

Springfield business journal

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FORTY UNDER 40 2014

By Michelle Higgenbotham,
associate publisher



Forty Under 40 was the first awards program established by *Springfield Business Journal* and this is our 18th year of recognizing outstanding young leaders in Springfield and the surrounding

communities. Chances are, you probably know one or more of this year's recipients as well as many of our previous recipients. Through both their professional lives and their volunteer service, these individuals are extremely involved in the communities where they reside. They represent the future of local business and we are proud to be able to acknowledge their contributions.

Each of these individuals was nominated by one or more of our readers, and they were selected based on contributions to their chosen field and overall community involvement. While their employment, educational backgrounds, and affiliations are varied, they have all made an impact in the community.

It is thanks to the ongoing commitment of our sponsors, Security Bank and the University of Illinois Springfield MBA Program, that we are able to recognize a new class of outstanding young businesspeople each year. We are also honored to have the Honorable Sue Myerscough, United States District Judge, as our keynote speaker for this year's reception.

Thank you to all of the readers who took time to submit nominations and helped insure that these very deserving individuals would be recognized for their professional and community achievements.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



The Honorable Sue E. Myerscough is a United States District Judge for the United States District Court for the Central District of Illinois. Following law school, she served as law clerk to the Honorable

Harold A. Baker of the United States District Court for the Central District of Illinois. Beginning in 1981, Judge Myerscough was in private practice with the Springfield law offices Giffin, Winning and then Hinshaw & Culbertson until her appointment in 1987 as an Associate Judge of the Circuit Court for the Seventh Judicial Circuit. In 1990, Judge Myerscough was elected Circuit Judge for the Seventh Judicial Circuit. She was elected Presiding Judge of the Sangamon County Circuit Court in December 1994

and Chief Judge of the Seventh Judicial Circuit in December 1996. In 1998, Judge Myerscough won election to the Fourth District Appellate Court, where she served as Presiding Judge in 2002 and 2009. In June 2010, President Barack Obama nominated Judge Myerscough to a seat on the United States District Court for the Central District of Illinois, replacing retiring Judge Jeanne E. Scott. She was confirmed by the United States Senate and received her commission in March 2011.



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INSIDE NEWS THIS MONTH



Angel Investors:
Alternative funding for entrepreneurs
p. 4-5

Restaurant review:
Julia's
p. 32-33



ET Lawncare:
Keeping it neat and trim
p. 13

**Small Business
Award Winners**
p. 3



Arlington's
A new bar on Broadway
p. 6-7

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SMALL BUSINESS AWARDS



Ruby Award (Small Business Owner of the Year - sales up to \$1 million): Megan Henley Brown, Trendsetters Design, Inc.

PHOTOS BY TERRY FARMER



New & Emerging Business Persons: Karen Conn and Court Conn, Obed & Isaac's Microbrewery and Eatery



Sapphire Award (Small Business Owner – sales exceeding \$3 million): Glen Garrison, Lola Garrison, Todd Smith and Leanne Smith, Garrison Group, Inc.



Not-For-Profit Director of the Year: Michelle Tjelmeland, Cochlear Implant Awareness Foundation



Diamond Lifetime Award (Over 25 years in business): Julie and Brad Zara



Emerald Award (Small Business Owner – sales \$1-3 million: Curt Trampe (pictured with Debbie Mogle Trampe), DreamMaker Bath & Kitchen

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ENTREPRENEURS



Barnabas Helmy of SmashToast, LLC. (Paintings by Jess Black)

PHOTO BY MARANDA POTTERF

Adventures in alternative financing

By Roberta Codemo

Entrepreneurs are finding it increasingly difficult to access capital through traditional funding sources. According to the 2013 Sage Business Index, 57 percent of small businesses said they needed to look at alternative funding sources. Without access to financing, entrepreneurial startups cannot bring their dreams to life. When it comes to securing money, entrepreneurs need to get creative. Two of the most popular of alternative funding options are crowdsourcing and angel investors.

Angel investors are high net worth individuals who invest their own money in the early stages of an entrepreneurial startup in exchange for an equity stake in the company. Angels must meet the accredited investors guidelines set by the SEC and tend to look for both financial and intrinsic returns on their investments. They help entrepreneurs see the big picture and work with them to keep them from making the same mistakes they did. "They want to give back," said Bruce Sommer, who is an angel investor and founder of Bluestem Ventures, the first angel group in Springfield – a group of investors who pool their resources to diversify and invest in more companies.

William Wetzel, the founding director of the Center for Venture Research at the University of New Hampshire, coined the phrase "angel" investor in 1978. The term originated on Broadway in the 1940s when private investors would front

Broadway productions.

There were 134,895 individual angel investors in 2013, according to the Center for Venture Research. A total of 28,590 companies received angel funding, while angel investments totaled \$9.7 billion. Typically, angel investors wish to remain anonymous.

The Angel Resource Institute said, as a rule, angel investors invest between \$5,000 and \$100,000 in an entrepreneurial startup. Angels must be comfortable with risk and willing to lose their investment. It can take an angel five to seven years to recoup their initial outlay.

Barnabas Helmy, CEO at SmashToast, LLC, a software / hardware engineering and design company in Springfield, first met Sommer at a meeting of the Innovation Viability Network (INVINT), a local nonprofit organization that works with central Illinois inventors, organized by Springfield patent attorney Robert Patino. Sommer spoke about funding sources for entrepreneurs.

"I was invited to present my idea at the meeting," said Helmy. Afterwards, he and Sommer spoke further and Sommer told him his project was exactly what his group was looking for.

Helmy is developing The Sprocket, a hardware/software device that will change the way home users interact with their home electronic devices. He and his partner, Andrew Brown, founded the

company in March. "It's very exciting," said Helmy, who came up with the idea one evening while sitting on the sofa and growing frustrated with the remote. He created a universal remote control partnered with a smartphone app.

He predicts it will take a half million dollars or more to get the product to market quickly. "Tech is deadline-based," said Helmy. He needs to bring three developers on board. He has started reaching out to angel investors rather than pursuing traditional financing.

"This is not a traditional business," said Helmy. He is looking for angel investors that fund technology projects to help his company navigate the waters of the tech world. "It's important we get money before we run out of seed money," he said. The company has reached the point where it can reach out to angel investors and make "the ask."

Helmy has begun making his pitch to local angel investors. The response has been positive. Forming relationships is crucial because it's important that investors understand where you're coming from. He chose to bring on angel investors rather than pursue crowdfunding because angel investors have the expertise and experience. "They will be able to guide us," he said.

Sommer said the relationship between an entrepreneur and an angel can be very emotional. "The greater the stakes, the greater the emotion," he said. "It's also rewarding. You get to see someone make their dream come true." The true value of an angel investor lies in their intellectual capital, which is far more valuable to the success of a startup.

For its part, crowdfunding is growing in popularity as one way for entrepreneurs to launch their businesses. Unlike angel investors, who actively engage with and develop relationships with entrepreneurs, crowdfunding limits individual investors to financial investment alone. While proponents argue crowdfunding will create new businesses and thereby more jobs, Sommer argues it is not sustainable. Because the chances of success are so small, overall it will be bad for the economy.

The two most prominent crowdfunding websites are Indiegogo and Kickstarter, where entrepreneurs solicit contributions from the public in exchange for a "reward." With the passage of the 2012 Jumpstart Our Business Startups Act (the "JOBS" Act), the Entrepreneur Access to Credit provision will allow businesses to sell equity stakes in their companies online to individual investors through a process called equity crowdfunding to raise funds.

Prior to this, the federal Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) only allowed accredited investors – investors with an individual net worth of \$1 million plus or an annual income of \$250,000 or more – to purchase equity shares online. While the SEC is still finalizing the rules, the provision is expected to take effect later this year.

When this happens, Bruce Sommer – who in addition to his investment activities is also Entrepreneur-In-Residence and Visiting Lecturer at University of Illinois Springfield – said it will open the floodgates and allow individual investors to acquire equity positions in startups. At the same time, he is concerned about the relative worthiness of companies receiving (and failing to receive) funding. "The public will need to educate themselves," he said.

The risk will also shift from the entrepreneur to the investor. "If you don't understand risk, bad things can happen," said Sommer.

Most entrepreneurial startups fail. According to the United States Small Business Administration, more than 50 percent of small businesses fail within the first five years. Because investors will not recoup their money if a business fails, that money is taken out of the economy.

Luke Schuette is the president of Lamboo, Inc., the world's leading materials technology company. Founded in Springfield in 2003 and based here, Lamboo specializes in engineered bamboo for architectural, structural and OEM industrial applications. The company's first product line was released in 2009.

"We're a little company," said Schuette, this despite the fact it's the world's leader in structural and performance-based engineered bamboo. He sees tremendous growth over the next five years.

Schuette said a small portion of the initial startup costs came from angel investors. The company has since bought out several because the investors did not fit. "Angel investors limit a company like ours," he said.

"We were never properly funded from the beginning," continued Schuette, who has always practiced a conservative financing strategy. He has funded the company through a mix of different financing options. He acknowledges he did not handle the company's financing strategy the right way. In retrospect, he said, crowdfunding might have proved a better way of funding his company. Crowdfunding is most successful with technology startups that are quick and inexpensive to start.

Schuette believes Springfield has the potential to become a new Silicone Valley but it's not there yet. "It is the perfect

environment for business development," he said. "Our company will be creating the best jobs in Springfield," he said.

The capital city should have been creating entrepreneurial opportunities 10 or 12 years ago. "There should be a plan in place," said Schuette. He wants and hopes that city officials and business leaders talk about and recognize that Springfield offers entrepreneurial opportunities.


"We need to move forward," said Schuette.


Roberta Codemo is a full-time freelance writer and started Codemo Writing Services in 2012. She works with small business owners to help create compelling online content and build their web presence. She can be reached at rcodemo@hotmail.com.

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Moore family opens Arlington's downtown

By Ginny Lee

Bill, Lois and Ebben Moore will open their brand new pub, Arlington's, in downtown Springfield this month in the building formerly occupied by the bar On Broadway. Each brings his/her own particular expertise to the business at 210 Broadway.

This family enterprise has to be one of the most interesting food and drink purveyors in town. Arlington's is named after poet Edwin Arlington Robinson, one of Bill's favorite poets. A painting of Robinson hangs next to two club chairs in the rear of the bar area. Bill's son, Ebben, 38, was named after a character in Robinson's poem, "Mr. Flood's Party." His middle name is Arlington, also after the poet.

As they were throwing out possible names for the enterprise, the name Arlington's seemed a natural fit. A lover of literature himself, Ebben has a B.A. in both English and Rhetoric with a minor in Poetry from the University of Illinois.

Bill bought the building at 210 Broadway and has incorporated various finds into the décor, such as the eye-catching eight-foot-long teak sculpture of a horse on the main floor. Stained glass windows from English homes decorate the back of the bar.

The second floor of Arlington's is designed for receptions and other private events. It features a long bar, white

ceiling medallions and massive nine-foot-tall mirrors from a circa 1836 house in Carlinville.

Lois, known for her interior design business and Periwinkles shop (3255 W. Iles), chose signature accents and architectural elements throughout the building. The interior features lime green upholstered benches and colorful paintings by Lois and her staff.

Ebben formerly managed J.P. Kelly's, around the corner from Arlington's, before heading to Chicago some years ago. He managed five Chicago bars before returning to Springfield in January. "I'd been wanting to open a bar for a long time," Ebben said. He and Bill tossed around ideas last year and decided on a pub theme with craft beer and good food. Ebben's fiancé, Chicagoan Kristin Schaufuss, is floor manager and bartender.

The menu features burgers, including the "Flavor Explosion" with pepper jack cheese, grilled habanero and jalapeno peppers, bacon, fried egg and Buffa-Q sauce. Lighter food such as salads, wraps and veggie options are also on the menu. Pierogi with paprika mashed potato and cheddar-jack cheese served with Polish sausage, grilled onions and sour cream is an appetizer.

Dessert options are mixed berry bread pudding, old-fashioned vanilla bean sundae



An eight-foot-long handmade teak horse adds a lot of ambience to Arlington's. PHOTOS BY GINNY LEE

and an ice cream float made with Point Caspar White Stout beer.

Draft beers include Lazy Magnolia Southern Pecan Brown, Destihl Strawberry Blonde and Point Caspar White Stout. Arlington's offers the Hemingway Daiquiri Martini, the Pangalactic Gargleblaster, a vodka lemonade shakeup and the Jack Kerouac, among other craft cocktails.

The location started as a warehouse built in 1917 by Charles Seward for a meatpacking plant, according to Ebben, who researched the building. It has massive oak beams and sturdy pine floors.

"Getting the building down to its guts and then dressing it up has been neat," Ebben said. The Moore team removed carpeting, drop-ceilings and paneling

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covering brick walls, but didn't change the structure of the building.

The new exterior has a white painted façade with stained glass windows which really makes it pop out from the rest of the brick structures on the one-block street named Broadway. The windows are from the circa 1906 Bible Baptist Church in Rantoul, according to Bill. Above the entrance is a customized sheet metal awning.

Literary references can be found at Arlington's. Tables feature quotes by several writers, such as this one by Robinson: "The world is...a kind of spiritual kindergarten where millions of bewildered infants are trying to spell 'God' with the wrong blocks." A fountain on the second floor made from an Indonesian tree stump is named Ambrose for writer Ambrose Bierce.

Lois Moore recently opened her latest interior design shop, Periwinkles/LoloMoore, nearby in the building on the northwest corner of N. Second St. and W. Jefferson, previously home to a Mexican restaurant. "I'm excited for Ebben and his dad to work together," she said. "I can't wait to walk my clients down to Arlington's for lunch."

The new pub is just a few doors down from another shop on Broadway, Urban Sassafra, which is expected to benefit both enterprises.

The Moores want Arlington's to be a place for sharing conversation and ideas. The pub will be a friendly environment for everyone, including children, much like a pub in Europe. Arlington's will be open from 11 a.m. to 1 a.m., and closed on Sundays. □

Ginny Lee is a Springfield writer and photographer with an entrepreneurial spirit.



Lois, Ebben and Bill Moore collaborated to create Arlington's, a brand new pub at 210 Broadway.

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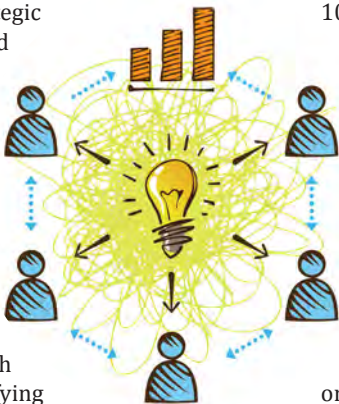
Five slots still available for Chamber-sponsored program



The Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce is offering a unique opportunity to select area businesses.

Rather than offering traditional incentives, such as tax credits, "Economic Gardening" gives companies access to what it refers to as strategic information – generated based on the needs of the individual firm.

Partnering with the National Center for Economic Gardening, the Chamber has set up a county-wide network to provide "virtual access to teams of highly skilled research specialists that will be matched with a select group of qualifying companies." Via conference calls and electronic communication, this team talks to representatives of a company in order to target specific needs.



This program is free but is available only to for-profit, privately-held companies headquartered in Sangamon County for at least two years; generates annual revenue or working capital of between \$1 million and \$50 million; employs between 10 and 99 full-time employees; demonstrates growth in employment and/or revenue during two of the past five years; provides products or services beyond the local area to regional, national or global markets; be referred by a participating economic development or entrepreneur support organization.

If you think your company might qualify, contact John Parrish at the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce at 217-525-1173, ext. 207 or jparrish@gsc.org



Caring for Customers...

Brian Murphy began working in the funeral industry when he was 16 years old. Seeing his career opportunity, he worked his way up from cutting the grass to funeral director. In 2004, he purchased Vancil Memorial Funeral Chapel, which was renamed Vancil-Murphy Funeral Home in 2007.

As Springfield natives, Brian and his wife Adrienne value serving the families in their community. As unfortunate as the death of a loved one is, their clients can appreciate working directly with the owners in every aspect of the funeral process. For more information on the wide variety of services Vancil-Murphy Funeral Home provides, visit vancilmurphy.com.

Knowing the importance of customer care, the Murphys value banking with First Bankers Trust Company. Brian appreciates that, "First Bankers conducts their business the way we do. Their attention to detail is just superior." When they visit the bank on Wabash, he says, "We walk in, and everyone knows 'the Murphys!' That means a lot to us." Adrienne

adds, "We call it *The Cheers* of banking!" They value working with Greg Curl and Nancy Richards. Adrienne appreciates that, "They are always available whenever we need something."

Because the couple puts a lot of time and effort into their business, Adrienne appreciates being able to bank on the go. She says, "Mobile banking is great! I can do it wherever I'm at!"

Today, Brian still cuts the grass at the funeral home; and as a small business owner, he adds, "With First Bankers, you get more personalized service. Sometimes being smaller is better." He is pleased to say, "We continue to promote them – personal or commercial. They are just a great bank."

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COMPANY PROFILE



Mike Buscher (left) and Rick Hanselman (right) of the Real Estate Group. PHOTOS BY ERIC WOODS

The Real Estate Group hits the big time

By Eric Woods

When the May 2014 edition of *Real Trends 500* hit the desks of employees at The Real Estate Group, they noticed a fascinating fact. The company is the number one single-office independent real estate company in Illinois and second in the nation.

