

PROFESSIONAL CHILDREN'S SCHOOL

# ANNUAL REPORT ON GIVING

2016-2017



PROFESSIONAL  
CHILDREN'S  
SCHOOL



# PROFESSIONAL CHILDREN'S SCHOOL

132 West 60th Street  
New York, NY 10023  
[pcs-nyc.org](http://pcs-nyc.org)

Professional Children's School is a vibrant independent school that provides a rigorous college-preparatory education in a supportive environment for young people pursuing careers or pre-professional training in the performing arts, competitive sports, and other endeavors.

## HEAD OF SCHOOL

James Dawson

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**FROM HEAD OF SCHOOL**

# DR. JAMES DAWSON

At a time when more and more people are looking for parameters of success that have fewer and fewer criteria, it is sometimes important to dwell on the less obvious in our search for that which is good and valuable and worthy. I am in no way suggesting that quantitative markers of success are not important – Professional Children’s School has a trove of those – rather I am merely suggesting that some of the most potent signs of an institution’s success and worthiness come not so much from what is obvious but rather from that which is cherished. Helen Keller once said, “The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched – they must be felt with the heart.”

Professional Children’s School is, in the context of its charter as a rigorous pre-college academic institution, all about the heart. We’re about excellence marked by balance; we’re about flexibility marked with support; we’re about talent and passion as strongly as we’re about intellect and achievement. It takes a very special group of individuals, acting together, bound together by a common theme of support, affirmation and endless possibility, to create and nurture the boundless spirit of the remarkable young people entrusted to us. It takes a very special group of parents to find it in their hearts and to persevere through their sacrifices to enable and to ensure that the dreams of their children can take flight, whether at the barre, in the practice rooms, on the floor mats, in the ring, on the stage or in the quiet solitude of creativity that haunts the inner mind in an effort to find that special place of grace and beauty that all creative people seek and strive for. Ours is that place.

Professional Children’s School is all about dreams and goals; it’s a result of our firm conviction of belief in the institutional mission and as established through our history of over a century of service that we can be the special place that affirms the spirit as well as the mind; that we can nurture creativity while fostering academic excellence; that we can support a dream even in the midst of the challenges that all dreams and dreamers face each and every day. We can, we are, and we will always be the school that dwells on what can be and not on what might not be.

Certainly an education provides a tool for options; certainly being well educated provides a buffer to unexpected challenges and the occasionally unexpected change of plans. Certainly well educated people



broaden their passionate focus in ways large and small. Beyond the options that education might offer for the future, it provides power for the present; it's a state of being, a state of mind, a beacon of hope and possibility in the face of uncertainty. More than anything, however, what you cannot see or touch, you can feel in your heart: we are that place where dreams are made and nurtured and realized and, whether the dream is for a lifetime or just for a few fleeting moments, we shall always celebrate the dreamers among us, the visionaries who lift us to new heights, the parents who believe, the talents that we see, the performances that touch our hearts and the moments of glory that will always be with those who produce them by themselves or as a group.

Education and dreams both need broad support to flourish. Schools, like theaters and symphony halls, like studios and rehearsal spaces, cannot serve those entrusted to us without the visionaries who believe, who have the ability to see light in the darkness, hope in the uncertain, power and the spark of greatness in the fledgling performer, genius in the disruptive innovator, and who are willing, like each of you noted herein, to make a difference through their generosity.

You are as central a player as any noted herein. Your support – in fact, the support of each and every donor noted – from the committed Board of Trustees to our extraordinarily committed parents, from our cherished and beloved alumni to our faculty and staff, from the foundations and our highest level givers to the thoughtful and first time tentative donor who can only send a few dollars – each of you makes all of these things possible.

Academic Excellence. Flexibility and Support. Balance and Affirmation. We remain profoundly grateful to each and every one of you for your kind and thoughtful assistance. We remain committed to our ongoing goals of academic excellence in the face of flexibility and balance; we remain committed to support and affirmation of the young people entrusted to us; we remain committed to ensuring every possible route of success for the dreamers in our midst. All of that depends on you and all of that is made possible through your ongoing generosity. We need you. We still need you. We will always need you.

Whether you have the capability to see it or touch it, I hope, more importantly, that you will always feel the perennial nature of our needs in your heart. Deep in the heart. That's the ongoing beauty of Professional Children's School, and we could not do it without your ongoing generosity. On behalf of all of us at PCS, from our faculty, administration and staff, from the 200 young people who are entrusted to us each year, thank you. Thank you from the bottom of our deeply feeling hearts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "James Dawson", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

James Dawson



**FROM CHAIR OF THE  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**EILEEN  
"LEE"  
MULRY  
DIECK**

While most of us think of Professional Children's School as the school that supports young artists, athletes, and entrepreneurs through their middle and high school years, it is, in fact, much more than that. While many of our alumni do go on to careers in the areas in which they trained while at PCS, the truth is that many also go on to be community and business leaders. This is what sets Professional Children's School apart from all other schools; not only does PCS provide the flexibility that our students need to pursue their dreams, but it also provides the excellent college preparatory education that prepares our students for whatever

their ultimate life and career choices may be. PCS serves the dual purposes of ensuring academic strength as well as the social and emotional growth that a supportive school environment must engender in order for children to thrive.

