Class Notes/DePaul Pride

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CLASS NOTES

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1950s

- Jay Cooper (JD ’51) is on Billboard Magazine’s list of the Top Music Lawyers for 2019. He is founder of the Los Angeles entertainment practice at Greenberg Traurig.

1960s

- Rick Kash (LAS ’68, DHL ’17) has joined the board of directors of IRI, a big-data portfolio company of Vestar Capital Partners and New Mountain Capital.

- Alice Sylvester (LAS ’77, MS ’84), a partner with Sequent Partners, has been inducted into the Market Research Council Hall of Fame. She is a past board chair of the Advertising Research Foundation and a member of the editorial review board of the Journal of Advertising Research.

1970s

- Thomas Hartmann (BUS ’72) facilitates a workshop in improvisational (comedy) acting. This fall, he began running a beginning class in improv as part of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute of Southern Oregon University in Ashland.

- Richard Harris (JD ’75) was recognized by Managing Intellectual Property magazine as an IP Star. Harris is a partner of the global law firm Greenberg Traurig LLP.

- Robert A. Matusiak (BUS ’75) retired after 29 years in pharma. He is proud to announce that his first granddaughter is proud to announce that his 29 years in pharma. He is a partner of the global law firm Greenberg Traurig LLP.

- Patrick Infusino (MUS ’76) just celebrated 10 years as jazz ensemble director and applied clarinet instructor at Benedictine University in Lisle, Ill.

- Jim Logothetis (BUS ’77) is now the board chair of the American College of Greece (ACG). He joined the ACG board in 2014, serving as vice-chair prior to his appointment as chair.

- John W. Blenke Jr. (JD ’80) has joined the board of directors of the Aleria Companies, a holding and management company based in Atlanta.

- Violet Hickson (BUS ’80, MBA ’85) is now vice president, underwriting, of First Business Growth Funding, a division of First Business Financial Services Inc., a Wisconsin-based bank holding company.

- Eugene Lenti (EDU ’80) has joined the staff of the softball program at Auburn University. Lenti led DePaul to the Women’s College World Series four times and into NCAA Regionals 20 times. He was inducted into the DePaul Athletics Hall of Fame in 2006.

- James Mitchem Jr. (EDU ’80, MED ’88) will retire from his position as superintendent of schools of Valley View School District 365U, Bolingbrook, Ill., on June 30, 2020. He has served the district in various capacities since 1980.

- Bertram Scott (SCPS ’80 DHL ’09) has assumed the role of chairman of the board of the American Heart Association following a two-year term as chairman-elect.

- The Hon. Mary Ellen Coglian (JD ’81) has been assigned as an appellate court justice in the First District of Illinois, replacing retiring Appellate Justice Mary Anne Mason.

- Elizabeth Perkins (THE CER ’81) co-starred in “A Moody Christmas,” a six-episode, half-hour comedy adapted from the Australian series of the same name. The series aired on Fox in December.

- Russell Hammer (MBA ’82) is now CFO of Charlotte’s Web Holdings Inc., a company based in Boulder, Colo., that manufactures and distributes CBD extract products.

- Elizabeth Sanders (MBA ’82) has been appointed to serve on the Illinois State Board of Investments. She has 35 years of banking and investment management experience, most recently as a managing director and client relationship manager at UBS Asset Management.

- Ruth Binger (JD ’83) was selected as one of the 2019 Most Influential Business Women in the St. Louis area by the St. Louis Business Journal. She is a principal with Danna McKiritch PC.

- Randall Bullock (MUS ’83) co-produced for MaraisMusic Studio a set of rare recordings of violinist Eduard Melkus performing Bach Sonatas and Partitas for Solo Violin on an unaltered Aegidius Klotz violin.

- Larry R. Rogers Sr. (JD ’83, DHL ’09), a founding partner of Power Rogers & Smith LLP, has been named to the 2020 list of The Best Lawyers in America by the Best Lawyers attorney rating agency.

- Laurel McGrath (MBA ’84) has joined the board of Mother McAuley Liberal Arts High School in the Mount Greenwood neighborhood of Chicago.

- Antonio Pera (MBA ’84) has retired from Par Pharmaceutical. He became president of the company on Nov. 1, 2016.

- Owen Beacom (BUS MS ’86) is now chief credit officer of Byline Bancorp Inc.

COLLEGE AND SCHOOL abbreviation key

- BUS Driehaus College of Business
- CDM College of Computing and Digital Media
- CMN College of Communication
- CSH College of Science and Health
- EDU College of Education
- GSD Goodman School of Drama
- JD College of Law
- LAS College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences
- MUS School of Music
- SCPS School of Continuing and Professional Studies
- THE The Theatre School

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Class notes will be posted on the Alumni & Friends website and will be considered for inclusion in DePaul Magazine. DePaul reserves the right to edit class notes.
• Dwayne Gab (JD ’86) was selected to serve as associate judge of the Seventh Judicial Circuit of Illinois.