According to Mike Buscher, partner and managing broker, the top companies in the United States are listed in this publication. "It is a voluntary who's who in the real estate world," he said. The Real Estate Group is listed as the 85th best privately-held independent real estate company in the country. When looking at the 84 companies who are higher on the list, only one operates out of only one office. They are also listed at number 266 of the top 500 largest brokers in the United States.

"If you are a top company, you want to be in here," said Rick Hanselman, company president. Companies submit their year-end numbers, and the publication looks at unit sales. In 2013, The Real Estate Group pulled in 2,407 units, which is higher than any other single-office real estate company in Illinois. "The big boys do 300,000 units."

The Real Estate Group currently employs 125 people. This is quite a jump from the seven people who started the company in 1998. "We are an office you can walk into. We are not Internet-based," said Hanselman, who also serves as a realtor and broker.

The one single-office company ahead of The Real Estate Group on the privately held independents list is Allison James Estates & Homes out of Florida. "They are an Internet-based company with agents all over the country. They are not a traditional company," said Buscher. "With us, the money stays here which helps tie us to the community. Without a strong community, none of us survive."

There has been a major shift in how consumers use real estate companies thanks to the Internet. The Real Estate Group has been able to change with the times. "This

is a more consumer service business," said Buscher. "Consumers are more educated. They do a lot of research online and need us to negotiate and put the deal together."

The number of agents in real estate has actually decreased in recent years. Agents are now building their own teams in order to manage everything better. According to Hanselman, it has been an evolution, but people are still excited about working at the company. "It is hard for a new agent to compete with those in the business for 25 years," he said. "So they work with a team to see how it works and begin to form relationships."

With the successes experienced recently, there have been talks of an expansion for The Real Estate Group in the arena of housing cooperatives. "We have formed a consulting company to help other realtors understand how to own and operate a co-op type real estate company," said Buscher. The company has put a great deal of time and thought into this project and are excited about the concept. The focus, though, will remain on the clients and doing what is in their best interests.

"We have people meeting and looking at simulating the office in different areas," added Hanselman. "Once we get up and running, we will look at blowing it up. Our structure is different than most real estate companies."

The Real Estate Group is excited to have this new recognition. According to Hanselman, this is the first time an independent company in central Illinois has been recognized in *Real Trends 500*. This acknowledgment means a great deal to the company. "There was a goal to get here," said Buscher. "Take care of the consumer and go up that ladder. Now it is published."

Eric Woods can be reached at ericw93@aol.com.

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BUSINESS NEWS

Hickory Point Bank appoints dealer services representative



Hickory Point Bank welcomes Ray Bliefnick to their Dealer Services team. In this new position, Ray will be the primary relationship manager for automobile, motorcycle, and recreational dealership clients throughout central Illinois, offering indirect financing, floor plan lending, cash management and other wholesale banking services. Bliefnick brings 30 years of sales and relationship management experience, including nearly 10 years working with automotive dealerships in central and eastern Illinois. With extensive knowledge of dealership sales and inventory management practices, he will work closely with dealers to provide innovative solutions that save time, money, and help them sell more vehicles.

Hickory Point Bank announces appointment of Stuart W. Broeren to board of directors



Hickory Point Bank has announced that Stuart W. Broeren has been appointed to the Bank's board of directors. Chairman of the board, Douglas J. Schmalz commented, "Stu recognizes the value a community bank like ours can deliver to its clients and its communities, and is enthusiastic about the opportunity to serve families, businesses and institutions in central Illinois as a member of Hickory Point Bank's board of directors." Steve Tock, community president, stated, "Stu Broeren is a respected businessman and entrepreneur. We are pleased that he will now become a part of the Hickory Point Bank team." Broeren has founded several successful companies, and serves as president and CEO of BroerenRusso Construction Inc., president of Broeren-Russo Builders of Florida, LLC and as president of Prairie Steel Services Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of Broeren-Russo Construction Inc. He has served two terms as president of Central Illinois Builders Chapter of the Associated General Contractors of America (AGC); has served as a trustee on the International Association of Ironworkers Health, Welfare and Pension Fund; and as a national director of the AGC of America. As an active community leader, Broeren has served in a leadership capacity for a variety of service organizations including the United Way, YMCA, Champaign Park District, Don Moyer Boys and Girls Club, and Developmental Services of Champaign County. He is a member of World Presidents Organization, Provena Covenant Foundation the University of Illinois Foundation and Carle Foundation. A lifelong central Illinois resident, he is married to Dr. Anita J. Broeren. Broeren holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Finance, and is licensed as an Illinois Real Estate Broker.

Sutton Siding & Remodeling Inc Receives 2013 Excellence Awards

GAP, North America's largest roofing manufacturer, is pleased to announce that Sutton Siding & Remodeling Inc of Springfield is one of only 172 contractors in the country to receive all three of the prestigious 2013 GAP Master Elite

Excellence Awards. These coveted industry awards recognize Sutton Siding & Remodeling Inc's dedication to quality roof system installations as well as their commitment to continuous improvement and superior customer service. Most consumers recognize that choosing a roofing contractor can be a confusing and sometimes risky decision. In fact, the Better Business Bureau lists roofing as one of the highest inquiry categories nationwide. As a factory-certified Master Elite™ Contractor, Sutton Siding & Remodeling Inc has been carefully pre-screened by GAP. In fact, only 3 percent of the roofing contractors in the country have earned GAP's Master Elite status—a distinction that truly sets them apart from the rest, and ensures that Sutton Siding & Remodeling Inc is dedicated to helping every customer make their best and safest roofing decision. As a GAP Master Elite Contractor, they are also dedicated to continuous improvement and training through access to CARE (the Center for the Advancement of Roofing Excellence). CARE is a nonprofit educational institute supported by GAP and dedicated to "changing an industry through excellence in education."

Flatt becomes certified project management professional



Michael Flatt, P.E., S.E., PMP, LEED AP®, federal operations and project manager at Hanson Professional Services Inc.'s Springfield headquarters, recently became a certified project management professional (PMP).

The Project Management Institute, a not-for-profit professional membership association, offers the PMP credential that recognizes demonstrated competence in leading and directing project teams.

Flatt has provided project management and structural engineering services on a variety of projects, including the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, the University of Illinois Springfield's University Hall and Founders Residence Hall, renovations at the Illinois State Capitol and the new geothermal system for the adjutant general's office at the Illinois Army National Guard's Camp Lincoln, all in Springfield; multiple Bank of Springfield locations in Illinois; the Armed Forces Reserve Center in Muscatine, Iowa; and the expansion of an International Broadcasting Bureau station in Kuwait.

Flatt has bachelor's and master's degrees in structural and geotechnical engineering from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He is a member of the Illinois Society of Professional Engineers, National Society of Professional Engineers and the Society of American Military Engineers. He is a licensed professional and structural engineer and a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design accredited professional (LEED AP®).

Springfield lawyer to receive State Bar award



Tracy D. Douglas, staff attorney, Illinois Governor's Office of Executive Appointments in Springfield, received a Young Lawyer of the Year Award from the Illinois State Bar Association (ISBA) at the organization's

Annual Meeting on June 20, at the Grand Geneva Resort in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin.

Each year, the ISBA selects two outstanding young lawyers for the award – one from Cook County and the other from outside Cook.

Since Douglas was appointed to her position, she has been recognized for having made great strides in filling vacancies and on state boards, commissions and public guardianships for disabled adults. But her volunteer activities really set her apart.

As an ISBA member, she serves on a section council and committee, and works on their newsletter and legislation subcommittees. In the local community, she is a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution and is active on three local committees. She was a volunteer for Credit Abuse Resistance Education, a project of the Kentucky Bar Foundation, and while in law school, volunteered in the Human Rights Clinic at the University of Illinois College of Law.

“The citizens of Illinois have benefited greatly from Tracy Douglas’ work both in the State Capitol and in the community,” Illinois Governor Pat Quinn said. “She has set an example for everyone entering the legal profession, and she is guided by the advice another Illinois attorney, Abraham Lincoln, gave to young lawyers: ‘Always bear in mind that your own resolution to succeed is more important than any other one thing.’”

Her two nominators praised Douglas’ “outstanding professionalism, passion and commitment to service” and wrote that she “truly exemplifies the commitment and competence required of a young lawyer.”

The 32,000-member ISBA (isba.org), with offices in Springfield and Chicago, provides professional services to Illinois lawyers, and education and services to the public through illinoislawyerfinder.com, consumer brochures, and distribution of legal information.

Safety concerns dictate regulations governing distance between pools and overhead power lines

Investigators with CWLP’s Electric Transmission and Distribution Department report having recently discovered several instances where customers have installed swimming pools too close to overhead power lines. Utility officials want to remind property owners and renters, as well as pool installation companies, that CWLP’s Rules and Specifications for Electrical Service specify minimum distances pools and related equipment and structures must be kept from overhead wires. These regulations are based on National Electric Safety Code standards and are designed to protect consumer health and safety. Electric lines located closer than allowed pose a potentially grave hazard for pool users, as well as for persons using long-handled “skimmers” to clean the pool. Customers who violate the regulations risk having their electric service interrupted until the situation is corrected.

Section 2.04(C)(4) of the Rules and Specifications for Electrical Service states that the type of service lines (those carrying 750 volts or less) running to most residential properties must be at least 10 feet horizontally from any edge of the pool or its diving boards or towers and at least 22.5 feet above the surface of the water or above the tallest diving structure with which the pool might be equipped. Service lines in excess of 750 volts but less than 22,000 volts must be at least 17 feet horizontally from the edge of the pool or its diving boards or towers and at least 25 feet above the surface of the water or above the

tallest diving structure.

When a violation of these regulations is discovered, CWLP contacts the customer either in person, by phone or by letter to inform them of the need to correct the problem and to discuss potential methods of correction. If the customer does not rectify the situation within 30 days of notification, the utility has the option of shutting off power to the property until the problem is fixed.

CWLP’s Rules and Specifications for Electrical Service can be found on CWLP’s website (www.cwlp.com/electric/contractorinfo/).

Springfield High School senior receives Robert E. von Behren Scholarship

Harrison Williams, a senior at Springfield

High School, was presented the Springfield Area Home Builders Association’s Robert E. von Behren Scholarship for \$1,000 on June 11. Harrison, son of Derrick and Jacqueline Williams, was chosen from applicants spanning Sangamon, Christian, Montgomery, Macoupin, Scott, Morgan, Cass, Menard, Mason and Logan counties.


Williams has earned a number of scholastic achievements; among them is his ranking as No. 1 in his class of 298 students and being named an Illinois State Scholar and Central State 8 Academic All-Conference student athlete in wrestling and football. He is also a member of the National Honor Society and the high school band.

Williams has been active in numerous volunteer activities, events and organizations throughout the school and in the community. He is the youth coordinator

for the Habitat for Humanity Youth Build, a Life Scout of the Boy Scouts of America and is active in multiple roles in the Springfield Church of Christ. Harrison plans to attend Georgia Tech University this fall to study civil engineering.

The Robert E. von Behren Scholarship Program is for students pursuing a career in the building industry and recognizes scholastic achievement, leadership skills and school and community involvement. The Springfield Area Home Builders Association proudly created the Robert E. von Behren Scholarship Program in honor of past president Robert E. von Behren who taught building trades and cement finishing through local union training programs, emphasizing pride in workmanship and encouraging young people to seek work in the construction industry.

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Springfield Black Chamber of Commerce Directory

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Ariz Hair & Nail Studio	Rhoda Lomelino	(217) 753-4346
Cadenza Piano Studio	Tiffany Williams	
Capital City Courier	Michael Pittman	(217) 528-2998
Davis Mechanical, Inc.	Joe Davis	(217) 753-3140
Dependable Service Company	Meddie Lewis	(217) 638-0516
Diversity Agreements Procurement Co.	Veronica Williams	217 698-2702
Dorsey Group	Thomas Dorsey	(217) 544-7596
Ds Auto World	Drewnard Woods	(217) 753-1100
Empakt II, LLC	Myron Hunter	(217) 415-7485
Environ	James Forney	(217) 523-9280
E T Lawn Care	Elmer Taborn	(217) 971-8023
Fashion Afrique	Pratt Roosevelt	(217) 544-1289
Illini Fadez	Audrey Austin	(217) 679-2337
Food Fantasies	Pacia Anderson	
Heard John	John Heard	
H & J Lawn Care	Howard Veal	217 816-5878
Illini Waterproofing LLC	Lorenzo & Bevey Louden	(217) 241-9913
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Infrastructure Engineering	Michael Sutton	(312) 405-9560
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J. Publications	Thomas Jones	(217) 553-1549
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L & M Gymnastics	Leroy McDaniels	(217) 753-2613
Landis Enterprises	Larry Landis	(217) 679-1064
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Pure News	T C Christian	(217) 528-5588
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Robert Moore & Associates	Robert Moore	(217) 793-3505
Robinson Remodeling	Isaac Robinson	(217) 522-3131
S & P Productions	Particia Dulin	(217) 971-7389
Springfield IL African American History Foundation	Douglas King	(217) 546-0115
Synergetic Solutions Inc	Melissa Hamilton	217 494-7210
The Key	John Crisp	(217) 670-2113
The Network Group	Kimberly Moore	(217) 553-8890
The Springfield Project	Timothy Rowles	(217) 753-3551
Total Essence Beauty Salon	Kila Alexander	217 544-2483
Tower of Refuge	Lorenzo & Bevey Louden	(217) 241-9911
Upward Media Studios	Ronald Rhone	(217) 529-5209
Very Creative Hair Studio	Veris Van	(217) 816-6110

E.T. Lawn Care Service stays a cut above

By Gabe House

It has been 15 years since Elmer Taborn had a realization of something seemingly simple.

"I was thinking, 'You know what, I made good money cutting grass as a kid.' I thought that would be a good way to make some extra cash," Taborn said. "I started out with six yards and the next thing I knew, word of mouth started spreading, I did a bit of advertising and it just blew up from there."

"Your weed-eating and trimming really sell your job," Taborn said. "It's like getting a haircut without a good line. Without a good line, it's not a good haircut."

Taborn, the owner of E.T. Lawn Care Service, took what is commonly seen as a kid's game – mowing a lawn or two – and turned it into a full-fledged business. In almost two decades in lawn care, he's gone from mowing up to 30 properties almost daily with three full-time employees to a more trimmed down approach with just himself and his two sons cutting on the evenings and weekends.

"I have a full-time job besides this (with the state), and it became stressful to have a couple crews running during the day, and then having to go over it in the evenings, so I thought I'd streamline things and just do it myself," Taborn said.

Taborn said he has built a loyal client base, but he also acknowledged that his time in the lawn care business is a definite asset. The landscape has changed and competition in the area is fierce. A simple Internet search for lawn care service in Springfield turns up a multitude of varying businesses from larger outfits with nurseries and landscaping to more specialized enterprises such as Taborn's.

"For a guy just starting out, it could be very painful," Taborn said. "You'd have to cut yourself a little short (on pricing) to get started out, because everyone is out there cutting. It's become dog eat dog out there, with everyone cutting grass and doing landscaping."

Taborn typically stays away from landscaping – "but I'll do a little bit for long-time clients" – due to its time-consuming nature. Tree trimming is also off the table once trees reach a larger size.

"I've gotten a bit older and smarter," Taborn said. "I don't do the big trees; I'll farm those out to friends with tree services."

E.T. Lawn Care Service is also a truly seasonal venture. Unlike many local businesses who supplement their income



Elmer Taborn of E. T. Lawn Care saddled up and ready to go.

PHOTO BY DAVID A. ANDERSON

during the winter months with snow plowing and removal, Taborn decided against it for a couple of different reasons. He cited Illinois' unpredictable winters as a reason not to spend the money on plowing equipment.

"Many businesses don't want you to plow unless there are two or more inches of snow, so it wouldn't really be a money-maker for me," Taborn said. "And with the exception of the past winter or two, we really haven't had more than dustings."

Taborn keeps it simple with E.T. Lawn Care; he cuts grass and he cuts it well. He recalled a time he had simply edged and weed-eated a yard before beginning to mow, and the client was overjoyed. She paid him for a full cut, and told him that was enough right there.

"Your weed-eating and trimming really sell your job," Taborn said. "It's like getting a haircut without a good line. Without a good line, it's not a good haircut."

Aside from clean lines, Taborn has also learned what hardware to use. Residential mowing equipment is not in

his employ. He said it is just too prone to malfunction with such a high volume of lawns to maintain. Taborn said one also needs a reliable truck and trailer to haul equipment, which for him includes multiple edgers and weed-eaters, a walk-behind mower and a larger riding mower.

As far as being a minority business owner in Springfield, Taborn said he has only occasionally run into issues of discrimination.

"It's sad to say, but we still have some negatives with people who are still stuck on what color skin you are," Taborn said. "There was one apartment complex where a manager flaked out when she realized we were a minority-owned business, saying we worked too fast and missed things ... but for the most part, I haven't had much trouble with that." □

Gabe House works in the lending department at United Community Bank. He can be reached at 217-787-3000 or ghouse@ucbbank.com.



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901 South Spring Street Office Building: Bidding Ends at 3:00 pm

- On two parcels. Parcel 1 # 14-33.0-433-15 / Parcel 2 #14-33.0-433-016.
- Constructed in 1962.
- 2-story masonry office building with a full basement. 10,698 sq. ft. above grade, featuring a large meeting space on the 2nd story. 5,350 sq. ft. full basement used for mechanicals and storage.
- Zoned R5 and sits in the middle of a general residence and office district.
- Designed and constructed for the PTA.
- Second floor meeting space was designed in 1982.
- Public entrance on the front of the building with a private rear entrance at the Southwest corner.
- Concrete exterior stairwell on the south side of the building adjacent to the asphalt parking lot with 8 spaces.
- Exterior walls are brick veneer over concrete block with a steel structure and concrete floors on metal pan supported by bar joist.
- Windows were replaced in 1998.
- Built-up tar & gravel roof serviced by Henson Robinson.
- Gas boiler and water-cooling tower (installed in 2005).

