Class Notes/DePaul Pride

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CLASS NOTES

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1960s

- Paul Knuti (CSH MA ’67) was awarded his rookie buckle by the Minnesota Cutting Horse Association.
- Don Kilburg Jr. (LAS ’68, MBA ’74) published “Hitler’s Last Christmas: The Day the Entire Mighty 8th Air Force Entered the Battle of the Bulge” (Outskirts Press) in May. He is a member and serves on the board of the 487th Bomb Group Association.
- Michael Kazanjian (LAS MA ’69) has published the second edition of his book, “Unified Philosophy: Interdisciplinary Metaphysics, Cyberethics, and Liberal Arts,” which argues that philosophy, engineering, cybernetics and set theory in math should be foundations of liberal arts and sciences.
- John F. Pes (LAS ’69) and his wife, Linda, were named race directors of the year for 2018 by the Illinois Valley Striders of Central Illinois. They directed the popular Bridge to Bridge Race between Peoria and East Peoria.

1970s

- Laura Brosch (CCH ’74), a lieutenant colonel (ret.) of the U.S. Army, is the new assistant vice president for research initiatives and compliance for Uniformed Services University, a health science university of the U.S. federal government.
- Elizabeth Murphy (BUS ’74, MBA ’77) has joined the board of directors of the CPA Endowment Fund of Illinois, the charitable partner of the Illinois CPA Society.
- William Niro (JD ’74) has joined the intellectual property practice of Aronberg Goldgehn in Chicago.
- Ben Kalom (CSH ’75) was recognized by the Air Line Pilots Association, International, for promoting health and wellness programs for pilots at United Airlines, where he was employed.

1980s

- Kevin M. McCann (EDU MA ’76) received the Dr. Robert Hamilton Special Service Award and was inducted into the DePaul Athletics Hall of Fame on Feb. 2, 2019. He has been the official timer for DePaul men’s basketball for more than 48 years.
- Curtis J. Crawford (MBA ’78, DHL ’99), president and CEO of XCEO Inc., has been recognized by the Financial Times’ Outstanding Directors Exchange as one of 2019’s Most Outstanding Directors.
- William McDade (CCH ’82) received the Dr. Robert Hamilton Special Service Award and was inducted into the DePaul Athletics Hall of Fame on Feb. 2, 2019. He has been the official timer for DePaul men’s basketball for more than 48 years.
- Curtis J. Crawford (MBA ’78, DHL ’99), president and CEO of XCEO Inc., has been recognized by the Financial Times’ Outstanding Directors Exchange as one of 2019’s Most Outstanding Directors.
- Jim Molinari (JD ’80) is the new men’s basketball assistant coach for the University of Oklahoma (OU). He comes to OU after five years as assistant coach at the University of Nebraska.
- Edward Mungua (BUS ’80) has been promoted to executive vice president of holding company Stillman BancCorp N.A. He also serves as executive vice president of the bank’s Rockford and Roscoe Rockton locations.
- Haydee Ortiz-Olinger (BUS ’80, JD ’83) was elected to the board of directors of TransAct Technologies Inc., a global technology and printing solutions company for high-growth markets.
- Bertram Scott (SCPS ’80, DHL ’09) has joined the AXA Equitable Holdings board of directors as a subsidiary board member.
- Geoffrey J. Harlow (MST ’81) has been named the 2019-20 chair of the Illinois CPA Society’s board of directors.
- Peggy Troy (CCH MS ’81), president and CEO of Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin, has been named to the board of directors of Milwaukee-based Rezornado Corp.
- Janet Eichhoff-Levey (CCH ’82) associate professor of nursing at Carthage College in Kenosha, Wis., received the Best Article of 2018 award from Nursing Education Perspectives for her paper “Universal Design for Instruction in Nursing Education: An Integrative Review.”
- Kenton Klaus (BUS ’82) has joined the board of directors of the CPA Endowment Fund of Illinois, the charitable partner of the Illinois CPA Society.

The Hon. Diane J. Larsen (CSH ’79) joined the panel of JAMS, a large private provider of alternative dispute resolution services worldwide.

- The Hon. Anne M. Burke (SCPS ’76, DHL ’05) was selected by her fellow Illinois Supreme Court justices to take the role of chief justice for a term that runs through Oct. 25, 2022. A member of the high court since July 6, 2006, she will become the third woman to hold the position.
- M. Carol Pope (JD ’79) was appointed legislative inspector general for the State of Illinois.
- Thomas W. Tuohy (BUS ’79, JD ’82) is now an adjunct professor of social enterprise at DePaul’s Kellstadt Graduate School of Business. He was recently featured in the Chicago Tribune regarding the 30th anniversary of Dreams for Kids, the nonprofit he founded in 1979.
ENGAGEMENTS & MARRIAGES

Kelsey Jorissen (THE ’11) and Paul Olese were married June 8. Jorissen is a professional photographer, organic farmer and owner of Green Willow Homestead. Olese is director of engineering for Delta Hawk Engines in Racine, Wis. The couple reside in Franklin, Wisc.

