TIM SHUMAN
Regional Director for International Schools, ACSI (Conference Host/Presenter)
Tim serves as the regional director for international schools at the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI). Prior to joining the ACSI team in 2010, he and his wife, Sandee, lived and worked in Germany for nearly 25 years at Black Forest Academy, a Christian boarding school, where Tim served as headmaster. The Shumans have two married TCK sons, Luke (Brooklyn, NY) and Tyler (Los Angeles, CA). When Tim is not visiting or consulting at international Christian schools around the world, he can often be found hiking with Sandee in the Colorado Front Range or sketching scenes that catch his attention.

SUSAN ALLEN
Education and Spiritual Formation Specialist, Life Journey Consulting
Susan Allen grew up as a missionary kid in SE Asia and attended Christian schools from PK-12. Susan, her husband James, and their four children served as missionaries in Penang, Malaysia for 14 years. Susan worked at Dalat International School, where she was High School Curriculum Coordinator, Instructional Coach, and the chair of the Bible Department. Their family returned to the USA in June 2019 to help care for Susan’s mother and have settled in Northern California. Susan is working on graduate studies in Christian Spiritual Formation and Leadership and continues to work as a consultant with Dalat and other Christian schools around the world.

JERRY JONES
Transition Specialist, Leadership Development International (LDi)
Jerry is a cross-cultural trainer, public speaker, and writer who has lived in China with his family since 2006. There he has developed cross-cultural training programs both for Asian professionals preparing to travel abroad and expats living in Asia. Before moving to China, he served as a pastor for eight years. Jerry is passionate about his family, his faith, and crossing cultures. He has been married to his college sweetheart since 1996. His daughter was adopted from the Gansu Province of China in 2004 and his son was adopted from the United States in 2009.

LESLIE JOHNSON
Educational Consultant, ACSI Global
Combining education and cross-cultural experience and ministry, Leslie helps others grow in understanding people from diverse situations. Leslie received her Master of Education from Covenant College, served as the head of school for Christian International School of Prague for over 11 years, and is currently a Faculty Care Associate for Global Scholars, assisting families with their educational needs, and an Educational Consultant in Europe for the ACSI working in multiple countries. They have lived in Germany, Belarus, and the Czech Republic. Leslie and her husband, Tom, have three children and four grandchildren.
MICHELE PHOENIX

TCK Consultant, Global Outreach Mission
Born in France to a Canadian father and an American mother, Michèle is a consultant, writer and speaker with an international mindset. She taught for twenty years at Black Forest Academy (Germany) before launching her own ministry advocating for Third Culture Kids under Global Outreach Mission. Today Michèle travels globally to consult and teach on topics related to TCKs, while writing novels in her spare time. She is inspired by good conversations, mischievous students, and paths to healing.

KRISTI SCHLIEP

Residence Life Development, Black Forest Academy
Kristi Schliep was born and raised in California by two mission-minded, pastoral parents. She served with Youth for Christ for 17 years in California, Germany, and Thailand, and worked at Black Forest Academy in Kandern, Germany, for nine years. Her current role at BFA focuses on professional development for boarding staff.

DAMIAN TAPLEY

Lead Team Director, Leadership Development International (LDi)
Damian has worked in education in Australia and China for 18 years, with most of this time spent in student services. He is the lead city manager for LDi, supporting City Managers (CMs) across China and in the UAE. His earlier working life focused on supporting students with the non-academic side of things to help them succeed with their studies. Damian now does this with the CM team, supporting adults with the non-professional side of life to be successful in their professional roles. Doing this in a cross-cultural setting makes for a rich learning and growth environment. Damian and his wife, Natasha, originally from Australia, have lived in China for 14 years, where all three of their boys were born. They call Qingdao, China, home.

BRIAN WEIDEMANN

Residence Supervisor, Dalat International School
An adult TCK, Brian was raised in Hong Kong by missionary parents. He attended Dalat International School in Malaysia as a dorm student where he met his wife Valerie, and he now serves there as dorm parent and boarding program administrator. He has been involved in boarding ministry, national staff support, and administration at Dalat since 2001. He and Valerie have two children, both dual-national, second-generation TCKs; their daughter, Bethany, works in the children’s program. Brian serves as the co-administrator of the PFO program.

VAL WEIDEMANN

Residence Supervisor, Dalat International School
Valerie serves with Brian in the shared roles of residence supervisors and dorm parents at Dalat International School in Malaysia. She is an MK from Indonesia and worked in publishing and church ministry before moving overseas in 2001. Her experience as a TCK who attended boarding school herself has fueled her passion for TCK’s and commitment to training others to serve them well. Her focus areas are student and staff development, spiritual formation, and student protection and empowerment. She and Brian have served as PFO staff since 2008.