You who are receiving this annual report have provided essential support to Professional Children's School and help in no small way to help PCS fulfill its mission. Each year, we are challenged by the reality that many students who need the kind of education PCS can provide are simply unable to afford to attend our school. Over the last several years through the establishment of special funds by PCS benefactors, such as the Dawson Fund for Broadway Scholars, the SAPAR Contemporary Art Scholarship Fund, the Virginia B. Toulmin Scholarship Fund, the Nancy Malone Scholarship Fund, and the Carol Kleban Financial Aid Fund, we have been able to assist more students than ever before, and each year, our fundraising gala and our Annual Fund (now called The Fund for Professional Children's School) provide funds for financial aid. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I want to extend my gratitude to each of you for your support, and ask that you continue to support our mission to the extent that you are able.

I'm pleased to announce that we have welcomed two new trustees who will start their terms this academic year. Amy Crate, an alumna of PCS, has been involved in the building and marketing of luxury fashion brands for over 20 years. In addition to this, she has been deeply committed to working with child welfare organizations, and serves on the Board of the Robert F. Kennedy Children's Action Corps, as Vice Chair of the Board for Think of Us, and as

Chair of the Friends Committee for New Yorkers for Children. Pierce Cravens, also a PCS alumnus, pursued a professional acting career on Broadway while at PCS. After earning a B.A. in International Relations and Business Affairs from the University of Pennsylvania, he returned professionally to his passion for the arts. He is the founder of Metropolitan Entertainment which has produced four feature-length films and recently produced “Oh, Hello” at the Lyceum Theater on Broadway. We are grateful that Amy and Pierce will share their gifts with the PCS Board of Trustees and look forward to working with them.

If you haven’t been to Professional Children’s School recently, I encourage you to visit. Our students inspire us with their gifts and their commitment to their professions and to their education. I hope that I will be able to meet many of you at a PCS event soon!

In gratitude,



Lee Dieck







**FROM DIRECTOR OF  
INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT**

**CHRIS  
HALEY**

We are profoundly grateful to the hundreds of parents, grandparents, alumni, trustees, faculty, staff, administrators, foundations, and friends who generously contributed \$1.044 million to Professional Children's School during the 2016-2017 school year.

As you may know, financial aid continues to be our greatest need at PCS, and this was another record-breaking year as for gifts toward financial aid and scholarships, with over \$466,000 donated to our growing family of financial aid funds. The generous support of this wonderful

community during the 2016-2017 school year enabled PCS to provide more than \$1.54 million in financial aid to deserving students, with 37% of PCS students receiving financial aid awards. Indeed, without your generous continued support, many of our students would not be able to attend PCS and benefit from the superior college preparatory academics, flexibility, and support our remarkable school provides.

On February 13, 2017, we held our annual Winter Gala at The Edison Ballroom, located in the Broadway theatre district of Manhattan. Members of our exceptionally talented student body provided the evening's entertainment, and we honored three distinguished members of the PCS alumni community: Jason Fuchs '04, Ronnie Lee '55, and Tiler Peck '06. The event, which is the school's largest annual fundraising event, netted more than \$112,000 for the PCS Financial Aid Fund. Please hold the date and plan to join us on Monday, April 23 for the 2018 Spring Gala.

You have hopefully noticed a fresh new look for PCS's printed and digital materials. We extend a very special thank you to our trustee, alumna, and parent of a PCS alumnus Susan Gluck Pappajohn '79 for her leadership in shepherding the school's brand identity, and to the Board of Trustees and many others from throughout the entire PCS community for providing valued input toward this effort.

Beginning with the 2017-2018 school year, the Annual Fund will become known as The Fund for Professional Children's School. You will notice we have already initiated the name change within this report in the giving recognition section. While the name of the fund that underpins

our annual giving efforts has changed, the need for your generous support is greater than ever.

Professional Children’s School strives to keep tuition as affordable as possible while continuing to provide an excellent academic program. In fact, tuition alone covers only 86% of the cost of a PCS student’s education. The Fund for Professional Children’s School helps to bridge the gap between tuition income and the cost of providing the balance, flexibility, support, and community that make up a PCS education.

We depend on your generous support to help Professional Children’s School remain the exceptional school that it is today. Your donations to The Fund for Professional Children’s School directly support our students and faculty, providing much needed funding for program enhancements not covered by tuition, including financial aid for deserving students, enhanced technology, building maintenance and upgrades, faculty professional development, and so much more.

We invite you to continue to give as generously as you are able. It is vitally important that each member of our community participates at some level. Indeed, every gift matters!

Thank you again for your generous support of Professional Children’s School. We look forward to your involvement in 2017-2018.

With much gratitude,

*Chris Haley*  
Chris Haley



# PHILANTHROPIC SUPPORT

JULY 1, 2016–JUNE 30, 2017

|  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| Annual Fund Unrestricted . . . . .                               | \$282,768          |
| Financial Aid Funds . . . . .                                    | \$466,469          |
| Includes Gifts to: PCS Financial Aid Fund, Carol Kleban          |                    |
| Financial Aid Fund, Dr. James Dawson Fund for                    |                    |
| Broadway Scholars, Nancy Malone Scholarship Fund, SAPAR          |                    |
| Contemporary Art Scholarship Fund, and Other Financial Aid Funds |                    |
| Other Restricted Gifts . . . . .                                 | \$98,042           |
| Special Events . . . . .   | \$197,032          |
| <b>TOTAL GIVING TO PCS</b>                                       | <b>\$1,044,311</b> |

**GIVING TO THE ANNUAL FUND BY CONSTITUENCIES\***

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| Trustees (Present and Past) . . . . .           | \$257,072 |
| Parents . . . . .                               | \$297,030 |
| Alumni . . . . .                                | \$191,156 |
| Parents of Alumni . . . . .                     | \$283,943 |
| Faculty and Staff (Present and Past). . . . .   | \$14,720  |
| Grandparents and Friends . . . . .              | \$129,539 |
| Foundations, Corporations, and Grants . . . . . | \$445,000 |

\*For reporting purposes, individuals in multiple categories have been counted more than once.