Nathan Terrazas (BUS ’13) and Lauren Wiley were married April 13 in Austin, Texas. She is a speech language pathologist at a private practice. He is a product specialist at ePayPolicy. The couple reside in Austin.

David Fleming (BUS MS ’16) and Jacqueline Washburn were married in June on the Amalfi Coast of Italy. Fleming works for the Hunt Club, a technology recruiting firm in Chicago, and Washburn is the national sales director at Captivate in Chicago.

Marybeth Whitney-DeLaMar (EDU ’85) has been named the new principal of Franklin Elementary School in Park Ridge, Ill.

Mark Flessner (JD ’86) has joined the administration of Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot as corporation counsel.

Michael G. Marchi (MBA ’86) joined CEO Coaching International, which coaches growth-focused CEOs and entrepreneurs, as a coach. He has more than 30 years of C-suite experience.

Theresa A. Banks (CDM ’87) had two books published in 2019, “I’ve Got a Testimony” and “Becoming a Published Author.” Both are available at eliacepublishing.com and Amazon.com.

Carol Brandt (MBA ’87) was named by Forbes as a Best-In-State Wealth Advisor for 2019. She works for Merrill Lynch Wealth Management in Chicago.

James M. Neckopoulos (MBA ’84) has been elected to the board of State Bank of India (California). He retired in March 2019 from EY, where he served as executive director of the banking and capital markets practice.

Delia C. Diaz (BUS ’85) joined Traditional Medicinals in Rohnert Park, Calif., as the tea-producing company’s CEO. Previously, she was CFO of the pet care division of Mars Inc.

Todd Gustafson (MM ’85) had his photography and videography featured in the documentary “To the Ends of the Earth: East Africa,” narrated by Jane Goodall. The documentary aired on WTTW-TV in April.

Daniel Rahill III (JD ’85, LLM ’91) has joined the board of directors of the CPA Endowment Fund of Illinois, the charitable partner of the Illinois CPA Society.

Marybeth Whitney-DeLaMar (EDU ’85) has been named the new principal of Franklin Elementary School in Park Ridge, Ill.

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Carol Brandt (MBA ’87) was named by Forbes as a Best-In-State Wealth Advisor for 2019. She works for Merrill Lynch Wealth Management in Chicago.
James Robinson (BUS ’92) is now president and chief operating officer of Paragon Biosciences.

Dan Shields (MST ’92) has been named president of Fabricated Products Group, a custom fabricator and machine job shop located in Frankfort, Ill.

Keith Anderson (MBA ’93) has retired as CEO from Skyline Champion Corp. He will continue to serve on the company’s board of directors.

Jeffrey S. Aronin (MBA ’93), chairman and CEO of Paragon Biosciences, was named an individual winner of the 2019 BIG Innovation Awards by the Business Intelligence Group.

John C. Bird (BUS ’93, MST ’99) has been named a member of the 2019-20 Illinois CPA Society’s board of directors.

David I. Fein (JD ’93) was promoted from vice president to senior vice president of state governmental and regulatory affairs at Exelon Generation.

Rob Morrison (BUS ’93), president of Huber Financial in Lincolnshire, Ill., recently published “Victory Lap Retirement,” a book that discusses how to create an appropriate lifestyle in retirement that may include a blend of work and leisure, and how to develop and integrate a financial plan in line with that vision.

Patty Tzortzis (EDU ’93) is the new assistant principal of Algonquin Middle School in Algonquin, Ill.

Justin C. Dearborn (JD ’94) joined ICM Partners as chief operating officer. Previously, he was the CEO of Tribune Publishing.

Patrick Hicks (LAS MA ’94) recently published his 11th book, “Library of the Mind: New & Selected Poems” (Salmon Poetry). He is the host and curator of the weekly NPR-affiliated radio show “Poetry from Studio 47.” Hicks is writer-in-residence at Augusta University as well as a faculty member in the MFA in creative writing program at Sierra Nevada College.

Kevin C. Smith (JD ’94) has been named corporation counsel of the City of Hammond, Ind.