900 South College St Lot: Bidding Ends at 3:30 pm

This lot is an unimproved vacant grass lot located on the corner of College and Canedy.

Also Selling Business Equipment: Bidding Ends at 4:00 pm

Lots include desks, shelving, safes, fixtures, banquet chairs, collapsible tables, refrigerators, de-humidifiers, and more.

* PICK-UP for Business Equipment: Friday, July 15th 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

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FAT ASS 5K



The Fat Ass 5K and Street Party on Saturday, May 10, raised \$165,000 for local charities. Forty-one charities received their checks June 19 at Celtic Mist Pub downtown.

The first Fat Ass 5K event in 2008 raised \$30,000 for charities. The annual event has generated a total of \$695,000 for local organizations.



The Fat Ass 5K Team includes; Bethany Punke, Mike Noonan, Chris Hanken, Shane Turnage, Justin Greene, Chrissy Maher, Kim Johnson, Brent Leach, Paul and Katie Schafer. Paul and Katie Schafer started the event in 2008.



Megan Meuser and Wade Kammin along with dog Patricia accept a check for \$3000 for the charity Canine Companions for Independence.

BOS and PCCC christen new outdoor space

By Ginny Lee



Bank of Springfield and the Prairie Capital Convention Center held a ribbon cutting Friday, June 13, to celebrate the new BOS Plaza outside of the convention center. The new area at the west end of the building will be used for concerts and other events.

During concerts Washington Street on the north side of the convention center will be closed, and suites will be available in the adjacent parking garage. There is an open-

air patio on the north side of the building. Conventions booked at the PCCC may also use the plaza space.

Brett Eldredge was scheduled to perform there June 27, and the Under the Sun show featuring Blues Traveler, Sugar Ray, Smashmouth and Uncle Kracker, were scheduled to perform there June 29.

The BOS plaza is part of the PCCC's recent \$16 million renovation.

Brian Oaks, manager of the Prairie Capital Convention Center, on the new BOS Plaza.

PHOTOS BY GINNY LEE



Representatives of Bank of Springfield and the PCCC held a ribbon cutting Friday, June 13, for the new BOS Plaza at the convention center.

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Ryan M. Kaiser

Occupation: Manager, Agency Training, The Greater Illinois Agency with Prudential Insurance Company of America
Age: 32
Email: ryan.kaiser@prudential.com
Education: Bachelor's of Business Administration @ UIS, Master of Business Administration @ UIS, Chartered Life Underwriter (CLU®)
Family: Two sons: Teague & Landon
Affiliations/Community Activities: NAIFA, Volunteered at Special Olympics, American Red Cross. YSPN Member, Bloomington neXt member. Involved in little league soccer as a coach. Professional Mentor for Sales Professionals in several disciplines.



- **Biggest guilty pleasure?** Cooking. Greatly enjoy cooking and am pretty skilled in several cuisine styles ranging from basic American Cuisine to complex Indian Cuisine. Have several friends who are professional chefs that I bounce ideas off of.
- **Best 'perk' of your current job?** The best perk is the feeling of helping to build something bigger than myself. I love helping a family from start to finish. More importantly, I love teaching advisors how to build a practice which in turn helps more and more people every day. The rapid changing environment and increasing need for our profession in regards to the competitive landscape of Financial Planning. Financial Professionals live a life of significance that bleeds through generations and impacts families every single day.
- **How should Springfield retain young professionals like yourself?** Work to build more professional networking sources and awareness highlighting the opportunities. Each and every business here should adopt a passion for developing young professionals into the future of our community. We need to build a strong foundation for mentorship within the local leaders and allow for publication of these successes. Focus on all the good that comes from this type of work and the dream will become a reality.

Heather Sobieski

Company: Co-Owner of Buraski Builders, Inc.
Age: 36
Email: hsobieski@buraski.com
Online: Facebook
Education: BSCE from University of South Florida in Civil Engineering in 2000 and MSCE from University of Illinois in Civil Engineering in 2002
Family: Husband is Bobby Sobieski; kids are Hailey 6 and Kaitlyn 4
Affiliations / Community Activities: Licensed Structural Engineer; 2nd Vice President of Springfield Area Home Builders Association; Home Expo Committee Member for Springfield Area Home Builders Association



Best 'perk' of your current job? The best 'perk' of my job is that I get to spend time with my family. I work with my brother and parents every day. Also, since we are a family business, I have the flexibility to go on field trips, volunteer at school, etc. for my kids. I might not be able to do these things with my kids if I worked somewhere else.

How should Springfield retain young professionals like yourself? At this point in my life, my family is the most important thing to me. If I had to move my family, I would look for a home in a safe community where there is access to a good education and plenty of activities for our kids. I would also look for a community with a relatively low cost of living so we wouldn't have to make a fortune to live a great life. I believe these are all things that Springfield currently has to offer, but there is always room for improvement.

Chandra Roberts

Organization: Marketing Director, BRANDT, Specialty Formulations division
Age: 38
Online: Linked In
Education: Marketing, Bradley University
Family: husband Mark Roberts III, step-daughter Kira (11) and step-son Zane (14)
Affiliations / Community Activities: First Presbyterian Church, National Agri-Marketing Association



- **Biggest guilty pleasure?** Outdoor water parks and the Dew Chilli Parlor.
- **Best 'perk' of your current job?** Being involved in agriculture and food production, and having the opportunity learn and work in an "outdoor classroom". Our research farms, field visits and farm tours have taken me many interesting places, from avocado orchards to cotton and rice fields. Knowing that I have a small role in educating and helping farmers grow better food is very rewarding.
- **How should Springfield retain young professionals like yourself?** As a young professional, I look for communities and employers that value innovation, entrepreneurial thinking, creativity and leadership. Having a safe and family-friendly community, affordable housing, good schools and easy access to major airports are also important. That's what makes Springfield such a great place to live and work. We are fortunate to have the amenities and the friendly, small town feel.

Morgan Manning

Occupation: Disability Claims Adjudicator Trainee, Illinois Department of Human Services, Bureau of Disability Determination Services
Age: 28
Education: MBA in Healthcare Administration, Benedictine University at Springfield; BA in English-writing, Illinois Wesleyan University
Affiliations / Community Activities: The Citizens Club of Springfield member & Marketing Coordinator; Benedictine University at Springfield Alumni Board Co-Chair; Association of Women in Communications; Young Philanthropists; Young Springfield Professionals Network; Girls on the Run of Central Illinois volunteer & coach, Capital City Crossfit community member



- **Biggest guilty pleasure?** Netflix, NookBooks, and craft beer sampling
- **Best 'perk' of your current job?** Having the opportunity to serve the public while working in the heart of Springfield is a true 'perk' for me. Being near the Old Capitol Farmers Market and the many locally-owned downtown eateries and shops allows me to regularly connect with some of the best features of Springfield.
- **How should Springfield retain young professionals like you?** Springfield should continue to increase the value of living here by investing in its businesses and entertainment offerings. This, combined with promoting the benefits of supporting our local economy, will attract and retain spirited young professionals who earn and spend their money in this community.

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Bernard G. Segatto, III	Barber Segatto Hoffee Wilke & Cate	Springfield	217.544.4868	Closely/Private Held; Comm Lit; Land Use/Zoning/Condemn; Real Estate: Commercial
Randall W. Segatto	Barber Segatto Hoffee Wilke & Cate	Springfield	217.544.4868	Elder; Real Estate: Commercial
R. Kurt Wilke	Barber Segatto Hoffee Wilke & Cate	Springfield	217.544.4868	Civil Appellate; Closely/Private Held; Real Estate: Commercial
Barry Hines	Barry Hines - Attorney at Law	Springfield	217.698.8444	Agriculture; Real Estate: Commercial; Trust/Will/Estate
Michael Glenn Barton	Bellatti Barton & Cochran LLC	Springfield	217.793.9300	Agriculture; Closely/Private Held; RE: Commercial; Tax: Individual; Trust/Will/Estate
Denise M. Druhot	Brown Hay & Stephens LLP	Springfield	217.544.8491	Employment: Mgmt; Gov't/Municipal/Lobby/Admin; School
Amy K. Schmidt	Brown Hay & Stephens LLP	Springfield	217.544.8491	Family
Robert A. Stuart, Jr.	Brown Hay & Stephens LLP	Springfield	217.544.8491	Association & Non-Profit; Closely/Private Held; Trust/Will/Estate
Bruce S. Bonczyk	Bruce S Bonczyk Ltd	Springfield	217.525.0700	Construction
J. Randall Cox	Feldman Wasser	Springfield	217.544.3403	Comm Lit; Crimi Defense: DUI; Crim Defense: Felonies/Misdemeanors
Carl R. Draper	Feldman Wasser	Springfield	217.544.3403	Civil Rights/Constitutional; Employment: Employee; False Claims Act/Whistle Blower
Howard W. Feldman	Feldman Wasser	Springfield	217.544.3403	Construction; Family; ADR: Family
Kelli Ellen Gordon	Feldman Wasser	Springfield	217.544.3403	Family
Stanley N. Wasser	Feldman Wasser	Springfield	217.544.3403	Construction
John E. Stevens	Freeborn & Peters LLP	Springfield	217.535.1060	Gov't/Municipal/Lobby/Admin
Gordon W. Gates	Gates Wise Schlosser & Goebel	Springfield	217.522.9010	Bankrupt/Workout: Comm; Closely/Private Held; Comm Lit; Land Use/Zoning/Condemn; RE: Commercial
Todd M. Goebel	Gates Wise Schlosser & Goebel	Springfield	217.522.9010	Crimi Defense: DUI; Crim Defense: Felonies/Misdemeanors
Frederick J. Schlosser	Gates Wise Schlosser & Goebel	Springfield	217.522.9010	Crimi Defense: DUI; Crim Defense: Felonies/Misdemeanors
Bradley B. Wilson	Gates Wise Schlosser & Goebel	Springfield	217.522.9010	Civil Rights/Constitutional; Employment: Employee
D. Peter Wise	Gates Wise Schlosser & Goebel	Springfield	217.522.9010	Crimi Defense: DUI; Crim Defense: Felonies/Misdemeanors; Crim Defense: White Collar
Herman G. Bodewes	Giffin Winning Cohen & Bodewes PC	Springfield	217.525.1571	Association & Non-Profit; Gov't/Municipal/Lobby/Admin
Creighton R. Castle	Giffin Winning Cohen & Bodewes PC	Springfield	217.525.1571	Comm Lit; Tax: Business; Tax: Individual
David A. Herman	Giffin Winning Cohen & Bodewes PC	Springfield	217.525.1571	Comm Lit; Gov't/Municipal/Lobby/Admin
R. Mark Mifflin	Giffin Winning Cohen & Bodewes PC	Springfield	217.525.1571	Comm Lit; Gov't/Municipal/Lobby/Admin
John L. Swartz	Giffin Winning Cohen & Bodewes PC	Springfield	217.525.1571	Bankrupt/Workout: Comm; Comm Lit; Creditor's Rights/Comm Collect; Gov't/Municipal/Lobby/Admin; RE: Comm
Thomas G. Hamill	Harrison & Held LLP	Springfield	217.546.7777	Trust/Will/Estate
Lance T. Jones	HeplerBroom LLC	Springfield	217.993.7151	Comm Lit; Employment: Mgmt; Gov't/Municipal/Lobby/Admin
Stephen R. Kaufmann	HeplerBroom LLC	Springfield	217.528.3674	Class Action/Mass Tort Def; Ins/Ins Cov/Reinsurance; PI Defense: General; Products Liab Def; Toxic Tort Def
Thomas H. Wilson	HeplerBroom LLC	Springfield	217.528.3674	Civil Appellate; Comm Lit
Gary L. Borah	Heyl Royster Voelker & Allen PC	Springfield	217.522.8822	Employment: Mgmt; Work Comp Defense
Adrian E. Harless	Heyl Royster Voelker & Allen PC	Springfield	217.522.8822	Health; Med-Mal Defense
Michael T. Kokal	Heyl Royster Voelker & Allen PC	Springfield	217.522.8822	Products Liability Defense; Toxic Tort Defense
Theresa M. Powell	Heyl Royster Voelker & Allen PC	Springfield	217.522.8822	Employment: Mgmt; Med-Mal Defense; Prof'l Mal Defense: Legal/Tech/Financial
Gary S. Schwab	Heyl Royster Voelker & Allen PC	Springfield	217.522.8822	PI Defense: General; Prof'l Mal Defense: Legal/Tech/Financial
Daniel R. Simmons	Heyl Royster Voelker & Allen PC	Springfield	217.522.8822	PI Defense: General; Work Comp Defense
Edward R. Gower	Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP	Springfield	217.528.7375	Comm Lit; Construction; Gov't/Municipal/Lobby/Admin
Raylene DeWitte Grischow	Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP	Springfield	217.528.7375	PI Defense: General; Work Comp Defense
William P. Hardy	Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP	Springfield	217.528.7375	Civil Appellate
Rodger A. Heaton	Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP	Springfield	217.467.4941	Comm Lit; Crim Defense: White Collar
James M. Lestikow	Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP	Springfield	217.528.7375	Closely/Private Held; Trust/Will/Estate
Michael D. Morehead	Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP	Springfield	217.528.7375	Banking
Andrew M. Ramage	Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP	Springfield	217.528.7375	Comm Lit; Employment: Mgmt; Gov't/Municipal/Lobby/Admin
Russell L. Reed	Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP	Springfield	217.528.7375	PI Defense: General; Prof'l Mal Defense: Legal/Tech/Financial
J. William Roberts	Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP	Springfield	217.528.7375	Comm Lit; Crim Defense: White Collar; Gaming/Casino; Gov't/Municipal/Lobby/Admin
Charles R. Schmadeke	Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP	Springfield	217.528.7375	Civil Rights/Constitutional; Employment: Mgmt; Gov't/Municipal/Lobby/Admin; School
Robert E. Wagner	Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP	Springfield	217.528.7375	Gov't/Municipal/Lobby/Admin; Insurance/Insurance Coverage/Reinsurance
A. Michael Kopec	Kopec White & Spooner	Springfield	217.726.7540	Civil Appellate; Comm Lit; Franchise & Dealership
Paul E. Adami	Mohan Alewelt Prillaman & Adami	Springfield	217.528.2517	Construction
Joel A. Benoit	Mohan Alewelt Prillaman & Adami	Springfield	217.528.2517	Construction; Environmental
Cheryl S. Neal	Mohan Alewelt Prillaman & Adami	Springfield	217.528.2517	Trust/Will/Estate
Frederick C. Prillaman	Mohan Alewelt Prillaman & Adami	Springfield	217.528.2517	Construction; Environmental
Stephen Scott Morrill	Morrill and Associates PC	Springfield	217.789.5411	Gov't/Municipal/Lobby/Admin
James E. Neville	Neville Richards & Wuller LLC	Springfield	618.277.0900	Med-Mal Def; PI Defense: General; Products Liab Def; Transportation Def; Toxic Tort Def
Timothy S. Richards	Neville Richards & Wuller LLC	Springfield	618.277.0900	Med-Mal Def; PI Defense: General; Products Liab Def; Toxic Tort Def
Robert G. Wuller, Jr.	Neville Richards & Wuller LLC	Springfield	618.277.0900	PI Defense: General; Real Estate: Tax
Matthew J. Maddox	Quinn Johnston Henderson Pretorius & Cerulo	Springfield	217.753.1133	Med-Mal Defense; PI Defense: General; Prof'l Mal Defense: Legal/Tech/Financial
Larry D. Kuster	Rammelkamp Bradney PC	Jacksonville	217.245.6177	Comm Lit; PI Defense: General; School; Work Comp Defense
David R. Reid	Reid Law Office LLC	Springfield	217.546.1001	Closely/Private Held; Tax: Business; Tax: Individual; Trust/Will/Estate
Michael M. Durr	Sgro Hanrahan Durr & Rabin LLP	Springfield	217.789.1200	Real Estate: Assoc/Condo; Real Estate: Commercial; Real Estate: Residential
Donald J. Hanrahan	Sgro Hanrahan Durr & Rabin LLP	Springfield	217.789.1200	Social Security Disability
Gregory P. Sgro	Sgro Hanrahan Durr & Rabin LLP	Springfield	217.789.1200	Land Use/Zoning/Condemn; Real Estate: Commercial; Workers' Compensation
R. Lee Allen	Sorling Northrup	Springfield	217.544.1144	Closely/Private Held; Real Estate: Commercial; Tax: Business; Tax: Individual; Trust/Will/Estate
Stephen J. Bochenek	Sorling Northrup	Springfield	217.544.1144	Association/Non-Profit; Closely/Private Held; Labor: Mgmt; RE: Commercial; RE: Residential
James D. Broadway	Sorling Northrup	Springfield	217.544.1144	Closely/Private Held; Comm Lit; Health; Real Estate: Commercial
Gary A. Brown	Sorling Northrup	Springfield	217.544.1144	Land Use/Zoning/Condemn; Public Utilities: Gas/Water/Electric; Work Comp Defense
Michael C. Connelly	Sorling Northrup	Springfield	217.544.1144	Closely/Private Held; Real Estate: Commercial; Real Estate: Tax; Tax: Business; Trust/Will/Estate
William R. Enlow	Sorling Northrup	Springfield	217.544.1144	Association & Non-Profit; Banking; Gov't/Municipal/Lobby/Admin
James G. Fahey	Sorling Northrup	Springfield	217.544.1144	Civil Appellate; Employment: Mgmt; PI Defense: General
Mark H. Ferguson	Sorling Northrup	Springfield	217.544.1144	Banking; Closely/Private Held; Mergers & Acquisitions
C. Clark Germann	Sorling Northrup	Springfield	217.544.1144	Closely/Private Held; Mineral & Natural Resource; Real Estate: Commercial
Lisa Harms Hartzler	Sorling Northrup	Springfield	217.544.1144	Health
John A. Kauerauf	Sorling Northrup	Springfield	217.544.1144	Closely/Private Held; Employment: Mgmt
James M. Morphew	Sorling Northrup	Springfield	217.544.1144	Election, Political & Campaign; Gov't/Municipal/Lobby/Admin
David A. Rolf	Sorling Northrup	Springfield	217.544.1144	Agriculture; Comm Lit
Peggy J. Ryan	Sorling Northrup	Springfield	217.544.1144	Family
Stephen A. Tagge	Sorling Northrup	Springfield	217.544.1144	Banking; Closely/Private Held; ADR: Comm Lit; RE: Commercial; Tax: Business
Todd M. Turner	Sorling Northrup	Springfield	217.544.1144	Banking; Closely/Private Held; Real Estate: Commercial
Bruce A. Beeman	Wolter Beeman & Lynch	Springfield	217.753.4220	Personal Injury: General; Personal Injury: Prof'l Malpractice
Francis J. Lynch	Wolter Beeman & Lynch	Springfield	217.753.4220	Personal Injury: General; Personal Injury: Prof'l Malpractice; Workers' Compensation
Randall A. Wolter	Wolter Beeman & Lynch	Springfield	217.753.4220	Personal Injury: General; Personal Injury: Prof'l Malpractice; Workers' Compensation
Zack Stamp	Zack Stamp Ltd	Springfield	217.525.0700	Gov't/Municipal/Lobby/Admin