# THE FUND FOR PROFESSIONAL CHILDREN'S SCHOOL

The Fund for Professional Children's School (formerly called the Annual Fund) is the cornerstone of our fundraising efforts. It is made up of gifts from parents, alumni, friends, foundations, faculty, and staff. We strive to keep tuition as affordable as possible while continuing to provide an excellent academic program, and money raised through the Fund for Professional Children's School helps to bridge the gap between tuition income and the cost of a PCS education. (Tuition alone covers only 86% of the cost of a PCS student's education.)

We thank the following generous donors who contributed to the school between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017.

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**(\$5,000 - \$9,999)**

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### In honor of Ronnie Lee '55 and

#### Darby Lee-Stack '23

Jennifer and Michael Abt

### In honor of Andrew C. McCulloch

Joan McCulloch

*This Annual Report lists all gifts received between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017. In compiling our lists of contributors, we have attempted to be as accurate as possible. If your name has been omitted or listed incorrectly, please let us know and accept our very sincere apologies.*

# THE IMPACT OF DONOR SUPPORT

Professional Children's School is pleased to report on the powerful impact of donor support during the 2016-2017 school year.



## SECOND CENTURY STEM INITIATIVE

Generous contributors have invested more than \$300,000 toward PCS's Second Century STEM Initiative (SCSI). The SCSI was created in 2014 to strengthen and deepen our academic offerings in the areas of science, technology, engineering, and math in ways that benefit all students regardless of their current or future careers.

The Second Century STEM Initiative is focused on the following five areas:

1. Faculty Professional Development
2. Classroom Equipment Upgrades
3. Beyond the Classroom Enrichment for Students
4. Investment in Technology
5. Distinguished Visitor Series

As of the summer of 2017, PCS has invested more than \$88,000 toward state of the art classroom and laboratory equipment and technology upgrades that are benefitting students of all grades.

Additionally, PCS has invested nearly \$44,000 for our STEM faculty to attend national and regional conferences and other trainings to expand and enhance their knowledge base for classroom instruction.

We have invested an additional \$2,000 toward subscriptions for STEM-related scholarly publications and faculty participation in professional associations.

We have also invested \$9,000 toward the implementation of a Distinguished Visitors program. In academic year 2016-2017, three distinguished guest speakers join us in the classroom to discuss coding and its use in designing software, gas laws, scuba diving, and engineering





design in bridge building. For our larger community, including students, faculty, and parents, we invited Dr. Larry Rosen to speak on the topic of Technology, Addiction, and the Changing Ancient Brain. Dr. Rosen is Professor Emeritus of Psychology at California State University, Dominguez Hills, and he is recognized as an international expert in the "Psychology of Technology." For broader dissemination, we simulcast his keynote address and his meeting with our parents. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive from those who attended or viewed the webcast.

In the coming year, we intend to broaden the "beyond the classroom" concept to include bringing in exhibits, workshops, and other outside resources to enrich our students' STEM experience at PCS.

### FINANCIAL AID SUPPORT

The need for additional Financial Aid funding continues to grow. In 2016-2017, Professional Children's School awarded \$1.54 million in financial aid to deserving students. Generous gifts to The Dr. James Dawson Fund for Broadway Scholars, the SAPAR Contemporary Art Scholarship Fund, the Nancy Malone Scholarship Fund,



the Carol Kleban Financial Aid Fund, and the PCS Financial Aid Fund have enabled PCS to provide this unprecedented level of funding. Nearly 40 percent of our students in 2016-2017 benefited directly from your philanthropic support of our financial aid funds.





## SENIOR CLASS GIFT FUND

This year's Senior Class Gift created a Student Activity Fund, which will support students' attendance at various activities outside of school. This new fund will facilitate student participation in theatrical performances, concerts, athletic events, art and museum programs, and other activities that are ancillary to our academic program, but supportive of our overall goals.

We are grateful to senior class parents Catherine Gropper (mother of Greg) and Robin Louie (mother of Derek) for chairing this year's appeal. The 2017 Senior Class Gift appeal exceeded its goal of \$45,000, raising enough to fully fund the initiative for the next three academic years.

# THE PCS ENCORE SOCIETY

## **INVEST IN THE FUTURE OF PCS**

For many alumni, families, and friends, PCS has played a significant role in their growth and development. If you would like to ensure that future students and families have the same opportunities, please consider investing in the future of PCS with a gift from your estate.

In 1994, Betty Ivey Martin inspired the creation of the Encore Society, an honorary group formed to recognize those who have included a provision for PCS in their estate plans. Bequest intentions qualify for membership in this esteemed society. If you would like to become a member of the Encore Society by making a gift to secure PCS's future, please contact the Office of Institutional Advancement at 212-582-3116 x.115.