Joseph Balesteri (JD ’95) has been elected a Fellow by the International Society of Barristers. He is a partner at the Chicago personal injury law firm Power Rogers & Smith LLP.

Andrew R. Bokor (CDM MS ’95) co-founded cyber-security company Trustwave and sold it for $770 million. He now is co-founder of Truss, a commercial real estate marketplace.

Carlos Claudio (LAS ’95, JD ’02) was appointed executive officer of the Cook County Medical Examiner’s Office.

Darren Guccione (BUS MS ’95) was named Cutting Edge Chief Executive of the Year for 2019 by Cyber Defense Magazine. His company, Keeper Security Inc., also received the Publisher’s Choice

Maria Veal (BUS ’91) says her most vivid memories of her early childhood in Mexico were of the food she ate.

“Everything was fresh. The local grocery was an open area called the Mercado. You wanted chicken? It had just been killed that day. Fruit was squeezed for fresh juice,” she says.

Even after her family settled in the Bridgeport neighborhood of Chicago when she was six, fast food was never an option. Her grandmother and mother cooked every meal from scratch. As the oldest of five, Veal soon joined them in the kitchen.

Veal’s culinary skills are being put to good use at her newly opened family-owned business, Little Something Extra Bakery & Cafe in Oak Lawn, Ill.

The venture, which she runs with her husband, Bill, marks a new beginning for the Veals, longtime Oak Lawn residents. After careers in finance, the couple saw a niche in their community for an independent café that could also employ adults with disabilities, including their son, Billy, who has Down syndrome.

“You don’t see that many places hiring individuals with a disability. We hope to employ as many of these adults as we are able and show the world that anyone can be independent and learn a trade,” says Veal, who currently employs three adults with disabilities in partnership with an adult transition program in Oak Lawn. Their eldest, Alexandra, a senior in DePaul’s College of Communication, serves as communications manager, and Daniel, their youngest and a student at Brother Rice High School, also lends a hand.

Veal majored in human resource management at DePaul and, upon graduation, landed a job at Harris Bank, where she met her husband. The idea to launch their own business was prompted in part by Billy’s graduation from high school in 2018. “We started thinking about his future because we knew that at some point in time, he needed to do something meaningful that would allow him to be independent,” she says.

She hopes their café is a welcoming place for people of all abilities. “We recently hosted an event pairing seniors with adults with disabilities,” says Veal. “This is a way for people to feel a sense of pride in their accomplishments and to do something for others.”
Cybersecurity Password Management InfoSec Award for 2019.

- Paul Wilkin (MST ’95) has joined Mathieson, Moyski, Austin & Co. LLP, in Wheaton, Ill., as a manager.

- Allison Brecher (JD ’96) is now the general counsel and chief privacy counsel of Vestwell, a fintech startup based in New York serving the retirement plan sector.

- Frank Cesario (MBA ’96), CFO of CTI Industries, has been appointed to the small business advisory committee of the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB).

- Michael S. Davison (MBA ’96) was named vice president of finance for AArete, a global management consulting firm based in Chicago.

- Robert Fernandez (LAS ’96) has joined Latham & Watkins LLP as a partner in the corporate department and member of the real estate practice. He works out of the Chicago office.

- Paul McGrady Jr. (JD ’96) has joined the Chicago office of Taft Stedtinus as a partner in the intellectual property practice group.

- Michael Samuels (MBA ’96) is now the CFO of the Addison Group, a professional services and staffing group.

- Elizabeth Saunders (JD ’96), a partner of Clermont Partners in Chicago, was named a 2019 Fellow of the National Investor Relations Institute (NIRI).

- Victoria S. Child (MBA ’97) joined Crosby Marketing Communications as a senior vice president and senior strategist. Previously, Child was vice president of strategy for United Way Worldwide.

- Eric J. Fuglsang (JD ’97) has joined Levenfeld Pearlstein as a partner in its real estate group. He focuses his practice in commercial leasing and asset management, real estate finance, acquisitions and dispositions, and development.

- Heather Kos (MBA ’97) is now vice president, investor relations, of Univar Inc., a global chemical and ingredient distributor.

- Edward May Jr. (MBA ’97) has been named executive vice president and chief operations officer of Houston-based glass recycler Strategic Materials Inc.

- Elizabeth Cain Diskin (JD ’98) practiced law for several years before focusing on her lifelong dream of writing fiction. Diskin’s fourth thriller, “Desperate Paths,” was published in March by Thomas & Mercer. For more about her events and other books, visit ecdiskin.com.


- Lisa A. Bailey (MBA ’99) was hired as a major leader in the water practice for HDR, which provides consulting on water-based engineering challenges. She is based in the Atlanta office.

