



Trustee Short Bios

2014

W. Foster Gaillard, Chair

W. Foster Gaillard received his undergraduate degree from Washington and Lee University in 1970 and his law degree from the University of South Carolina in 1973. Foster is a partner in the law firm of Womble Carlyle Sandridge & Rice, LLP where he concentrates his practice in the area of complex commercial real estate transactions, banking law, and business law. He has extensive experience in representing corporate and individual clients in all aspects of real estate law, including contract negotiations, zoning and land use issues, financing, regulatory matters and closing the transaction. He also handles economic development incentive work for new and expanding businesses.

Wilbur E. Johnson, Vice Chair

Wilbur E. Johnson graduated from Augusta State University in 1976 and from the University of South Carolina School of Law in 1979. He was admitted to the Bar in 1979 and is licensed to practice in State Court, United States District Court, and the United States Court of Appeals. Until 1994, Wilbur was an Assistant Attorney General in the office of the Attorney General of South Carolina and was the recipient of the Earl Warren Legal Training Fellowship. Wilbur joined Young Clement Rivers, LLP in 1994 and is currently Managing Partner. He now focuses his practice on employment law litigation and administrative and regulatory law and has served as an Adjunct Professor at the Charleston School of Law. Wilbur serves as a Board member of several civic and community organizations, including the Roper Hospital, the Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce, Crisis Ministries, Charleston County Greenbelt Advisory Board, the South Carolina Aquarium, the New Morning Foundation, the International African American Museum, the South Carolina Bar House of Delegates, the Carolina Youth Development Center, and the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond.

Park B. Smith Jr., Treasurer

Born and raised in Charleston, Park B. Smith Jr. graduated from The Citadel in 1978. He began his investment advisory business with J.C. Bradford in 1986 and is currently Vice President of Investments with UBS Financial Services, Inc. He married Margaret Rinehart of Columbia S.C., is a lifelong member of St. Michaels Church, and they reside in downtown Charleston. He is a member of many social organizations and has served on the boards of The Enston Home Foundation, Charleston Neighborhood Association, and the St. Michaels finance commission. He enjoys hunting, fishing, and golf.

Anne F. Smith, Past Chair

Anne F. Smith is a graduate of Erskine College and has served on the Foundation's Board since 2000, currently serving as Past Chair. She was the head of the Public Relations Department for



Southern Bell Telephone Company in the early 1970s until she began to raise her family. Anne returned to the work force in 1989 as the Assistant Director of the South Carolina Guardian ad Litem Program, which was part of the Governor's Office, a position she held for seven years. Furthering her volunteer commitments, she was Chair of the Ashley Hall Parents Association, Chair of the Susan B. Komen Race for the Cure, President of the Junior League of Charleston, Hospice of Charleston, and the Horticultural Society of Charleston. Anne also served as an Elder at First (Scots) Presbyterian Church. She is married to Whit Smith, a Charleston Harbor Pilot, and greatly enjoys her role as mother and grandmother.

W. Crayton Walters III, Secretary

W. Crayton Walters, III is a graduate of The Citadel and a Charleston Harbor Pilot, serving as a Director of Charleston Pilots and Charleston Navigation Company. He is also a Director at Harbor National Bank and has served on many non-profit Boards, including the J. Stewart Walker Endowment Fund for the College of Charleston, the Lowcountry Open Land Trust, and United States Sailing National Sailing Hall of Fame Board of Trustees and is on the Propeller Club of Charleston's Board of Governors.

Claire B. Allen

Claire B. Allen graduated from Vassar College with a major in Philosophy. She moved to Charleston in 1982 with her husband, Dr. Jim Allen. She served on the boards of Charleston County Medical Society Alliance and the Charleston Symphony Orchestra League, as well as the Board of Governors of The Club at Seabrook Island as Secretary, Vice President, and President. Claire was a docent at the Edmondston Alston House when it was under the Historic Charleston Foundation umbrella, and later became a docent at the Nathaniel Russell House. Claire has been a licensed City of Charleston tour guide and was active with the Festival of Houses and Gardens for many years. She serves on the Nathaniel Russell House Committee and the Retail and Licensing Committee while being regularly active with the Charleston Antiques Show.

Jill F. Almeida

Jill Almeida earned a BA from Lawrence University and held professional positions in banking and teaching, including Continental Illinois National Bank, Citibank, Security Pacific National Bank, Nightingale-Bamford School in New York City, and the Latin School of Chicago. She has served on the Foundation Board of the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago, President of the Women's Board of RIC, the Old Masters Society and Sustaining Fellows of the Art Institute of Chicago, the Women's Board and Founders Council of the Field Museum of Chicago, and the Guild of the Chicago History Museum. In Charleston, Jill is the First Vice-President of the Gibbes Museum of Art Board of Trustees and is Co-chair of the National Advisory Council of Historic Charleston Foundation.