• Mary Gage (MBA ’86) has been named vice president of business and community development for the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation.

• Brendan Naulty (MBA ’86) has joined Manus Bio Inc. as president of sweeteners and natural ingredients.

• Jeffrey Kinney (MBA ’87) is now chief of staff for Angela Bovill, president and CEO and chief of external relations of Ascentria Care Alliance in Worcester, Mass. He was the former board chair of the organization.

• Thomas Brya (MST ’88) is now CEO of Chicago-based Inspirotec Inc., an air quality measuring and remediation company.

• Tim Doody (MST ’88, JD ’94) has joined the board of the Mother McCauley Liberal Arts High School in the Mount Greenwood neighborhood of Chicago.

• Michael Duran (BUS ’88) was appointed vice president, chief ethics and compliance office reporting directly to the chair of 3M’s audit committee of the board of directors. He joined 3M in December 2011 to lead its compliance operations and programs team.

• Louis Sandoval (CSH ’88) was elected the 69th Commodore of the Chicago Yacht Club. He will serve for a two-year term.

• Klaus Schuller (CMN ’88), acting as general manager for Teatro ZinZanni, opened its new show, “Love, Chaos and Dinner,” at Chicago’s Cambria Hotel in July 2019.

• Kenneth Stemke (BUS MS ’88) celebrated two years in business for his Italian/Mediterranean restaurant Main Street Social in Libertyville, Ill.

• Kenneth N. Traisman (LAS MA ’88, Med’90) has joined the board of directors of the Mitchell Museum of the American Indian in Evanston, Ill.

1990s

• Maureen Amos (BUS ’90, SCPS MA ’01) has been appointed to serve on the Illinois Student Assistance Commission by Gov. JB Pritzker. She is executive director of financial aid, scholarship and student employment at Northeastern Illinois University.

• Janet Angstadt (JD ’90) is now executive vice president and general counsel for OCC, and will serve on the firm’s management committee.

• David Fuller (JD ’90) is the new presiding city magistrate for Chandler Municipal Court in Chandler, Ariz.

• Ed Pentuc (JD ’90) is the new chief public defender for Kankakee County in Illinois.

• Nicole Sanda (CSH ’90) was installed as the 2019-20 president-elect of the American Medical Women’s Association. Dr. Sanda is a board-certified internist at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn.

• Dexter Zollicoffer (THE MFA ’90) played the role of Stool Pigeon in August Wilson’s “King Hedley II,” which ran Sept. 12–Oct. 13, 2019, at Chicago’s Court Theatre.

• Darryl Arrington (LAS ’91, MS ’97) has been appointed to serve on the Illinois Student Assistance Commission by Gov. JB Pritzker. He is assistant vice president for the Center for Access and Attainment at DePaul University.

• Ernest Fiorante (BUS ’91) is the new CFO of Hilco Global, a privately held diversified financial services company.

• Randy Mueller (MBA ’91) is now CEO of Potawatomi Business Development Corporation, headquartered in Milwaukee.

• Kurt Nishimura (MBA ’91) is now affiliated with the Biltmore-Paradise Valley, Ariz., office of Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage. He will connect clients with properties that will allow them to build wealth.

• Nicole Bryant-Stephens (THE ’92) has been hired as a field art director for Mural Makers to create a 14-acre Star Wars: Galaxy’s Edge theme park at Disneyland in Anaheim, Calif.

• Christin Keys (JD ’92) has joined the Rock Island, Ill., law firm of Winston, Kaveski & Cunningham LLC. Her practice focuses on personal injury and workers compensation cases.

• Cheryl Meyer (JD ’92), associate dean of Wright State University’s School of Professional Psychology in Dayton, Ohio, has been named vice provost for faculty affairs.

• William Muckian (MST ’92) has retired from GATX, where he served as senior vice president, controller and chief accounting office.

• Daniel Taube (THE MFA ’92) directed Antonio Brunetti’s “Everybody Loves Pizza, Don’t They?” for Collaboration Theatre Company’s fourth anniversary Peacebook Festival in Chicago’s Kennedy-King College Theatre.

• Mark Schneid (BUS ’93) received an Elite Lawyer recognition for achieving a high level of competence in his practice and receiving acknowledgement from his peers, community, bar and committees. He is with the Illinois personal injury law firm of Mathys & Schneid.

• Michael Scudder (MBA ’93) is now chairman of the American Bankers Council of the American Bankers Association. Scudder is the chairman and CEO of First Midwest Bancorp and chairman of the First Midwest Charitable Foundation.

