

**Charles Wright Academy
Board of Trustees
2020-2021**



Nancy Schauer, Chair

A member of the Board since 2013, Nancy has served on the Finance, Governance, Head of School Executive Compensation, and Executive Committees. She brings more than 30 years of experience serving organizations and individuals as a certified public accountant and business consultant. She has formerly served as the Chair of the Board for the South Sound chapter of the American Heart Association, as a Trustee and member of the Finance Committee of Annie Wright Schools, board member and Treasurer of the World Trade Center Tacoma, member of the Pacific Lutheran University School of Business Executive Advisory Board, and member of Rotary 8. Nancy has also been a speaker at numerous industry conferences and webcasts on tax and accounting topics.

Nancy earned her Bachelor of Science with a concentration in accounting from Pacific Lutheran University and Master of Science in taxation from Golden Gate University. She is a licensed and practicing CPA and member of the Washington State Society of CPAs and American Institute of CPAs. Her son is a graduate of the Class of 2019.

Daphne Mackey, Vice Chair

Daphne describes CWA as “a very positive environment for kids to learn and grow.” Her daughter is an alumna of the Class of 2011. She is grateful for the terrific college counseling provided to students to help them find a good fit, making the college admission process for families much easier. Her CWA Board work has included membership on the Executive, Governance, Head’s Evaluation and Compensation Committees and she co-chaired the recent Mission Task Force. Daphne graduated from the University of Pennsylvania and went on to earn a master’s in education from Boston University and an MBA from the Boston University Graduate School of Management. Over the years, she has written sixteen textbooks in ESL and business writing. Daphne retired in 2018 from the University of Washington, where she taught in International Educational Outreach and the English department. She and her husband enjoy sailing and traveling all along the coast of British Columbia each summer.

Sue Mayer, Treasurer

Sue rejoined the Board of Trustees in 2017. During her previous service from 2006-2015 she chaired the Finance and Advancement committees; served as the Board treasurer; and sat on the Executive, Finance, Headmaster Evaluation and Compensation, Advancement, ad hoc Campaign Strategy, and ad hoc Spirituality committees. She holds degrees from the University of California-Davis and Harvard Business School, and she worked as a health-care marketing and planning professional before joining her husband, Jim, in their family owned businesses. Sue currently serves on the boards of MultiCare Health Foundation and UC Davis Foundation, and previously served on the Small Business Export Financial Assistance Center of Washington. Mother to two Tarrier alumni, classes of 2010 and 2013, Sue has been invested in CWA and the success of its students and teachers for years. She believes the faculty and the community here make CWA special, and she is invested in helping to plan for the school's future. In her free time, Sue enjoys traveling, reading, and spending time outdoors.

Toby Murray '71, Secretary

As a CWA alumnus, parent of alumni and a prior trustee, Toby brings a wealth of CWA experience to his role on the Board. Toby joined the Board for another term in 2018 and his most recent CWA Board committee work has included membership on the Executive, Endowment, and Finance Committees, as well as the Facilities Master Plan Task Force. After receiving his BA from Claremont Men's College in 1975, Toby followed in the footsteps of his father and grandfather, by working in his family's timber company, Murray Pacific Corporation. He serves as Chairman for the company, after recently retiring from the role of President and CEO. In 1996, he was named recipient of the Charles Wright Academy Distinguished Alumni Award. Toby stays active in the community by serving on the Bates Technical College Foundation and the Puget Sound Partnership Leadership Council. He is also the Executive Director of the L.T. Murray Family Foundation. In his free time, he enjoys golf, pickleball, reading, and travel. He and his wife, Laurie, have two grown children, a son and an alumna daughter (class of 2002).

Drew Bamford '91

Drew is a Charles Wright alumnus. He leads HTC Creative Labs, a cross-functional team of researchers, designers and engineers with offices in Seattle, San Francisco and Taipei. Before joining HTC, he founded the user experience design practice at TEAGUE, a product design consultancy in Seattle. At Microsoft's Hardware Design Group, Drew led the hardware/software interaction design for a wide range of consumer products, from children's toys and game devices to wireless telephones. His earlier experience includes pioneering intranet design work at IDEO and user interface design for an early tablet device at Silicon Graphics. At Stanford, Drew studied Product Design and Human-Computer Interaction design. Drew also serves as co-chair of the community advisory board at the Institute for Global Engagement, University of Washington Tacoma.

Adam Blakney '00

Adam returned to the Pacific Northwest after living for 10 years in Australia. He graduated from Ithaca College with a degree in international business, and received a master's in business administration from Melbourne Business School, and now works as an entrepreneur and investment manager. Adam's favorite CWA memory was in 2019 when he and wife, Nicole, watched their children enjoy their first day of school at his alma mater. He has maintained his connection to CWA as an alum, including serving as a tennis coach. He notes CWA has "always been a place that fosters growth, whether you are a student, coach or educator. It's a community that enables each member to find their path."