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Trevor Jay Miller

Companies: Precision Barbers; Precision Detailing, Hydrographics and Paint and Body Repair, Grasshopper Lawn Care, 1Up'n Limousines

Age: 39

Email: 1upnpromotions@comcast.net; Finetunedbarbers@gmail.com

Online: Facebook: Precision Barbers/Detailing Paint & Body Repair; 1 Up'n Limos

Education: Peoria Barber College

Family: Wife - Theresa Miller; Children - Ty and Zoe Miller; Parents: Herman and Margery Miller



- **Biggest guilty pleasure?** Cars and motorcycles
- **Best 'perk' of your current job?** Getting to be creative on a daily basis
- **How should Springfield retain young professionals like yourself?** Less government red tape and more assistance to business owners trying to revitalize run-down areas.

Stephanie Hinds

Occupation: Lead Instructor – Sangamon CEO
Special Education Teacher – Springfield School District 186

Age: 33

Email: shinds@sps186.org

Online: LinkedIn, Facebook, Pinterest

Education: BS – Western Illinois University
MBA – University of Illinois at Springfield
Masters of Arts in Education – Quincy University

Family: Husband – Brett; Weimaraner – Ike; Parents, siblings and extended family all in Springfield



Affiliations/Community Activities: Kappa Delta Pi International Honor Society in Education, Who's Who Among Executives and Professionals, Previous Roles: School Nutrition Association Member, Illinois Newspapers in Education Association, Board Member, Teacher's Resource Fair, Advisory Board, Educator of the Year, Judge, Friend in Deed, Clothing and Volunteer Coordinator, Horace Mann Educator Scholarship, Selection Committee, Delta Zeta Sorority, Treasurer, American Marketing Association, Program's Chair, Blue Key Honor Society, Mortar Board Senior Honor Society, Alpha Delta Sigma Advertising Honor Society, Boys & Girls Club's Gus Macker Tournament, Volunteer, Miss Sangamon County Pageant, Volunteer

- **Biggest guilty pleasure?** Reality television and salty snacks
- **Best 'perk' of your current job?** Working with great students!
- **How should Springfield retain young professionals like yourself?** Continue to support programs such as the Sangamon CEO program. It showcases all of the amazing business opportunities in the area to young adults and encourages economic growth into the future.

William S. Legge

Occupation: Executive Director, Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Illinois

Age: 35

Email: wlegge@bgccil.org

Education: B.A Advertising/Marketing, Western Kentucky University, M.B.A., University of Aberdeen, Scotland

Family: Wife, Viktorija

Affiliations/Community Activities: American Business Club of Springfield, Elks BPOE #158, TRN Club, Sangamon County Juvenile Justice Council



- **Biggest guilty pleasure?** Anything involving water - sunsets on Lake Springfield
- **Best 'perk' of your current job?** Knowing that I'm helping some pretty amazing youth realize their potential.
- **How should Springfield retain young professionals like yourself?** Working in the non-profit sector can be an enormously rewarding experience for a young professional; staff and volunteers alike. It enables us to truly immerse ourselves into the whole community and gain a true sense of belonging that crosses all boundaries. Businesses who allow their young professionals to carve out their own identity will foster an environment for ambitious, creative and innovative personalities to thrive. Springfield can seem cliquish, but it's all a matter of getting involved. Encouraging young professionals to take an active role in more than just their job, but also their community passions, is an important part of retaining us. We want to have a voice and we want to make a difference. Encourage young professionals to seek out charity board positions and truly support and encourage their commitment with both time and resources. We aren't afraid of hard work, but our increasingly demanding schedules require flexibility if we're going to succeed in our professional, family, and personal lives, all of which are extremely important to us. The Monday through Friday, 8-5 career is long gone. With today's technology, we are constantly juggling responsibilities and communication 24/7. An employer who recognizes this and allows some flexibility will find themselves with a loyal and committed workforce.

Amy Ihnen

Occupation: Library Director, Chatham Area Public Library District

Age: 31

Email: Director@chathamlib.org

Online: Facebook: amy.ihnen; CAPLD

Education: Associate of Arts: Springfield College in Illinois, Bachelor's Degree in History and Politics: Cornell College, Master's in Library Science: Indiana University

Family: My boyfriend of six years, Ryan Byers and I have a lab-mix named Percy. My extended family includes my parents, Jerry and Deb Ihnen, my older brother Eric and his family, including my nieces and nephew and my younger sister, Rachel and her husband.



Affiliations/Community Activities: Benedictine Alumni Association – President, Chatham Area Chamber – Secretary, Springfield Chamber Business-Education Partnership member, Young Philanthropists member, Small Public Library Management Institute committee member, American Library Association, Public Library Association, and Illinois Library Association member

- **Biggest guilty pleasure?** I've started running recently and my favorite music to listen to is a mixture 90's rap and boy bands. I may, from time to time, mix dancing and running at the same time. I'm surprised I haven't hurt myself yet.
- **Best 'perk' of your current job?** I'm able to see children and adults light up with the love of learning, every day.
- **How should Springfield retain young professionals like yourself?** I believe it's important to focus on high school students as they prepare for college/trade school. Programs like the Sangamon CEO program are a great way for students to connect with professionals and realize that there are great opportunities in the Springfield area. I hope that other programs can be developed to reach more students, especially in non-profit/government.

G Abu-Saba

Company: Franchise owner Jersey Mike's Subs Central Illinois, Springfield-Champaign-East Peoria

Age: 34

Email: gabusaba@gmail.com

Online: Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn

Education: Bachelors in Business Administration University of Illinois at Springfield

Family: I am married to my amazingly understanding wife, Becca. We have two boys Lou, age 5, and Gus age 3.



Affiliations / Community Activities: Active in community outreach/fundraising for Easter Seals of Central Illinois, Boys and Girls Club of Central Illinois, The Salvation Army, Springfield Public Schools Foundation, SHG, Central Illinois Food Bank, AMBUCS, Eastern Illinois Food Bank, Illini Dance Marathon/St. John's Children's Hospital. Member of the National Wild Turkey Federation, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Pheasants Forever, Ducks Unlimited, and a founding member of S.O.S

- **Biggest guilty pleasure?** Going 3 rounds at the Chinese Buffet. . .
- **Best 'perk' of your current job?** I have many perks but the best two would have to be first, meeting new people every day, many of which lead to some great relationships, and second, helping my employees develop their skills in order to achieve their professional/personal goals.
- **How should Springfield retain young professionals like yourself?** Young professionals desire to live in a place where the opportunity of well-paying jobs with thriving companies across a broad spectrum of industries exists. Whatever the city can do to attract companies willing to establish a presence here in Springfield should be done.

Mike Sunley

Occupation: Project Manager, Harold O'Shea Builders

Age: 31

Email: msunley@osheabuilders.com

Online: Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn

Education: BS, Construction Management, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

Family: Wife: Susie, Daughter: Leah (4), Son: Charlie(2)

Affiliations / Community Activities: LEED Green Associate, American Society for Healthcare Engineering, Mid-Central Illinois Regional Council of Carpenters JATC – Trustee, Associate Board Illinois Capital Area Chapter of the American Red Cross – Chair, Memorial's Festival of Tree's – Volunteer.



- **Biggest guilty pleasure?** Obed & Isaac's
- **Best 'perk' of your current job?** Working in a challenging and fast paced environment where no two days are the same.
- **How should Springfield retain young professionals like yourself?** I believe that creating a positive environment for business will help Springfield attract and retain professionals of any age.

Thomas E. Walsh Jr.

Occupation: Auction Manager / Auctioneer for Aumann Auctions
Email: Thomas@aumannauctions.com
Age: 31
Online: facebook.com/tom.walsh.9883, www.linkedin.com/pub/thomas-walsh-auctioneer-naa-isaa-licensed/37/3777/597/
Education: Springfield Southeast High, 2001; Eastern Illinois University, 2006, Bachelor of Arts: Communications, Minor: Business Administration; Lincoln Land Community College, 2007, Completion, Program of Real Estate and Personal Property Appraisal
Family: Mother: Judith Ostermeier formerly of Auburn; Father: Thomas Walsh formerly of Springfield ; Wife: Gwendolyn Walsh, QIDP at Brother James Court; Son: Thomas Walsh, III, 9 months old; New Baby: Baby Walsh due November 21, 2014



Affiliations: 2014 Ring-man of the Year Illinois State Auctioneers Association (ISAA) District Director, ISAA; Treasury Committee, ISAA; Ritchie Bros Auctioneers, Clinton Auto Auction; Merchandiser/Auctioneer for Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation; Board Member, Mill Creek Homeowners Association; Vice President, St. Johns Lutheran Church Council; Past Recruitment Chair, Springfield Celts Rugby Club; Free Mason Tyrian Lodge 333, Scottish Rite, Shriners International

- **Biggest guilty pleasure:** Spending time in the outdoors, hunting and fishing. I enjoy the simple things like the tranquil silence while in the wilderness.
- **Best 'perk' of your current job?** The best perk of my current job is the feedback from my clients. I have ability to connect with clients from all avenues of life. I like to think of each auction as a challenge. I have the unfettered ability to satisfy my clients by utilizing my skills to help them profit, while liquidating assets. After completion, I commonly am reaffirmed that the ease from the auction process was a huge stress relief for my clients. That satisfaction and reaffirmation is the greatest perk!
- **How should Springfield retain young professional like yourself?** Celebrate a job well done! It is important to remember to celebrate the success of the youth in our community. I have been lucky enough to receive enormous community support evidenced through referrals. The continuation of connecting our youth with different generations supports the growth of technology and innovation. I am humbled to have been allowed the opportunity to provide an innovative auction process to Springfield residents of all ages. Springfield will remain a great city for young professionals if they continue to support and celebrate the young professionals looking to bring tomorrow to our hometown!

Lisa M. Stinson

Occupation: Senior Manager, Accountant, Crowe Horwath LLP
Age: 34
Email: lisa.stinson@crowehorwath.com
Online: Facebook, LinkedIn
Education: Masters of Business Administration degree from University of Illinois at Springfield, Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting from Illinois College in Jacksonville
Family: Husband – Curtis Stinson (City of Springfield Firefighter) and 4 kids – Mason, Conner, Peyton (all age 5) and Adalynn (age 3)



Affiliations / Community Activities: Member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA), Illinois CPA Society, Illinois Government Finance Officers Association, Springfield Illinois Chapter of the Association of Government Accountants, Community Activities – volunteer at my children's school (New Berlin Elementary) and in the Early Childhood ministry at West Side Christian Church. Since I have had children, I haven't regularly participated in one organization but below are some of the organizations/community events I have volunteered/participated at the last few years: Fight for Air Climb, a fundraiser for the American Lung Association, Illinois CPA Society Day of Service - Habitat for Humanity ReStore cleanup, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Bowl for Kids' Sake, A holiday food drive for Catholic Charities, Adopt-a-family, purchasing presents for families in need during the holidays, St. John's Breadline, a local soup kitchen, Local homeless shelter, Mary Bryant Home for the Blind, Fat Ass 5K charity run, Rushville, IL ½ marathon to support the local Pregnancy Resource Center

- **Biggest guilty pleasure?** I love ice cream! I can't keep it in my house or I would eat a giant bowl every night.
- **Best 'perk' of your current job?** Crowe Horwath LLP is a great company to work for that really appreciates and supports its employees. Since having children I have been on a flexible work arrangement that allows me the freedom to adjust my schedule while still being plugged into the workforce and gaining valuable experience to grow my career. Without the flexibility that Crowe has given me, it would be much harder for me to continue my career while still spending valuable time with my children.
- **How should Springfield retain young professionals like yourself?** One of the things that really keeps young professionals connected to their community are local organizations that allow young professionals to network with their peers while also giving back to the community. Strong local groups that provide both of these opportunities really help to attract and retain young professionals. Springfield should continue to help these types of organizations to grow and help them to get the word out to professionals in various professions of their existence.



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Professional Women's Calendar of Events

You play a key role and we thank you for your contributions to our community.

Junior League of Springfield Summer Recruitment Events

JLS will be gathering for frozen yogurt on Monday, July 14th from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Join us and cool off at Cherry Berry, a self-serve yogurt bar. This event is family friendly.

On July 31st come unwind after a long summery day for happy hour on Thursday, July 31st from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm at Obed & Isaacs' Bocce Garden. Please contact admin@jlsil.org or (217) 544-5557 with any questions or to RSVP.

Illinois Women in Leadership (IWIL)

Illinois Women in Leadership (IWIL) will present the 2014 Athena Leadership Award on Thursday, July 24 at the Inn at 835. One award will be presented to the nominee who best demonstrates professional excellence, community service, and development of female leaders. A reception will be held from 5:30-6:30 p.m. followed by dinner and the awards presentation. Cost is \$30 per person before July 15 or \$40 per person after that. RSVP online at iwil.biz.



To have your event added to the Women's Calendar of Events, Please fax your information to (217) 753-2281 or e-mail to info@springfieldbusinessjournal.com



FORTY UNDER 40

Brittany Henry

Occupation: Executive Director, Jacksonville Area Convention & Visitors Bureau
Age: 30
Email: visitors@jacksonvilleil.org
Online: Facebook, Google +, Linkdin
Education: Bachelor Arts, Illinois College, Major: Communication & Rhetorical Studies, Minor: Sociology
Family: Husband, Brett Henry, Son, Parker Jackson Henry (Age 4)



Affiliations / Community Activities: Jacksonville Rotary Club – Rotarian of the Quarter, Oktoberfest committee member, Rotary Valentine dinner/dance committee member, Illinois College Roteract liaison, Member of the Jacksonville Art Association, Young Professionals Network, Jacksonville Main Street Board – recipient of Jacksonville Main Street's Volunteer of the year award for 2013. Jacksonville Mains Street Promotional Committee, Jacksonville Main Street Pumpkin Festival Committee, Jacksonville Looking For Lincoln Committee, Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area Signature Events ADHOC Committee, Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area Steering Council, Chamber of Commerce Board (Ex- Officio), Mayor's Development Group, 4th Of July Blast Committee, Nursery School Board (Fundraising & Events, Illinois Council Convention & Visitors Bureau (ICCVB) Internal Relations Committee, Volunteer throughout the Jacksonville Community

- **Biggest guilty pleasure?** Coffee – with cream! LOTS OF IT! Or my PITBULL – VIP tickets for the State Fair on August 9th! My husband says my biggest guilty pleasure is probably all the pop music I listen to, but I can't help it, I love it! I'm currently singing, "I'm so fancy!" in my house all the time, annoying him and getting our son to sing along with me!
- **Best 'perk' of your current job?** The best perk of my job is getting the chance to do what I love every day. In an Industry that is fast growing – it is amazing to see the trickle effect that tourism has for our Community and for the State of Illinois. The power of travel is truly amazing and I am proud that I am the face of tourism for the Jacksonville Area and get to promote everything that our area has to offer! The connections and friendships made through tourism partners, community partners, and travelers is absolutely rewarding!
- **How should Springfield retain young professionals like yourself?** The simple answer is that if Springfield and its surrounding communities can keep offering the jobs AND keep offering market competitive wages our young professionals will definitely stick around! Ambitious young people are seeking to follow a career path, and if Springfield, or Jacksonville, or anywhere around here doesn't, or simply can't, offer a job in that path then they are going to seek that step in their path elsewhere. Community involvement helps a lot too! Getting young professionals excited and involved in our Community will get people eager to stay and search harder for options that suit them.