## **ENCORE SOCIETY MEMBERS**

Anonymous

James Dawson and Shaun Mattivi

Heidi Elizabeth Bishay '81

Roger Boxill '46\*

James He and Wendy Zang

Aimee Hepting '29\*

Ellen W. Johnston\*

Murray and Terry Kessler

Nancy Malone '54\*

Betty Ivey Martin\*

Hidegarde H Preston '42

Dolores Quinton\*

Lavinia Reese\*

Frank Streeter\*

Henryette Hunt White\*

\*Deceased



# GRADUATING CLASS OF 2017



## CONGRATULATIONS!

Jonathan Alexander  
Brooke Annarella  
Leyla Aroch  
Max Azaro  
Cheng-Hsuan Chen  
Sabrina Cmelak  
Samantha Cutler  
Catarina Do Amaral  
Chloe Ellis  
Liviya England  
Surya Garg  
Stanila Giuliano-Ionel  
Olivia Green  
Gregory Gropper

Ethan Haberfield  
Amarra Hong  
Emily Buczek  
Christopher Jessup  
Dongxu Jin  
Samantha Kasowitz  
Seika Kawamata  
Molly Kopp  
Jie Li  
Hannah Lipman  
Marta Lopez Ramirez  
Derek Louie  
Henry Nelson  
Christian Nosal

Schuyler Press  
Priscilla Putzer  
Gianna Reisen  
Cameron Rose  
Sebastian Stöger  
Noah Strand  
Samara Taylor  
Giana Vizzone  
Minyi Wang  
Jo-Tzu Yang  
Alexis Yob  
Rini Zhang



**COLLEGE  
ACCEPTANCES  
2016 & 2017**

University of Alabama  
American University of Paris (2)  
Auburn University (2)  
Averett University  
Bard College (4)  
Barnard College  
Bethany College  
Boston College  
Boston Conservatory (2)  
Boston University (2)  
Brandeis University  
Brown University  
Carnegie Mellon University  
    School of Music  
Central Saint Martins,  
    University of the Arts  
City University of New York –  
    Brooklyn (2)  
City University of New York –  
    City College  
City University of New York –  
    Hunter  
CUNY - Queens Conservatory  
Clark University  
Cleveland Institute of Music (3)  
Colorado State University  
Columbia University (3)  
University of Delaware  
Delaware Valley University  
Drexel University  
Eastman School of Music  
Elon University (2)  
Emerson College  
Emory University (2)  
Eugene Lang College (5)  
Fashion Institute of Technology  
Fordham University (6)  
George Mason University  
George Washington University (4)  
Hampshire College  
Harvard University (2)  
High Point University  
Howard University  
IDC Herzliya (Israel)  
University of Illinois  
Indiana University (2)  
The Juilliard School (11)  
University of Kentucky  
Lewis & Clark College  
Loyola Marymount University (2)  
Manhattan School of Music (9)  
Mannes School of Music (6)

Maryland Institute College of Art  
Marymount Manhattan College (4)  
McGill University  
University of Miami (3)  
University of Michigan (3)  
Mills College  
Montclair State University  
Morehouse College  
New England Conservatory (6)  
New York School of Interior Design  
New York University (9)  
Northeastern University  
Northwestern University  
Oberlin College  
Oberlin Conservatory  
Occidental College (3)  
Otterbein University  
Pace University (8)  
Parsons School of Design (2)  
The Peabody Institute of Music (3)  
Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts  
University of Pittsburgh  
Pitzer College  
Point Park University  
Princeton University  
Pratt Institute of Art  
University of Puget Sound  
Reed College  
Regents University (London) (2)  
University of Richmond  
Roanoke College

Roger Williams University  
Rollins College (2)  
Rutgers University  
Sarah Lawrence College (5)  
School of Visual Arts  
Seattle University  
Seattle Pacific University  
University of Southern California  
Southern Methodist University  
Springfield College  
Stanford University  
SUNY-Albany  
SUNY-Binghamton  
SUNY-Geneseo  
SUNY-New Paltz  
SUNY-Purchase (2)  
Syracuse University  
Temple University  
University of Texas  
Tufts University  
Tulane University  
Union College  
Vassar College  
University of Vermont  
University of Virginia (3)  
Virginia Commonwealth University  
West Virginia University  
Wheaton College  
Whittier College  
Wilson College



# MIDDLE SCHOOL CLASS OF 2017



## PCS EIGHTH GRADE CLASS OF 2017

Henry Berlin  
Liling Chee (Lily)  
Phoebe Desperito  
Philip Duclos  
Cameron Elliott (Cam)  
Elsa Imani Fernandez  
Caroline Giuffra  
Jackson Janis  
Jiru Lei  
Zhongxin Li (Johnson)  
Han-Yun Liang (Jonathan)  
Hsiang-Ling Lin (Joanne)  
Mei Luo  
Sophia Panayiotou  
Maeve Press  
Ian Rotheroe  
Chloe Jane Schindler  
Claudia Schmidt  
Aiden Shapiro  
Donovan Spigner  
Theresa Szafranski  
Yun Yao  
Audrey Zhang





# ANNUAL PCS BOAT CRUISE



On September 8, 2016, the PCS community kicked off the new school year with our annual Circle Line Boat Cruise around lower Manhattan. A special thank you to the School's Board of Trustees for underwriting a portion of the event enabling PCS students to participate free of charge.