• Lucino Sotelo (BUS ’94, Med’94) is now chief learning officer.

• Amy DuMez (MED ’94, Med’19) is the new executive director of First Midwest Bancorp and chairman of the First Midwest Charitable Foundation.

• Tom Martin (CDM ’94) is now president of engineering for SensorThink, a Tompkins International company that provides an IoT platform, application suite and analytics engine for industrial environments.

• Margaret Tower (MBA ’94), an instructor in DePaul’s School of Accountancy & MIS, received an outstanding educator award from the Illinois CPA Society at its annual event in June 2019.

• Christopher Wakefield (MBA ’94) is the new director of the Jamestown Community College concert band in Jamestown, N.Y. He is a member of the Chautauqua County Music Teachers Association Board of directors.

• Jason Drucker (LAS MA ’95, PhD ’98) is now the associate general secretary for advancement for the American Friends Service Committee, a social justice, peace and humanitarian service organization based in Philadelphia.

• Tony W. Hunter (MBA ’95) is now the chairman of the board of directors of Revolution Enterprises, a national leader in the cannabis industry. Hunter, an executive consultant, was appointed to the board in January 2019.

• Eileen Murphy Buckley (LAS MA ’96), the founder of ThinkCERCA, which provides curriculum for developing critical-thinking skills, assumed the role of chief learning officer. She continues to serve on its board.
• Frank Cesario (MBA '96) is on the board of Financial Executives International, representing its Chicago chapter. Cesario is CFO of CTI Industries in Barrington, Ill.

• Julian Francis (MBA ’96) has been named president, CEO and a member of the board of directors of Beacon Roofing Supply Inc., based in Herndon, Va.

• Corliss Garner (BUS ’96) is part of the 2020 Class of Leadership Great Chicago fellows. She is senior vice president and head of corporate social responsibility and diversity and inclusion of First Midwest Bank in Chicago.

• Paul Richter (JD ’96) was named one of the Top 10 Lawyers in Illinois for Nursing Home Negligence by Leading Lawyers, a division of Law Bulletin Media. He is with Schwartz Injury Law, a division of Kralovec, Jambois & Schwartz.

• Brian E. Smith (MBA ’96), currently CFO and chief operating officer of BAI Healthcare Services, will take on an additional role as president of Precision Healthcare, a BAI subsidiary.

• Yana Turner (BUS ’96) has joined BMO Global Asset Management as director of consultant relations. She works in the organization’s Chicago headquarters.

• Thomas Clark (MBA ’97) has joined MUL Railcars Inc., a subsidiary of Mitsubishi UFJ Lease & Finance Company Ltd., as director of consultant relations. He is with Schwartz Injury Law, a division of Kralovec, Jambois & Schwartz.

• Judy Mason (MST ’97) has been appointed president of the Illinois chapter of the National Association of Certified Valuators and Analysts. She is a partner with accounting firm MichaelSilver.

• Angela Miller-May (MBA ’97) was named to the 2019 Notable Women in Finance list issued by Crain’s Chicago Business. She is chief investment officer of the Chicago Teachers’ Pension Fund.

• Cormac O’Sullivan (CSH MS ’97) received the 2019 Program Director of the Year Award from the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists. He is the program administrator for the University of Iowa College of Nursing DNP Program in Nurse Anesthesia and practices clinically at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics in Iowa City.

• David Resinger (MBA ’97) has joined the management consulting firm Connors Group as a senior director based in the Chicago office.

• Suzanne Shier (LLM ’97) was elected vice chair of the board of Hope College in Holland, Mich. She has been a member of the board since 2013.

• Jay Stefani (LAS ’97, JD ’04) was elected vice chair of the American Association for Justice’s Sole Practitioner and Small Firm Section for 2019-20. He is the managing partner of Levinson and Stefani in Chicago.

On a sloppy, wet evening last fall, a string quartet sat in the intimate Listening Room of Uncommon Ground Lakeview to perform works by four composers who don’t normally attract much attention: Jessie Montgomery, Ann Southam, Teresa Carreño and Clara Schumann, the latter the marquee name of the program. “Everyone is excited this year about the 250th anniversary of Beethoven’s birth, but it’s also the 200th anniversary for Clara Schumann,” said the host for the evening, Ashley Ertz (MUS CER ’19), the artistic director and founder of 5th Wave Collective, as well as the arranger of Clara Schumann’s Romances, Op. 11, performed that evening.

The collective, now entering its second year, is the brainchild of Ertz and Mika Allison (MUS CER ’17), its director of operations. The musicians met at DePaul and clicked right away, but it wasn’t until Ertz was faced with a question by her teacher that the seed for the collective was planted. Ertz said, “He was talking about whether musicians play compositions by women and men differently—specifically about Clara Schumann because that’s the only one anyone really knows. I left that class determined to find more women composers.”