Cress B. Maddox

Occupation: Senior Account Manager, MASCO Packaging & Industrial Supply
Age: 34
Email: sales@mascopac.com
Online: Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram
Education: Graduated from SIU-Edwardsville in 2002
Family: Two fabulous children, Adaline is four and Cress W. is two. I come from a large family and my parents and three of my four sisters still live in Springfield too.

Affiliations / Community Activities: American Business Club, Ambassador of Hope for The Hope Institute, YMCA Soccer Coach

- **Biggest guilty pleasure:** food/wine?
- **Biggest Perk:** working for family owned company allows for a flexible schedule, during hunting season it's very flexible.
- **How should Springfield retain young professionals like yourself?** The area needs options and variety. Entertainment, fitness, arts. Lots of green spaces, not just parks, but designated areas in high population areas. Options attract young people!



Jared Koester

Occupation: Electrician, B&B Electric
Age: 30
Email: KoesterJared@hotmail.com
Education: Benedictine University
Family: wife Angie, two sons: Jacob and James
Affiliations / Community Activities: Past President, Chatham Jaycees, Past Regional Director, Illinois Jaycees, Founding Chairman, Chatham Friends of the Parks, Commissioner, Village of Chatham Police and Fire Commission, Vice Chairman, Village of Chatham Public Properties Commission

- **Biggest guilty pleasure?** Unhealthy addiction to Lord of the Rings
- **Best 'perk' of your current job?** Ever-changing duties and responsibilities
- **How should Springfield retain young professionals like yourself?** Focus on activating young adults to become more involved, while encouraging self-reliance and resource-sharing.



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www.cwlp.com/rebates



Brady Bird

Occupation: President of S.I.C. Recycling, Inc.
Age: 36
Email: bbird@sicrecycling.com
Online: twitter, facebook, linkedin
Education: B.S Business Administration – University of Colorado at Boulder; M.B.A – University of Colorado at Boulder
Family: Wife Meggan, daughter Sloan (5), son Rollin (2), son Banks (1)
Affiliations/Community Activities: YMCA Board Member, The Hope School -- Ambassador, Carrollton Bank Advisory Board (Springfield Branch), Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries Mid-America Chapter – Treasurer



- **Biggest guilty pleasure:** Espresso ... I have 3 young kids that are very active, the extra boost is needed to help me keep up.
- **Best perk of my job:** The best part of a start-up is in watching it grow and having the ability to create jobs and provide opportunities to add to our team; I work with great people and enjoy being able to provide stable employment opportunities.
- **How should Springfield retain young professionals:** Springfield is a great place to raise a family and that message should be shared with young professionals looking to start a career and build a family. We have good restaurants, lots of outdoor activities and entertainment options, stable business environment in varying fields and excellent Midwestern people. Springfield feels like a small town with the amenities of a large city.

Erin Svendsen

Occupation: Education Coordinator, Springfield Art Association
Age: 27
Email: esvends@gmail.com
Online: Facebook, LinkedIn, Pinterest, Instagram
Education: Painting/ Sculpture BFA from University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
Family: John and Karen Svendsen (parents), Cory and Jan (sister), Celia and Harper Ritter, and Michael and Amy (twin) Pitzer
Affiliations / Community Activities: Chair of Springfield Art Association's Paint the Street, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital Kentucky Derby Party, Lincoln Memorial's Art in the Garden, Reading Day at McClelland Elementary School, and Springfield ShareFest



- **Biggest guilty pleasure?** I love to eat desserts for breakfast, but I don't feel guilty about it.
- **Best 'perk' of your current job?** As an instructor, I have free open studio time or can take a free class in any medium from metal casting to ceramics.
- **How should Springfield retain young professionals like yourself?** By investing in its community. Help rebuild downtown, give the city an urban heart-beat for people to enjoy music, art, design, food, shops, technology and green industry. Give the young professional a place to go and find inspiration in their community and then encourage them to get involved through volunteerism to invest in a better Springfield.

Michelle Cox

Occupation: Donor and Admissions Coordinator at Lutheran High School
Age: 36
Email: m.cox@spiluhi.org
Online: Facebook, LinkedIn
Education: BS in Mechanical Engineering from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville
Family: Husband - Ryan, Children - Makenna (9), Caleb (6), Camden (3) and a baby girl due in November
Affiliations /Community Activities: Volunteer Volleyball Coach, SIUE Alumni Association, Past Board of Education Member at Trinity Lutheran School



- **Biggest guilty pleasure?** Chai Tea Lattes
- **Best 'perk' of your current job?** Getting to spend each day with such wonderful students and staff
- **How should Springfield retain young professionals like yourself?** By continuing to offer ways for young adults to be active in the community, either physically, professionally or academically (i.e. bike/running trails and park activities, local professional society events or career advancement opportunities via the local colleges)

Dominic Elijah Watson

Occupation: Legislative Assistant to State Senator Andy Manar
Age: 30
Email: dominic.watson02@gmail.com; Online Social Network(s): @2kingsinc (twitter); Dominic Elijah Watson (FB & LinkedIn)
Education: I am a proud graduate of Ursuline Academy. I attended Benedictine University at Springfield.
Family: I am a proud father, son, brother and uncle.
Affiliations / Community Activities: City of Springfield Community Relations Commission (Commissioner); Sangamon County Young Democrats (Executive Board Member); Springfield Chapter of NAACP (Vice President); Young & Powerful Group (National Executive, Springfield Co-Chair, 2013 Inauguration Co-Chair); Young Democrats of Illinois (Vice President)



- **Biggest guilty pleasure?** I would have to say my guiltiest pleasure is being a "DIE-HARD" Green Bay Packers. I am given a hard time, often, because I have lived in Illinois all my life, but I am a "Cheese Head".
- **Best 'perk' of your current job?** Best perk of my current job would be working for State Senator Andy Manar. He has been a great mentor to me over the course of my time working for him. It is not too often that you come into contact with someone with a genuine passion to serve the community, true definition of a servant leader.
- **How should Springfield retain young professionals like yourself?** I am a firm believer in getting individuals involved. Through this involvement a sense of ownership will develop and could help with retaining young professionals. In addition, we as young professionals need to do a better job in reaching out to other young professionals who may not have the network to get involved. Lastly, Springfield needs more opportunities for career development – as well as a social support network – to attract and keep young professionals.

Lauren Gibson

Occupation: Graduate Public Service Intern, Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity Office of Energy and Recycling
Age: 25
Email: lgibson2311@gmail.com
Online: https://www.linkedin.com/pub/lauren-gibson/5b/718/715
Education: BA in History- Southern Illinois University Edwardsville (2011)
Masters of Public Administration- University of Illinois Springfield (2014)
Family: Parents- Stephanie and Daniel Gibson
Affiliations / Community Activities: Board Member/Professional Development Chair- Young Springfield Professionals Network
Board Member- American Society for Public Administration Central Illinois Chapter
Young Professional Representative to the Sustainable Design Assessment Team (SDAT) Action Committee



- **Biggest guilty pleasure?** A tie between chocolate and coffee
- **Best 'perk' of your current job?** Being able to immediately apply what I learned in my Masters coursework to projects at work. It is also nice to have the tuition for my degree paid for.
- **How should Springfield retain young professionals like yourself?** Springfield needs more residential choices for young professionals, such as unique, urban apartments. Many young professionals are entrepreneurial, wanting to start and manage their own businesses. Springfield should encourage a climate that makes it easy to do that and to grow those businesses. Revitalizing the downtown area could provide those unique living opportunities, business opportunities and urban lifestyle that many young professionals want. The residents of Springfield should rally around this effort.

Sarah Tapscott

Occupation: Manager, Special Events/American Lung Association
Age: 32
Email: Sarah.Tapscott@Lung.org
Education: BA in Community Health Education, Illinois State University
Family: Husband Nick of 9 years, Daughter Lynley (6) and son Brennan (2)
Affiliations / Community Activities: YSPN, IWIL, Association of Fundraising Professionals, President , Chamber Ambassador



- **Biggest guilty pleasure?** Sweets and Pinterest
- **Best 'perk' of your current job?** I have several perks to my job, but the most rewarding is I am helping to save lives. Putting on Special Events can be stressful at times, but seeing the whole thing come together and knowing how important those dollars are in sustaining the great work we do, makes it so worth it!
- **How should Springfield retain young professionals like yourself?** I think it's important that young professionals know they are not only making a difference in their company or organization but also in their community. I think in order to retain young professionals the more opportunities for them to get involved through continuous learning, mentorship, clubs or volunteerism the better. Community connections mean a lot. By getting involved in our community, we are also building friendships and business connections, making it less likely for us to be on the lookout for something better.

Melanie Dineen

Roller Derby Name: Cer Vixen Ovaries
Age: 35
Occupation: Cake Designer at Incredibly Delicious; President of MidState Mayhem Roller Derby
Email: Incdelcakes@gmail.com Presidentmmrd@gmail.com
Online: Incredibly Delicious Cakes on Facebook, Midstatemayhemrollerderby.com, Cer Vixen Ovaries on Facebook, gameovaries927.blogspot.com
Education: Springfield Southeast High School, Springfield College In Illinois, Self Taught Pastry Chef working alongside my brother, Patrick Groth, at his local business Incredibly Delicious.
Family: Married to Joshua Dineen with four awesome children, Lilyana-6, Lucien-8, Liam-9, and Eliot-11.



Affiliations / Community Activities: President of MidState Mayhem Roller Derby, Springfield, Illinois' all-female, skater operated, non-profit, amateur roller derby league. MMRD is committed to empowering women through sisterhood, sportswoanship, and personal growth both on and off the track. MMRD aims to be a vital part of the Springfield area community, seeking opportunities to support and promote local charities, sports, and businesses. Through the sport of roller derby, MMRD offers a supportive environment that challenges women mentally and physically, in turn enriching the lives of our members and the community.

- **Biggest guilty pleasure?** Hitting women! It sounds downright awful to say it but honestly the sense of empowerment I get from being able to physically dominate my opponents cannot be matched by anything else on this earth. The strength it takes comes from within and from my surrounding teammates. We train hard at this intense sport and have a heck of a lot of fun together while doing it. There is no greater guilty pleasure than Roller Derby.
- **Best 'perk' of your current job?** Cookies and Espresso! Being a working mother of four, I am so thankful to be somewhere that I can be an artist of my own elements in a timeframe that also affords me a rich life with my children. I have no set working hours. I work as needed and they feed me amaaaazing things while I am there! Working at Incredibly Delicious really has been the perfect fit for a loving, family-oriented, creative type like myself.
- **How should Springfield retain young professionals like yourself?** Keep it personal. People flourish in an environment where they feel needed and welcomed. The daily interactions, experiences, and relationships are the heart of a business. Even during the toughest tasks, a young professional will have the drive to perform and excel if they have the foundation of encouragement laid out before them and a friend to cheer them on. Impossible things can be achieved when you feel validated in your professional life.

Danielle Nicole Stanley

Occupation: Legislative Affairs, Dunn Fellow, Office of Illinois Governor Pat Quinn
Age: 25
Email: daniellestnly@yahoo.com
Online: Facebook-Danielle Stanley; LinkedIn-Danielle Stanley
Education: Masters of Public Administration, University of Illinois at Springfield (UIS) (2013); Double Bachelors Legal Studies & Political Science, UIS (2011); Associates of Applied Science, Lincoln College (2009)
Family: Linda Mattox, my beloved mother is the College Foundation Specialist and also an Adjunct Professor at South Suburban College, South Holland; Bobbie Stanley, my supportive father is a Letter Carrier/Truck Driver for the United States Postal Services; Eric Stanley, my big brother is a South Suburban College Police Officer and also a part-time basketball coach.



Affiliations / Community Activities: Organizing for Action-Springfield; Enroll America; Springfield Race Unity Committee; Springfield & Central Illinois African American History Museum

- **Biggest guilty pleasure?** My biggest guilty pleasure is traveling. I love exploring new places and experiencing different cultures. After every trip I take, I find that I return home wiser, with greater maturity, more accepting of cultures different from mine.
- **Best 'perk' of your current job?** The best "perk" of my job is seeing progressive policies evolve into laws. The opportunity to work in state government allows me to be at the center of change. Working with legislators, lobbyists, advocacy groups and constituents has helped me to become an effective communicator. As a Dunn Fellow I am able to experience state government with a more practical hands on approach.
- **How should Springfield retain young professionals like yourself?** I believe that keeping housing costs at an affordable rate for recent college graduates is a way Springfield can retain young professionals. Today's young professionals are torn between the excitement of big cities like Chicago and the realities of repaying student loans. Springfield's current affordable housing market allows young and upcoming professionals the opportunity to repay their debts and secure decent housing.
Springfield should also concentrate on recruiting new corporations; especially tech and sustainable energy corporations. Large corporate headquarters in Springfield will allow young professionals outside of the public sector to reside in Springfield. This will enable Springfield to become a more progressive city.
Finally, there should be increased marketing of cultural events, festivals, and tourist attractions that appeal to diverse crowds. Young professionals are skeptical about living in Springfield because of the perceived lack of entertainment, restaurants and nightlife. There are not enough places or tourists attractions that appeal to the young professional demographic.

BUILDING OUR FUTURE

Congratulations to the recipients of the 2014 Bud and Helene O'Shea Construction Scholarship



Nolan Brennan – Sacred Heart-Griffin High School
Nolan plans to study Architecture at Clemson University.



Kevin Thomas - Sacred Heart-Griffin High School
Kevin plans to study Mechanical Engineering at Purdue University.



O'Shea Builders established the Bud and Helene O'Shea Foundation through the Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln to help provide educational opportunities for area residents interested in the construction industry and related careers. The Bud and Helene O'Shea Foundation has awarded renewable scholarships to ten local students since its inception in 2010.

Ben Jackson

Occupation: Vice President, Government Relations, Illinois Bankers Association
Age: 32
Email: bjackson@ilbanker.com
Online: LinkedIn, Facebook
Education: Master of Public Administration (MPA) and a B.A. in Political Studies, University of Illinois Springfield
Family: Wife of 7 years, Rachel, and 20-month-old Son, Alexander. Our family is expecting a second baby boy in September.
Affiliations / Community Activities: American Legion and VFW



- **Biggest guilty pleasure?** A good medium-rare ribeye steak paired with a single-malt scotch.
- **Best ‘perk’ of your current job?** Working at the Illinois Statehouse and visiting Washington, D.C. to lobby on behalf of Illinois’ diverse and vibrant banking industry is a huge “perk” and a real privilege. Also, traveling around the state to meet with our member banks is something I truly enjoy.
- **How should Springfield retain young professionals like yourself?** More and more young professionals and businesses seem to be making relocation decisions based in large part on “quality of life” assessments, and larger cities tend to provide more services and opportunities that attract young professionals. Springfield - and the surrounding area - needs to invest in as many “quality of life” resources as possible, which would include quality schools and services, along with unique shopping and dining. Additionally, I love the outdoors and hiking, and believe that maintaining, expanding, and promoting our area’s outdoor resources (parks, hiking and biking trails, and water recreation) could be a big factor in retaining younger professionals and our families.

Molly Berendt

Occupation: Compass Program Director, Family Service Center
Age: 27
Email: mberendt@service2families.org
Online: Facebook, LinkedIn
Education: Honors B.A. in Political Science, French, and International Studies from Saint Louis University
Family: parents in Cincinnati, OH, and a younger sister in Nashville, TN
Affiliations / Community Activities: Douglas Avenue United Methodist Church, H.I.S. Home 300 Leadership Team, Young Philanthropists, Young Springfield Professionals Network, Faith Coalition for the Common Good – Education Task Force, Leadership Springfield Class of 2014, recreational soccer, Big Brothers Big Sisters



- **Biggest guilty pleasure?** Chocolate-covered pretzels.
- **Best ‘perk’ of your current job?** Getting thank-you notes and artwork from grateful kids and working with our many amazing, dedicated volunteers
- **How should Springfield retain young professionals like yourself?** Increase funding for Springfield School District 186; increase downtown living space; add bike paths and trails; continue to support nonprofits who rely on donations to do the much-needed work we do!

Stephanie Barton

Occupation: Attorney/Labor Relations Manager, City of Springfield
Age: 36
Email: sshallenberger@gmail.com
Online: Facebook and Linkadln
Education: Juris Doctor, Northern Illinois University College of Law
Family: B.A. Political Science, Eastern Illinois University
Husband, Bill Barton, Daughter, Adalynn Ginder, and in the process of adopting more children
Affiliations / Community Activities: Rochester Christian Church member; In His Hands Orphans Outreach, Project Coordinator; Enos Park Neighborhood Improvement Association volunteer, Sharefest School Makeover Team Leader; Illinois Public Employer Labor Relations Association; Government Bar Association, Sangamon County Women’s Bar Association



- **Biggest guilty pleasure?** Any reality singing show and chocolate
- **Best ‘perk’ of your current job?** Working with every single Department of the City and City Council that creates awareness for community service needs and opportunities.
- **How should Springfield retain young professionals like yourself?** Creating opportunity for career advancement and creating and encouraging a healthy work/family/community service balance.

Ayrin Ramey

Occupation: Sales Representative at Midwest Office
Age: 33
Email: aramey@midwestoffice.com
Education: Bachelor’s degree in Business Administration from Robert Morris College. Full academic and athletic scholarship for Soccer, played 4 years, captain Junior and Senior year.
Family: Engaged to my wonderful fiancé Ryan Hintz and we have two 4-legged kids named Molly and Ace, a beagle and a yellow lab. My mom, grandma, and little sister are my best friends along with some of the best circle of girlfriends anyone could ask for.