John P. Barnwell

John Barnwell grew up in downtown Charleston and he currently resides west of the Ashley in Edgewater Park. After graduating from Episcopal High School and the University of Virginia, John worked in the banking business in Charleston for approximately twenty five years. In 2005, he began his employment with Evening Post Industries, which owns The Post and Courier, along with other newspapers, television stations, digital enterprises and forest lands. He started in the area of financial management and he currently serves as the company's President & CEO. John has been actively engaged in various civic, social and charitable organizations throughout his career, and he enjoys tennis, golf, and boating in his spare time.

Stevenson Bennett

Born and raised in Charleston, Stevenson Bennett has long had an appreciation for and interest in the Charleston community, its history and architecture. He studied English literature at Kenyon College, received an MBA from USC and earned his Masters in Real Estate Development from Columbia University's Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation. He manages Bennett Holdings, LLC specializing in real estate investments and restoration projects. He resides on Rutledge Avenue in an 1886 Italianate Revival home.

Anne H. Blessing

Anne H. Blessing graduated from the University of Virginia in 1994 and received an MA in English from Tulane University. She will complete her Ph.D. in American Literature from Tulane in May with a dissertation titled, "Representations of Slavery in Contemporary Literature." Anne has taught Latin and French at Trinity Episcopal School in New Orleans and English at Charleston Day School, Tulane University, and the College of Charleston. She has served as Chair of the UVA Lowcountry Jefferson Scholars Committee and as a board member of the Ashley Hall alumnae board. Anne presently is an Elder at the Huguenot Church and serves on the Board of the Charleston Library Society.

Olivia Mitchell Brock

Olivia Mitchell Brock and her husband, Walker, have recently relocated (again) from New York to Charleston. Ms. Brock grew up in Darien, Connecticut and graduated from Boston College in 2007 with a degree in History and American Studies. After graduation, Ms. Brock moved to Charleston to work as a preservation intern at Drayton Hall, assisting the Director of Preservation with various projects at the property. Olivia returned up north at the end of that year to assume the role of Office Manager at the Historic House Trust of New York City, a preservation non-- profit that operates alongside the NYC Parks Department to manage twenty--three historic house museums located within the five boroughs. Ms. Brock left HHT to pursue her graduate degree in Philadelphia the University of Pennsylvania, graduating in 2011 with a Master's of Science in Historic Preservation and a Certificate in Real Estate Design & Development. During her tenure at UPenn, Ms. Brock completed her thesis, "An Evaluation of Historic Preservation Revolving Loan Funds, and Recommendations for the Establishment of Future Programs." Following the completion of her



degree, Ms. Brock went on to work as the Preservation Manager at Goldman Properties in New York City, a boutique real estate company whose founder, Tony Goldman, is credited with the revitalization of New York's SoHo neighborhood, as well as South Beach Miami and Center City Philadelphia.

Robert L. Clement III

Robert L. Clement, III, a native of Charleston, SC, is a graduate of Washington and Lee University in Lexington, VA. After graduation, Mr. Clement worked in Birmingham, AL and then went on to Laguarda, Gavrel & Kirk, Inc. in Houston, TX. Upon returning to Charleston he joined the Max L. Hill Company, Inc., as Vice President and Manager of the Commercial Real Estate Division, a position he held for seven years. In March of 1993, Mr. Clement helped form the full service real estate firm of Clement, Crawford & Thornhill, Inc., known as CC&T Real Estate Services, and serves as its President. He is a developer and principal in a number of large developments including the Bell South Telecommunication Regional Headquarters, the Macalloy Project, the Midtown Project and Laurel Island. Mr. Clement has been active in many civic and charitable organizations, including the Historic Charleston Foundation, the Charleston Regional Development Alliance, the Charleston Area Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Charleston Museum, the Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce, the Coastal Carolina Council of the Boy Scouts of America and the First Scots Presbyterian Church. An avid hunter and conservationist, Mr. Clement is restoring 1,000 acres of land known as Willingham Plantation in Allendale, S.C. He has enrolled the plantation in a unique wetlands restoration program, bringing back indigenous plants and wildlife. Mr. Clement resides in the historic district of Charleston with his wife Carol.

William S. Cogswell Jr.

