz and her husband, Ben Swinburne, are the proud parents of Josephine ('16), Vivian ('19) and Isabel ('22).



Marguerite McNicoll

Marguerite McNicoll and her husband Iain were delighted to join the WSMS community when their older son (Miles '20) started in the Multi-Age

Program. Their younger son Henry is a current student, and has thrived in both the Twos and Multi-Age Programs. It's hard to believe they only have one more year left of drop-offs to spend time with the wonderful WSMS community. Marguerite grew up in Northern California, attended Deerfield Academy, and received a BA from NYU. She started her real estate career managing a large portfolio of residential properties along the Upper West Side and Chelsea, before transitioning to sales and becoming a broker with the Corcoran Group. She has served on the Executive Committee of Deerfield, is currently a director on her co-op board, and has recently been elected Co-President of the PS 166 PTA and member of its Executive Committee. She has chaired PS 166 Book Fairs and Picture Days, was co-chair of WSMS's Hooked on Books, a member of the Admissions Committee, and a class rep. She has actively volunteered with Auctions and Fall Festivals, and is thrilled to continue serving WSMS and to help further its important legacy.



Kurt Miller

Kurt Miller and his wife Melissa are parents of two WSMS alumni. Over the years, Kurt has had the pleasure of serving as Auction co-chair, as

well as volunteering at multiple other events, including the Fall Festival and the Auction. Originally from northern Virginia, he moved west for undergrad at Stanford. After graduation, he taught English in Japan for a year before pursuing a PhD in Computer Science at UC Berkeley. He and Melissa moved to NYC in 2011 for Kurt's job at PDT Partners, a quantitative asset management firm. From 2014–2018, Kurt was also an adjunct at the NYU Center for Data Science.



Yasmin Nozari

Yasmin Nozari and her husband, Mike Lefferts, are the parents of Cyrus, a current student at WSMS, and Ka-veh, who is starting the multi-

age program in the fall. Yasmin has been an active volunteer at WSMS since her family joined the school in Fall '20. She co-chaired the WSMS Gives Committee & Auction in the '20–'21 school year, and the Auction in '22.

She is a member of the WSMS Admissions Committee, served as a Class Rep, and has hosted a “Welcome Wagon” Hippo Playground meetup for incoming families for the past two springs. Yasmin is a founder of Peel, a data analysis technology company for e-commerce brands. Yasmin has been working in tech for over ten years. Prior to working in software, Yasmin was a middle school math teacher in New York with Teach for America. She holds a BA from Connecticut College, and a MS in Education from Hunter College.



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, and Chair of the Development Committee from 2020–2022. Kelly spent ten years as a senior technical advisor for Cicatelli Associates Inc., a public health non-profit headquartered in New York, 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 NYC 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. 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 have both served on the Dean’s Advisory Council at the University of Michigan’s School of Education since 2020.



Christina Wang

Christina Wang is the Clinical Quality Director of Cancer Prevention at The Institute for Family Health, one of the largest community health centers in New York State, with a mission-driven focus of providing high quality, affordable health care, and addressing racial and ethnic health disparities in medically underserved populations. In addition, she manages medical partnerships with local organizations, including Care for the Homeless and the American Cancer Society. Prior to moving to New York from San Francisco in 2018, she worked at Kaiser Permanente, where she was a Physician Partner serving as Medical Director of Acupuncture for the East Bay region. She received her BA in biology from Rice University, and her MD from Baylor College of Medicine. Christina and her husband Henry are proud parents of Preston, Thompson (WSMS ‘20) and Estella (WSMS ‘22). She has been an active parent volunteer, serving on many committees, including the Admissions Committee. She co-chaired the Auction, Fall Festival and Hooked on Books, and was the PA co-president in 2021–2022.



**Mariajose Delgado,
Parent Representative**

Mariajose Delgado is currently serving her first year as co-president of the Parents Association. She was born and raised in Ecuador. Mariajose and her husband, Anibal Romero, are the proud parents of AnaBeatriz (4E) and have been part of the WSMS community since 2019. She has been an active volunteer and served as co-chair of Merchandise and co-chair of the 2022 Auction. Mariajose currently helps manage The Romero Firm, an immigration law practice that serves underrepresented Spanish speaking communities in New York, New Jersey, Texas, Florida and Virginia. She received a BA in Peace and Justice Studies from Pace University. Mariajose moved to the United States in 2012. Prior to living in the US, she worked in impoverished neighborhoods in Ecuador, working closely with community organizers, and focusing her efforts on gang prevention in her city, Guayaquil.



**Charlene Su,
Parent Representative**

Charlene Su is currently serving as co-president of the Parents Association and has been an active parent volunteer at WSMS since her family moved from California to New York in the fall of 2021. She served as co-chair for the Auction, and volunteered for the Annual Fund. Charlene was born and raised in Los Angeles, and received her degree in Business Administration from the University of California, Berkeley and her MBA from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. Prior to raising a family of her own, Charlene worked in management consulting at L.E.K. Consulting, brand management at the Clorox Company, and marketing at Stella & Dot. Charlene and her husband, David Su, are proud parents of Natalie (eight years old), Olivia (four years old and a current WSMS student) and Claire (one year old).



**Melissa Silvestri,
Faculty Representative**

Melissa Silvestri is in her sixth year at WSMS, and her third as a head teacher in 2W. She has a BA in English from the University of Virginia, a Masters in Early Childhood and Special Education from Concordia University, and her Montessori certification through WSMS-TEP. She has a special interest in outdoor learning, and wrote her thesis on the importance of free outdoor play in early childhood education. Her proudest accomplishment is raising her curious, thoughtful, funny and kind 13-year-old son, Henry. She is excited to represent our outstanding faculty on the Board this year.