Class Notes

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1950s

Elisabeth A. Murawski (LAS '57) won the $15,000 first prize in the 2015 University of Canberra Vice-Chancellor’s International Poetry Prize competition for her poem “Iconic Photo: Lee Miller in Munich, April 1945.” The poem describes the well-known photo of Lee Miller, a model and photographer, bathing in Hitler’s bathtub at the end of World War II.

Donald H. Hoffman (LAS ’58, LAS MA ’61) retired after 46 years as a Latin teacher and archivist at Saint Ignatius College Prep in Chicago. In his retirement, he continues to provide Latin lessons for children who are homeschooled.

1960s

Robert C. Kopple (LAS ’65, JD ’67) was elected to the Comstock Mining Inc. board of directors. He is a senior partner at Kopple & Klinger LLP in Los Angeles, where he specializes in financial and estate planning, business law, and taxation.

William C. Muehlner (CSH ’66) retired after 47 years of teaching at the college level, the last 35 of which he spent as chair and professor in the department of computer science and information systems at Elmhurst College. Muehlner now teaches part-time and continues to pursue his research in developing computer simulations of human cell growth to pursue his research in developing computer simulations of human cell growth.

Judith A. Gerhart (EDU ’69, MED ’72) is founder and principal of the Gerhart Group, based in Camarillo, Calif. The group is operated primarily by women and provides wealth management services for women and families going through life transitions. The group opened a second office in downtown Santa Barbara, Calif.

1970s

Catherine Bremer (CSH ’71, JD ’89) partners with a vineyard in Argentina to produce Encendido Wine.

Carla R. Michelotti (LAS ’72, JD ’75, DHL ’88) will be inducted into the American Advertising Federation Hall of Fame with the class of 2016. The inductees will be recognized at the 67th Advertising Hall of Fame Induction Ceremonies & Gala Dinner on April 11 at the Waldorf Astoria New York. Michelotti is a member of the DePaul Board of Trustees and was executive vice president and chief legal, government and corporate affairs officer for Leo Burnett.

Wendy U. Larsen (JD ’73) was named to the 2016 list of Best Lawyers in America in the area of land use and zoning law. She is director at GrayRobinson PA in Boca Raton, Fla.

Warren A. Cebulko (BUS ’74, MBA ’95) was named a VIP member of Worldwide Branding, an invitation-only organization that provides specially designed products and services for members. Cebulko is supervisor of coding education and compliance for Advocate Health Care.

Jona Goldschmidt (JD ’75) was featured in Crate’s Chicago Business for his quest to recover the art his paternal grandparents were forced to surrender to the Nazis during World War II. Goldschmidt is currently working with the Art Recovery Group of London and New York to find “Tyrolean Woman with Cat” by Lovis Corinth, which showed up at auction a few years ago. Goldschmidt is a professor of criminal justice and undergraduate program director at Loyola University Chicago.

Adrienne J. Hersh (JD ’75) serves as of counsel at Momkus McCluskey LLC in the firm’s health care law practice. Cases Hersh handles include applications for license, license investigations and discipline, license restoration, and defense of health insurance audit.

1980s

Michael T. Hengeloh (MST ’80), founder and president of Hengeloh Capital Management LLC, earned the retirement income certified professional designation from The American College of Financial Services in Bryn Mawr, Penn.

Charles H. Lichtman (JD ’80) was named to the 2016 list of Best Lawyers in America. He was deemed Lawyer of the Year for litigation-bankruptcy in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., and was listed as a Best Lawyer in commercial litigation and securities fraud litigation. Lichtman is a partner in the Fort Lauderdale office of Berger Singerman LLP, where he manages the firm’s dispute resolution team.
Charles Lynn Lowder (JD ’80) is founder and CEO of 1 Vet at a Time, an advocacy organization that also helps veterans start their own businesses.

Stuart L. Pearl (MBA ’80) is first vice president and chief strategy officer at Novisys, a full-service wealth management firm in Chicago. He is responsible for meeting the wealth management needs of the firm’s clients and developing clientele. Prior to joining Novisys, Pearl was a vice president at Ameriprise Financial Inc.

Carolina Tapia-Ruano (JD ’80) is an attorney with Tapia-Ruano & Gunn PC, which was recognized as a tier one top law firm for immigration in Chicago and tier three nationally by U.S. News and World Report.

Michael J. Baker (BUS ’81) joined Snell & Wilmer in the firm’s Orange County, Calif., office, where he focuses on projects on the representation of design professionals, engineers, general contractors, and public and private owners.

Gary A. Dobbs (JD ’81) is the Grundy County, Ill., public defender. He served as assistant public defender since 1993 and also maintains his solo practice. The Law Office of Gary A. Dobbs.

Mark S. Lange (MS ’81) was recognized by Strathmore’s Who’s Who as one of its Professionals of the Year for his contributions and achievements in tax law. Lange is a partner at Holland & Knight LLP at the firm’s Atlanta office.

Debra D. Potempa (CSH ‘81) is vice president for patient care and nursing services at Merey Hospital and Trauma Center in Janesville, Wis. In this role, she is responsible for leadership and direction in nursing and patient care functions in inpatient units, emergency services, surgical services, obstetrics and intensivist and hospitalist programs. She continues to serve as chief nursing officer for the organization.

Richard L. Turner (JD ’81) was certified as a member of the Multi-Million Dollar Advocates Forum, a group made up exclusively of lawyers who have won multimillion-dollar verdicts, awards and settlements.

Charles M. Brand (MBA ‘82) published his book, "Sacred Spaces: The Architectural Designs of Herbert A. Brand," which is an account of his grandfather’s work. The elder Brand was a Chicago-based architect who designed more than 150 church and education buildings from 1923 through 1959.