- Affiliations / Organizations:** I’m the Events chairman and Board Member of YSPN. I’m also an affiliate member of Capitol Area Association of Realtors the residing chairman of the Social Committee and member of the Community Service committee. I’m a former member of Big Brothers Big Sisters and still very close to my “little” and plan to participate in the program as long as possible.
- **Biggest guilty pleasure?** Dessert, a hot fudge brownie sundaes with whip cream and vanilla ice cream. I also have a slight obsession with Spicy Doritos and Prairie Farms French Onion Dip. Yum!!
 - **Best ‘perk’ of your current job?** I love helping people and my job helps others have better days at work, which means more success in the office. Plus, we have the nicest office furniture and most comfortable desk chairs of any office I’ve ever worked in.
 - **How should Springfield retain young professionals like yourself?** I think it is very important to encourage young professionals to join and participate in groups like YSPN and the Chamber of Commerce as soon as possible. These groups help develop social skills, networking skills, and friendships; all of which are very important in one’s success. Once a young professionals has gained respect and acknowledgment from colleagues, they are more willing to grow their business locally, thus their success benefits our great capital.

Wes King

Occupation: Executive Director, Illinois Stewardship Alliance
Age: 30
Email: wes@ilstewards.org
Online: Facebook: wes.king.39, LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/pub/wes-king/14/839/533, Instagram: WAKING14
Education: Masters of Arts in Political Science, University of Illinois at Springfield, 2010
Bachelor of Arts in Political Studies, University of Illinois at Springfield, 2006
Family: Parents: Amy & Gary King, both live in Springfield; father is retired from the state of Illinois (Illinois Environmental Protection Agency) and now works for Arcadis an international environmental engineering firm. My mother is a stay at home mom. Two sisters: Anna & Amanda King; Anna lives in Baltimore Maryland, Amanda lives in Portland Oregon
Affiliations / Community Activities: President, Governor Appointed Illinois Local Food, Farms and Jobs Council, Sierra Club Sangamon Valley Group, Group Chair, Illinois Chapter of the Sierra Club Political Committee, Jefferson Park Community Garden co-manager, work with Friends of Jefferson Park and the Springfield Park District to promote the gardens and oversee activities associated with the gardens, Mother Jones Foundation, Board Member, Annual volunteer for Animal Protective League’s Chili Supper and Bazaar fundraiser, Eagle Scout, Slow Food Springfield – Member, organic gardening, kayaking and hiking



- **Biggest guilty pleasure?** Politics. Politics and the democratic process can be discouraging and disappointing which is where the guilty part comes in, but I also enjoy the theater and strategy of it all. I have often told friends and colleagues that to me politics is like sports but the outcomes have significant consequences for everyday working people and the communities we all call home. And while with politics, just like with sports, I might have a particular team and individuals that I root for, similar to sports where you can enjoy watching for the love of the game regardless of who is playing, I enjoy the strategy and theater of the democratic process even when the team or individuals I usually root for are not involved.
- **Best ‘perk’ of your current job?** I love to garden, I consider myself a foodie and I am very concerned about issues related to environmental sustainability; through my job at Illinois Stewardship Alliance I am fortunate that I get to work directly and on a daily basis with these very same issues. I’m blessed to be working in a field and with issues I am personally very passionate about. I can’t imagine a better perk than having a job that combines my professional skills, educational experience and individual passions. However if I had to simplify it I would say—the food—whether it is the amazing farm-to-table dinners and lunches I have been able to enjoy or the occasional free bunch of carrots or other farm products I get from farmers we work with.
- **How should Springfield retain young professionals like yourself?** This is one of the important questions facing the future of Springfield and not one with an easy answer. In general we need more walkable and liveable mixed-use development, infill development and less sprawling development that necessitates everyday car use. With that said, I recently had the idea that a well thought out marketing strategy and campaign might go a long way in helping to address the issue. I often times hear gripes from “Millennials” and young professionals about what is wrong with Springfield. While there is considerable room for improvement I think Springfield has a lot going for it in terms of events, activities, and amenities that appeal to “Minnenials” and young professionals but as a city and a community we have done a poor job of making that case to the public.

Seth Morrison

Company: Owner/operator of Springfield Rentals LLC
Age: 26
Email: Springfieldrentalsllc@gmail.com
Education: Bachelors in History/Bachelors in Economics from SIU Carbondale
Family: Mother – Mary Morrison; Father – Steve Morrison (of Morrison Properties); Sister – Jennifer Morrison; Girlfriend – Kayla Worker
Affiliations: Involved with the big brothers big sisters program (Neontrez is my little's name); I also coach a Under 8 soccer team with Ryan Wolfe of Marine Bank



- **Biggest guilty pleasure:** GOLF!
- **Biggest perk:** I renovate property that is typically rundown and in bad shape. Every building my crew and I do is a massive improvement to the neighborhood we are working in. Every project people who live in the neighborhood will come up and thank us for helping out the area. That makes it all worth it.
- **How should Springfield retain young professionals like yourself?** The best way to retain young professionals on the macro scale is to make Springfield a fun and interesting place to live. All the art shows, summer festivals, and cultural events help a ton and you can never have too many. On the micro scale the young professionals club and organizations such as Leadership Springfield help immensely.

Paul Sawyer

Occupation: Partner, Whitetail Properties
Age: 39
Email: paul.sawyer@whitetailproperties.com
Online: facebook.com/paul.sawyer.33
www.whitetailproperties.com
www.linkedin.com/pub/paul-sawyer/47/b67/4bb/
Education: Concordia Academy High School
Family: Wife – Hillary, Daughter – Willow
Affiliations / Community Activities: Member of Detroit Christian Church, member of Quality Deer Management Association



- **Biggest guilty pleasure?** Enjoying a 12 oz filet with extra butter and an Old Fashioned with Bulliet Bourbon at Ruth's Chris.
- **Best 'perk' of your current job?** Being able to work hard at something that you are passionate about, because everyday the line between work and play blurs. I do not feel like I am working in the traditional sense.
- **How should Springfield retain young professionals like yourself?** First by attracting a great steakhouse. The Springfield community needs to make an every effort to be attractive to professional executives by creating great recreational opportunities for professionals like myself ; parks, sports, restaurants, shopping, etc.

Meaghan Buecker

Occupation: Special Education Teacher, Springfield Public School District #186 - Lanphier High School
Age: 33
Email: mbuecker@sps186.org
Online: Facebook, LinkedIn, and Twitter
Education: M.S. in Reading/Literacy from Benedictine University in Springfield, B.S. in Education for Special Education and Elementary Education
Family: I have been married to my high school sweetheart, Steve Buecker for ten years. We have four beautiful children Henry (8), Claire (6), Jack (5) and Magdalyn (3).



- Affiliations / Community Activities:** Springfield Area Soccer Association, L&M Gymnastics, Springfield Education Association, Participation in area fundraisers and community running races
- **Biggest guilty pleasure?** My biggest guilty pleasure is baking. I love to bake and decorate cake, cupcakes and cookies...and the guilty part is enjoying them. :)
 - **Best 'perk' of your current job?** The best 'perk' of my job as a special education teacher is working with my students and seeing their smiling faces when they are learning and having fun in the classroom. Having the summers off with my children is a bonus.
 - **How should Springfield retain young professionals like yourself?** Providing opportunities for professional growth and development.

Ben Ladage

Occupation: Independent Sales Representative - DuPont Pioneer Seed
Auctioneer/Owner: Ben Ladage Auctions
Farmer – Family Farm: Ladage Farm, Auburn Illinois
Age: 32
Email: auctions@benladage.com; ben.ladage@plantpioneer.com
Website: www.benladage.com
Online: Facebook-Ben Ladage; Ben Ladage Auctions
Education: Auburn High School grad. 2000, Lincoln Land Community College 2001-2003
Family: Wife of 6 years, Kimberly Ladage. Son, Eli, 3 years old & daughter, Eden, 1 year old



- Affiliations / Community Activities:** Vice President- Sangamon County Farm Bureau, Member of the Illinois State Auctioneers Association, Member of St. John's Lutheran Church, Chatham IL
- **Biggest guilty pleasure?** Sports! Playing and watching
 - **Best 'perk' of your current job?** Talking. I enjoy it, whether it's seed sales or auctioneering. The biggest "perk" of working on the farm is that I get to work with my father, Brent, and brother, Blake, every day.
 - **How should Springfield retain young professionals like yourself?** By continuing to show the benefit of Agriculture and how it both benefits us here in Central Illinois and the World. Also by continuing to contact me, a young auctioneer, to do auctions against the many "seasoned" auctioneers in the area.

Destiny Nance-Evans

Occupation: Associate Director, ISAE, FIRM, Inc.
Age: 31
Email: dnance-evans@firminc.com
Online: LinkedIn
Education: Bachelor's of Science in Marketing, Southern Illinois University Carbondale
Family: Husband, Joshua and two sons, Bingham and Bayler
Affiliations / Community Activities: American Society of Association Executives



- **Biggest guilty pleasure?** I love getting hair blowouts! Shhh... don't tell my husband!
- **Best 'perk' of your current job?** I get to network with and learn from top professionals in the Association industry.
- **How should Springfield retain young professionals like yourself?** As I reflect on my own background and experiences as a young professional, as well as conversations with others, I think there are many ways to retain us. However, two are top on the list, opportunity and engagement. To retain young professionals, we need to provide the opportunity to be a part of the community, and to feel that if the time and effort are put in, they can make a difference and be a part of the outcomes. Developing ways to engage young professionals in defining the vision and future of the community and creating buy-in by making them a part of that process, will ground young professionals to this area. As a young professional with a family, I also believe in the importance of safe community areas with plenty of green space. Its too easy with modern technology to stay inside - it is important to incentivize outside recreation. Finally, we must continue to foster business growth and opportunity, including promoting an environment for young entrepreneurs.

Nicolas Paz

Company: Owner, AZTCA Mexican Grill
Age: 32
Email: nicolaspaz@hotmail.com
Education: Bachelors in International Business
Family: Wife – Amanda, daughter – Kylee, 14; Son – Luka, 2



- **Biggest guilty pleasure?** Soccer!! I play indoor & outdoor here in Springfield & of course its playing all day on TV at AZTCA so I watch a lot of soccer too
- **Best 'perk' of your current job?** Being my own boss of course!! I can change the menu when I want or I can add a daily special that a customer requests. I also cook recipes from my country, Bolivia, for my customers to try which is great to let them try new things from other countries.
- **How should Springfield retain young professionals like yourself?** Springfield does a decent job already but I think Springfield should grow more by offering "fun" things for the young families for example St. Louis & Chicago have great museums, aquariums, Zoos & farms/gardens for families to visit but not much here for them to do or visit.

Alex Rabin

Occupation: Attorney – Partner, Sgro, Hanrahan, Durr & Rabin, LLP
Age: 39
Email: alex@casevista.com
Online: Linked In, Twitter: @rabin1974
Education: BS Biology UIS 1998
JD Valparaiso University 2003
Family: Wife – Emily, Son – Jacob, Daughter – Reese
Two pugs: Rowdy & Max
Lots of extended family in Springfield. Mom & Dad, two brothers and 3 sisters.

Affiliations / Community Activities: Treasurer - Board of Governors, Shriners Hospital For Children, St. Louis, 2009-present, Past Master, Chatham Masonic Lodge #523, Illinois Times runner up for “Best Attorney” 2013

- **Biggest guilty pleasure?** Boats, pools, good wine and food. Yummy
- **Best ‘perk’ of your current job?** Helping people. Seriously, I love helping people solve their legal problems.
- **How should Springfield retain young professionals like yourself?** Provide opportunity, encouragement, guidance, and reward good results.



Thomas Gray

Occupation: President of Grayboy Building Maintenance
Age: 34
Email: grybybm@casscomm.com
Online: Facebook
Education: High School with 1.5 years of college
Family: Amanda (wife) Harleigh (daughter 13), Addison (daughter 9)

Affiliations / Community Activities: Business Networking International (BNI), Charter member and Board of Directors at Sherman Area Chamber of Commerce

- **Biggest guilty pleasure?** My biggest guilty pleasures are cars and motorcycles.
- **Best ‘perk’ of your current job?** The best perk of my job is meeting so many great people throughout the state of Illinois and getting to work with them on a regular basis.
- **How should Springfield retain young professionals like yourself?** I believe having activities throughout the city for both families and single professionals at clean and safe facilities will help to retain young professionals in Springfield.



Joshua M. Renken

Company: Owner/Dentist, Renken Dentistry
Age: 38
Email: drrenken@renkendentistry.com
Online: Linked In, Facebook, Pinterest
Education: Eastern Illinois University, University of Illinois at Chicago - College of Dentistry
Family: Wife – Leigh Children – Reilly-11, Miles-9, Oscar-2, Lorelai-2

Affiliations / Community Activities: Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Hope Institute for Children and Families, Professional organizations-Executive Board of Directors GV Black District Dental Society, Illinois State Dental Society, ADA, Academy of General Dentistry, and International College of Oral Implantologists

- **Biggest guilty pleasure?** Culver’s turtle sunday
- **Best ‘perk’ of your current job?** Getting to see our patients and their families grow up over time, and working with our team
- **How should Springfield retain young professionals like yourself?** Support incentives that draw businesses and increased economic activity to Springfield.



Grant Hammer

Occupation: Staff Aid, Office of the Illinois State Treasurer
Age: 31
Email: Grant.E.Hammer@gmail.com
Online: Facebook, Twitter, Instagram
Education: SSHS graduate, B.A. History, with a Political Science minor from Southern Illinois University Carbondale, and coursework towards a Political Science M.A. from the University of Illinois at Springfield.
Family: Married to Jennifer, two children; Cam (age 3) and Josephine (age 1).

Affiliations / Community Activities:
Trustee: Springfield Park Board of Trustees; Recreation Committee Chair and serve on the Finance & Personnel, Buildings & Concessions, Grants & Marketing, and Long Range Planning committees.
Vice President: Springfield Youth Hockey Association; Youth hockey instructor and Communications Chair
Board Member: Scarborough Neighborhood Association
Past Volunteer Service: American Foundation for Suicide Prevention “Out of the Darkness” Community Walks, Illinois English Bulldog Rescue, Downtown Springfield Inc.’s Old Capitol Blues & BBQ and Old State Capitol Art Fair.

- **Biggest guilty pleasure?** I sneak away a couple evenings a week to play ice hockey at the Nelson Center in Lincoln Park!
- **Best ‘perk’ of your current job?** Travel. My job oftentimes requires a level of day travel, where I am afforded the opportunity to visit new places and meet new people.
- **How should Springfield retain young professionals like yourself?** Springfield’s community stakeholders, e.g., its business leaders, elected officials, civic organizations and more should seek to retain bright, talented young professionals by encouraging their involvement and participation in community matters. Young professionals should be challenged to invest themselves in the success of our community and actively work to shape its future.



Allison Lacher

Occupation: Visual Arts Gallery Manager and Adjunct Assistant Professor at the University of Illinois Springfield
Age: 36
Email: alach3@uis.edu
Online: Facebook, LinkedIn
Education: Master of Fine Arts in Sculpture, Indiana University; Bachelor of Fine Arts in Sculpture, Edinboro University
Family: My wonderful husband of eight years, Nathan L. Steele, Ph.D.
Affiliations / Community Activities: I serve as 1st Vice President on the Board of Directors at the Springfield Art Association, and I’m also Co-founder and Creative Partner, along with UIS Visual Arts affiliates, at DEMO Project Art Gallery.

- **Biggest guilty pleasure?** Vegas, baby!
- **Best ‘perk’ of your current job?** My position is flooded with perks, among them: working in harmony with genuinely stellar colleagues that inspire and motivate me; working with, and forging relationships with, a variety of artists from all over the country; the positive energy that radiates from the University of Illinois Springfield campus community; and all of the joys that come with fostering the development of undergraduate students as the broad spectrum of visual arts unfolds for them.
- **How should Springfield retain young professionals like yourself?** I advocate for the business community to support further cultural development and advancement in Springfield - be it art, music, theatre, or beyond - through funding, generating enthusiasm and awareness, and extending resources, as cultural presence and programming are proven in their ability to create a more dynamic and livable community overall. Springfield can retain young professionals by investing in cultural outlets and opportunity, and especially those that result from community partnerships and/or collaborations. Two heads are said to be better than one, and businesses, community non-profits, and institutions that partner together in the name of cultural initiatives have the potential to further engage and cultivate a community of loyal young professionals.




Jessica Wiltsie Kocurek

Company: Salon Owner & Hairstylist, Willow & Birch Salon
Age: 26
Email: jessica@willowandbirchsalon.com
Online: Facebook, Instagram, Linked In, Twitter
Education: Studied Cosmetology at the Aveda Institute Chicago
Family: Husband-Kyle Kocurek

Affiliations / Community Activities:I am an educator for Original Mineral color and Bennefactor and Gage for Men Haircare lines, which gives me the opportunity to share my knowledge and passion for my industry with other salon professionals. My salon hosts annual fundraiser events supporting our local Children's Miracle Network, as well as a Walk for Water event each April raising money for the Alliance for the Great Lakes helping to keep our water sources clean.