# WINTER GALA

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2017**

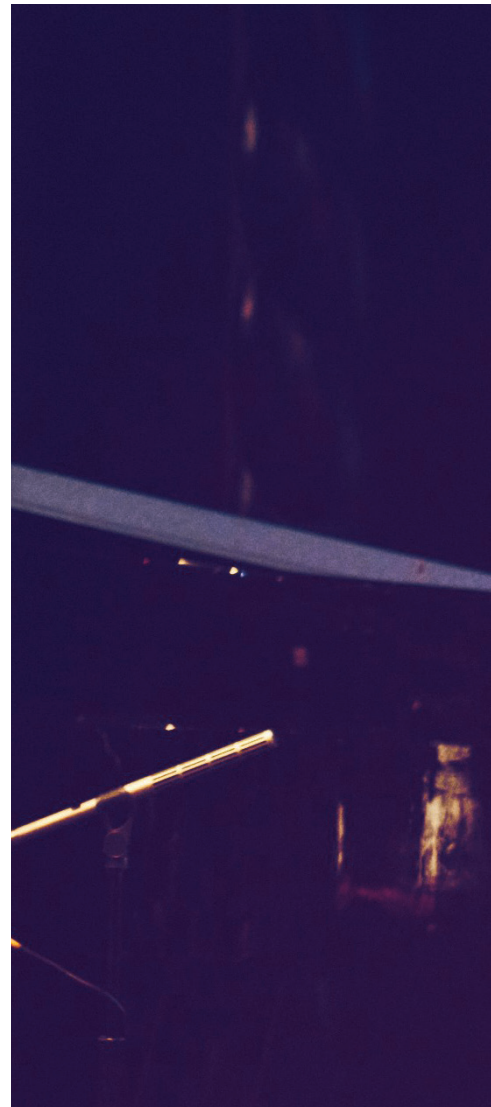
Professional Children's School's Winter Gala, our annual fundraising event, was held at The Edison Ballroom on Monday, February 13, 2017, and was attended by more than 165 supporters, netting more than \$112,000 for the PCS Financial Aid Fund.

At this year's Gala, PCS honored three distinguished alumni — Jason Fuchs '04, Ronnie Lee '55 and Tiler Peck '06 — with the Legacy Award. Guests also enjoyed a variety of performances by current Middle School and Upper School students. The performance showcase was directed by Cynthia Thole and Stephen Purdy.

Thank you to everyone who helped make this special evening such a great success!

We hope to see everyone at next year's Spring Gala, which will take place on Monday, April 23, at The Edison Ballroom. Details will be forthcoming.

*Photos by Anna Palma*



Clockwise from top:  
James Dawson welcomes  
crowd; Ivan Han '19, Ethan  
Haberfield '17, Huan Zhang  
'18, CiCi Xiao '19, and  
JiaBao Wei '19.











This spread, clockwise from top left:  
Mary Stewart Sullivan '20 and Elizabeth  
Sharp '19; Ronnie Lee '55; Tiler Peck '06;  
Jason Fuchs '04; Huan Zhang '18.



WHO WE ARE

SHARI  
HONIG

For over a century, Professional Children's School (PCS) has provided a way for students to pursue their dreams without sacrificing their education. No one knows this better than our current Director of Admissions, Shari Honig. As an alumna, former PCS teacher, academic advisor, and member of our administrative team, Shari is able to see PCS from multiple perspectives.

**Q: WHAT BROUGHT YOU TO PCS?**

A: Like many of our students, I came to New York to dance the summer before my 10th grade year, and I was invited to participate in a year-round program. I knew I would need to continue my education and had heard about PCS through some of the other dancers. Years later, after becoming an educator, I reached out to Carol Kleban (former Associate Head of School and Alumni Liaison). In 2002, I started at PCS as a maternity leave substitute and ended up staying for eleven years as the ESL teacher and International Student Advisor. I moved to my current position when former Admissions Director Sherrie Hinkle retired. I was interested in helping to shape the culture and future of our school. It's funny, PCS was never a part of my "plan," but I've been here for over 15 years now!

**Q: WHAT MAKES PCS UNIQUE FROM OTHER INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS?**

A: I think our school is defined by who our students are and the passions they are pursuing outside of school. Our students come to us from all around the world, public schools, independent schools, and a variety of socioeconomic and cultural backgrounds. In addition to our challenging and engaging academics, we offer our students flexibility in scheduling and course selection, as well as a supportive community. Our students, faculty, staff and administrators all share a common passion for what they do and support the mission of the school.

**Q: WHAT IS A TYPICAL DAY FOR YOU AT PCS?**

A: There isn't really a typical day at PCS, which is what makes this job so much fun! The nature of our school is such that we have to be ready for what each new day

will bring. Generally speaking, my days are filled with meeting new families, guiding school tours, discussing our academic program and reaching out to arts and athletic institutions around the city whose students may benefit from a school like ours. I'm also an academic advisor, so there's a little bit of everything.

**Q: HOW HAS BEING AN ALUMNA HELPED YOU IN YOUR CURRENT POSITION AT PCS?**

A: I think I'm able to offer an insider's perspective from my life as a student and teacher at PCS as well as from my personal experience with the admissions process. I'm able to honestly discuss the ways in which PCS has evolved over the years, and to reassure families that their children will be viewed as individuals here.