Orbert C. Davis (MUS ’82) was named to the board of directors for Ingenuity, a Chicago nonprofit that strives to ensure the arts are part of every public school student’s education. Davis is an award-winning trumpeter, composer and educator, and co-founder, conductor and artistic director of Chicago Jazz Philharmonic.

Janet A. Eickhoff-Levey (CSH ‘82) completed a PhD in nursing from Marquette University in Milwaukee. Her dissertation was titled “Diffusion of Inclusion: Willingness to Adopt Inclusive Teaching Strategies in Nursing Education.” Eickhoff-Levey is an assistant professor of nursing at Concordia University Wisconsin in Mequon.

Julia E. Perkins (BUS ‘82) was inducted into the VIP Woman of the Year Circle of the National Association of Professional Women, a networking organization. Perkins is the founder and chief strategist at MBMD Strategic Consultants LLC.

Mary Klingenberger (MBA ’83) joined the Marquette National Corp. Board of Directors as a class I director. She is the president of Mother McAuley Liberal Arts High School, an all-girls Catholic school in Chicago.

Gayle K. Lovato (CSH ’83, MS ’90) was presented with Eastern New Mexico University’s (ENMU) Outstanding Alumni Award at the 40th Annual ENMU Foundation Homecoming Breakfast on Oct. 3. Lovato is preservice unit manager for the Peace Corps.

James C. McWhinnie (JD ’83) was confirmed by the state senate to serve on the District Court of the First Circuit. He is director and attorney with Damon Key Leong Kupchak Hastert in Honolulu, where he specializes in civil litigation.

Larry R. Rogers Sr. (JD ’83, DHL ’09) was named a 2016 Best Lawyer. His law firm, Power, Rogers and Smith PC, was also named to the U.S. News list of Best Law Firms in 2016 in the category of Best Lawyers, receiving tier one mass tort litigation/class actions plaintiffs ranking.

Mark F. Rossi (JD ’83) was named president of the Illinois Critical Access Hospital Network. He previously served as chief operating officer and president of the Hope Medical Complex in Hope Dale, Ill.

John H. Wallace (MUS ’83) completed a commission from the Virtuoso Soloists of New York in June. The group premiered the work “Trio for Oboe, Viola and Piano Four-Hand” on a three-city tour of Italy.

Charles E. Weaver (JD ’83) is an Illinois state senator in the 57th District. He will serve through January 2017.

Reginald Brown (BUS ‘84) is president of the St. Jude Parish Conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Council of Baton Rouge, La.

Jeffrey W. Gunn (JD ’84) is an attorney with Tapia-Ruano & Gunn PC, which was ranked as a tier one top law firm for immigration in Chicago and tier three nationally by U.S. News and World Report.

John A. Sejdinaj (MBA ‘84), vice president of finance for the University of Notre Dame, was appointed president of the board of trustees at Fischoff, a national chamber music association, and as the chairman of the board of directors for the Tuition Plan Consortium LLC.

Cynthia M. Van Ort (JD ’84) is lead privacy officer for the Western Hemisphere and chief privacy officer for North America at Citigroup Inc. In these roles, she oversees activities related to development, implementation and maintenance of and adherence to the company’s privacy policies and procedures in Canada and the U.S.

Paul E. Dinello (CMN ’85) is supervising producer and writer for “The Late Show with Stephen Colbert” on CBS. Among his credits, Dinello worked on “The Colbert Report” and co-created, wrote for and appeared in the acclaimed TV show “Strangers with Candy,” both on Comedy Central.

Joseph G. McCormack (BUS ’86) was promoted to chief financial officer for Spartan, which provides electromechanical devices for concept development, industrial design, design and manufacturing engineering, and other functions. McCormack previously served as senior financial consultant for the company.

Kenneth J. Widelka (MAC ’86, BUS ’86) was promoted to chief operating officer of the American Association of Diabetes Educators in Chicago, where he previously served as chief administrative officer and chief financial officer.

Marie M. Blaise (MBA ’87) is senior vice president of technical services at ComEd in Chicago, where she is responsible for engineering, project management, and smart grid and technology for the company.

David P. Novak (JD ’87) is vice president of advancement for Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI) in Des Plaines. LSSI is a nonprofit organization that provides statewide social services. He previously served as director of gift planning at Valparaiso University.

Jeffery J. Wilson (MBA ’87) was promoted to president of AllTransect LLC, the largest commercial rail transport management and consulting firm in North America. He previously served as chief operating officer.

Michael B. Droste (MUS ‘88, MM ’92) launched the website PlayTheBlues.com, which offers professional blues backing tracks, featuring future chords in a wide variety of musical styles. Droste is a teacher, trumpeter and songwriter based in Chicago.

Mark L. Schultz (MBA ’88) is senior vice president and chief financial officer for Immanuel, a company that owns and operates nine independent-living, assisted-living and long-term care retirement communities throughout Nebraska. He previously served as the CEO of Mountain States Realty Group in Denver.

Ellen J. Bromagen (MBA ’89) is the first vice president and chief operating officer of the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago. She previously served as the executive vice president and product manager of the Federal Reserve System’s Community Relations and Support Office.

Thomas P. Heneghan (JD ’89) is co-leader of the environmental litigation team at Whyte Hirschboeck Dudek SC.

1990s

Martin A. Burns (MBA ’90) was promoted to chief industry operations officer from his position as senior director of operations at the Investment Company Institute.

George P. Keating (THE ’90) played the role of Chadwick in the live theater production of “Elvis” at The Marriott Theatre in Lincolnshire, Ill. The production ran through Dec. 31.

Barbara J. Salemi (BUS ’90) is CEO of Clarity Care, a regional nonprofit human services organization that provides care for individuals with acute, chronic or long-term conditions.

Michelle J. Smith (EDU ’90) is an instructor at Orchard View Community Education at the Glenside School in Muskegan, Mich.
Laura N. Ashmore (THE ’91, JD ’94) is a partner at the Chicago law firm Davis Friedman, where she specializes in family law. She also serves as first vice president of the Illinois chapter of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers.