Blake Goldberg '82

Blake returned to the board in 2020 after completing nine years of service from 2008-2017. He is the parent to a current student in the class of 2022 and a graduate from the class of 2021. Blake graduated from the University of Puget Sound and works in investments for Neil Walter Company in Tacoma, which specializes in commercial real estate. Blake says his favorite events on campus are the weekly Town Hall meetings in the Lower School. He believes engaged parents are what makes the school such a special place. He enjoys fly-fishing and gaming.

Mark Hood

Mark is an attorney focusing on commercial and residential real estate in the South Sound region with Vandenberg Johnson & Gandara, LLP. He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in business from the University of Washington and earned his law degree from the University of Puget Sound. Mark's wife, Linda, is a judge on the Washington State Court of Appeals, and their daughter is a member of the class of 2026. Mark was a trustee for the Corporate Council for the Arts (now ArtsFund) from 2000-2004 and is currently a board member with the Steilacoom Kiwanis Foundation. Mark's hobbies include playing jazz music (he plays the trumpet) and sailboat racing; he is a member of the Tacoma Yacht Club. A trustee since 2017, he enjoys "helping to spread the word on how special CWA is," particularly "the combination of excellent academics and the focus on the importance of being good citizens and giving back." His favorite Charles Wright moment is the first day of the school; it's an experience he enjoys every year.

Rita Herrera Irvin

Rita is a Founding Partner and CEO of McKinley Irvin, the largest family law firm in the Pacific Northwest. Active and engaged in a variety of community organizations, Rita recently completed 12 years of service on the Board of Trustees of the Tacoma Art Museum, where as a member of the Executive Committee she chaired the Governance Committee and co-chaired the Development and Collections Committees. She currently serves on the Legal Pathways Community Advisory Board of the University of Washington Tacoma, and also serves as a mentor in the UWT's Dressel Scholars program. Rita's son, Jack, is a member of the Class of 2022.

Kendall McGuire Leith '90

Kendall joined the Board in 2017 as an alumna and parent to three Tarriers: classes of 2018, 2020 and 2022. Kendall has always remained active within the CWA community serving as a volunteer on campus and within committees for athletics, alumni, and parent groups. In 2007, she co-chaired CWA's 50th Birthday Party. Kendall says this about the evening: "I loved this event, as it celebrated the exceptional people of our CWA community past, present, and future." Since graduating from the University of Washington with a bachelor's degree in business, she has been a Commercial Property Manager for her family's business here in Pierce County.

Divya McMillin

Divya is the parent of a graduate from the class of 2020, and a current student in the class of 2024. She is Associate Vice Chancellor of Innovation and Global Engagement at the University of Washington Tacoma. She is also a Professor of Global Media Studies in the UW Tacoma School of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences, and Associate Faculty in the UW Seattle Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies. Divya is author of three books and numerous award winning journal articles and book chapters on youth, media, globalization, and consumerism. As the head of UW Tacoma's Global Innovation and Design Lab, she is actively engaged in the South Sound community, working collaboratively with teams across sectors to innovate for the most complex challenges. Divya serves on the Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. Divya juggles her spare time between travel and playing bass.

Ellen Middleton

Ellen is the mother of two current Tarriers: classes of 2021 and 2025. Ellen's proudest moment as a Tarrier parent was recently watching her rising senior take an interest in physics to the next level and earn a helicopter pilot's license. "The confidence our faculty instill in our students to strive and achieve their goals is a benchmark of a CWA education," she said. Ellen's professional background is in international business and trade and she earned a Master's in Non Profit Leadership from Seattle University. Ellen volunteers and serves on a number of community boards including the role of Board Chair at South Puget Sound Community College Foundation and President of W. Second Growth Family Foundation. When not talking about her children or her dogs, Ellen and her husband Rick enjoy hiking in summer, skiing in the winter, and playing competitive tennis.

Mike Opitz

Mike is the parent of a class of 2020 alumnus and a current Charles Wright Academy Tarrier in the class of 2027. He earned his Bachelor of Science at West Point in Mechanical Engineering and Management, which led him to own and operate several companies. Mike has a passion for lifting others up in life, and his role as the Owner and President of The Wave Car Wash has afforded him many opportunities to do so. He is heavily involved in the community serving for several years at the Puget Sound Carwash Association, and currently with the Pointe Du Hoc Foundation and Boone & Crocket Club. Mike is honored to now also serve as a board member for Charles Wright where he is proud of the school values, the caring faculty & staff, and the experiential education program. In his down time, you can find him enjoying nature in the mountains, working toward wildlife conservation, running, and playing tennis.

Jen Smith

Jen is a former pediatric intensive care nurse who holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Washington State University and a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing from the University of Washington. Mother of two Tarriers, classes of 2024 and 2027, she looks forward to working with fellow Trustees to support “education focused on learning that promotes the development of each child’s unique needs and desires.” Jen cites an email from third grade teacher Deanne Trummert as her favorite CWA moment. In the email, Deanne wrote that it’s not only students who learn and grow as the year progresses, but also teachers, parents, and guardians. “It was at this point that I was solidified in my knowledge that this school my husband, Matt, and I had entrusted our girls to was not only supporting our children, but also us as parents. That is remarkable.” Co-author of two books to help parents navigate the hospital experience with their critically ill children, she is also passionate about promoting the awareness of behaviorally-challenged children and their relationship with the adult leaders in their lives. Jen previously served on the Board for Grace Gymnastics at the Lakewood YMCA and now serves on the board of Zenith West Gymnastics in Tacoma.