**Q: WHAT HAS SURPRISED YOU MOST ABOUT WORKING AT PCS?**

A: What is interesting to me is the variety of students applying to our school now. We started off with actors, dancers, musicians, and now we have students who are rock climbers, DJ/ producers, tech entrepreneurs, and many more! I've also noticed that our dancers are coming to us from so many different programs around the city. We have more than ten different dance institutions represented by our PCS students.

**Q: WHAT DO YOU WISH OTHER PEOPLE KNEW ABOUT PCS?**

A: I try to clarify for people what "professional" means. We have a range of students here—pre-professional, professional, and students who are arts-affiliated. I've also come to realize that PCS students may seem different because they have an intense focus on their craft; however, they are facing many of the same

challenges that all young people face. I'm proud to say, we allow students to pursue their dreams while not being defined by them.





**Q: WHAT IS YOUR BEST MEMORY OF PCS?**

A: Each year I'm lucky enough to have two events that stand out in my mind. In the fall, we welcome our entire student body and their families to attend a boat cruise around the city; I love seeing the new families who aren't from New York City pass by the Statue of Liberty for the first time. Then at the end of the year, the admissions office hosts a reception for the next group of incoming families, and I think that event bookends the year nicely. I can't forget to mention that some of my favorite teachers from my time as a student here are still teaching at PCS (Shellie Sclan, Mark Savage), so every day for me is a walk down memory lane.



# ALUMNI CORNER

## JOIN US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

-  PCSalumni
-  @PCS\_alumni
-  @professionalchildrensschool
-  pcsalumni

## ALUMNI ASSOCIATION COUNCIL

The Alumni Association Council represents the School's Alumni Association, of which every individual who has attended PCS is a member. The mission of the Alumni Association Council is to enhance and advance the relationship between the School and all of its alumni through meaningful engagement, networking, volunteer involvement, and philanthropic commitment.

Three pillars of our Alumni Association:

- Celebrate our legacy
- Connect our community
- Give that others may experience a PCS education

## MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Justin Abrams '09  
Hannah Bomze '07  
Mary Ellen Cravens '01  
Rachel Curry '05  
Nilah "Peaches" Davis '85  
Jaime Gleicher '03  
Michael Gleicher '04  
Stephen Hanna '98  
Lane Harwell '98 \*  
Young Park '98 \*  
Ava Conoval Popovich '99  
Sarah Shepard Schmieder '87  
Julie Stevens '87  
Denise Jackson Sutherland '69 \*

\* Council Term ended in 2017

*The Council welcomes your ideas. Connect with them at [alumni@pcs-nyc.org](mailto:alumni@pcs-nyc.org).*



This was truly a rewarding year for me as I embraced my role as Alumni Liaison. I set out to learn more about our alumni, their connection to the School as well as to take note of suggestions in respect to building relationships with a our broader alumni community.

Our alumni had wonderful stories to share and in the midst of my discussions, I was reminded that while each person who has walked through our doors has had their own unique story, the common thread that binds them is a passion/talent which was nurtured and supported by our fine Institution. And while passions and pursuits may have changed within their lifetime, the lessons learned at PCS have been invaluable.

Alumni feedback gave me the opportunity to determine how I could better serve the needs of the community as well as remind us that alumni giving is essential to the School's continued support of students who are pursuing the same passions and dreams that our own alumni discovered in the formative years of their lives. The generosity of our alumni community this year has been much appreciated and

thanks to their contributions, we were able to expand the availability of much-needed funds for financial aid.

It's never too late (or too early) to give back to the PCS community! Our alumni can continue to make donations to the Fund for Professional Children's School (formerly called the Annual Fund). No gift is too small to have an impact on a student's future and I encourage our alumni to consider making giving to PCS a yearly tradition. Giving back means that you have a deep sense of caring for the school you attended, for the teachers who guided you and for the children who will one day create change and lead this world. Our alumni can easily be a part of the experience.

However, being part of our community isn't just about giving back. As we look to the future, we are committed to providing more opportunities for alumni to connect, network and stay connected to each other. Our Alumni Association Council (AAC) has been meeting and is looking forward to sharing our plans for the next school year in the months to come.

I want to thank Dr. James Dawson, Chris Haley, and Noël Soisson for their support, collaboration and patience as I defined my role. Most importantly, I would like to thank the AAC and our alumni for all that they do for PCS and for opening their hearts to me.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dania Nauholnyk". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Dania Nauholnyk  
Dean of Middle School Life  
Alumni Liaison



## ALUMNI PANEL

Alumni Stephen Hanna '98, Julia Haltigan '02 and Weixiong Wang '09 spoke to our current Upper School students about life after PCS on April 27, 2017. They spoke about many topics including their passions, career changes and how to adjust to life in the adult world. The talk was moderated by Dania Nauholnyk.



## WEST COAST ALUMNI GATHERING

Dr. James Dawson and Dania Nauholnyk met up with our West Coast alumni on April 1, 2017 at Perch Rooftop Bistro in downtown Los Angeles. It's so exciting to get reacquainted with our alumni who have moved away from the New York City area. Let us know if we should stop by your city next!







### **PCS YOUNG ALUMNI**

On January 4, 2017, we welcomed back our young alumni (those who have graduated in the last four years) for a “Return Day” Luncheon. Dr. James Dawson and Dania Nauholnyk, along with several PCS staff and faculty greeted alumni from 2012-2016. The group was served a special lunch prepared by our own kitchen staff in the Peter Glenville Theatre mezzanine.