William Cogswell is the owner of WECCO of Charleston, LLC. He has been in the development and construction business since 1997. His background also includes work in planning, preservation, real estate equity funds, commercial brokerage, and green construction. William earned his BA from the University of the South (Sewanee), and after receiving his Masters degree from Columbia University in 2003, Mr. Cogswell formed Standard Precast Walls, LLC to complement his development efforts and to introduce a more sustainable, energy-efficient building envelope to the Southeastern market. WECCO Construction, LLC was formed in early 2006 in order to complete the design building process. William is a native of Charleston and a graduate of the University of the South. He is actively involved with the Urban Land Institute, Nature Conservancy, and the Coastal Conservation League. He enjoys the outdoors and spending time on the water with his wife, Lucile, and two children, William and Meade. Since 1997, William has been in the development and construction business. His background also includes work in planning, preservation, real estate equity funds, commercial brokerage, and green construction. After receiving a graduate degree from Columbia University in 2003, William formed Standard Precast Walls, LLC to complement his development efforts and to introduce a more sustainable, energy efficient building envelope to the Southeastern market. WECCO Construction, LLC was formed in early 2006 in order to complete the design-build process. William is a native of Charleston and a graduate of the University of the



South. He is actively involved with the Urban Land Institute, Historic Charleston Foundation and The Nature Conservancy.

Sarah L. Donnem

Sarah Donnem graduated from Vassar College and moved to Charleston in 2001 with her husband, Ron, who passed away in 2006. Sarah has been Chair of Special Events at the New York Winter Antiques Show since 1999. She has also been a valued advisor and member of the Collectors Circle Committee for the Charleston Antiques Show and served as Honorary Chair for the 2011 Show. Sarah served over 40 years as a trustee for the East Side House Settlement and has served on the boards of Project Learn, the Golden Age Centers of Greater Cleveland, and the Gibbes Museum. Currently here, Sarah is on the Board of the Charleston Horticultural Society and greatly enjoys attending the Charleston New Year's Renaissance Weekend, an idea festival held in cities around the world throughout the year.

G. Thomas Finnegan III

G. Thomas Finnegan graduated from the University of South Carolina in 1990 with a BS in Finance and Real Estate and earned an MBA in 1999 from the Goizueta Business School at Emory University. Tom was an investment banker in Chicago and New York with both Merrill Lynch and SG Cowen. Involved with many start-up companies, he was Vice President of Finance and Corporate Development at Introgen Therapeutics, a biotech company he took public based in Austin, TX before being named Director of MUSC's Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship in August 2012.

Susan T. Friberg

Susan Friberg graduated from Harvard and Radcliffe as well as MIT in Cambridge, MA. She has served as the Director of the Belgian-American Educational Foundation since 1992 and served on the Board of the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation and the MESDA Advisory Board. A downtown resident, Susan is currently on the boards of Spoleto Festival, USA, and The Charleston Library Society.

Helen L. Geer

Helen Lyles Geer is a native of Greenwood, S.C. and a long-time resident of Charleston. She earned her BA in English from Queen's College in Charlotte, N.C. and has been a leader in luxury real estate sales as the owner and Broker-in-Charge of William Means Real Estate, the area's exclusive affiliate of Christie's International Real Estate. Passionate about community service, Helen has been past President of the Junior League of Charleston, has served on the Women's Council at the Gibbes Museum of Art, the Board of the Episcopal Church Women at St. Philips, and has been an Ambassador from the Charleston Regional Development Alliance. In addition to her position on the HCF Board, she also serves on the Christie's International Real Estate Advisory Board and on the Board of MUSC's Children's Hospital.



Tara P. Guérard

A native of Charleston, S.C., Tara Guérard is a graduate of the College of Charleston. Recognized as the southeast's leading event designer, Tara has earned a national reputation for her exceptional ability to create spectacular settings celebrating life's most anticipated occasions for clients both locally and across the United States as a wedding planner and event designer with her business, Soirée. She is a former member of the City of Charleston Tourism Commission, volunteers locally with Darkness to Light, and is an active member of St. Philips Church. Tara lives in Charleston, South Carolina with her husband, Russell.

David B. Hoffman

Master craftsman, David Hoffman, began his training work on historic homes along the Hudson River Valley and New York City after studying Landscape Architecture at Cornell. In 1979, a project brought David to Charleston. He fell in love with the city and has been working to maintain its historic treasures since. As the leader of Edgewood Builders, David personally supervises his crew of craftsmen and subcontractors, handling all phases of preservation, restoration and remodeling. He is affiliated with the Association of Preservation Technology, the Preservation Trades Network, and the National Trust for Historic Preservation. He and his wife, Scottie, live in downtown Charleston.

Barry Kalinsky

Barry Kalinsky received a BA degree from George Washington University and a JD from the University of South Carolina. He is Vice President of Bob Ellis Shoe Store, previously served on the Charleston Symphony Orchestra and Tidelands Bank Boards, and serves on the Board of Spoleto Festival.