Jordan Firfer (LAS ’91) is vice president of product strategy for LaunchPoint, which operates businesses that provide cloud-based solutions, software and services for health care organizations. He is also a practice lead for Ajilitee, a division of LaunchPoint.

Heather A. Fitzgibbons (MED ’91) is interim assistant principal at Lyme-Old Lyme High School in Old Lyme, Conn. She previously served as assistant headmaster for academics at the Saint Bernard School in Montville, Conn.

Gloria Iverson (EDU ’91) hosted a ribbon-cutting on Oct. 12 for Nixie Gallery, adjacent to the Skokie, Ill., candy store Mini Man Monkey Brains, which she owns and operates with her husband, Jim. The gallery will feature the work of local artists, and both endeavors support occupational independence for children on the autism spectrum. Iverson is a special education teacher at Skokie/Evanston School District 65.

Scott D. McKibben (BUS ’91) is chief investment officer and managing principal for Brennan Investment Group, where he oversees the company’s acquisition and development of industrial properties. He will lead the opening of an East Coast office in 2016.

Stephen T. Powell (MM ’91, MUS ’93) played the role of Giorgio Germont in Opera Philadelphia’s production of “La Traviata,” which ran Oct. 2-11.

Juliana M. Reed (LAS MS ’91) is vice president of government affairs at Coherus Biosciences, a pure-play, global biosimilars company. She previously served as vice president of global government affairs at Hospira.

Douglas S. Steffenson (JD ’91) was appointed an arbitrator for the Illinois Workers’ Compensation Commission by Gov. Bruce Rauner. Steffenson is a partner at Nyhan, Bambrick, Kinzie & Lowry PC.

Kristofer K. Swanson (BUS MS ’91) is vice president in the Chicago office of Charles River Associates, an economic, financial and management consulting services firm based in Boston.

Marc D. Ginsberg (LLM ’92) was named director of the Center for Advocacy and Dispute Resolution at The John Marshall Law School in Chicago, where he has been an associate professor since 2009. He joined the faculty after 30 years as a trial and appellate litigator, primarily representing physicians in medical liability cases.

Denise D. LaForte (MBA ’92) was appointed as North American human resources transformation practice leader for Mercer’s talent business. She is responsible for leading the growth of the practice and works closely with the company’s workday practice. LaForte previously served as consulting director for Towers Watson, a management consulting firm.

Paul J. Nockels (BUS ’92) is the leader of the Great Lakes financial services practice at RSM International (formerly McGladrey LLP), where he focuses on audit, tax and consulting services to middle-market financial services organizations. Nockels also serves as the firm’s trading and brokerage sector leader, focused on services to national and global broker-dealers, futures commission merchants and proprietary trading firms.

James M. Quigley (JD ’92) was ranked on the American College of Family and Trial Lawyers list of Top 100 Family Law Trial Lawyers. He is a partner at Beermann Prizock Mirabelli Swedlove LLP, where he focuses his practice on divorce and family law.


David J. Sheikh (JD ’92), a founding partner of the Chicago-based intellectual property litigation law firm Lee Sheikh Megley & Haan LLC, was named to the 2015 IAM Patent 1000, a list of the world’s leading patent professionals, practitioners and law firms.

Event Recaps

Self-Defense Class for Women

As the new year and National Personal Self-Defense Awareness Month began, a group of alumnae came together for two self-defense classes at the Ray Meyer Fitness and Recreation Center. Led by an instructor from IMPACT Chicago, the course introduced attendees to critical self-defense techniques and strategies. The alumnae learned steps they could take to better secure their personal safety and practiced these new skills during role-playing scenarios.

Blue Demon Day

Alumni nationwide rallied for Blue Demon Day 2016, held this year on Saturday, Jan. 30. Since 2013, Blue Demon Day has given alumni the opportunity to express their DePaul spirit and sense of community while cheering on the Blue Demon basketball teams. Chicagoland alumni gathered at Allstate Arena for a reception before watching the men’s team take on Xavier. At game watches from coast to coast, fellow alumni cheered as DePaul fought valiantly, ultimately losing 86-65. The following day, the women’s basketball team stepped into the spotlight, continuing the excitement with a game against St. John’s, which they won 77-71.

Tour and Tasting at Two Brothers Tap House

Chicagoland alumni learned the ins and outs of beer brewing during a tour and tasting at Two Brothers Tap House in February. The lineup of beer samples represented varied hopiness, flavor profiles and color, giving alumni an insightful introduction to Two Brothers’ craft brews. Taste test completed, each attendee selected a full pint to enjoy with assorted appetizers.
Juliana W. Stratton (JD ’92) is director of the Center for Public Safety and Justice at the University of Illinois at Chicago. She previously served as executive director of Cook County Justice for Children, a nonprofit that promotes transparency and accountability from the Cook County Juvenile Court.

Oto R. Carrillo (MUS ’93) played Mozart’s “Horn Concerto No. 3” and Dukas’ “Villanelle” at the Wheaton Municipal Band’s annual concert, Let Freedom Ring, on Aug. 1, at Edman Chapel on the Wheaton College campus. Carrillo plays French horn for the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and is an instructor in DePaul’s School of Music.

Michelle Hoskins (BUS ’93) is executive vice president and chief human resources officer at First Midwest Bank in Itasca, Ill. She previously served as senior vice president and head of enterprise change management at Northern Trust Corp. in Chicago.

David W. MacDonald (JD ’93) joined Warner, Norcross & Judd LLP as senior counsel. He focuses his practice in business and real estate law with an emphasis on business formation, mergers and acquisitions, commercial and retail leases, and other areas.

Heidi S. Parker (LAS ’93) received a Nevada Business Magazine Healthcare Heroes Award, which recognizes individuals who excel in the health care field. Parker was honored in the Northern Nevada Nonprofit Hero category for her work as executive director of Immunize Nevada.