Within a month, Ertz had unearthed more than 800 chamber pieces by women. Recalling a conversation she had with Mika and another musician about a program of women composers scheduled for International Women’s Day, Ertz says, “I texted them and said, ‘That Women’s Day concert—can we make that a normal thing? Can we make a whole series out of this?’”

In short order, the 5th Wave Collective (5thwavecollective.com), a reference to the various waves of the feminist movement, was born. It sports a logo honoring Princess Wilhelmine of Prussia, a composer and shaper of Bayreuth, Germany, now famous for its annual Richard Wagner opera festival. The 150-member collective’s mission is “to celebrate the legacy of female composers before us and create a platform for those to come.” Each year, it holds a Call for Scores contest for women composers and performs the winning score at the season finale.

“It’s music for everybody to perform,” says Allison. “As musicians, we’re really aware of not just our audiences knowing these pieces and becoming familiar with these composers, but also musicians. We really do think it starts with musicians knowing these pieces and saying, ‘I performed a work by that composer.’”
IN MEMORIAM

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

Alumni

Sidney Serota (LAW ’48) » Janet Dittrich (BUS CER ’49) » Patricia H. Donoghue (BUS ’49) » Gerald Friedman (BUS ’49) » Edmund M. Padlo (CSH ’50) » Sr. Ursula E. Cazale, D.C. (CSH ’51) » Frank F. Pipal (JD ’51) » Richard M. Schuh (CSH ’51) » Angela T. Dangel (LAS ’52) » Theodore J. Klapperich (EDU ’52) » Bobbie M. Anthony-Perez (CSH ’53, MS ’54, MA ’75) » Jack D. Pittges (BUS ’53) » James E. Kilroy (LAS ’57) » Fred W. Kirsch (LAS ’57, MEd ’67) » Kevin Murphy (BUS ’57) » Thomas J. Rowland (BUS ’57) » Ann M. Dickert (BUS ’58) » Edward J. Johns (LAS ’58) » Melvin A. Mahler (BUS ’58) » Thomas C. Fahlery Sr. (LAS ’59) » Perry J. Snyderman (LLB ’59) » Donald L. Feurzeig (JD ’60) » Mary Colleen Hennessey (MEd ’60) » Edward D. Heffernan (JD ’61) » Judith K. Marks (EDU ’61) » Jerry Zussman (THE CER ’61) » Ruby J. Zussman (THE CER ’61) » John J. Just (CSH ’62, MS ’64) » Richard F. Murawski (THE CER ’65) » Theodore E. Dawes (JD ’63) » Fr. George B. Kashmer (EDU MA ’63) » Douglas G. Dunlop (BUS ’64) » Gloria J. Smokvina (CSH ’64) » Ray A. Felicetti (BUS ’65) » Reginald V. Brown Jr. (MEd ’66) » Robert P. Marschall (JD ’66) » Joan Thiry (LAS ’66) » Phyllis De Vilbiss (EDU ’67) » Mary J. DiGoila (CSH MA ’67) » Russell C. Babjohns (LAS ’67) » Paul M. Ehlman (MBA ’68) » Cynthia R. Given (CSH MS ’68) » Frank J. Kolman (BUS ’68) » Delphine D. Rompa (EDU ’68) » Patricia Ableidinger (CSH ’69) » John T. Barrett (BUS ’69) » Janice K. Kaye (BUS ’70, MBA ’76) » The Hon. Lawrence C. Gray (JD ’71) » Douglas P. Alcock (MBA ’72) » Helen M. Higgins (JD ’72) » Rudolf H. Ruttendjie (BUS ’72) » John W. Malec (LAS MA ’73) » Roslee M. Moore (CSH MS ’73) » Terrance A. Holm (MBA ’74) » Margaret A. Stryck (BUS ’74) » James J. Drew Jr. (LAS ’75) » Barbara B. Durand (LAS MA ’75) » Joseph L. Monito (CSH MS ’75) » John H. Traut (BUS ’76) » Patmarie Bailey-Swartz (LAS ’77) » Frank J. Hunsinger (MBA ’78) » Kevin M. Magee (BUS ’79, MBA ’82) » Robert L. Sylvester Jr. (LAS ’81) » Trisha L. Williams (JD ’83) » Mary Ann I. Larsen (EDU MA ’86) » Rick L. Wills (MBA ’86) » Josef Hajek (BUS ’87) » Claude T. Heinle (BUS ’88) » Julio H. Rodriguez (MBA ’88) » Joan M. Sazio (BUS ’88) » Valerie J. Anderson (BUS ’89, MBA ’91) » Steven Heilig (LAS ’89) » Carol S. Domecki (SCPS ’94) » Jeffrey R. Johnson (SCPS ’98) » Mark D. King (LAS MA ’98) » Arnold Bickham (MEd ’99) » Sean C. Stephenson (LAS ’01) » Brian G. Sladek (BUS ’02) » Jeremy P. Cadal (CDM ’10) » Ashkahm Harallei (BUS ’12) » Tecora M. Rogers (SCPS ’12, MA ’14) » Aidan M. Donovan (CMN ’16)

