



## **Episcopal Day School 2017-2018 Search Committee**

### **Collier Merrill, Committee Chair**

Mr. Collier Merrill is the president of Merrill Land Company, a real estate development company, which specializes in condominium development along the Northwestern Gulf Coast. He is the president of Great Southern Restaurants, Inc., which owns and operates The Fish House, Atlas Oyster House, Jackson's Steakhouse, Five Sisters Blues Café, The Palafox House, and Great Southern Weddings, Catering & Events. Additionally, Merrill is a partner in the Lee House: A Boutique Inn and Event Venue. Merrill is a graduate of the University of West Florida with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Management.

Merrill is an active participant in the community, currently serving as Chairman of the University of West Florida Historic Trust and as Governor Scott's appointee to the Gulf Coast Consortium. He serves on the Naval Aviation Museum Foundation, board of directors of the Sacred Heart Health System, and the West Florida Historic Preservation Board. He is a trustee emeritus of the Pensacola Museum of Art, a member of Christ Church where he serves as a member of the vestry, and a member of the Pensacola Downtown Rotary Club.

Previously, Merrill has served in a number of community leadership roles: chairman of Visit Pensacola; chairman of the Community Maritime Park Associates; chairman of the Pensacola Bay Area Chamber of Commerce; chairman of the Pensacola-Escambia County Promotion and Development Commission; chair of the Destination 2020 Strategic Planning Committee; chairman of the Florida Arts Council; chairman of the Tocqueville Society for United Way; president of the Pensacola Museum of Art; and president of the Home Builders Association of Northwest Florida. He has also served as a member of the boards of the University of West Florida, Pensacola State College Foundation, Catholic Social Services; Pensacola Chapter of the American Red Cross and served as a mentor for Big Brothers Big Sisters.

Additionally, Merrill has served in a number of roles related to education. Merrill served as a member of the Board of Regents for which he also led as chairman of the Legislative Affairs Committee. He was the founding chairman of the University of West Florida Board of Trustees (2000-2004). Over the course of many years, Merrill has led three university presidential searches for the University of West Florida and University of Florida. Furthermore, Merrill has also led numerous university vice presidential searches as well as, executive director searches for various institutions.

Merrill has been recognized and named Art Education Hero by the Florida Cultural Alliance, an Outstanding Volunteer Fundraiser by the National Society of Fund Raising Professional, and a Paul Harris Fellow of Rotary International, received the Downtown Rotary Club's Grover Robinson Award for Service, and was named the University of West Florida's Distinguished Alumni of the Year. In addition, Merrill was a past recipient of the Pensacola Area Chamber of Commerce's awards for Emerging Leader and Community Leader.

### **Jay Bradshaw**

Jay Bradshaw is the owner of Coastal Moving and Storage and Pensacola Moving and Storage. Jay's community activities include serving as the Secretary of the Community Foundation of Northwest Florida, as well as the current Board Chair for Episcopal Day School (2015-2018). He has previously served as a Board Member for Manna Food Pantries, as well as on the Vestryman of Christ Church. The Greater Pensacola Chamber named Jay the 2012 Emerging Leader. He is married to Jennifer Bradshaw and they have 2 children, Joshua and Grace, both of whom attend EDS.

### **Dr. Jason Foland**

Dr. Jason Foland has dedicated his life to the care and welfare of children for nearly two decades. He is the Chair of the Department of Pediatrics at The Studer Family Children's Hospital at Sacred Heart and has been involved in the selection process of hundreds of Pediatricians that serve in our community. His wife of 20 years, Amy, is an equally distinguished and well-known Pediatrician in our community. His son, Zachary, and his daughter, Lexi, attend Episcopal Day School. Their family is part of the congregation at Christ Church.

### **Liz Harrison**

Liz Harrison is a native of Pensacola and graduated from The University of West Florida. Liz has been a professional educator for 15 years. She is currently in her seventh year as a first grade teacher at EDS. Liz has been married to her husband David for 20 years. She has two sons, Ryan 16, and Robert, 14. Ryan and Robert are both EDS graduates and both attend Washington High School.

Liz is an active member of Christ Church and currently serves as a liaison for the New Baby Ministry. She has previously served on the selection committee to hire the Head of Lower School. Before joining EDS, Liz served on the PTA Board at A.K. Suter Elementary, was a member of the Junior League of Pensacola, and served on several committees with Fiesta of Five Flags including Fiesta Days and Coronation.

### **Tom Owens**

Tom Owens, Market President – Florida Panhandle for BB&T- Branch Banking and Trust Co. is a parent of two EDS Graduates and a current seventh-grader. Tom attended EDS as a student. Tom has served several terms on the EDS board acting as both Chairman and Treasurer. He attends Christ Church where he has served several terms on the Vestry and 2 years as Senior Warden. Tom is actively involved with a number of not for profit boards in the Pensacola area.

### **Fr. Michael Hoffman**

The Rev. Michael Hoffman has been the Rector of Christ Church Pensacola since November of 2016. Previously he had served as the rector of St. Peter's Episcopal Church in McKinney, TX. Michael and his wife, Amy, have two kids at EDS: a son in 4<sup>th</sup> grade and a daughter in PreK4. A two-time graduate of Sewanee, the University of the South, Michael is currently writing his dissertation for a Doctorate in Ministry.