Naama S. Potok (MFA ’93) played the roles of Rivkeh Lev and The Women in “My Name Is Asher Lev,” a play based on the best-selling novel of the same name written by her father, Chaim Potok. The show played at Penguin Rep Theatre in Stony Point, N.Y.

James F. Volpe (JD ’93) is chief of the Wheaton, Ill., Police Department. He has served with the department for 32 years, most recently as division commander of investigations.

Lisa M. Hetrick-Martens (JD ’94) joined the Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP San Diego office, where she is a partner in the firm’s intellectual property group. She previously served as the trademark and copyright principal at Fish & Richardson PC.

Siri S. Scott (THE MFA ’94) directed Irish Theatre of Chicago’s production of “My Brilliant Divorce,” at Chief O’Neill’s Pub & Restaurant. Scott is head of acting and directing at the University of Notre Dame in the department of film, television and theatre.

Timothy R. Wons (JD ’94) is senior vice president of acquisition and development at LHP Hospital Group Inc., in Plano, Texas, where he is responsible for coordinating corporate development activities, overseeing strategic transactions and managing growth initiatives. Wons joins LHP from JP Morgan Securities, where he served as executive director.

Diane L. Yetter (MST ’94) was named to the University of Kansas endorsement board of trustees. She is president of Yetzer, a tax consulting and technology services firm in Chicago, and is founder of the Sales Tax Institute.

Lisa J. Acevedo (JD ’95) joined Coppersmith Brockelman PLC in Phoenix, where she focuses her practice on federal and state health privacy and security law.

Deborah A. Carver (JD ’95) opened the Carver Law Firm PC, a divorce and family law practice in Naperville, Ill., and was named a 2016 Best Lawyer in America by the peer-reviewed publication Best Lawyers.

Michael J. Isip (JD ’95) was named to the board of directors for Public Radio International. He is chief content officer at KQED San Francisco, the public radio station for Northern California.

Naama S. Potok (MFA ’93) is executive vice president and chief human resources officer at First Midwest Bank in Itasca, Ill. She previously served as senior vice president and head of enterprise change management at Northern Trust Corp. in Chicago.

In 2015, flutist Meerenai Shim (MUS ’98) founded Aerocene Music, a record label specializing in contemporary classical, electronic and experimental music. The label’s first release is Shim’s third solo album, “Pheromone,” an all-electro-acoustic album. All but one of the pieces on the album were written especially for Shim.

Shim was born in Seoul, South Korea, but grew up in the Northern California town of Novato (pop. ~50,000). When it was time to pursue her undergraduate degree, Shim says, “I wanted to move away from home and have the experience of living in a large city. DePaul’s music school had—and still has—an amazing faculty, so I decided to check it out.”

Since graduating, Shim has performed all over the United States as a soloist and chamber musician. Her recordings and performances have been broadcast widely on classical radio stations and on such radio programs as KALW-FM’s “Music from Other Minds” and WFMT-FM’s “Live from WFMT.”

She says of Aerocene Music that “self-releasing music is the norm for many artists, but the albums don’t reach much beyond the existing fan base. It seemed to me that if I could create a small label with a limited focus, the label could be a way for fans of one performer or composer to discover other acts on the same label. This way, all the artists on my label might share a pool of fans.”

Shim’s first name translates as “Milky Way” or “galaxy,” so it was perhaps inevitable that she would be attracted to experimental and electronic music. “The acoustic and traditional solo flute repertoire is a bit limited, so I was in search of more interesting sounds.” Her music philosophy is that “there’s a lot of good music being performed by all kinds of people. It’s best to listen with an open mind and ear. I pity the music snob!”

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Michelle Morales (LAS '97) was named Librarian of the Year by the Ohio Library Council. She is a senior director of strategic new product planning.

Angela M. Bell (BUS '99) was recognized by Worldwide Who's Who as having displayed dedication, superior leadership and excellence in legal administration as a senior clerk of a municipal court in Chicago.

Rosa DeLuna-Frede (BUS '99) was promoted to managing director at Andersen Tax LLC. She previously worked in accounting at Kraft Foods and as a tax senior manager at Grant Thornton LLP.

Teresa H. Ferraro (THE MFA '99) played “Risa” in In Tandem Theatre’s production of “Any Given Monday” at Ninth Street Theatre in Milwaukee. Ferraro has previously appeared in productions with SummerStage of Delafield Inc., First Stage and Milwaukee Shakespeare.

Matthew P. Gunn (JD '99) is a partner with Dinsmore and Shohl LLP in Louisville, Ky. He works in the firm’s labor and employment department and represents privately held and publicly traded corporations in business immigration matters.

Kristi L. Lafleur (LAS '99) is deputy treasurer and chief operating officer in the office of City of Chicago Treasurer Kurt Summers. She has previously served as executive director of Illinois Tollway.

Wendy M. Musielak (BUS '99, JD '03) was admitted to the bar of the U.S. Supreme Court. Musielak is a partner at Andrew Cores Family Law Group, a division of Esp Kreutzer Coles LLP.

Jonathan D. Irabagon (MUS '00) released two albums, “Behind the Sky” and “Inaction Is an Action,” which were favorably received in The New York Times. In September, the saxophonist performed with his quintet at the Jazz Standard in New York City.

Alyssa R. Schiffman (CMN '00, LAS MS '08) was appointed secretary to the board of trustees of Barnard College in New York. She previously served as director of operations and special projects for the Office of the Secretary at DePaul.

Tamara A. Head (LAS '01) is an associate in the intellectual property department at the Chicago office of McDonald Hopkins LLC, a business advisory and advocacy law firm. She has experience serving clients in trademarks and related matters, such as licensing, domain names and unfair competition.