Friends

Bernice Lee Fox » Jack Hakman » Dana H. Hodgdon » Faisal A. Jireh » Howard Nathan » William H. Roux Jr. » Paul Ruppel Jr. » Aameer Sahi » Kate Whitmore

» Kevin Waco (LAS ’97) is the new director of business development in the Chicago office of Shawmut Design and Construction, a national construction management firm.

» Mary Kay Wik (MBA ’97) is now a vice president and trust officer for Clinton National Bank, in Clinton, Iowa.

» Sarah Winters (LLM ’97) was named to the 2019 Notable Women in Finance list issued by Crain’s Chicago Business. She is senior vice president and chief tax officer of Cushman & Wakefield, Chicago.

» Eric Beltran (MUS ’98) is now the assistant principal of Woodrow Wilson Elementary School in Cicero, Ill. He previously served as Wilson’s dean of students.

» Laura Lazareczyk (JD ’98) was promoted to chief legal officer, general counsel and corporate secretary of insurance firm Zurich North America.

» Tom Minichiello (MBA ’98) is now the CFO of EMCORE Corporation, a provider of advanced mixed-signal optics products for defense systems and high-speed communication network infrastructures.

» Colleen Sullivan (JD ’98) was named to the 2019 Notable Women in Finance list issued by Crain’s Chicago Business. She is a partner and CEO of CMT Digital Holdings.

» Jason Horwitz (JD ’99) has joined CAC Specialty, a specialty insurance brokerage and investment banking platform, as executive vice president of the special situations group.

» Joan Rockey (BUS MS ’99, MST ’16) was named to the 2019 Notable Women in Finance list issued by Crain’s Chicago Business. She is principal and CFO of CastleArk Management.

2000s

» Courtney Abraham (SCPS MA ’00) has been appointed chief people officer of AML RightSource in Cleveland.

» Maryam Ahmad (JD ’00) was sworn in as first vice president of the Chicago Bar Association (CBA) in June 2019. She will become president of CBA automatically this coming June.

» Donald Hampson III (LAS MA ’00) has joined the staff of Virginia Tech as associate vice president for international affairs.

» Brad Leibov (LAS ’00) is the new CEO of EarthShare, a national environmental philanthropy supporting a coalition of environmental and conservation nonprofits.

» Elisabeth “Biz” Lindsay-Ryan (EDU MA ’00) was appointed to the Evanston (Ill.) School District 65 school board in August 2019. She is a diversity and inclusion professor, trainer and consultant in District 65 schools.

» Rajkumari Chhatwani (MBA ’01) has been appointed commissioner of the Hoffman Estates (Ill.) Park District to fulfill the unexpired term of a former commissioner through April 2021.

» Laura Ehrke (SCPS ’01) has published under her pen name, Laura Quinn, her second novel, “Three Woofs for the Dead, White and Blue.” It is the first book in her new Cozy Mystery series, “Pawtisserie Mysteries.”

» Dimitri Eliopoulos (BUS ’01) is the new president of wealth management for RMB Capital, where he is also a partner. He works in the firm’s Chicago headquarters.

» Jerry Fish (MST ’01) has joined the Chicago office of Andersen Tax as managing director of the U.S. national tax practice.

» Amber Gitter (BUS ’01) is now a full-time educator with the Adventure Judaism Congregation in Boulder, Colo.

» Michael Mastin (MBA ’01) has been promoted to vice president of residential at Lepardo, a Chicago-area construction company. He previously served as project executive.

» Cesar Quiroz (BUS ’01) is assistant to the director of Urban Art Retreat in Chicago. He is also the choir minister at Chicago’s St. Rita of Cascia Church.

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• Becky Schoonover (LAS ’01) is the new executive director of the East Troy Railroad Museum in East Troy, Wis.

• Olibia Stamatoglous (BUS ’01) was named to the 2019 Notable Women in Finance list issued by Crain’s Chicago Business. She also was recently named CFO of Victory Park Capital, a global alternative investment firm headquartered in Chicago.

• Alana Arenas (THE '02) plays Gloria, the title character’s mother, on “David Makes Man,” a TV series that debuted Aug. 14, 2019, on the Oprah Winfrey Network.

• Sarah Burke (JD ’02) is part of the 2020 Class of Leadership Great Chicago fellows. She is director of corporate and foundation giving for the Northwestern Memorial Foundation.