Liz Snyder

Liz joined the CWA Board after having served for several years on the parent volunteer leadership team for the Arts Boosters. Mother of two, one an alumnus from the class of 2018, and sister to Bruce McDonald '84 and Helen McDonald '88, Liz has deep ties to the school. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Washington and a Master of Arts degree in teaching from the University of Puget Sound. Having served on the board of St. Mary’s Episcopal Church in Lakewood, Liz looks forward to contributing as a CWA Trustee by supporting school programming, including the arts. “My interest is in the arts and the faculty—and the way that strong academic schools have a strong visual and performing arts curriculum,” she says. Another program she believes sets CWA apart is Outdoor Education. “I also think in a world filled with tech and too much stress, the commitment to getting outdoors and being in nature is a life skill,” she explains. “For my siblings and my two children, the

eighth-grade beach hike was an experience they carry with them past CWA.” In her spare time Liz enjoys golfing, skiing, running, and traveling.

Ian Toner

Ian and his wife, Heather, are the proud parents of a recent graduate from the class of 2020. The Chief Investment Officer at Verus in Seattle, Ian works in institutional investments and earned a law degree from the University of Oxford. Ian is a member of the Audit and Finance Committee of the Medina Foundation, a trustee on the Seattle Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce, co-chairing the Finance and Audit Committee, and a member of both the CFA Society of Seattle and the CFA Institute. He is particularly interested in seeing CWA grow while offering a welcoming environment to all students, and he credits the combination of academics and authenticity for making CWA so special. “It's important for us always to make sure that there is a place here for everyone to feel at home, no matter who they are, what their background is, or what they believe” he says. His favorite CWA moments include touring the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C. “with a group of wide-eyed and enthusiastic fifth graders” and lighting the Advent candles with his wife and daughter on Christmas Eve, at the service in the school Chapel, when their daughter had recently begun to attend the school.

Shan Vipond

Shan joined the Board in 2013, the year her son graduated from Charles Wright. Most recently she held the position of Board Treasurer from 2015-2020 and is the current chair of a new ad hoc committee on risk management. She has served on the Metro Board for the Pierce County YMCA, is a past president of the Pierce College Foundation Board, where she continues as an emeritus member, and she has been a Rotarian for more than 30 years. She is a self-employed property manager for medical office buildings, with a BA from the University of Washington and an MBA from Pacific Lutheran University. Shan is an active member of the League of Women Voters, a master gardener, and an avid golfer. She sees the current times as some of the most challenging for CWA. “I continue to be impressed by the CWA community that comes together to face issues where the first thought is always, ‘what is best for our students?’ The school leadership always looks forward to determine the best course, and is strategic and thoughtful in every action,” she said.

Sarah Weyerhaeuser

Sarah has returned to the board after serving previously as vice chair and chair of the Language and Performing Arts Center building committee. Sarah and husband David '77 are proud parents to CWA graduates from the classes of 2007, 2009, and 2011. A graduate of Williams College with degrees in math and political science, Sarah has served Tacoma for years on various boards, including for the University of Washington Tacoma, MultiCare Health Foundation, Tacoma Youth Chorus and Point Defiance Zoo Society. Sarah's favorite CWA moments have occurred during the last months of her children's senior years. “High school can be a place where kids are forced to choose a limited path to be accepted by their peers. At CWA I saw my children allowed and encouraged by their own student community to celebrate

those differences between kids rather than see those differences as something that divides,” she said.

Trevor Will '93

Trevor is a member of a three-generation Tarrier family: His father, Jamie '65, he and his brother Court '95, and his children (classes of 2024 and 2027) have all attended (or are attending) Charles Wright. Trevor and his wife, Cassandra, owner of Voodoo Media, have supported the school for many years, including serving as Auction co-chairs. Having earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Puget Sound as a business major, Trevor works in automotive sales and service at the Titus-Will Automotive Group. With such deep ties to CWA, Trevor “could never pick just one” favorite school moment. He is interested in supporting the Board on a wide range of school-related areas, from “Advancement to grounds and facilities to programs.”

Liz Williams

Liz attended kindergarten at CWA as one of only three girls in the class and is mother to two alumni from the classes of 2013 and 2015. Liz notes, "I love Charles Wright. My kids received a terrific education, the community is supportive and down to earth, and the teachers and staff are the best! We are so lucky to have such a great school in the Tacoma area." Liz and her husband, Joe, are enjoying the opportunity to travel, now that she has retired from working in her family business. She continues to offer her leadership and time as an active board member for the Matthew G. Norton Co. and the Medina Foundation.