- Lourdes Duarte (CMN ’99), news anchor and investigative reporter at WGN-TV, received the Distinguished Alumna Award from DePaul’s Center for Journalism Integrity and Excellence.

- Raymond Pruchnich (JD ’99) is now in-house real estate counsel at InSite Real Estate, an Oak Brook, Ill.-based retail and industrial build-to-suit real estate development company.

- Ilyce Shugall (JD ’99) is now the executive director of the Board of the National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers Guild. Shugall is a longtime immigrants’ rights advocate and former director of the immigration program at a community-based legal services organization in East Palo Alto, Calif.

- Joseph C. Ahearn (CMN ’00) was hired as assistant men’s soccer coach for Michigan State University.

- Jeffrey Bankowski (MBA ’00) has joined Guidehouse, a provider of management consulting services, as a managing director in the firm’s state and local government practice.

- Tery Gonsalves (JD ’00) has joined the litigation and trial practice team of Alston & Bird LLP. He works out of the firm’s Atlanta office.

- Kelly C. Heisler (CMN MA ’00) has returned to the International Center of Photography as its senior director for marketing and communications. She previously worked for the organization from 2010 to 2013 and held senior roles at Fortune 500 companies, nonprofits and agencies in the interim.

- Sarah Johnson (JD ’00) has joined the Vail Valley Foundation in Avon, Colo., as senior vice president of education and the arts.

- Laura Magruder (MED ’00) is the new principal of Highlands Elementary School in La Grange Highlands, Ill.

- M. Nicole (Fernstrom) Marshall (MBA ’00) was appointed vice president and commercial loan officer at Itasca (Ill.) Bank and Trust. She is married with four children.

- Paul A. O’Malley (EDU ’00) was named superinten- dent of Butler Elementary District 53 in Oak Brook, Ill. He was superintendent of Norridge (Ill.) School District 80 since 2015.

- Brian Rocket (BUS ’00) has joined the 1st Security Bank as vice president, commercial lending relationship manager. He is based in the Mountlake Terrace, Wash., office.

- Deborah K. Rood (MST ’00) has been named a member of the 2019-20 Illinois CPA Society’s board of directors.

- Cynthia Curley (MBA ’01) was recognized with the Lifetime Achievement Award during the Institute for Credentialing Excellence’s annual conference in late 2018.

- Pamela J. Gampetro (CSH MS ’01), a family nurse practitioner, earned her PhD from Loyola University Chicago in 2018. An article based on her dissertation on safety cultures within U.S. pediatric hospitals was published in April 2019. She is a clinical assistant professor in the College of Nursing at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

- Tara L. Grabarczyk (JD ’01) joined the school board in Monticello, Ill. She is an attorney in the Law Offices of Suzanne Wells.

- Corinne Heggie (JD ’01) is the new president of the Women’s Bar Association of Illinois. She previously served as the association’s first vice president and chaired a number of events and committees.

- Michael P. Kelly (JD ’01), general superintendent and CEO of the Chicago Park District, was elected chair-elect of the National Recreation and Park Association. His term begins in September 2020.

- John G. Lingon (MBA ’01) is senior vice president of commercial development for CoreCentric Solutions, based in Carol Stream, Ill.

- Lisa Micka (BUS ’01) has joined Altair Advisers LLC, an independent wealth advisory firm, as associate director of client service. She also serves on the boards of the Chicago Estate Planning Council and the nonprofit organization Rainbows for All Children.

- Mike Doorhy (MBA ’02) was named vice president and general manager of Well-McLain, manufacturers of cast iron and cast aluminum boilers, in November 2018.

- Sarah Q. Frazer (CMN ’02) was named director of residential programming for Selah Freedom, a national organization that works to end sex trafficking.

- Dana Hall (MM ’02), a faculty/staff drummer and School of Music associate professor, is part of the After Dark ensemble that now plays on Tuesday evenings at Andy’s in Chicago.

- Amanda Harrold (MBA ’02) has joined WealthVest. She will help advisors in multiple territories with retirement planning that uses fixed and indexed annuities.

- Bonnie Kucharski (SCPS ’02) is now the vice president of operations at Potentia Analytics, Inc., a software company that enables patients flow optimization and intelligent provider scheduling.

- John Basile (MBA ’03) is now senior vice president of NAI Hiffman, a commercial real estate firm based in Oakbrook Terrace, Ill.

- Scott Gryder (JD ’03) was re-elected to the Kendall County (Ill.) Board in November 2018 and to a second term as the board’s chairman.
IN MEMORIAM

Lord, we commend to you the souls of our dearly departed. In your mercy and love, grant them eternal peace.

