

TTC Advisory Board (2019-2021)



Ashli Wilson, TTC '06 holds a bachelor's degree in English and Creative Writing from Spelman College and a master's degree in English and Education from Tufts University. Ashli is a 2006 graduate of the Shady Hill Teacher Training Course and began her teaching career teaching fifth grade at Washington Latin School. After three years, Ashli began working as a Reading Interventionist and Special Education Teacher at DC Preparatory Academy. Ashli and her husband, Hyon Herbert, TTC '07 recently started an afterschool program and tutoring company called Imagine Greater. They are based at one DC Public School now and will expand to others soon.

Imagine Greater focuses on maximizing outside of school time and giving students the language and space to talk about race, equity and justice. When Ashli isn't teaching or leading workshops with children, she enjoys traveling with her husband, son and daughter.



Becky Biggs, TTC '00 is currently the Director of Professional Development for AISNE (the Association of Independent Schools in New England). She began her career as a teacher, working at both independent and public schools in Maine following her apprenticeship in the Shady Hill Teacher Training Center. Becky's passion for professional development traces back to these early assignments, demonstrated by her active participation in programs aimed at supporting the advancement of the teaching profession through mentorship of aspiring teachers. In 2012, Becky transitioned from teaching the early and elementary grades to serve as the Dean of Lower School Admissions at Moses Brown School in

Providence, Rhode RI. During her four years in this role, Becky collaboratively designed customer-centered programs for prospective parents and students. Becky is a graduate of Colby College, and she earned her Master's in Elementary Education from Lesley University. She lives in Rhode Island with her husband and three children.



Katherine Taketomo, TTC '14 is the 7th Grade Dean at the Berkeley Carroll School, a Pre-K-12 independent school in Brooklyn, New York. Katherine teaches middle school Humanities. She facilitates the Multiracial Affinity Group and co-facilitates the Seeking Educational Equity and Diversity (S.E.E.D.) faculty development group and previously served as the faculty leader for the World Leadership School Service Learning and Leadership program for middle school students. She is a graduate of Barnard College, Columbia University (B.A. Urban Studies and Psychology) and Lesley University/Shady Hill Teacher Training Center (M.Ed Middle School Humanities). She is currently enrolled in the University of

Pennsylvania Graduate School of Education School Leadership MSEd program, where she will begin this fall. Katherine is a proud graduate of the Shady Hill School '05.



Liza Cowan, TTC '14 is the Director of Donor Relations at The Westminster Schools, a K-12 independent school in Atlanta, GA where she has also taught Upper School English and served as Grade Chair for the Class of 2020. Before joining Westminster, Liza worked in development at BB&N and founded R.E.A.L. Discussion: a curriculum company that increases and improves student-led discussion in Humanities classrooms. Liza is a graduate of Harvard College (A.B. History & Literature), University of Pennsylvania (M.S. Education Entrepreneurship), and the Shady Hill Teacher Training Center (Middle School Humanities).



Lucille Kooyoomjian worked as a Director of Finance and Operations in independent schools for twenty-five years. Beginning at Dana Hall School and later at Belmont Day School, she developed a strong financial and facilities framework within which to guide and support the work of the head of school, board of trustees, administrative team, and teaching faculty. She taught eighth grade Spanish at Belmont Day School for three years while continuing to serve in her full-time administrative role. Lucille graduated summa cum laude from Boston College (B.A. Accounting). Following her passion for Romance Languages, she later completed a second Bachelor of Arts degree summa cum laude in Spanish Language from the University of Massachusetts Boston. Lucille is currently engaged in mentoring rising school leaders and likes to ski, travel, play tennis, study Italian language, and spend time with her four grandchildren.



Matt Ogden is an entrepreneur and investor and currently serves as Managing Partner of Building Industry Partners (“BIP”), the private equity investment firm he founded in 2008. Matt helps BIP’s portfolio company leaders establish and achieve their entrepreneurial visions, and leads the firm’s efforts in building strategic relationships and analyzing, structuring and executing new BIP investment opportunities. Matt serves on the boards of directors of several private companies and also serves as Managing Partner of Ogden Family Investments, the family investment office he founded in 2014 to manage his family’s investment and philanthropic activities. Matt is actively involved with Shady Hill School, Combined Jewish Philanthropies, New Profit and the University of Pennsylvania. Matt earned a B.S. in Economics, with concentrations in Finance and Entrepreneurial Management, from The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. Matt lives in Waban with his wife, Einat, and their four children, Ella, Cole, Noah and Jake.



Mike Evans is the Director of Auxiliary Programs at Shady Hill School. He was formally the Assistant Head of Lower School and math teacher at the Clark School, a small K-12 independent school on the North Shore. Before moving to the United States, Mike served in the Royal Navy and developed a deep interest in leadership and now brings this focus to an educational setting; he is currently working on his M.Ed in Education Administration at UMass Lowell. As part of his role, Mike oversees Shady Hill's Afterschool program, which he believes offers a valuable experience for the teachers of tomorrow to gain essential classroom management and teaching skills. He is excited about helping shape the future of the Teacher Training Center.



