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Foundation for Belmont Education Announces New President and Board Members

The Foundation for Belmont Education (FBE) is pleased to announce that Christa Bauge has been elected to lead the organization as President. In addition, five members of the Belmont community have been elected to serve terms on the FBE Board of Directors.

Christa Bauge – FBE President



Christa Bauge has been a member of the FBE Board of Directors for the last six years, most recently as secretary, a position on the FBE Executive Committee. In addition, Ms. Bauge served on the FBE Spring Fundraising Committee and as co-chair of the FBE Spelling Bee for three years, helping to grow student participants from 500 to more than 700. She has held several positions on both the Burbank and Chenery PTOs. At the Chenery Middle School, where she has a 7th grader, she most recently served as the coordinator for author programs and staff appreciation events. Ms. Bauge is a graduate of Harvard College and is a classical pianist. Previously, she worked as a human resources management consultant for local and international technology companies.

Jessie Bennett



Jessie Bennett is a web designer and social media consultant, and specializes in providing websites for authors and independent publishers. She was founding editor of Beacon Broadside, the blog for Beacon Press, where she worked as Digital Content Developer. Prior to that she was Assistant Editor for Rain Taxi Review of Books in Minneapolis, and webmaster for Ruminator Review. She has lived in Belmont with her family for ten years, and has one child each at Chenery Middle School and Burbank Elementary, where she served for the past two years as Co-President of the PTA. Her previous FBE involvement includes graphic design work for the Spelling Bee. Ms. Bennett holds a BA in Theatre Arts from the University of Minnesota.

Angela Chan



Angela Chan has lived in Belmont since 2003. She currently has children at Wellington Elementary School, Chenery Middle School, and Belmont High School. Angela has been active in the Wellington community beginning with the Together for Wellington Campaign. She was Co-President of the Wellington PTO from 2013-2015 and currently serves on the board as their Fundraising Chair. Since 2015 she has served, and continues to serve, on the FBE Program Committee as the Wellington liaison. Over the years she has volunteered at many FBE events including the Annual Spring Fundraiser, Spelling Bee, and Dan Scharfman Memorial Run. Angela is a graduate of UMass Amherst and Northeastern School of Law.

James Clem



James (Jim) Clem moved to Belmont in 2010. He has children at Butler Elementary and Chenery Middle School. Originally from Miami, Florida, Jim earned his B.A. in political science from Swarthmore College in 1989 and a Ph.D. in comparative politics in 1995 at the University of Michigan. Jim has worked in a variety of roles at Harvard University over the past 20 years. Since 2007, he has been the Managing Director of the Harvard University Center for the Environment (HUCE), where he manages educational, administrative, and research programs. Jim has served on the FBE Program Committee as the Butler liaison since 2014.

Alina Lisanke



Alina Lisanke has been a Belmont resident since 2011 and has two children at Burbank Elementary. This year, she volunteered with the PTA as a co-chair of the annual appeal. For the last two years, she worked on the FBE's Spelling Bee as a co-Beekeeper and will continue the task this year. Alina serves as a Town Meeting Member and helps in local campaigns. She is also an active member of Beth El Temple Center where she is part of the New Member Committee, Chair of the Human Resources Committee, and a member of the Board of Trustees. She works as a Sr. Recruiter at Nova Biomedical in Waltham. Since 2003, her career has focused on recruiting for technology, sales, and scientific positions. Alina received her Bachelor's degree in Communications from Emerson College and an MBA from the University of Massachusetts in Boston.

Tiao Xie



Tiao Xie grew up in China, and came to the US 17 years ago to pursue his PhD. He has children at the Burbank Elementary School. He has previously served as the president and vice-president of the Chinese Student and Scholar Association at Emory University and Harvard Medical School respectively. Now working in the pharmaceutical industry, he recently founded the Belmont Chinese American Association together with a few friends and was elected the vice-president of the organization.

About the Foundation for Belmont Education (FBE)

The Foundation for Belmont Education (FBE) is a non-profit, independent, charitable organization run by volunteers dedicated to improving educational opportunities for Belmont's children and teachers. The FBE awards grants from a diverse array of projects—from small grants that benefit a single classroom to large programs sponsored by multiple teachers designed to benefit students in an entire grade or school. Thanks to donations from thousands of Belmont residents and businesses, the FBE donates an average of \$200,000 annually to the Belmont Public Schools, granting more than 3.4 million to date.

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