- **Biggest guilty pleasure?** Popcorn
- **Best ‘perk’ of your current job?**Getting to help people feel amazing about themselves every day is the best feeling in the world! I'm truly blessed to have such loyal clients and a staff full of employees who support the dream that is W&B!
- **How should Springfield retain young professionals like yourself?**I believe that keeping the Springfield area focused on buying local will help businesses in the area to thrive. I have great relationships with other small business owners in Springfield and truly love supporting our local economy as they have done for me.





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Seven reasons voluntary dental benefits might be right for your small business

By Karyn Glogowski



As a leader in oral health, Delta Dental of Illinois recently commissioned a survey to help offer Illinois employers some insight into the importance of dental benefits and their connection to oral health and overall well-being. Along with demonstrating that Illinoisans with dental coverage visit the dentist more often, we also found that when they do, they feel better about their lives overall.

Dental benefits can also help recruit and retain talent. However, only 25 percent of small businesses with 2-99 employees offer dental benefits, often believing they can't afford to provide traditional group insurance, where the employer typically covers the greater portion of the expense.

But there's a way small businesses can offer their employees the dental coverage they want at no cost to the business: voluntary dental benefits.

Many businesses are finding voluntary benefits a viable option as evidenced by 9 percent growth just last year alone, and it's

a trend I don't see going away anytime soon. While employer-paid coverage is, of course, more desirable for employees, here are some reasons why voluntary dental benefits might be the right fit for your company.

1. Voluntary plans give you the option to offer dental benefits. Small businesses must perform a balancing act between satisfying employee expectations and meeting the financial demands of the business. If your company cannot afford to offer group dental insurance, voluntary plans deliver a benefit employees desire while limiting the financial obligation of your company.

2. Employees can save money with voluntary plans. Voluntary dental coverage gives employees the advantage of group rates. This can help employees save compared to acquiring individual or family dental coverage on their own. Additionally, employees can enjoy the convenience and savings of paying for their premiums via payroll deduction. Paying with pre-tax dollars can help employees save on their dental care expenses.

3. Voluntary coverage is comparable to other group coverage. Voluntary plans are structured the same way as traditional group dental HMO and PPO plans in terms

of access and coverage, as well as provide similar access to network dentists. So it's likely that employees and their family members will be able to visit their preferred dentists while taking advantage of in-network savings.

4. Voluntary plans require lower participation rates. Compared to traditional group dental plans, a voluntary dental benefit plan can be easier to maintain because of the low percentage of eligible employees required to enroll.

5. Voluntary coverage could differentiate your company. A great benefits package can help a company recruit top talent and retain quality employees. With just 25 percent of small businesses offering dental benefits, there's a chance you could rise above your competition with a simple voluntary dental benefit offering.

6. Voluntary dental plans encourage preventive care. Delta Dental of Illinois' Oral Health and Well-Being Survey shows that nearly eight of 10 Illinois residents (79 percent) with dental coverage visit the dentist at least once a year versus only half (52 percent) without coverage. And going to the dentist at least once a year

contributed to people feeling better about their lives overall.

7. Voluntary dental plans increase productivity. Preventive dental exams, provided through dental insurance, can help reduce lost productivity hours by identifying and treating problems early on. One of six Illinoisans (17 percent) say they have missed work due to oral health issues beyond regular treatments and cleanings, according to the recent Delta Dental of Illinois survey. Each year, more than 164 million work hours are lost across the country because of dental problems.

Reducing your employees' lost work hours, providing them with access to a greater array of benefits, and helping them get better prices at group rates are all good reasons why a voluntary dental benefit plan might be the right fit for your company and its employees. Keep in mind that offering a voluntary dental benefit to your employees is always better than not offering a dental benefit at all.


Karyn Glogowski is the VP of Sales for the Sangamon County Area for Delta Dental of Illinois.



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Small Business Award winner: It's a family affair

By Eric Woods



Julie Zara

Title: Co-owner, Zara's Collision Center
Address: 3117 Wide Track Dr., Springfield, Illinois, 62703
Telephone: 217-522-7768
E-mail: Julie@zarascollision.com

Education: B.S. in psychology and teacher education from University of Illinois Springfield
Family: Husband - Brad; Children - Hannah, Emily, and Claire

Favorites -
Hobby: Reading
Movie: *Steel Magnolias*
Author: Elin Hilderbrand

Tidbits -
Once participated as the go-go dancer on Live with Regis and Kelly
Wants to go skydiving someday
Teaches a parenting class at Contact Ministries

Julie Zara was born to teach. She wanted to be a teacher as a child and even spent 12 years with District 186 and Williamsville School District where she taught junior high and high school special education. She still offers her expertise at Contact Ministries while helping with the family business, Zara's Collision.

Zara's opened in 1987 and was awarded the Diamond Lifetime Award at the Chamber of Commerce's recent Small Business Awards. "Brad was a one-man show at first," said Julie Zara, who officially came aboard in 2004. Currently there are 25 people working for the company, many of whom have been there for a number of years. Zara heads up the Benevolence Program. With this program, the company refurbishes at least one car per year and gives it away to a family in need. "We have a luncheon where people can make donations of money and other items. We have 40-50 people who donate." Zara also oversees company marketing and advertising by visiting with agents to keep relationships going.

Zara's is continuing to move forward and remain a market leader by pursuing certification for the 2015 Ford F-150 pickup, scheduled to arrive later this year. Zara believes this to be a real game changer

as it is the first high production domestic vehicle with an all-aluminum body. To meet the certification requirements, Zara's will be making a significant investment in aluminum-specific equipment and technician training. Another requirement is a dedicated aluminum repair area that is isolated from work being done on vehicles made of steel, which is virtually every other vehicle model on which the company works. This is crucial to avoid cross-contamination of the metals. Even a small particle of metal dust on bare aluminum will cause a condition called galvanic corrosion, which causes the paint to blister much like a rust spot on steel.

There are a large number of rules and regulations in the auto body industry, according to Zara. "It is a very hard, competitive field," she said. "Be ready to work hard."

The achievements throughout Zara's life include making the dean's list in college as well as winning the Business of the Year award in 2004, along with her husband, from the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce. She has also been nominated for the Athena Award and was named one of the *Springfield Business Journal's* Women of Influence in 2012.

Zara has lived in Springfield for a number

of years. "Springfield is small enough that everyone seems to be interconnected somehow," said Zara. "There is a real sense of community and a willingness to help others. It is a very philanthropic community." Zara wishes there was more to do, though, especially in the winter. Her biggest concern with Springfield is being able to find funding to help people with mental illness and homelessness. Volunteering at Contact Ministries, Zara sees how difficult it is to sustain at a level necessary to continually assist people who truly need help.

Over the years, Zara's has never had to lay off an employee, even in the toughest economic times. This has helped Zara and her husband to keep employees for a long time. "We have great employees who allow us the freedom to travel and do other things," said Zara. This benefit has given Zara the opportunity to plan her retirement within the next couple years.

"I want to retire when my youngest daughter graduates high school. The goal is to spend winters in Florida," said Zara. No matter where she is living, though, Zara will still be involved with the community. □

Eric Woods can be reached at ericw93@aol.com.

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CIVIC LIFE



The courthouse in Lincoln.

Lincoln comes together

By Roberta Codemo

Plans are moving forward in Lincoln to merge four organizations together under one roof. The proposed merger will make the Abraham Lincoln Tourism Bureau of Logan County, the Lincoln/Logan Development Partnership and Main Street Lincoln all part of the city's Chamber of Commerce.

"The Chamber has tossed the idea around internally the past three years," said Andi Hake, executive director of the Lincoln and Logan County Chamber of Commerce. It has seen the three organizations struggle with staffing issues. With the departure of the executive director of the Lincoln/Logan Development Partnership, the time was right to have the discussion.

Hake said it is easier to fold the four entities into one structure. "It is the least disruptive as a whole," she said. The Chamber has the staff and resources to accommodate all the functions.

Representatives from each organization along with the city and county board met in November 2013 and decided the best approach would be to hire a consultant. The group hired Marit Peters out of Albuquerque, N.M. "She came to us through a network of other associations and chambers," said Hake.

"We didn't know if a merger was right," said Hake. "We weren't sure what her recommendation would be." When the recommendation was announced in March, a few were shocked but to most it seemed natural. "The community is ready

for change," she said.

"The city is very supportive of the efforts of the committee," said Mayor Keith Snyder. "The city wanted to promote an effort to create a healthy sustainable long-term organization." He sees positive benefits to the merger. It will provide a new way for services to be delivered to the community. "This will improve the community and drive it forward," he said.

One of the biggest concerns is ensuring that the outlying communities in Logan County have a voice. The city wants to show that the reorganization is not only best for Logan County but is the best way to maximize resources.

Not everyone believes it is the best idea. The Lincoln/Logan Development Partnership, which is comprised of representatives from the city, county and the Chamber, remains the lone holdout. "This is different than anything we've done," said Hake. Not everyone is sure how their voice will be heard in the new organizational structure. She said this would bring the organizations back to the Chamber's roots.

The Lincoln/Logan Development Partnership wants to do what is best for Logan County. Hake said the board president is a huge proponent of the smaller communities in Logan County. "He is a big advocate," she said. He wants to understand how the process will work so that everyone is included. The city and



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Andi Hake of the Lincoln and Logan County Chamber of Commerce. PHOTO BY DAVID ANDERSON

the Chamber are committed to moving forward and it is hoped that the county will come on board.

The city is committed to offering economic development services through the Chamber. Whether the current Partnership will exist in its current form or in some hybrid version remains to be seen. The mayor would like to see the county participate in shaping the new organization.

Hake said the Chamber is not pushing any of the organizations to do this. "We recognize we are in a good place," she said. The Chamber is a position to help offer these services. "It is one more way to better serve our community."

"People think this makes sense," said Mayor Snyder. "They are looking for accountability." Businesses want to hear from one organization that will deliver long-term results. "A unified organization is the best way to provide that."

The merger would consolidate and

better utilize resources. Hake said the end goal is not cost savings but results. "Everyone will have a voice in the new organizational structure," she said. She acknowledges some are scared and are waiting for more information about how the process will work.

Under the merger, the Abraham Lincoln Tourism Board of Logan County would acquire a permanent full-time director and become a new department located under the Chamber. Main Street Lincoln would no longer exist. Hake also foresees hiring more full-time staff.

Peters returns to Lincoln on June 27. At that time, the committee hopes to learn more. "We hope we can say everybody is on board," said Hake. Should the final decision favor a merger, plans are to have it completed by January.

Roberta Codemo can be reached at rcodemo@hotmail.com.

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Local entertainer showcases talents for 'America's Got'

By Eric Woods

Brian Pankey is a Springfield native who has spent the better part of his life living in the capital city. He has a lot of family here and knows that it has a much lower cost of living than the bigger cities. Pankey would like to see more entertainment come to Springfield. "It is hard to get big shows here," he said. He did live in St. Louis for a little while and even did some street performing. Pankey would love to do a one-man show sometime. "We need different types of venues for entertainment."

Pankey had a number of jobs he dreamed of as a kid, including professional basketball player and astronaut. His first real job was at the old Jewel/Osco on Sixth Street. The worst job he ever had, though, was sanitation work during the Illinois State Fair. He first became interested in juggling when his eighth-grade history teacher did a performance in front of the class and even taught Pankey the pattern. Immediately Pankey wanted to learn the skill. "I was intrigued by all the props," he said.

At age 13 Pankey found a magic shop in town and bonded with the owner. "John Brownback was doing magic shows, and he

hired me to open for him. He taught me about showmanship and how to be recognizable," he said. Pankey also credits Troy Roark with helping him learn how to put music together and present it in the act. "He taught me how to make one thing flow into another."

Pankey's performances consist of a variety of different juggling acts, including objects like swords, rings and apples which he is able to take bites from while juggling. He has incorporated fire into his act and can even balance heavy items, such as a bicycle and a couch, on his forehead. There is even a little magic thrown in as well. Pankey has been featured many times in the *Recordsetter Book of World Records* and also appears in the *Book of Extreme Facts*.

Currently Pankey performs all over the central Illinois area and also hits the bigger cities like Chicago and St. Louis. He does birthday parties and anything else his audience requests. Much of his work comes from referrals. Pankey has appeared on *The Tonight Show with Jay Leno* as well as *Late Show with David Letterman*, *Tosh.O*, and *America's Funniest Home Videos*. He can also be seen in the current season of

America's Got Talent, which he considers to be the greatest achievement in his adult life. "Being in front of those judges, my heart was pounding," he said. "I didn't know if they would like me or not." He performed the balancing couch act for the judges and audience.

Looking ahead, Pankey hopes to eventually marry and raise children. He does not intend to slow down his act but admits that he may eventually get tired of what he is doing. He still practices several hours per week in order to keep everything fresh while also devising new ideas for his shows.

For those wanting to be an entertainer like Pankey, the key is to find a mentor. "Talk to someone with knowledge who can help you," he said. "This is not necessarily someone in your family, but someone who encourages you to do what you want to do." Pankey himself feels like the best advice he ever received was to just be himself and not give up on his dreams. □

Eric Woods can be reached at ericw93@aol.com.



Brian Pankey

Title: Professional juggler
E-mail: pankey1976@yahoo.com

Education: Springfield Southeast High School
Family: Not married, no children

Favorites -

Hobby: Exercise
Movie: *The Big Lebowski*
Sports team: Chicago Cubs

Tidbits -

Appears in the current season of *America's Got Talent*
Collects baseball cards
Influenced by Buster Keaton and Charlie Chaplin

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A DJ's sad last days

A living will may have helped avert the Kasem family's ordeal

By Sarah Delano Pavlik

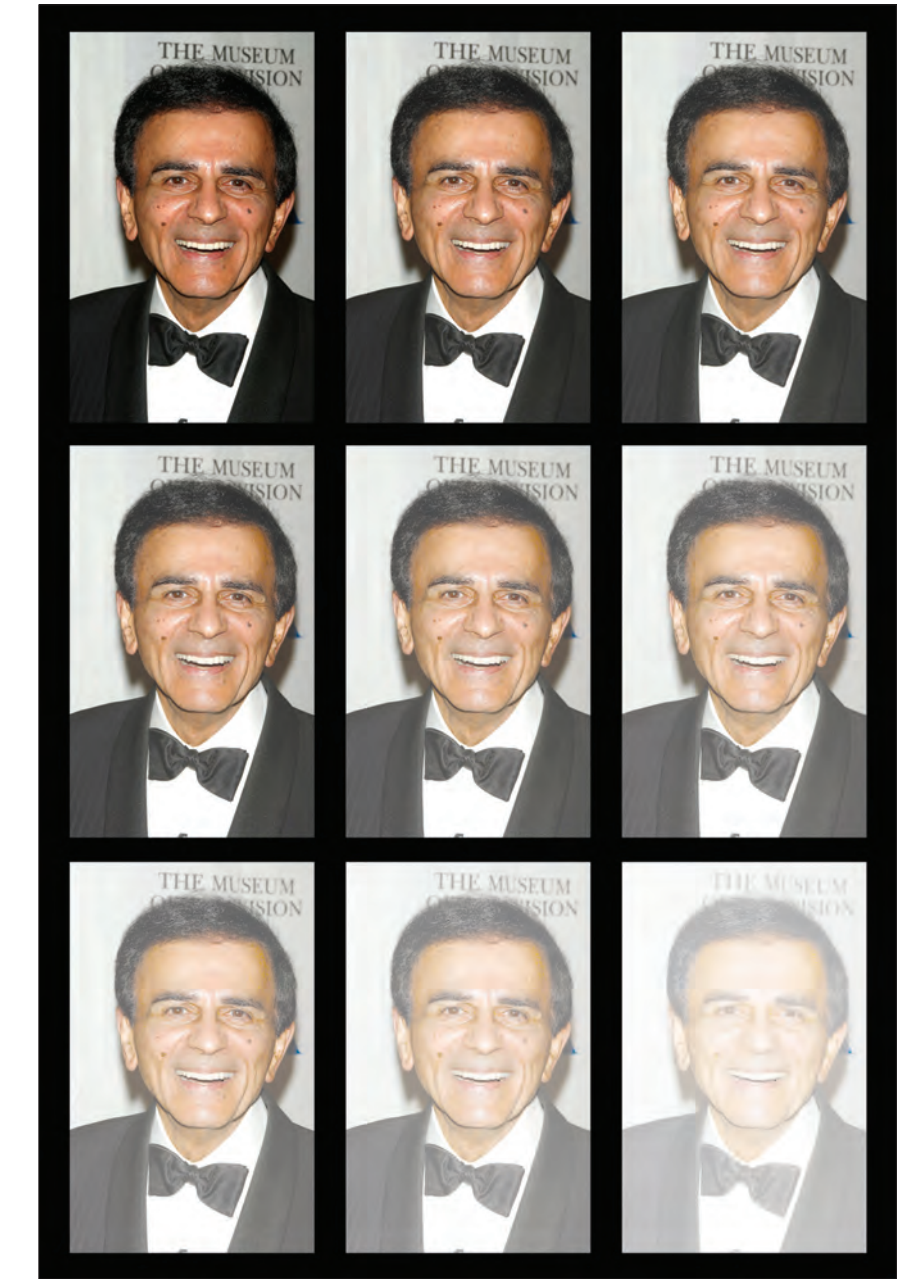
If you keep up with pop culture, you are probably aware of the drama surrounding the recent death of Casey Kasem. If you don't keep up with pop culture, Kasem used to host the *American Top 40* radio show and was the voice of "Shaggy" on *Scooby Doo*, among other things. Casey was married to his first wife from 1972 to 1979, and they had three children, Mike, Julie and Kerri. He wed Jean Kasem in 1980 and they remained married until his death. They had one child, Liberty. (You might remember Jean from *Cheers*. She was the tall, dumb blonde married to Carla's ex-husband.)