Olga Skyanskaya (MUS '01, MM '03, CER '08) performed the “French Suite in G Major” by Johann Sebastian Bach, various lyric pieces by Edward Grieg and “Images, Book I” by Claude Debussy on piano at the Buncell Street Arts Center of Joliet. She is a partner at Dinsmore and Shohl LLP, business and strategy at Astellas Pharma US Inc. He is responsible for leading initiatives for the company’s emerging therapeutic areas. Most recently, he served as senior director of strategic new product planning.

In Memoriam

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

Alumni

Abel E. Berland (JD '38, DHL '75)
Mary C. Mahoney (LAS '40, MA '47)
Sister Francis Louvriere, D.C. (CCH '48)
Adam J. Walas (BUS '48)
Raymond J. Dwyer (JD '49)
Anne M. Limanowski (EDU MA '49)
James E. Postula (JD '49)
Elaine Zold Koepke (LAS '50)
James A. Koologeorge (BUS '50)
Marie T. Sadowski (LAS '50)
Sister Dolores Coleman, D.C. (BUS '50)
Elaine Zold Koepke (LAS '50)
Sister Mary Emmanuel H. Palus, A.S.C. (EDU MA '53)
Sister Mary Emmanuel H. Palus, A.S.C. (EDU MA '53)
Sister Dolores Coleman, D.C. (LAS MA '54)
Raymond A. Lindner (BUS '54)
Sister Mary Emmanuel H. Palus, A.S.C. (EDU MA '53)
Sister Dolores Coleman, D.C. (LAS MA '54)
John W. Purney (JD '59)
William A. Romannof (LAW '59)
T. R. Jasinski Herbert (LAS '60, JD '63)
Jack Marcus (JD '60)
Donald L. Cordano (MBA '62)
Sister Bernadette Syron (MED '62)
William M. Devine (JD '63)
Mary C. Mahoney (LAS '40, MA '47)
Rudolph R. Melchiorre (LAS '66)

Friends

Jacqueline Sproviert

Editor’s Note: Due to space limitations, this memorial list includes only those alumni and friends who our offices have confirmed have passed away.
Engagements & Marriages

Amy M. Rapoport Gibson (BUS '04) married Jared Gibson on April 25, 2015, at the Sofitel Chicago Water Tower. Gibson is co-chair of the commercial litigation group at Aronberg Goldstein Davis & Garmisa, where she was elected a member. She focuses her practice on a variety of areas, including shareholder disputes, claims under the Business Corporation Act and breach of fiduciary duty.

Samuel J. Osborne Jr. (CDM '06) married Faye Gleisser in fall 2015 in Cleveland. Osborne is a software architect at Noggin Labs.

Cornel D. Benford II (CDM '07) married Jamie Funn on Sept. 5, 2015, in Temecula, Calif. Ten years before meeting in California, the couple had both been at the same DePaul basketball game, Funn as a player on the University of Southern California team and Benford as the manager for the DePaul women's basketball team. They currently reside in Southern California, where they are raising Funn's nephew.

Christopher M. Jordan (BUS '11) and Jessica Rappe (BUS '11) became engaged in December 2015. The couple, who met during their junior year, plan to marry in May 2016.

Ulan Moroz (BUS '13) married Kenneth Mroz (CDM '14) on Aug. 15, 2015, at Saints Volodymyr & Olha Ukrainian Catholic Church. She is a finance coordinator for Tampico Beverages in Chicago.

Births & Adoptions

Jennifer R. O'Brien (LAS '01, LAS MA '04) and her husband, Mark O'Brien (JD '10), welcomed their daughter, Finley Gloria Hart O'Brien, on May 18, 2015.

Erika Boehlen (LAS '06) and her husband, Michael, welcomed their first child, Madison Grace Boehlen, on March 28, 2015.

Jennifer Cassell (BUS '08) and her husband, Reggie Wright, proudly announce the birth of their daughter, Adelyn, who was born on Oct. 4, 2015.

Manav Gupta (CDM MS '02) is vice president for issuer products at Los Angeles-based Verifi Inc., a payment and risk management solutions provider, where he focuses on product innovation and strategy. He previously served as senior director of emerging products strategy and innovation for Visa.

Stephen M. Haggard (THE '02) played Matthew Baroni in Northlight Theatre’s production of “Funyman,” which ran Sept. 11-Oct. 18 at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts in Skokie, Ill.

Prashant Parikh (BUS '02) is founder of Faayda.com, which offers an app that helps users better manage their finances.

Mary P. Beck (MED '03) is interim principal at Nicholas Senn High School in Chicago. She previously served as assistant principal at the Friedrich W. Von Steuben Metropolitan Science Center, a Chicago magnet high school.

Nicholas J. Castro (JD '03) is the coordinator for Hispanic and Latino Affairs at the University of Cincinnati Blue Ash in Blue Ash, Ohio. In this role, Castro ensures Hispanic and Latino students have the tools and resources needed for success. He previously served as coordinator of diversity and inclusion at the National Collegiate Athletic Association in Indianapolis.

Kelley A. Clink (LAS MA '03) published “A Different Kind of Same: A Memoir,” which chronicles her experience with grief and depression after her brother’s suicide. Clink is an advocate for suicide prevention and mental health care and has written pieces on the topic that have appeared in The Huffington Post, Woman’s Day and other publications.

Samuel Delgado (BUS '03) was honored with the Illinois CPA Society’s 2015 Emerging Leader in Diversity Award. Delgado, who is the controller for Latin America and Canada at Abbott, was recognized for his efforts to create a more inclusive and diverse accounting community and for promoting diversity in his professional and personal endeavors.

Matthew A. Katz (JD '03) presented at One Summer Chicago, which provides summer employment and enrichment opportunities for youth ages 14-24. Katz gave his presentation on immigration law to a group of 15 students, all of whom were the children of two immigrant parents or were part of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program.