Alumni


Friends


Editor’s Note: Due to space limitations, this memorial list includes only those alumni and friends who our offices have confirmed have passed away since the previous issue was printed.

- Jennifer Kristofferson (MED ’03) has been promoted to chief academic officer at Neapol. She had been vice president of content strategy at the company, which aims to help K–12 teachers and school districts create engaging classroom experiences.

- Ying Liang (MBA ’03) was named a fellow of SPE, a professional organization for specialists in plastics engineering, technology and science, for her contributions to the field. She is a research principal at Mondelz International.

- Edgar Berre (JD ’04) has been promoted to the global head of data services for CME Group.

- Sean Cummings (MBA ’04) has been promoted to vice president of real estate development at Opus Development Company LLC. He will lead the company’s Denver office and will continue to lead industrial development in Phoenix.

- Darryl Dunn (MBA ’04) was named to the 2019 ForbesBest-In-State Wealth Advisors list. Dunn is a senior vice president-wealth management in the Kansas City office of UBS Financial Services.

- Tadas Kubilius (LAS ’04) served on a panel discussing “Lithuania: Traditional and Modern Nation,” at the University of Scranton’s Jay Nathan, Ph.D., visiting scholar lecture series, held April 30. Kubilius is congressional liaison officer at the Lithuanian Embassy in Washington, D.C.

- Sarah Kustok (CMN ’04, MA ’10) has joined NBA Radio. She was a color commentator for the Brooklyn Nets.

- Ashley Luke-Clanton (EDU ’04) is the new girl’s basketball head coach of Norcross High School in Norcross, Ga.

- Leslie Mitchell (MED ’04) is now principal of Gregory Middle School in Naperville, Ill.


- Sally A. Washlow (MBA ’04) was named to the board of directors for Costar Technologies, Inc. She leads the Midwest practice for the International Center for Executive Options, a boutique provider of executive transition consulting services. She is also the managing director of SW Consulting Solutions LLC, a strategic and executive management consulting firm.

- Ahmed Y. Zedan (LAS ’04) is co-founder and COO of Haifa Hijab, a direct-to-consumer fashion and lifestyle brand for Muslim women.

- Andrea Ash (LAS MS ’05) is the new president and CEO of the Fort Worth Public Library Foundation.

- Karyn Bass Ehler (JD ’05) has joined Grant & Eisenhofer as senior counsel. She will lead the firm’s new civil rights practice. She most recently served as chief of the Civil Rights Bureau in the Illinois Attorney General’s office.

- Williams E. Gragido (SCPS ’05) has been hired as the new vice president of business development at HYAS, a provider of attribution intelligence tools for cybersecurity professionals.

- Demetra (Dana) Nasia-kos (MED ’05) has been named interim principal of McKenzie Elementary School in Wilmette, Ill.

- Shavna N. Shillair (BUS ’05) was appointed Bay County (Mich.) treasurer in February 2019. Previously she served as Bay County assistant corporation counsel.

- Mathew SIPORIN (JD ’05) of Pullano Law in Chicago has been named a Lifetime Elite Lawyer in the field of personal injury law by the Elite Lawyer rating service.

- Erica Weiss (THE ’05) is a creator and showrunner of CBS’s “The Red Line,” an eight-episode original limited series set in Chicago.

- Jason Sparks (MBA ’06) is the new business development director for CBRE’s project management advisory business in Chicago.

- Tracey Beecroft (MBA ’07) is Lumiled’s new senior retail sales manager for North America.

- Beth S. Kainic (MED ’07), a college counselor at Cristo Rey St. Martin College Prep in Beloit, Wis., is one of nine recipients of the 2019 Counselors That Change Lives Awards, given by Colleges That Change Lives, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the ideal of a student-centered college search.
Robert L. McCann III (LAS ’07) was promoted to partner at Reed Smith LLP in the firm’s Chicago office. He concentrates his practice on mergers and acquisitions, private equity, and debt and equity financing transactions.

Nawroz Pirani (BUS ’07) and Zeeshan Bhimji (BUS ’09) have opened a new Code Ninjas learning center in Long Grove, Ill.

Lauren Stone (CHS ’07) completed her doctorate in occupational therapy and was promoted to pediatric clinical program coordinator of the pediatric rehabilitation program at Marianjoy Rehabilitation Hospital in Wheaton, Ill.

Beau Bump (JD ’08) has joined the Northern Illinois University Department of Consumer and Retail Systems and is now available on Amazon Prime.