# NAMED & RESTRICTED FUNDS

## **THE BOB AVIAN SCHOLARSHIP (ESTABLISHED IN 1997)**

Sir Cameron Macintosh established this endowed scholarship fund to honor his friend and colleague, producer/choreographer Bob Avian. The scholarship is awarded to a PCS student with an interest in the field of dance and is based on academic and artistic merit.

## **CENTENNIAL FUND FOR THE FUTURE (ESTABLISHED IN 2012)**

The Centennial Fund for the Future was created by the PCS Board of Trustees to raise funds toward paying off the School's IDA Bond.

## **THE DANI BRENNER '96 DARE TO DREAM FUND (ESTABLISHED IN 2010)**

The Dani Brenner Award, supported principally through the generosity of the Brenner family, is given annually in memory of PCS student Dani Brenner (1978-1995) to a member of the junior class for excellence in creative and expository writing.

## **THE GLADYS BROOKS FOUNDATION ENDOWMENT GRANT FOR THE LIBRARY (ESTABLISHED IN 1997)**

This endowed fund supports the technological components of the PCS Library, allowing students access to the wide range of modern research resources.

## **THE DR. JAMES DAWSON FUND FOR BROADWAY SCHOLARS (ESTABLISHED IN 2014)**

The Dr. James Dawson Fund for Broadway Scholars was created in honor and recognition of Dr. Dawson's twentieth anniversary as Head of School. The Fund will provide tuition assistance to students from the Broadway community who, without additional support, would be unable to afford a PCS education.

## **THE EDWARD E. FORD FOUNDATION YOUNG DREAMERS FUND (ESTABLISHED IN 2008) AND THE EDWARD E. FORD FOUNDATION ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP FUND (ESTABLISHED 1973, ADDITIONAL GRANT IN 1990)**

These endowed funds provide tuition assistance for outstanding students in good standing with financial need.

## **FACULTY SALARY ENDOWMENT (ESTABLISHED WITH AN EDWARD E. FORD FOUNDATION GRANT IN 1981)**

This endowed fund supplements faculty salaries, helping to keep them competitive with other independent schools. It allows the school to keep tuition at a reasonable rate while continuing to maintain an excellent professional staff.

## **FACULTY ENRICHMENT FUND (ESTABLISHED WITH AN EDWARD E. FORD FOUNDATION GRANT IN 1987)**

This fund provides grants for faculty members to attend special workshops, seminars, and embark on special projects of their own design in order to further professional and personal growth.

## **FACULTY-STAFF TRAVEL GRANT FUND (ESTABLISHED IN 2001)**

Two grants annually are awarded to members of the full-time faculty and/or staff who have been continuously employed at PCS for a minimum of four years. Grants can be used for any purpose involving travel within the United States and/or international destinations. The grant program is designed to support travel to fulfill a personal or professional goal, and recipients are selected at the discretion of the Head of School.

## **PETER GLENVILLE THEATRE FUND (ESTABLISHED IN 2003)**

Established by a generous grant by the Peter Glenville Foundation, this fund provides ongoing operating support for PCS's Peter Glenville Theatre.

**THE JACKSON FAMILY FUND FOR  
STUDENT SUPPORT (ESTABLISHED IN 2006)**

This fund was created by PCS alumna and past Chairman Denise Jackson Sutherland '69, in memory of her parents Audrey Keppel Jackson '39 and John Henry Jackson '35. The fund supports student needs not covered by tuition assistance. Income from the fund provides for the purchase of books, transportation to and from school, eyeglasses, class trips, and other expenses beyond the reach of students with financial need.

**THE CAROL KLEBAN FINANCIAL AID FUND  
(ESTABLISHED IN 2013)**

This fund was initially created in 2013 in honor of Carol Kleban's retirement from her position as Associate Head of School. Upon Ms. Kleban's untimely passing in June 2015, the Fund was rededicated to commemorate her life and career in recognition of her more than three decades of service to the PCS community.

**THE NANCY MALONE '54 SCHOLARSHIP FUND  
(ESTABLISHED IN 2013)**

Established by alumna Nancy Malone to provide scholarship support to PCS students working in the dramatic arts.

**THE ROBERT J. MARIANO '61 MEMORIAL FUND  
(ESTABLISHED IN 2003)**

Robert Mariano was the director of the first "All of Us" musical in 1960, with fellow students Marvin Hamlisch, Leslie Uggams, Christopher and Glen Walken and Lorin Hollander. The show evolved over the years into the annual Spring Benefit. In 2003, his many classmates and friends established this memorial fund to help support the building and operation of the Peter Glenville Theatre at PCS.

**THE READERS DIGEST-DEWITT WALLACE  
ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIPS  
(ESTABLISHED IN 1992)**

This fund provides tuition assistance for students with financial need.

**THE LAVINIA REESE FUND  
(ESTABLISHED IN 2009)**

An endowed fund providing need-based tuition assistance for PCS's African-American students was established with a bequest in December 2009 from Lavinia Reese. Ms. Reese was an employee of the School for more than 34 years until her retirement as business manager in November 2005.

**THE SAPAR CONTEMPORARY ART SCHOLARSHIP  
(ESTABLISHED IN 2015)**

The SAPAR Contemporary Art Scholarship was established to provide tuition support to a talented visual art student(s) who could not otherwise afford a PCS education.