Tarell A. McCraney (THE '03) joined the department of theatre arts at the University of Miami as a professor of theatre and civic engagement. A Miami native, McCraney is the award-winning playwright of such works as “The Brother/Sister Plays” and “Choir Boy.”

Cynthia G. Metley (JD '03) is a partner at Sedgwick LLP, where she focuses her practice on data privacy, security and liability matters, information governance, e-discovery, international contract disputes, and other issues.

Denise O’Brien-Petersen (SRL '03) joined Cit Retail Services as a partner manager. She previously worked at Capital One as a senior manager. Additionally, O’Brien-Petersen published her memoir, “Journey up the Gravel Path,” which chronicles her experience as a new mother diagnosed with a brain tumor.

Gary B. Roebuck (CDM MS '03) was promoted to director of administration and operations from his position as director of information technology at the Association of Research Libraries in Washington, D.C. In this role, Roebuck oversees day-to-day operations and manages IT, fiscal and human resources.

Priscilla Rojas (BUS '03) was nominated to the Boston Redevelopment Authority Economic Development Industrial Corp. board of directors by Mayor Martin J. Walsh. Rojas is a senior manager of audit services at John Hancock.

Harriet M. Bogdanowicz (MBA '04) is chief communications officer for the American Planning Association, a membership and education organization, where she is responsible for developing and implementing integrated communication and marketing strategies and oversees the organization’s marketing, publishing, information, advocacy, social media, and library and taxonomy initiatives. Bogdanowicz previously served as assistant executive director for communications and membership at the American Association of Endodontists.

Melissa R. Devantier (JD '04, MBA '04) is president of the Fox Valley Estate Planning Council, an organization made up of professionals from diverse disciplines who are involved with the estate planning process. She is an attorney at McCarthy Law LLP in Appleton, Wis.

Krista D. Hommer (BUS '04) is a senior member on the government services team at Sikich, a professional services firm. She previously served as a senior program manager at the Government Finance Officers Association.

Sarah J. La Voi (JD '04, MBA '04) was named to Inside Counsel’s R3-100, a list of 100 women who could potentially become general counsel in the Fortune 500 within three years. La Voi is associate general counsel for Publics Group, headquartered in Paris, France, and oversees a team for Starcom Mediapost Group, headquartered in Chicago.

Matsuo M. Marti (MED '04) is director of STEM education for Evanston/Skokie School District 65. Marti previously served as the founding principal of the Sarah E. Goode STEM Academy, part of the Chicago Public Schools system.

Manish Tomar (MBA '04) joined Grant Thornton LLP as chief information officer. He is based in Oakbrook Terrace, Ill., and oversees internal IT functions and related programs. He previously served as vice president and general manager for application services at Computer Sciences Corp., also in Oakbrook Terrace.

Desmin C. Borges (THE '05) stars as Edgar on the FXX TV series “You’re the Worst.”

Lori L. Danella (SRL '05) was elected as Midwest regional director of the board of directors for the School Nutrition Association. She is the nutrition coordinator for Lee’s Summit R-7 School District in Lee’s Summit, Mo.

Rachel Lucero Deen (CDM MS '05) is vice president of cyber security services for Transit Safety and Security Solutions, where she develops the firm’s new cybersecurity division, assesses cyber threats and develops mitigation strategies for the company’s national customer base.
Kevin Barszcz (CMN '15), who is now the executive director of Chicago Veterans, was excited to enroll at DePaul, but nervous about adjusting to academia after four years in the Navy. It was when he started connecting with fellow veterans on campus that he realized he wasn't alone and started thriving. “I met a few fellow combat veterans at DePaul, and we were all struggling with our transition from military to civilian life,” Barszcz says. “We started meeting regularly, and we quickly realized how helpful that was. We decided we wanted to help every veteran possible in Chicago and started Chicago Veterans.”

Since 2013, Chicago Veterans has been on a mission to build a network of military veterans across the city who help each other acclimate and prosper as civilians. On Feb. 20, the organization opened VetHub, a space equipped with high-speed WiFi, meeting areas, TVs, laptops—almost anything a veteran might need to succeed. “There are many tech hubs in Chicago, but this is the only one specifically designed for veterans,” Barszcz says. “I want Chicago veterans and their families and supporters to know that Chicago Veterans is a community that cares.”
Class Notes

Jillian Roeters (MED ’09) is a math teacher at Butler Junior High School in Oak Brook, Ill. Previously, she served as the middle school math coordinator for Pleasantdale Middle School in Burr Ridge, Ill.

Ellen C. Schneider (LAS ’09) is interim executive director of DC3, a creative-industries advocacy organization that encourages the growth of creative-sector jobs in Detroit. She previously served as associate director of the center and, prior to that, as a bankruptcy attorney with Schneider Miller PC.

2010s

Paul E. Blom (LAS MA ’10) taught the study abroad course Visual Approaches to Global Health in Johannesburg, South Africa, and Mbabane, Swaziland, for the Yale University 2015 summer session. Blom has written promotional video scripts for Atlanta Mission’s women’s shelter and United Way of Greater Atlanta. He currently works with Visual Epidemiology, writing and producing a short narrative film focused on the health of mothers and children around the world.

Kevin C. Devitt (EDU ’10) is assistant coach of the men’s basketball team at Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio. He previously served as an administrative assistant for men’s basketball at The University of Alabama at Birmingham.

Brian J. Easley (LAS ’10) joined the U.S. Office of Government Ethics as a desk officer in the program counsel division. In this role, Easley helps facilitate the executive branch ethics program by providing services to agency ethics officials throughout the executive branch and advising agencies on unique or emerging ethics-related issues.

Rachel M. VanHornweder (MST ’10) is a senior lecturer in accounting in the department of business and economics at the University of Wisconsin-Superior.