Jessica Baer (JD ’08) was reappointed as director of professional regulation at the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation, a post she assumed in 2016. Previously she was an associate at K&L Gates.

Beau Bump (JD ’08) has joined the Fort Collins, Colo., office of Cline Williams Wright Johnson & Oldfather LLP. His practice areas are complex commercial, personal injury and business disputes before state and federal courts.

Steven J. Callas (BUS ’08, CDM MS ’13) worked as the production manager of the 2017 feature film “King Rat,” which was released widely in 2018 and is now available on Amazon Prime.

Michael Gentithes (JD ’08) is an assistant professor with the University of Akron (Ohio) School of Law, focusing on criminal law and procedure and legal research and writing.

Abigail M. Kidd (MED ’08) is now an assistant professor in the University of Wyoming’s Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources. Previously, she was a postdoctoral researcher at Utah State University.

Kathleen J. Mesterharm (LAS MA ’08) is a finalist for the Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Teaching for 2019. She is chair of the English department at Marian Catholic High School in Chicago Heights, Ill.

Melissa A. Sereda (LAS ’08, JD ’11) joined BatesCarey as an associate. She serves as coverage and litigation counsel to primary and excess insurers with regard to professional and commercial general liability claims.

Lance C. Ziebell (JD ’08) was elevated to shareholder with Lavelle Law, based in Schaumburg, Ill.

Keith Barnstein (JD ’09) was elected to the board of directors of the Illinois Creditors Bar Association.

Sara Cieniewski Butcher (JD ’09) has joined Sklar Kirsh LLP as senior counsel.

Kim Cattell Colletti (EDU ’09) is the new girls basketball coach at Naperville North High School in Naperville, Ill.

Michael Heaney (MBA ’09) has joined the Chicago office of Cresa, a global commercial real estate firm, as vice president.

Deanna L. Johnson (LAS MS ’09) recently launched Kansas City Like a Local, which creates personalized itineraries for visitors to the city or for people looking to explore their hometown. Each itinerary recommends sights, activities, food and drinks.

Jeremy M. Kahn (THE ’09) appeared in the Aurora Theatre Company’s production of “Everything Is Illuminated” in November and December 2018 in Berkeley, Calif.

Thomas Mersman (LAS ’09) is now director of inside sales for Keeper Security Inc.

Christopher Niro (JD ’09) has joined the intellectual property practice of Aronberg Goldgehn in Chicago.

Cellist Ruth Marshall (MM ’11, CER ’11) and pianist Garret Ross performed at the Humboldt State University Department of Music’s Guest Artist Series on March 10. Marshall and Ross have been performing together as Artu Duo since 2011.

Maria Bocanegra (JD ’10) has been appointed to the Illinois Commerce Commission.

Erica Tighe Campbell (LAS ’10) has her own company, a Los Angeles-based design firm called Be A Heart. Her newest offering is a line of Catholic paper party goods.

Robert Frye (MUS ’10) performed in Milwaukee on May 5 as a member of the musical project The Bridge #2.1. The Bridge is a network for collaborative projects exchange between French and American musicians.

Lynda Gonzales-Chavez (LAS MS ’10) was recently named to the Crain’s Chicago Business Notable Women Executives Over 50 list. She is senior vice president and chief diversity officer of the YMCA of the USA, based in Chicago, and has been accepted into DePaul’s Doctorate in Business Administration program.

Candice Cortese (CSH MA ’10) is a 2019 Golden Apple recipient. The Golden Apple Foundation recognizes Illinois teachers with this award for making a difference in their communities through educational excellence. Cortese is a math teacher at Hononegah High School in Rockton.

Zachary W. Fox (LAS ’10) is now a vice president with the sale-leaseback capital group of Mesirow Financial.

Jessica Baer (JD ’08) was reappointed as director of professional regulation at the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation, a post she assumed in 2016. Previously she was an associate at K&L Gates.

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Kim Cattell Colletti (EDU ’09) is the new girls basketball coach at Naperville North High School in Naperville, Ill.

Michael Heaney (MBA ’09) has joined the Chicago office of Cresa, a global commercial real estate firm, as vice president.

Deanna L. Johnson (LAS MS ’09) recently launched Kansas City Like a Local, which creates personalized itineraries for visitors to the city or for people looking to explore their hometown. Each itinerary recommends sights, activities, food and drinks.

Jeremy M. Kahn (THE ’09) appeared in the Aurora Theatre Company’s production of “Everything Is Illuminated” in November and December 2018 in Berkeley, Calif.

Thomas Mersman (LAS ’09) is now director of inside sales for Keeper Security Inc.