Virginia D. Lane

Virginia D. Lane earned a BA in Architecture in 1980 from the University of Virginia and a Masters of Architecture from Clemson University in 1983. She taught architecture at Clemson, worked at Dawson Engineering, Thomas and Dentzinger Architects, and then started her architecture practice, VDL Associates. Virginia has chaired the Boards of the Clemson Architectural Foundation, Charleston Day School, Building and Grounds Commission at St. Michael's Church, and served on the boards of the Virginia Center for Creative Arts, the Gibbes Museum, the Children's Art Museum, and George Washington's Mt. Vernon.

Douglas B. Lee

A native of Virginia, Douglas Lee came to Charleston in 1984 to work for the Kiawah Island Real Estate company where he still works today. He lives downtown in a house on which Historic Charleston holds an easement. Doug was a long-time Board Member of the Gibbes Museum as well as many other local non-profit groups, and he is an active member of St. Philips Church.



David Maybank III

David Maybank III currently serves as President and Broker-in-Charge of Maybank Properties LLC, a closely held Charleston based property management firm and holds a CCIM designation from the National Association of Realtors. Maybank Properties is a commercial real estate firm, which provides leasing, accounting and property management services. David holds an undergraduate degree from The University of the South in English Literature. In addition, he has a Masters in Business Administration from the Darden Graduate School of Business at the University of Virginia. He is Past Chairman/President of the World Trade Center Charleston, Metro Chamber of Commerce, Propeller Club of Charleston, and Life Management Center. David also serves on the National Bank of South Carolina Charleston Area Advisory Board and the ACE Basin Task Force Board of Directors and is Treasurer for the Life Management Center and the Lowcountry Open Land Trust and Chairman of the Board for Charleston Day School.

Rhetta A. Mendelsohn

Rhetta A. Mendelsohn graduated from the University of South Carolina with a BA in English, French, and Education. As a licensed City Guide, she served on the City's Tourism Commission, on the Board of the Charleston Tour Association and on the Board of Trustees for Porter Gaud School.

Shannon W. Ravenel

Shannon W. Ravenel grew up in Sumter, SC and attended Ashley Hall as a boarding student. Following two years at Stratford College in Danville, VA, Shannon graduated from the University of South Carolina. She taught kindergarten and first grade at St. Andrews Elementary in Charleston and is a member of First Scots Church. She has volunteered at Crisis Ministries and was a regent at Dunston Hall Plantation in Mason Neck, VA. Shannon has also been the Development Fund Chair at MUSC Children's Hospital. She and her husband, Hal, live downtown.

Zoë L. Ryan

Zoë Leath Ryan attended Sewanee, The University of the South, studying Economics and Art History. Zoë grew up in Charleston and returned home seven years ago after working in California for 14 years. She is a human resources expert, having previously worked for Patagonia, Restoration Hardware, Keen Footwear and now owns her own consulting Company, Human Resources and Organizational Development Consulting Zoë Ryan LLC. Zoë also serves as a trustee for Middleton Place Foundation, Charlestowne Neighborhood Association, and First Scots Presbyterian Kindergarten.

Monica M. Seeger

Monica Seeger grew up in Georgia and has 35 years of experience in development, finance, sales, asset management, office management, marketing, and residential and commercial real estate, working primarily in San Francisco. Monica has brought her creativity and initiative to the fore in support of the Neighborhood Impact Initiative as a founder and driving force behind the inaugural Women Who IMPACT Preservation event in December 2013. A relative newcomer to Charleston,



she and husband Ken have restored their house at 75 King and were HCF 2013 Homeowners of the Year.

David D. Silliman

David D. Silliman graduated from Amherst College in 1984 and started out in the Fortune 500 world of business. Eventually David gravitated to the art and antiques world where he and his wife Ann have been in retail and, currently, private placement/brokerage for over 20 years. David has served on the board of the School of the Building Arts, and currently and for the last seven years is the chairman of the Fine Arts Committee at the Carolina Yacht Club. He has coached football on and off for the last 25 years from youth through the high school levels.

Richard C. Simons

Richard C Simons was born in Philadelphia, the son of Samuel Stoney Simons and Virginia Cooke Simons. He received his education at St. Mark's School (Massachusetts) and Princeton University where he majored in American History. He then went on to receive an MBA at the Wharton School. After graduating from business school he joined Citibank in 1974 where he remained for most of his 34 year career in finance; he retired in 2008. Dick is currently researching the 19th century business practices of Charleston Merchants through the examination of the correspondence between Stephen Girard of Philadelphia and John Stoney of Charleston. He has been married to Pamela Ellis Simons for 41 years.

D. Van Smith, Jr.

D. Van Smith Jr. graduated from Washington and Lee University in 1986 with a BS in Business Administration and Accounting. He is President and Owner of both Van-Smith Company, Inc. in Charleston and Van Smith Block Company, LLC. in Summerville. Van has served on the Board of Directors of Mason Prep School and is past president and current Board member of the Carolinas Ready Mixed Concrete Association. He is also a board member designee of the National Ready Mixed Concrete Association.