Hellen E. Weberpal (MUS ’10) was recruited by the Houston Symphony to participate in an initiative to embed musicians in the community. She enhances the orchestra’s education and community-engagement activities and performs for select symphony performances. Weberpal is a cellist who has substitute with the Houston Symphony, Houston Grand Opera and Houston Ballet orchestra.

Scott W. Falconer (SNL ’11) studied the ecological, cultural and spiritual landscapes of the Western Ghats, a mountain range in India. He made the trip as part of the Earth Expedition Global Field Program at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio.

Tristan Gunn (JD ’11) is an attorney with Tapia-Ruano & Gunn PC, which was ranked as a tier one top law firm for immigration in Chicago and tier three nationally by U.S. News and World Report.

Kenneth Hoffmann (JD ’11) joined Swanson, Martin and Bell LLP as an associate focusing on medical negligence and health care, construction litigation, and product liability. He joins the firm from Bollinger Connolly Krause LLC, where he also served as an associate.

Amanda F. Krueger (CMN ’11) is director of client services at Strike, a large YouTube advertising intelligence platform. Previously, she served as a media supervisor at Spark SMG.

Alexia N. Whitaker (JD ’11) is the affirmative action officer for University of Washington in Seattle. She previously served as a program manager in the Office of Affirmative Action at Arkansas State University. In her new role, Whitaker is responsible for preparing, implementing and overseeing the university’s affirmative action plan.

Jacob J. Berent (CMN ’12, CMN MA ’14) is a reporter for NBC affiliate WFAA in Dallas, Texas. He previously worked as a reporter and sports anchor for CBS and for Fox affiliate WAGM for Northern Maine and New Brunswick, Canada.

Sarah V. Cook (MED ’12) is the school counselor at Storer Elementary School in Muncie, Ind.

Kristin L. Cullinan (MBA ’12) is digital marketing and e-commerce manager for Bioelements, a line of skin care products.

Melissa Anne Fraser (EDU ’12) competed with Canada’s javelin team in the 2015 Pan Am Games in Toronto, Canada, July 10-26.

Lisa G. Milczarek (MBA ’12) is vice president and financial advisor for Bank Leumi USA. She joins Leumi from HSBC Bank USA NA, where she was a relationship manager and vice president in private banking.

Jennifer J. Panattoni (SNL ’12) was promoted to director of business development at LCI Brands in Elk Grove Village, Ill. She most recently served as director of marketing. In her new position, her responsibilities have been expanded to include brand and trend direction and digital marketing strategy.

Loren A. Sanderson (JD ’12) is an associate attorney with the law firm of Kious, Rodgers, Barter, Holder and Kious in Murfreesboro, Tenn., where she practices family law. She previously served as director of policy research and education for the Nashville committee for the Tennessee Equality Project.

Rachel L. Walsh (LAS MA ’12) is faculty co-op coordinator for the Northeastern University Graduate School of Engineering in Boston. She previously served as student services and data manager/co-op counselor for the university.

Ge Wang (JD ’12) owns ESQ Clothing, a custom clothier in Chicago’s West Loop.

Aaron Calhoun (LAS ’13) was promoted to director of printing and graphic services for the Champaign Unit #4 School District in Champaign, Ill. He previously served as graphic design specialist.

William J. Collins (MED ’13) is director of teacher recruitment for OneGoal, a national organization that strives to close the college gap by training teachers to help underserved high school students enroll in and complete college. Previously, Collins spent six years with Chicago Public Schools as an economics teacher.

Lauren K. Cook (CDM ’13) is marketing coordinator for the design team at Butler, Rosenbury & Partners, an architecture, structural engineering, planning and development firm in Springfield, Mo.

Carson J. Cunningham (MBA ’13) was named to the Helena, Mont., Independent Record’s list of 20 Under 40, which honors members of the community who are helping to advance Helena through their industry and hard work. He is head men’s basketball coach at Carroll College.

Ian R. Frank (THE MFA ’13) is directing a performance of Noel Coward’s “Private Lives,” at Step Up Productions in Glenview, Ill. The show will run April 8-May 8. Frank is a freelance director, teacher and composer in Chicago.

William H. Hartmann (CDM MS ’13) was selected as a Woodrow Wilson Indiana Teaching Fellow. Participants include recent graduates and others who have strong STEM backgrounds and are interested in being trained as STEM teachers to serve in high-need secondary schools. Each fellow receives $30,000 to complete a master’s program and a yearlong classroom experience and then teach for three years in urban and rural Indiana schools.

Alexya L. Hernandez (LAS ’13) joined the Florida Gubernatorial Fellows, a nine-month nonpartisan leadership program under the governor’s office. As a fellow, Hernandez has been placed at the department of juvenile justice in the probation and community intervention office, where she works to ease the transition for children in the juvenile justice system upon returning to traditional school. She is in her third year of doctoral studies in education policy evaluation at Florida State University, where she researches proactive school discipline policies.

Rachelle R. Ketchum (JD ’13) is a trial attorney with the U.S. Department of Justice, antitrust division, in Washington, D.C. She previously served as a judicial clerk for the U.S. District Court.

Dana M. Klug (CSH ’13) was awarded a predoctoral fellowship from the ACS Division of Medicinal Chemistry, which recognizes outstanding predoctoral students engaged in medicinal chemistry research. Klug currently studies treatments for human African trypanosomiasis (sleeping sickness), a deadly disease transmitted by the tsetse fly that affects tens of thousands of people in rural Africa annually.

Mariah C. Martz (LAS ’13) is editor of the life section of The Star, a daily newspaper owned by the KPC Media Group Inc, that serves DeKalb County, Ind. She was previously a project manager for Keyflow Creative in Fort Wayne, Ind.

Ryan Moye (CMN MA ’13) joined CBS affiliate KXTV in Tyler, Texas, in August 2014 as a multimedia journalist.