Christopher Niro (JD ’09) has joined the intellectual property practice of Aronberg Goldgehn in Chicago.

Cellist Ruth Marshall (MM ’11, CER ’11) and pianist Garret Ross performed at the Humboldt State University Department of Music’s Guest Artist Series on March 10. Marshall and Ross have been performing together as Artu Duo since 2011.

Maria Bocanegra (JD ’10) has been appointed to the Illinois Commerce Commission.

Erica Tighe Campbell (LAS ’10) has her own company, a Los Angeles-based design firm called Be A Heart. Her newest offering is a line of Catholic paper party goods.

Robert Frye (MUS ’10) performed in Milwaukee on May 5 as a member of the musical project The Bridge #2.1. The Bridge is a network for collaborative projects exchange between French and American musicians.

Candice Cortese (CSH MA ’10) is a 2019 Golden Apple recipient. The Golden Apple Foundation recognizes Illinois teachers with this award for making a difference in their communities through educational excellence. Cortese is a math teacher at Hononegah High School in Rockton.

Zachary W. Fox (LAS ’10) is now a vice president with the sale-leaseback capital group of Mesirow Financial.

Robert Frye (MUS ’10) performed in Milwaukee on May 5 as a member of the musical project The Bridge #2.1. The Bridge is a network for collaborative projects exchange between French and American musicians.

Lynda Gonzales-Chavez (LAS MS ’10) was recently named to the Crain’s Chicago Business Notable Women Executives Over 50 list. She is senior vice president and chief diversity officer of the YMCA of the USA, based in Chicago, and has been accepted into DePaul’s Doctorate in Business Administration program.

Vernon Hilton (MBA ’10) was recognized as a 40 Under 40 honoree for the city of Fort Worth by the Fort Worth Business Press. He is vice president—credit analyst manager for the Fort Worth Region of PlainsCapital Bank.

Eric C. Iberri (LAS MA ’10) joined Amazon in the Prime Air division as a senior technical writer.


Tiffany E. Lewis (THE ’10) joined the Ensemble Theatre as audience development director.

Anna Campitelli Rubenstein (CMN MA ’10) is the new development specialist for Boca Helping Hands, a community-based social service organization in the Boca Raton, Fla., area.

Daniel Thalheimer (MBA ’10) is the new vice president of acquisitions at Newcastle Limited. He is responsible for increasing Newcastle’s retail and multifamily investment portfolio.

Britta Waszak (EDU ’10) has been selected as the new principal for Henry Puffer Elementary School in Downers Grove, Ill.

D. Robert DeHaas III (MED ’11) was named founding dean of the Early Childhood Education Baccalaureate Institute at Brookhaven College in Dallas, Texas. He most recently served as founder and CEO of the Dallas Teacher Residency.

Kate Flower (LAS ’11) is the new research and instruction librarian at the Frel Library of the Massachusetts College of the Liberal Arts in North Adams, Mass.
Spotlight

When Mark Dinglasan (MBA ’12) was made executive director in 2017 of CUMAC, a nonprofit dedicated to feeding people and changing lives in Paterson, N.J., he felt ready for the big job ahead. Paterson is the historical city built by Alexander Hamilton to make the fledgling United States independent of European industry. It is the city where the first submarines in America were built and tested, Colt pistols were first manufactured and some of the first locomotives were built. However, Paterson has struggled in recent years, with changing industries and corruption leading to poor infrastructure, a lack of jobs, an opioid epidemic, food insecurity, poverty and much more.

“Sixteen percent of children face poverty in New Jersey, and 37 percent of residents in Paterson reported running out of food in 2018,” Dinglasan says. To help break generational cycles of poverty, Dinglasan oversees CUMAC, one of the largest antihunger organizations in New Jersey. CUMAC rescues more than 19,000 pounds of food a week, provides groceries to 5,000 people a month and processes more than 1.9 million pounds of food a year. However, when Dinglasan took over CUMAC, he focused on both food operations as well as the job-readiness, housing, and health and nutrition education operations. “Ending hunger has nothing to do with giving people food,” he says.

“My opinion is that hunger and, on a larger scale, poverty in the United States is not about a lack of food,” Dinglasan asserts. “Rather, the larger picture is that people are not able to access the resources they need to compete effectively for better opportunities. If you’re hungry, you can’t concentrate on school or work. If you’re homeless or close to it, where would you store your food? If you have no access to a computer, how would you apply for jobs? We have to challenge ourselves to create more just systems that empower people to compete for a better life.”