Nadine Poindexter Riggs, TTC '07 is the Admissions Assistant at The Fessenden School in West Newton, an independent Pre-K -9th grade day and boarding school for boys. After completing her apprenticeship in Shady Hill's TTC, Nadine taught first and second grade at the Shady Hill School and first grade in the Boston Public Schools. She is a graduate of Hampton University with a B.S. in Marketing, and she holds a Masters degree in Organizational Management from the University of Phoenix, a Master's of Elementary Education from Lesley University. Nadine is the Interim President of the Urban League Guild of Eastern Massachusetts, the Director of Development for the Boston Chess Initiative, a member of the Friends of the Dudley Street Library, and former board member of the Roxbury Boys and Girls Club. Nadine has a long standing passion for community involvement and the improvement of access to independent schools for all children. She is the proud parent of Montana, a SHS alum and senior at the Groton School.



Nathan Tanaka, TTC '13 is the newly appointed Middle School Division Head for Prospect Sierra Middle School in El Cerrito, CA. He will take on this role on July 1, 2019. He is currently in his fourth year as a fifth grade Humanities teacher at Prospect Sierra and also serves as a middle school co-Technology Team Leader and has served for three years as the Middle School Diversity and Inclusion Team Leader. In these capacities, Nathan has worked to cultivate learning environments in which all students thrive by running professional development, informing school policy, and engaging in strategic planning. In his ten-year tenure as a teacher, he also taught at the American School in Japan (Tokyo, Japan), Shady Hill School (Cambridge, MA), and the Meadowbrook School of Weston (Weston, MA). Nathan grew up in the Bay Area and attended high school at the American School in Japan in Tokyo. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in International Relations, Japanese Studies, and Child Development from Tufts University. He was trained at Shady Hill School's Teacher Training Center and holds a Master of Education from Lesley University in Middle School Humanities. Nathan is also a founding member of the Meadowbrook School's Multicultural Teaching Institute, now in its 6th year, and continues to develop curriculum and facilitate for the institute.



Sarah Dryden-Peterson, TTC '00, is an Associate Professor at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. She leads a research program that focuses on the connections between education and community development, specifically the role that education plays in building peaceful and participatory societies. Her work is situated in conflict and post-conflict settings and is concerned with the interplay between local experiences of children, families, and teachers and the development and implementation of national and international policy. Her research reflects connections between practice, policy, and scholarship and is strengthened through long-term collaborations with UN agencies, NGOs, and communities. Sarah earned a

Masters in the Art of Teaching from Tufts University and was trained to teach at Shady Hill School and Cambridge Rindge and Latin. Raised in Toronto, Canada, Dryden-Peterson taught primary school in Madagascar, South Africa, and the United States and founded education non-profits in South Africa and Uganda.



Sean Hamer, Ph.D, TTC '04, is the new Head of Alta Vista, an independent JK-8 school in San Francisco, CA. He is currently leading at Germantown Friends School, a K-12 school in Philadelphia, PA, where he has been the Head of Middle School for the past four years. Prior to Germantown Friends, Sean was the Head of Middle School at Friends Academy in North Dartmouth, MA. Earlier in his career, Sean spent many years teaching math and science in both lower and middle school grades at independent schools along the East Coast. Additionally, Sean administered a robotics and engineering camp for five years and has taught mathematics courses at the college level since 2012. Sean was an apprentice at Shady Hill

School and Graham and Parks School as an Urban Teaching Fellow in the Teacher Training Center. He earned a B.A. degree from UMass Boston and a Masters in Education (Middle School Math/Science) from Lesley University. Sean currently serves as Board Trustee at Breakthrough Collaborative and previously served 10+ years each as Admissions Consultant at Wediko School and Program Counselor at Charles Hayden Goodwill School.



Tamara Nikuradse, TTC '11 is the founding teacher of the fifth grade at the Dana Hall School in Wellesley, MA, an independent 5th – 12th grade day and boarding school for girls. After completing her apprenticeship at Shady Hill School, Tamara taught third and fourth grade at Milton Academy for five years before moving on to start the fifth grade at Dana Hall. She is a graduate of Bowdoin College with an A.B. in Afro-American Studies and Sociology. Tamara earned a Master of Business Administration from Harvard University with a concentration in Marketing. Prior to fulfilling her lifelong dream of becoming an elementary school teacher, Tamara spent over fifteen years climbing the corporate ranks in sales and

marketing with such companies as Procter and Gamble, Johnson & Johnson, and Gillette. She is a former Board of Trustees member of BalletRox and Bowdoin College (two-terms, Chair of Multicultural Committee). An avid reader and writer, Tamara co-authored several gift books, including three national bookstore bestsellers published by Random House imprints. Tamara's husband served on the Shady Hill School Board of Trustees and both of their children attended Shady Hill.