Megan A. Wagner Natalino (JD ’13) is an adjunct professor at her alma mater, Judson University in Elgin, Ill., where she teaches adult undergraduate students. She works full time as a social studies teacher at a public alternative high school in Illinois School District U-46 and practices law part time, focusing on small business needs, noncomplex wills and trusts, and other areas.

Angelica R. Robinson (CMN MA ’13) is a reporter for CBS news affiliate WANE-TV in Fort Wayne, Ind. She previously served as a reporter for WGN-TV in Chicago.

Lucas R. Baisch (THE ’14) premiered his play “A Measure of Normalcy” at the Gloucester Stage in Gloucester, Mass., on Oct. 22. He wrote the play while participating in the Gloucester Stage 2015 Apprentice Playwriting Program.

Gemma Berto (BUS ’14) was named third runner-up and Miss Congeniality in the Miss Illinois USA pageant, held in Skokie, Ill., in September. She lives in Glenview, Ill., and is pursuing a CPA license.

Katherine E. Briscoe (EDU ’14) departed for Tonga with the Peace Corps on Aug. 31, where she is a primary education teacher trainer volunteer and helps improve education in the community.

Ryan J. Butler (BUS ’14) joined Brown Gibbons Lang & Co. Real Estate Advisors as an analyst in Oak Brook, Ill. He previously served as an investment analyst at Allstate Insurance Co.
Jessica J. Finlay (CMN ’14) is content marketing writer and coordinator for Bioelements, a line of skin care products. She previously worked as a junior editor for June Media Inc.

Alison K. Hernandez (CSH MS ’14) was selected as a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Future of Nursing Scholar. She received a scholarship for doctoral studies, as well as mentoring and leadership development.

Kiandra A. Layne (THE ’14) played Kate in David Lindsay-Abaire’s play “Good People” at Redtwist Theatre in Chicago, which ran through Aug. 23.

Miriam Lee (THE ’14) was named to the Chicago Tribune’s 2015 list of Top 10 Hot New Faces of the Chicago Stage. Lee performed as Nora in Definition Theatre Company’s production of “A Doll’s House,” which ran through May 3.

Shelly D. Leggett (CMN MA ’14) is a multimedia journalist for WSJV FOX28 news in Elkhart, Ind. She previously served as general assignment reporter for NBC Montana news.

Zoe E. Lubeck (LAS ’14) produced the short video “Lucy,” which was awarded the top U.S. Student Film Award at the British Academy of Film and Television Arts Los Angeles awards. Lubeck created the film for a class project for her digital cinema master’s program at DePaul. She is one of eight awardees out of almost 800 entries.

Kristen N. Pezzoli (LAS ’14) works in communications and events with the Junior League of Chicago, where she is responsible for print and electronic internal and external communications; monitoring event ticket purchases, annual fund donations and other fundraising purchases; executing events and other functions.

Lauren S. Richert (MED ’14) is the registrar for IBMC College at its Greeley, Colo., campus.

Under the pseudonym N.J. Tanger, Joshua Russell (CDM MFA ’14) co-authored “Chimera,” the first book in the “Universe Eventual” series. He is a screenwriting and directing lecturer in the College of Computing and Digital Media.

Ariella R. Toren (CMN ’14) and Hannah L. Vogel (CMN ’15) are reporters for the CBS affiliate KEPR’s news team in Pasco, Wash.

Kirsten Verdun (CMN ’14) is the assistant coach of the softball team at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She previously served as graduate assistant coach at the University of Louisville in Kentucky.

Spencer Barrett (CSH ’15) is a canvas director with the Fund for the Public Interest in Chicago, where he works on environmental campaigns and campaigns for nonprofit organizations.

Glen R. Cashetta (CDM MFA ’15) is new media communications instructor at Eastern Arizona College in Thatcher, Ariz. He previously worked as a commercial film editor and owner of a postproduction facility in Los Angeles.

Stephanie A. Garces (JD ’15) is an associate at Heyl Royster in Chicago, where she concentrates her practice on business and commercial litigation, Section 1983 civil rights litigation, and toxic torts and asbestos.

Kevin M. Kasjanski (LAS ’15) is a transfer pricing analyst at Duff & Phelps Corp. in Chicago.

Susannah McAul (CMN MA ’15) is the international special programs advisor at Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta, where she helps international students adjust to campus life and develops and expands intercultural communication training, activities and learning opportunities at the university. McAul was the recipient of a 2015 Fulbright scholarship.

Kirsten L. Peterson (LAS ’15) was accepted into the Teach for America 2015 teaching corps.

Awate Serequeberhan (THE ’15) played the role of Logan in Northlight Theatre’s world premiere of “Charm,” which ran through Nov. 8 at Steppenwolf’s Merle Reskin Garage Theatre.

Tiffany L. Shivers (LAS MS ’15) is special events coordinator at Horizons for Youth, which provides scholarships, mentoring and community support for children from low-resource areas in Chicago. She previously served as development associate for Lawndale Christian Health Center.

Randy Vollrath (CSH ’15) is associate product manager overseeing a team of developers at InnerWorkings, a Chicago-based tech company.

DePaul Pride

Do you have a photo that shows your DePaul spirit? Send the image to dpalumni@depaul.edu with your name and the location where the photo was taken, and you may see yourself in a future issue of DePaul Magazine.

High-resolution images only.

Annabelle Needles (CMN ’08) in Romania’s Bucegi Natural Park

Nicholas Johnson (LAS ’08) in Panama City, Panama

Jen Bruno (BUS ’95) in Rocky Mountain National Park’s Kawuneeche Valley in Colorado

Carl Ollerer (SNL ’88) at the Schonbrunn Palace in Vienna, Austria

Miriam Manahan (MBA ’08, BUS MS ’09, MS ’10) on the Nā Pali Coast of Kauai, Hawaii

Dina Migala (EDU ’08) at the Cliffs of Moher in County Clare, Ireland