Informed by his work in diversity and juvenile justice in Chicago, Dinglasan’s vision is to turn CUMAC into a one-stop access point for supportive services that is embedded in the community. To do this, he and his team launched the Beyond Hunger Initiative in January 2019, an effort that involves improving and growing programming, physical improvements to the CUMAC facility, and much more. Not only will a family be able to come to CUMAC for healthy, nutritious groceries, but also they will be able to come for health screenings, nutrition education, career mapping, financial literacy, job-readiness training and other services.

Dinglasan believes that big challenges need to begin with big, crazy dreams. “Those taking up the fight to end hunger must never be satisfied with simply giving out food,” he says. “The vision, the big, crazy dream, is to imagine the same people you’re serving one day saying, ‘No, thanks. I know I can get food from you this month, but right now, I got this,’ and holding onto that vision. We’re working toward breaking the cycle that perpetuates hunger and poverty.”
where she had been serving as interim principal, in January 2018.

- Andre Kazimierski (BUS ’13) is a recipient of the Regional 30 Under 40 award given by the West Suburban Chamber of Commerce in Hodgkins, Ill. Kazimierski is co-owner of 3rd Gen Painting and Remodeling in Western Springs, Ill.

- Zoe E. Lubeck (LAS ’14, CDM MFA ’17) was the cinematographer for the 2017 feature film “King Rat,” which opened widely in 2018 and is now available on Amazon Prime.

- Kevin J. Major (LAS ’14) joined the law firm Faegre Baker Daniels as an associate its Chicago real estate group.


- Germain Castellanos (SCPS ’15) was named executive director of Beacon Place, a community center in Waukegan, Ill.

- Alicia Funes (MED ’15), a counselor at East Leyden High Schoo, in Franklin Park, Ill., was named an exemplary school counselor by the 2019 College Board Counselor Recognition Program.

- Denzel Irby (THE ’15) has been cast in the role of Chip Martin in a Hulu/Paramount series based on John Green’s novel “Looking for Alaska.”

- Jonathan Morley (CDM MS ’15), lead software engineer for the CME Group, has been included in the Crain’s Chicago Business 20 In Their 20s list.

- Josh Criswell (CMN MA ’16) has been promoted to sports editor of the Huntsville (Texas) Item. Previously, he was a beat and features writer.


- Eli Hershkovich (CMN ’16) is joining Radio.com as a producer/sports gambling analyst. Previously, he was a writer at Entercom sports/talk WSCR-AM (670).

- Macklin R. Robinson (CSH ’16) was hired as a goalkeeper by the Tampa Bay (Fla.) Rowdies soccer team.

- Jacob Swanson (JD ’16) has joined the Decatur, Ill., law firm of Erickson, Davis, Murphy, Johnson & Walsh Ltd. as an associate attorney.

- Kelley Bowles (CMN MA ’17) has joined the Midwest bureau of NBC News in Chicago.

- Boe Chmíl (CDM ’17) has set up an online film/media studio called Twilight City Studios on YouTube at youtube.com/user/twilightcitystudios.

- Jake Ekdahl (CMN MA ’17) now works as a reporter for the Sauk Prairie Eagle in Mauston, Wis.

- Benjamin Gartland (CMN ’17) has joined ADR Systems in Chicago as business development and marketing coordinator.

- Ronnie Malley (SCPS ’17) co-authored “American Griot,” which ran at the Moraine Valley Community College Academic Theater in Palos Hills, Ill., Feb. 21–March 3.

- Carly Sarkis (BUS ’17) has joined the Sturgeon Bay Visitor Center in Sturgeon Bay, Wis., as marketing and promotions director.

- Alex Thompson (CDM MFA ’17) received both the Audience and Special Jury Recognition for Breakthrough Voice awards at the 2019 SXSW for his film “Saint Frances.”

- Jessica Villagomez (CMN ’17), former editor-in-chief of The DePaulia, has been hired by the Chicago Tribune as a reporter.

- Alec Brezinski (LAS MA ’18) has joined the Grand Haven (Mich.) Tribune as a sports writer.

- Peter Bucci (BUS ’18) has been hired as the new managing director of Chicago’s Pop’N’th.

- Elizabeth Olivera (JD ’18) was named to the board of directors of the Filipino American Lawyers Association of Chicago. She is an associate in the commercial litigation practice of Cozen O’Connor.

- Valeriya Shur (CDM MA ’18) had her zine about her fear of flying, Landing Zine, selected for the Oris 100% Festival of art and design.

- Michael Tahlier (MM ’18) published “Principles of Music for Guitar.” Tahlier is owner/founder of Musician’s Workshop in Chicago and director of the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay Rock Academy.