• Amabel Crawford (EDU ’02) is now the principal of Parker Junior High in Flossmoor, Ill.

• James R. Gray (MED ’02) was appointed principal of Walker Elementary School in Evanston, Ill.

• Stephen Haggard (THE ’02) has joined the cast of the Broadway show “Harry Potter and the Cursed Child.”

• Juan Linares (JD ’02) was appointed by Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot as chief engagement officer for the office of public engagement. He previously served as executive director of LUCHA, a Chicago-based affordable housing development agency.

• Collin Sasser (CDM ’02, LAS MS ’14) joined the board of directors of Avenues to Independence, a nonprofit based in Park Ridge, Ill., dedicated to supporting adults with developmental disabilities. He has served on the organization’s Chicago partnership board for 10 years.

• Belen Tokarski (MBA ’02) is the new chief operating officer for Mylo, an insurance consultation firm based in Kansas City, Mo.

• Mary Wendell Trask (EDU MA ’02) is now a fourth-grade teacher at West Michigan Academy of Arts and Academics in Spring Lake, Mich.

• Steven Avary (BUS MS ’03) was named president of the board of directors of the Chamber Orchestra of New York, New York City’s orchestra for young professional musicians.

• Nikki Lint (THE ’03) was the stage manager for “The Band’s Visit” during its North American tour. The show played at the Cadillac Palace in Chicago Sept. 3–15, 2019.

• K Kim Jacobson (MBA ’03) is now director of marketing with Enzoic, a provider of compromised credential screening solutions based in Boulder, Colo.

• Christina Podraza (MED ’03) is the new principal of Jefferson Elementary School in Elmhurst, Ill.

• Ginger Shulick Porcella (LAS ’03) is now the executive director of Franciona Sculpture Park near Taylor Falls, Minn.

• Christina Smerick (LAS MA ’03, PhD ’03) has joined the faculty of Northwest Nazarene University in Nampa, Idaho, as a philosophy professor in the College of Theology & Christian Ministry.

• Paige Barr Tinkham (JD ’04) is now a partner in the Chicago office of Blank Rome LLP. She focuses her practice on insolvency and corporate restructuring.

• Jeffrey Becker (JD ’04) is on the Billboard Magazine list of Top Music Lawyers for 2019. He is chair of the entertainment and media law practice of Swanson Martin & Bell and is based in Chicago.

• Yalitza Brambila (CSH ’04) was recognized as New Financial Advisor of the Year by Northwestern Mutual of Greater Chicago.

• Mary Beth Pradzynski (BUS ’01) has joined Chicago-based Freeborn & Peters LLC as a partner.

• Daniel Cordis (JD ’05) has been selected to serve as an associate judge of the Tenth Judicial Circuit of Illinois.

• Chris Gerber (SCPS ’05) is the new vice president of sales for PLM, a refrigerated trailers fleet management company based in Newark, N.J.

• Gwen Infusino (LAS ’05) completed her MFA in film and directing from UCLA in 2018 and worked after graduation as production unit coordinator for Eleanor Coppola’s film “The Lunch.”

• Lisa Lukaszewski (MUS ’05, JD ’09) joined the Chicago office of Schiff Hardin’s private clients, trusts and estates group as counsel.

ENGAGEMENTS & MARRIAGES

» Joan Kaszuba Van De Weghe (EDU ’62) celebrated her 55th wedding anniversary in September 2019. She and her husband, Raymond, were married at St. Vincent de Paul Church in 1964.

» Peter Komperda (BUS ’14) and Dorata Brzuchacz are engaged and planning a May 2020 wedding.

BIRTHS & ADOPTIONS

» Rafael Vargas (LAS ’04) and his wife, Andrea Belard (JD ’10), welcomed their second child, Luciano Rafael, on July 1. He joins big sister Sofia.

» Peter Kolos (BUS MS ’12) and his wife, Veronika, are the proud parents of Emily Adelyn, born Aug. 16, 2019.
• Eric Maiers (JD ’05) was recognized by Managing Intellectual Property magazine as an IP Star. Harris is a shareholder of the global law firm Greenberg Traurig LLP.

• Essa Maseh (MBA ’05) is now chief risk manager of the National Bank of Bahrain.

• Junaid Samnani (BUS ’05) has been appointed managing director of Accordian, a private equity-focused financial consulting and technology firm. He is based in Dallas.

• Jessica Covell Lefort (JD ’06) has joined the University of Michigan Law School as a clinical assistant professor.

• Heather Harman (MST ’06) has joined Andersen Tax as managing director of the firm’s U.S. national tax practice. She is based in the Washington, D.C., office.