### **Justin Beck**

A graduate of the University of Alabama at Birmingham with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Management, Justin began his career at Beck Partners as a sales associate, then as a broker-associate, and in 2009 was named President of the company. Justin is a CCIM designee, and is a licensed Real Estate broker in Florida and Alabama.

Before becoming President of the Commercial Real Estate Division of Beck Partners, Justin served as President for Beck Property Company, the predecessor of Beck Partners.

Justin was with AmSouth Bank before joining Beck Partners. There he worked in the trust division and was involved in property and timberland management. Justin has completed over 400 transactions in the eight years he has been with the company, and is consistently ranked as the top commercial producer in the area. Justin continues to grow the most dynamic Commercial Real Estate Brokerage firm on the Gulf Coast.

Justin's memberships and affiliations include: Florida & Alabama Licensed Real Estate Broker; NAIOP, State Board, NW Florida Chapter Board Member: Past President; Commercial Real Estate Coach for Massimo Group, Independent News "40 under 40" Young Professionals; Pensacola News Journal's Top 12 Professionals under 40; and the Leadership Pensacola – Class of 2008. Justin is avid reader, runner and cyclist. But most importantly, when away from the office, Justin enjoys spending time with his wife and three children.

### **Jake Renfroe, III**

Jake Renfroe, III is married to Jane Dickerson Renfroe, an alumna of Episcopal Day School. The Renfroes have two grown children, both of whom are graduates of EDS. They also have one grandchild and another on the way this summer. Jake and his wife were married in Christ Church forty years ago, where they are still active members. Jake served on the Vestry at Christ Church as Junior Warden for two years of his four-year term.

Jake attended Pensacola Junior College and the University of West Florida, as a business and marketing major. Jake has been involved in the family owned business, J.W. Renfroe Pecan Co. all of his life.

### **Katy Collins**

Katy Collins is a realtor in Pensacola, FL and has lived here for 17 years. She graduated from the University of Alabama with a bachelor of science in marketing and public relations and received her masters in corporate communications/public relations from Boston University. Katy has been a parent at EDS for 12 years. She has one child who will be in 6th grade for the 2017-2018 school year and another who just completed 8th grade and will be attending Pensacola Catholic High School. Both of her children have been at EDS since PreK3 and even attended Christ Church Mother's Day Out. Katy is an active member of Christ Church. She attended The Donoho School in Anniston, Alabama for grades 4-12 which is a school similar in size to EDS and one of the top private schools in the state of Alabama.

### **Tonja Ward**

Tonja H. Ward and her family relocated to Pensacola, FL from Houston, TX. While in Houston Tonja served as the Director of Promotions & Outreach for the award winning Christian Radio Station KSBJ. She served as a Kidz Club worship leader at the Greater Houston Church, and she was a member of the River Oaks Baptist School Parent Association Executive Board. She was also an advisory board member for the MD Anderson Center for Minority Health and Health Disparities.

Prior to working with KSBJ, Tonja was the Health Editor for Houston Style Magazine. She is a certified Fitness Professional and has hosted a fitness radio show, served as a motivational speaker, taught workshops and classes, and provided consulting services for corporations and organizations. Tonja co-authored an inspirational community based wellness curriculum that circulated in New York, Texas, Georgia, Ohio, Michigan and Florida. In New York she served as counsel for the board of Youth Works, an intervention program for at-risk teens in New York City.

Tonja earned a bachelor's degree from Spelman College (Atlanta, GA), a law degree from the University of Miami School of Law (Florida) and is licensed to practice law in New York. She has completed post-baccalaureate work in dietetics, public health and broadcasting. She is currently a Community Outreach and Strategic Marketing consultant for radio and individual ministries. Tonja is passionate about training and fundraising for cause related events in her spare time. Her husband of 19 years, Charlie and their three children Caleb (17), Hope (13) and Joshua (8) are super grateful to be living in Florida where the weather is great and they are a close drive to family in their home state of Georgia.

### **Katherine Mitchem**

Katherine Mitchem was raised in Pensacola, Florida and has been a member of Christ Church for most of her life. For high school, Katherine attended an independent all girls' boarding school, Garrison Forest School, in Garrison, Maryland. This is where her appreciation for independent schools began. Katherine attended the University of Georgia for her undergraduate studies and continued her education at Florida State University where she received a Masters in Social Work in 1996. She worked in mental health and clinical social work at Emory University Hospital in Atlanta before moving back to Pensacola in 2001. Katherine has worked as a pediatric/neonatal social worker at Sacred Heart Children's Hospital for the last 16 years where she has served on the Ethics Committee. She was certified as a bereavement counselor in 2003. In 2016, she began working on a team that developed and implemented an outpatient program for Congestive Heart Failure patients at Sacred Heart Hospital. Katherine is currently the Care Transition Coordinator for this program. Katherine has been a member of the Fiesta of Five Flags Board of Governors for the past 9 years and currently serves as Chair of the Costume Committee.

As a member of Christ Church, Katherine has served on the Service to Others Committee and has taught Vacation Bible School and Sunday School. As a proud EDS parent, Katherine has served as a classroom volunteer, a room parent, an Annual Fund Captain and a PSO member. She began serving on the EDS Board of Directors in 2016. Katherine is married to Bill Mitchem and they have 2 daughters, McColl and Lucy.