**SECOND CENTURY STEM INITIATIVE FUND  
(ESTABLISHED IN 2014)**

The Second Century STEM Initiative Fund was created to strengthen and deepen PCS's academic offerings in the areas of science, math, and technology in ways that benefit all students regardless of their possible careers.

*We are grateful to the many alumni, friends, parents, faculty and staff who have made gifts to support our community over the years. Additional gifts to any of these funds are especially welcomed as we work to advance the mission of PCS. If you would like to explore creation of a new named fund, the Office of Institutional Advancement would be delighted to work with you.*



# FACULTY AND STAFF

2016-2017

Will Acevedo, Plant Manager  
Debra Alago, Food Services Manager  
Evelyn Alexander, Science Teacher  
Bernardo Bellosó, Custodian  
Ernestine Byer-Tyre, Biology and Chemistry Teacher  
Lou Campagna\*, Math Teacher  
Kevin Casey, Physical Education Teacher  
Paul Chalmers, Math Teacher and  
Technology Coordinator  
Maureen Darcy, French Teacher  
James Dawson, Head of School  
Christine Dziegielewska, Receptionist  
Sean Fedeli, Middle School Social Studies Teacher  
Ruben González-Jiménez, Spanish Teacher  
Catherine Guillet\*, French Teacher  
Chris Haley, Director of Institutional Advancement  
Dalila Hannouche, French Teacher  
Catherine Henry, Social Studies and History Teacher  
Cynthia Herbert, Assistant to College Guidance,  
Admissions, & Upper School Offices  
William F. Hirt, History Teacher and College Advisor  
Caroline Holder, Art Teacher  
Shari Honig, Director of Admissions  
Rocio Izurieta, Custodian  
Lizbeth Johnson, Director of Technology  
Steve Kharkov, Technology Support  
Roberta Kosse, Music Teacher  
Nicholas Kurian, English Teacher  
Mary Beth Lemoine #, Librarian  
Jeffrey Laguzza, English and Social Studies Teacher  
Victoria Mancuso, Business Manager  
Marcy Mann, Associate Head for Academic Affairs  
Raquel Martinez, Bookkeeper  
Joseph Mayes, Cafeteria Staff  
Dania Nauholnyk, Dean of Middle School Life &  
Alumni Liaison  
Renata Nikolayev, ESL and French Teacher and  
International Student Advisor  
Thomas Orefice, English Teacher  
Ayana Peña, Assistant to the Associate Head & Head of  
Upper School and Attendance Officer  
Angela Perozo, Assistant in the Middle School Office  
Erika Petersen, History Teacher  
Guthrie Porter, Math Teacher  
Altagracia Ramos, Custodian  
Kevin Rodd, Science Teacher  
Matthew Rodriguez, Custodian

Kerry Roeder, Librarian  
Antonio Rodriguez, Cafeteria Staff  
Alejandrina Santos, Custodian  
Vincent Sagona, Drama Teacher  
Robert Mark Savage, History Teacher  
Jean J. Scales, Business Office and  
Admissions Coordinator  
Shellie Sclan, English Teacher  
Meghan Shann, Learning Specialist  
Alex Shaurette, Head of Upper School  
Noël Soisson, Institutional Advancement Associate  
John Tucker, Director of Public Relations  
Alissa Wall, Math Teacher  
Fredrico Wilson#, Custodian  
Jason Wofsey, Math Teacher

*# Joined PCS in the 2017-2018 academic year*

*\* Semester-Long Substitute Teacher*

**PROFESSIONAL CHILDREN'S  
SCHOOL**

132 West 60th Street  
New York, NY 10023  
212-582-3116  
pcs-nyc.org

**ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM**

James Dawson, *Head of School*  
Marcy Mann, *Associate Head for  
Academic Affairs*  
Alex Shaurette, *Head of  
Upper School*  
Dania Nauholnyk, *Dean of Middle  
School Life & Alumni Liaison*  
Chris Haley, *Director of  
Institutional Advancement*  
Victoria Mancuso, *Business Manager*  
Shari Honig, *Director of Admissions*  
Lizbeth Johnson, *Director of  
Technology*  
John Tucker, *Director of  
Public Relations*

**OFFICE OF INSTITUTIONAL  
ADVANCEMENT**

Chris Haley, *Director*  
Dania Nauholnyk, *Dean of Middle  
School Life & Alumni Liaison*  
Noël Soisson, *Institutional  
Advancement Associate*

**DESIGN**

Darrel Frost

**PRINTING**

Watkins Printing Service


**PHOTOGRAPHS**

Anna Palma  
Maureen Darcy  
Monica Martinez  
Renata Nikolayev  
Kevin Rodd  
Kerry Roeder  
Matthew Septimus  
Alex Shaurette  
Noël Soisson  
John Tucker

Professional Children's School is committed to using the world's resources wisely — now and into the future. We are making use of electronic communications for invitations, newsletters, and reports, and would like to make this our primary means of communication with our alumni and friends. If you would prefer to receive information from PCS via the Internet rather than the US Postal Service, please send your email address to [advancement@pcs-nyc.org](mailto:advancement@pcs-nyc.org) or call 212-582-3116, ext. 118. Thank you for your support.

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 [@PCSNYC](https://twitter.com/PCSNYC)

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