• Tammy Jackson (LAS MS ’06) has been selected as a member of the board of regents of Wartburg College in Waverly, Iowa.

• Andrea Belard (JD ’10) was appointed chief of staff to the Chicago City Council Committee on Finance.

• Mark LeMire (MBA ’07) was appointed CEO of Sargent and Greenleaf Inc., a global manufacturer of high-security locks and locking systems.

• Gem O’Malley (MED ’07) now works as an English teacher at Mother McAuley Liberal Arts High School on Chicago’s South Side.

• Jon Ritchie (BUS ’07) has been promoted to chief operating officer of Florida-based American Integrity Insurance. He had been executive vice president.

• Ryann Kehoe (CMN ’08) has joined the American Dental Hygienists’ Association as director of corporate development and the Institute for Oral Health.

• Monica Pavel-Kissinger (MUS ’08) is now the director of the Great Lakes Treble Choir of Voices Without Borders, which is based in Petoskey, Mich.

• Paul Rodriguez (JD ’08) has joined the Troy, Mich., office of Dickinson Wright PLLC as a member. He focuses his practice on intellectual property matters.

• Brian Gephart (MBA ’09) is now the chief accounting officer of the Leaf Group, a diversified consumer internet company headquartered in Santa Monica, Calif.

• Drew Gladstone (CMN ’09) has been promoted to team and recruitment analyst for Indiana University’s men’s basketball program. He was graduate manager for the program.

2010s

• Andrea Belard (JD ’10) was one of 36 lawyers nationwide to receive a 2019 Hispanic National Bar Association Top Lawyers under 40 award.

• Tara Brownlee (MED ’11) is now dean of students for Niles North High School in Skokie, Ill.

• Nicholas Campbell (CDM MS ’11, JD ’11) has joined Oracle as corporate counsel, privacy and security. He works in the Austin, Texas, office.

• Ryan Conway (MUS ’11) has launched Architect Theatrical, a full-service Broadway and Off-Broadway general management and production company.

• Keith Davis (MED ’11) is the new principal of Blalack Middle School in Carrollton, Texas.

• Rebeca Bell (LAS MA ’10) has joined the Tennessee Wildlife Federation as a fundraiser.

• Elyse Anne Kakacek (MUS ’10), an operatic soprano, has released her first classical solo album, “Untethered,” which explores the broad expanse of femininity. Photo by Fay Fox

• Theresa Siaw (BUS ’10) is the new president of Bootstrap Villages, a Chicago-based nonprofit dedicated to creating and sustaining long-term, transitional housing solutions for the unhoused through the use of affordable, tiny-home villages.

• Mark Wallin (JD ’10) has joined Barnes & Thornburg’s Chicago office as an attorney focused on defending employers in discrimination cases and wage-and-hour class and collective actions.

• Daniel Brown (LAS ’11) and Michael Robinson, co-founders of Cleveland-based Rust Belt Riders, are among the 34 social entrepreneurs worldwide to receive a 2019 fellowship from Echoing Green, a social innovation fund. Rust Belt Riders creates agricultural products derived from discarded food.

• Erin Brown (CMN ’11) is now the public relations manager at the Fairmont Grand Del Mar in San Diego.

• Vera Drew (CDM ’11) earned an Emmy nomination in the category of Outstanding Picture Editing for Variety Programming for her work on Sacha Baron Cohen’s “Who Is America.”

• John Spittell (JD ’11) is now assistant general counsel in the U.S. Office of Management and Budget’s Office of General Counsel.

• Brett Tolcher (MUS ’11) is now associate director, planned and regional giving, in DePaul’s Office of Advancement.

• Hayley Anderson (CDM ’12) recently opened a same-day production studio in Minneapolis named Soona to respond to rising demand for quick professional photos and videos.

• Maureen Brakke (LAS MPA ’12) is the new director of university marketing and communications at Montana State University Billings.

• Ashley Brown (LAS ’12) was included in Windy City Times’ 30 Under 30 awards for 2019, which honors those under 30 years of age for their substantial contributions to Chicago’s LGBT community. Brown is the graphic designer for the AIDS Foundation of Chicago.

• Marquis Hill (MUS MM ’12) performed with his combo, the Marquis Hill Blacktet, in June at SPACE in Evanston, Ill., and at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

• Tim Hillegonds (SCPS ’12, LAS MA ’14) recently published “The Distance Between: A Memoir (University of Nebraska Press), an exploration of and reckoning with toxic masculinity. He is a contributing editor of the digital journal Slag Glass City.

• Lisa Hinton (LAS MNM ’12) has been named executive director of the American Heart Association Metropolitan Chicago.

• Azeema N. Akram (JD ’13) was promoted to administrative law judge at the Illinois Commerce Commission. She previously served as transportation counsel/special assistant attorney general, and as a legal and policy advisor to Commissioner Sadzi M. Oliva.
Melissa Dinslage (MBA '13) is now the global director of internal communication for Avison Young, a commercial real estate service firm. She is based in the firm’s Chicago office.

Kevin Morrison (LAS '13) was included in Windy City Times’ 30 Under 30 awards for 2019, which honors those under 30 years of age for their substantial contributions to Chicago’s LGBT community. Morrison was elected to the Cook County Board representing the 15th District.

Mahmud Suwwan (BUS '13) has joined the Siegfried Group LLP as an associate manager in the D.C. metro market.

Bradley Bruno (LAS '14) is the new director of community, corporate and professional relations for DePaul’s women’s basketball program.

Kevin Goldsmith (MBA '14) is part of the 2020 Class of Leadership Great Chicago fellows. He is a vice president with J.P. Morgan Chase.

Colleen Hurley (JD '14) has been certified as a guardian ad litem and child representative in Cook County, Ill. She is an attorney with Lavelle Law, based in Schaumburg, Ill.

Michele McDermott (MBA '14) is now the chief human resources officer of Hub Group, a supply chain management company headquartered in Oak Brook, Ill.

Catherine Miller (THE '14) was included in Windy City Times’ 30 Under 30 awards for 2019, which honors those under 30 years of age for their substantial contributions to Chicago’s LGBT community. Miller is a company member at First Floor Theater and a casting director for several area theatres.

Bridget Misch (MUS '14) is now executive director of the Teton Valley Ski Education Foundation in Driggs, Idaho.

Simona Celik Novinec (LAS MS '14) competed in the 2019 Long Distance Duathlon World Championships in Zofingen, Switzerland.


Sarah Wilson (JD '14) has been appointed assistant corporation counsel for the city of Poughkeepsie, N.Y. She also serves as the vice president of the board of directors for Barrett Art Center in Poughkeepsie.

Leila Abdelrazzag (THE '15) was one of nine artists whose works were included in Overlooked, a group exhibition mounted by the Greater Reston Arts Center.

Will Arce (SCPS '15) is the new vice president of the Member Solutions Center at Chartway Federal Credit Union, headquartered in Virginia Beach, Va.

It was one of those heartbreaking moments too many teachers experience.

Alexandra Gorodiski (EDU '19) was student-teaching in a first-grade classroom while pursuing a BS in elementary education at DePaul when she noticed that one little boy who was an active participant in the classroom never had his homework.

“He lived with his grandparents, who were no longer working, and they had said to him, ‘Either you can have a box of pencils or you can have food on the table,’” she recalls. “As a classroom teacher, you deal pretty often with students who come from different backgrounds and struggle differently, but to see this happen to such a young child really broke my heart.”

So Gorodiski came up with a plan. Since pencils weren’t allowed on the bus because of safety concerns, she and the principal arranged for the bus driver to hand the child a pencil as he was getting off the bus.

“Even though I wasn’t able to fix the impoverished home life that he came from, I was able to take a small situation and make sure that this student received the support that he needed. I really think that this is what it means to be a teacher,” she says.

Gorodiski grew up in Mount Prospect, Ill., immersed in her parents’ Ukrainian heritage. Her mother is second-generation Ukrainian while her father is first-generation. “My first language is Ukrainian, and my parents really wanted to keep the culture and tradition, language, religion alive even though we were living in the U.S.,” she says. Their encouragement helped Gorodiski pursue leadership of her Ukrainian youth group and join a Ukrainian dance troupe.

When it came time to choose a university, Gorodiski knew she wanted to stay in Chicago.

“I know that this is extremely cliché, but from my first visit to DePaul I felt like I belonged there,” she says. She also knew she wanted to become a teacher. “I have always wanted to be an educator,” she says. Recognizing the need for multilingual educators, she earned her teaching license endorsement in bilingual education in Ukrainian and Spanish. She is now teaching third-grade biliteracy at Country Meadows Elementary in Long Grove, Ill.

For Marie Ann Donovan, associate professor of teacher education in the College of Education, Gorodiski is an asset to the field. “She’s got the commitment to the profession, the heart for it and the keen intelligence you need to be an effective teacher. She also truly understands how children think, especially the immigrant experience.”

Gorodiski couldn’t be happier with her career and university choices.

“DePaul’s mission is really making sure that we are ready to impact and influence society in the best way that we can, and I feel I’m doing that every day in the classroom,” she says.
Janaki Soni (BUS ’17) at Banff, Alberta, Canada

Jim Hoff (LAS MS ’09) and Dibs in front of the Canada pavilion of the Epcot World Showcase in Orlando, Fla.

Emil Hunter (BUS ’71) and Dibs at the Apple Market, Covent Garden, London