Casey had been suffering from chronic illnesses, including Parkinson's, and was unable to speak as he neared death. His wife, Jean, and the children from his first marriage had been fighting in the courts regarding his treatment and access to him.

The public feud began in October of 2013 when his three oldest children picketed in front of his home near Beverly Hills saying that Jean had denied them access to their father for three months. Daughter Julie then filed a petition asking the California court to appoint her as conservator (which is equivalent to being appointed guardian). Under California law (and the law of most states), Casey's wife would be first in line to be appointed conservator. However, Casey had signed a medical power of attorney in 2007 naming Julie as his health care agent. His California medical power of attorney (like the standard Illinois health care power of attorney) included a provision that if a conservator was ever appointed, Casey requested that his medical agent (Julie) be appointed as the conservator. The power of attorney also expressed Casey's wishes that he would not want treatment that "would result in a mere biological existence, devoid of cognitive function, with no reasonable hope for normal functioning."

The court denied the request for a conservator in November 2013 and ordered Jean and Casey's children to agree on a visitation schedule. The feuding continued while Casey's condition continued to deteriorate, coming to a head publicly when Casey "disappeared" in May. Jean had moved him to an undisclosed location, preventing his children from seeing him. Jean's lawyer stated that Casey was out of the country. He was ultimately found in Washington state.

In May, the court appointed daughter Kerri as conservator. Kerri believed it was best for her father, and in accordance with his wishes, to stop artificial food and



hydration, and directed the doctors to do so on June 6. On June 9 the court ruled that Kerri could not do so, however, after reviewing additional medical information and the recommendation of doctors, the judge ruled on June 11 that the measures could be stopped because they would "at best prolong the dying process for him and will certainly add suffering to an already terribly uncomfortable dying process."

Casey's children have maintained throughout this ordeal that their only concern was for their father's welfare. This claim is given credibility by the fact that

they apparently are not in Kasem's will and haven't been for years. Of course, one can never know what is truly in someone's heart.

Casey Kasem's situation may remind you of Terri Schiavo from Florida who died in 2005. Unlike Casey, Terri Schiavo did not have a medical power of attorney or living will, and her husband and parents fought over her care for years in court. Her husband eventually prevailed, and he removed her feeding tube.

What can you do to avoid a situation like this in your family? You should make your wishes regarding medical treatment known

to your family and your doctors and other medical providers. Illinois law provides for several documents that you can use to express our wishes.

The first document is a "living will." A living will governs "death delaying procedures." It provides that if you are suffering from an "incurable and irreversible injury, disease, or illness, judged to be a terminal condition by your attending physician who has personally examined you and has determined that your death is imminent except for death delaying procedures," that your physician is to withhold or withdraw the death delaying procedures and to administer treatment only as necessary to provide comfort to you.

The second document is a health care power of attorney. Although the health care power of attorney also addresses the termination of life support, it is actually much broader in scope. An agent under a health care power of attorney can authorize medication, surgery, and even organ donation.

A third document is a do not resuscitate order ("DNR"). A DNR order directs medical care providers not to start cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) or other medical procedures if your heart or breathing stops. A DNR must be executed by your doctor and is prepared only after you have become ill. Unlike the living will and health care power of attorney, it is not prepared by healthy people in advance.

All of these forms can be found online at the Department of Public Health's web site at <http://www.idph.state.il.us/public/books/advin.htm>. If you choose to prepare your own documents, you must follow all instructions carefully. For example, each document requires witnesses, and the witnesses cannot be related to you.

Signing your documents is a great first step, but it's not all you need to do. You need to clearly express your wishes to your family and other decision makers. They need to know what you want so that they can comply. You also need to review your documents regularly. Have you married or divorced since you signed your documents? Do you now have adult children you would like to name? Have you become estranged from a child? Not having documents is bad enough, but having documents that name the wrong person can be even worse. □

Sarah Delano Pavlik is an attorney from Springfield.



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RESTAURANT REVIEW

Julia's signature dish of Shrimp and Grits. The shrimp is caught off the Georgia coast and flown in.

PHOTOS BY GINNY LEE

Buzz on over to Julia's

By Thomas C. Pavlik, Jr.

I like it when new restaurants generate their own buzz and Julia's Kitchen and Lounge certainly has. All at once I noticed a surge of Facebook posts, emails and comments from friends who were dining at Julia's. Having now dined there, I can see why.

Julia's is located in Vinegar Hill. It's an expansive place. There's a separate bar area, room for live entertainment, and plenty of seating. Architectural treatments pepper the exposed brick walls and there are a few "drop" tin ceilings. It's quirky, but in a very good way.

The day we visited, Julia herself (yes, the restaurant's namesake) pleasantly greeted our group and took a few minutes to get to know us. It was a nice touch.

We appreciated that tables were not stacked on top of each other – it's nice to be able to have a private lunchtime conversation. However, thanks to all of the hard surfaces, the acoustics suffered and at times I found myself having to ask my guests to repeat themselves.

We suspect that when the legislature is in session that Julia's does a nice business with the Statehouse crowd. The day we visited, the clientele was mostly comprised of the social crowd and what appeared to be tourists. We did see some of the suit and tie crowd, but they were the exception. In any event, Julia's was packing them in.

Julia's lunch menu consists of three main offerings – sandwiches, soup and salad, and lunch tapas (small plates). Sandwiches come with your choice of fries, potato salad or a side salad (regular or Caesar).

Items that caught our collective eye included the Fried Green Tomato BLT (on sourdough, with goat cheese – \$9.50), the Shredded Collard Salad (candied walnuts, pickled apples, feta with an apple vinaigrette - \$8), the Lobster Mac & Cheese (\$10), and the Muffuletta (\$8 for a ¼, \$12

for a ½).

We opted to start with the Bacon Wrapped Chorizo Stuffed Dates (cherry wood bacon, chorizo stuffed, medjool dates – \$10). Although a serving consists of only three dates, these little nuggets packed tons of flavor. This dish worked. What we assumed to be a roasted pepper and tomato sauce, on which the dates were served, should be bottled and sold to diners.

As entrées, we opted for the Blackened Grouper Sandwich (\$12, also available fried), the Shrimp Po' Boy (\$11, with a Creole mayo on a baguette) and the Spinach & Artichoke Grilled Cheese (\$9, with Swiss cheese on whole grain bread). My well-traveled guest, who didn't object when our other guest pronounced her palate as "educated and refined," commented that the Grilled Cheese was a sophisticated dish that still managed to be comforting. The Po' Boy was pronounced to be "simply awesome." The grouper in my sandwich was perfectly cooked (I abhor overcooked fish almost as much as an overcooked burger) and had just the right amount of spice so that the fish wasn't overwhelmed. Toasting the bun would have added some texture and the slaw needed some more acid – but these are so-called "First World" complaints. The fries were well cooked and appropriately spiced. All offerings were generously sized.

Service was excellent. Our drinks were well-monitored, dishes were brought out and plates cleared at the same time rather than piecemeal and our few special requests were accommodated without the necessity of reminders. My only nit – after the third iced tea refill more ice would be nice.



Julia's buzz is justified and well deserved. We plan on coming back.

Thomas C. Pavlik is an attorney from Springfield.



Julia Hill opened Julia's Kitchen and Lounge in March.

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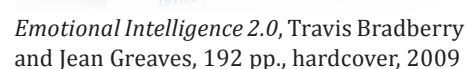
NEWS AROUND THE CLOCK



There is no doubt that knowledge is power, but knowledge alone doesn't guarantee success. In fact, the people who rise to the top are not always the Ivy Leaguers or card-carrying Mensa members. They are the people who possess something special ... something that I could never put my finger on until I learned about emotional intelligence.

Emotional Intelligence 2.0, written by Travis Bradberry and Jean Greaves, describes the “it” factor of certain people – the ones to whom people naturally flock for clear direction and leadership. People who are emotionally intelligent, or who have a high EQ, are skilled at navigating and leveraging their emotions and the emotions of others, something that was not considered to be important until recent years. Because even though the business environment is supposed to be emotion-free, we all know it’s not.

The authors also wrote *The Emotional Intelligence Quick Book*, which caused quite a stir when it was released in 2004. While it wasn't the first to challenge the theory that a high IQ equals success, it seemed to receive the most attention. They wrote, "When emotional intelligence was first discovered, it served as the missing link in a peculiar finding: people with the highest levels of intelligence (IQ) outperform those with average IQs just 20 percent of



the time, while people with average IQs outperform those with high IQs 70 percent of the time."

Like the *Quick Book, Emotional Intelligence 2.0* provides readers with a unique passcode that allows them to measure their own emotional intelligence, and work on trouble spots so that they can raise their EQ. So much for the “leaders are

born not made" theory!

Emotional intelligence involves four skills, according to the authors, and all four must be in working order for a person to have a high EQ. Self-awareness and self-management relate to how you manage yourself, and social awareness and relationship management relate to how you manage others.

A person with a low self-awareness score would look something like this: "Giles (operations director) is in his 'own little world.' ... His personality can be overwhelming, but he doesn't notice when the other person is feeling annoyed, frustrated, or overwhelmed by him."

But, a person with a high self-management score would look something like this: "Lane (health care administrator) is the epitome of patience and understanding during heated, emotionally charged meetings. Others around her become fully embroiled in the discussions, and Lane actively listens and responds with knowledge and wisdom ... she is sensitive, yet direct and to the point. She listens patiently and sets a high standard of conduct."

Without even knowing the experience level or education of both managers, it's clear that Lane is a better leader than Giles. But Giles is not a lost cause, as the book

points out. It is, in fact, possible to raise your EQ by strengthening all four of the EQ skills. By signing on to the website using the unique passcode, each person can work on strengthening their vulnerabilities.

While I read this book, I had the same thought I always do when reading leadership books – that good leaders tend to be good people anyway. They naturally care about people and are compassionate, and that alone will take you far. But this book exposed a big hole in my theory. Good intentions alone don't make someone a good leader – they have to know how to employ those good intentions and bring out the best in themselves and others.

While *Emotional Intelligence 2.0* was published a few years ago, I notice that a lot of authors are still referring back to the principle. I think the book is an important foundational piece for anyone who is interested in learning more about emotional intelligence.

Bridget Ingebrigtsen is Marketing and Communications Leader at Harold O'Shea Builders. She can be reached at 522-2826 or bridget@osheabuilders.com. For reviews of other leadership books, visit the company's business book blog at www.osheabookshelf.com



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Triple our money by shopping local

By Bill McMahon

What's the best way to kick-start an argument anytime, anywhere?

Start talking about taxes.

It never fails. Next to hopping on a table at Obed & Isaacs or Floyd's Thirst Parlor at happy hour and loudly declaring the superiority of the Cubs over the Cardinals (or vice versa), if you want to quickly gather a boisterous, opinionated crowd, hold forth on whether we are generally taxed too much or too little for the government we want. Are we taxed fairly? Are our tax dollars being spent on the right things? In the right proportions?

Is there any aspect of a conversation about the "T" word on which there is any hope of reaching a broad consensus?

Actually, yes, there is. As taxpayers, regardless of our position on taxes, it is always in our interest to insure every tax dollar the government collects and spends is working as hard as possible for our benefit. And as it happens, we have a fairly straightforward way to improve the return on our collective investment: Shop at local, independent businesses that have local storefronts and local owners.

At Local First Springfield, our mission is

to get the word out about the tremendous benefits to consumers, business owners and the community that come from patronizing local, independent businesses. Over the last few years, you have no doubt seen or heard Local First Springfield's message: "Eat, Drink, Shop, Think, Local First", which means you already know that one of the most powerful and positive effects of buying local is that 45 cents of every dollar spent at a local, independent business stays in the Springfield area, as opposed to 15 cents of that same dollar staying here when it's spent at a big box or franchise.

And it doesn't matter where that dollar comes from.

The same economic multiplier effect applies whether that dollar comes from a tourist picking up a box of Pease's chocolate, a local resident buying shoes at Luer's, a business buying its phone system from AmeriCall, or local government shifting some of its tremendous purchasing power to buying goods and services from local, independent businesses: 45 cents of all of it stays here, to be recirculated through our community a second and third time.



That is triple money that stays here and is recirculated through the Springfield economy when we all shop local. Three times the economic bang for your buck.

Some 150 years ago, our own Abraham Lincoln said that if he were given six hours to chop down a tree, he'd spend the first four hours sharpening the axe. We, at Local First Springfield believe it is time to take a thoughtful look at sharpening the tools our government already has to help insure that what we buy with our tax dollars yields the maximum economic benefit to our community.

Bill McMahon is the executive director of Local First Springfield. He can be contacted at info@localfirstspringfield.com.

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Eat, drink, shop, think LOCAL FIRST

Be sure to check out the Local First insert in this issue of the SBJ

Scheels management sporting a new look

By Eric Woods

Jason Mack moved to Springfield on May 5, having transferred from Great Falls, Montana. Springfield marks the fourth Scheels store he has managed. Originally, he started as the baseball and softball manager in Eau Claire, Wisconsin. He also spent some time in Eden Prairie, Minnesota, and trained in Fargo, North Dakota.

So far, Mack enjoys Springfield, although admittedly he has not spent too much time away from the store. “It is similar to Wisconsin where I grew up,” he said. “But there is more going on here. They didn’t have the stores we have here.” Already, though, Mack is the co-chair for the Pacesetter Campaign for the United Way. He is a former board member of United Way in Montana.

Being a manager at a sporting goods store is not surprising for Mack, as sports have always been a big part of his life. As a child, he wanted to be a running back in the NFL. In high school, he was captain of both the wrestling and football teams. He is one of four brothers and the only one who did not become an engineer. “I started in school for engineering, but that was not for me,” he said.

Mack did start working early in life,

milking dairy cows while in sixth grade. In high school he trimmed Christmas trees on a tree farm three summers in a row, but that was not one of his favorite jobs. “It was done over the summer so it was hot,” he said. “There were also bees that would swarm out.”

After college, Mack worked in the Walmart management training program. His goal was to have his own business someday, so he wanted to learn about management. In 2001, he moved over to Scheels after hearing good things about the company from a friend.

As the new store manager of Scheels in Springfield, Mack is responsible for leading more than 250 employees. “I do recruiting, hiring and developing future leaders,” he said. He is also involved in human resource work, budgeting, inventory management and sales development. Mack also makes time to get onto the sales floor at least four to five times per day. “We run at the store level, not the corporate office level. Each store is run as its own store. The corporate office is there for support.”

Mack comes from a business-savvy family. His grandfather and uncle were inspirational to him. The best advice Mack

ever received was to look at work in three-year stages. “My uncle told me to commit for three years before reassessing,” he said. “Nowadays people are caught up with changing jobs. Do not let distractions offset your course. You will get ahead faster that way.” Mack advises that anyone wanting to get into this field must have a positive attitude and be open to continuous learning.

There have been a lot of events in Mack’s life recently. He and his wife welcomed their first child last month. There are also a number of events coming up at Scheels, including back to school and hunting season. In September he will be taking a trip to Montana to hunt elk. Ideally, Mack would like to retire at around 50 years of age in order to get into coaching youth sports.

The long-term goal for Mack is to end up as part of the executive committee at Scheels. He is hoping to see this come to fruition within 10 years, as at that point he could be looking at retirement about five to eight years afterwards. “I learned early on that nothing comes easy,” he said. “Everything requires hard work and dedication.” □

Eric Woods can be reached at ericw93@aol.com.



Jason Mack

Title: Store manager, Scheels

Born: Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin
Education: B.B.A. from University of Wisconsin
Family: Wife - Kayla

Favorites -
Hobby: Golf and bow hunting
Movie: *Top Gun*
Sports team: Green Bay Packers

Tidbits -
Wants to someday go on a moose hunt
Plays the drums
Loves vacationing at the lakes in Wisconsin

The wine doctor

By Eric Woods



Geoff Bland not only moved to Springfield from the U.K. in 1980, he was moving to the United States for the first time. Bland enjoys Springfield and feels it is a comfortable, easy place to live and raise a family. “It is easy to get in and get out if going somewhere,” he said. Although he is not a fan of the winter weather, especially this past winter, and feels there is some dysfunction in state government, Bland still enjoys the city. He

feels that he has adapted well to moving from one country to another. He belongs to the Illinois State Medical Society, the Springfield Bicycle Club, and the American Academy of Family Practice Physicians.

Growing up, Bland worked on the family farm. “I spent many happy hours looking after cattle and bailing hay,” he said. It was a much better job than the one he had at age 17 selling shoes. “That was filled with rude

people and smelly feet.”

Originally, Bland wanted to study geology. However, he disliked what he was studying and decided to follow in his father’s footsteps by going into medicine. “Talking to people is more entertaining than talking to rocks,” said Bland. While in medical school, Bland won the university prize in anatomy. In 1985, after moving to the United States, he helped to found Springfield Clinic Wabash, which was previously known as the Wabash Family Practice Center. His greatest professional achievement was helping build that facility. “The growth of Springfield Clinic is spectacular.”

Bland became interested in wine during his medical school years. “I was into the scientific side of making wine and also the artistic side of drinking it,” he said. The idea to open his own wine shop came in 1989. Five years later, Bland opened The Corkscrew Wine Emporium as a small shop, taking up only 1,500 square feet. There were initially 200 different wines. Over time, the shop increased to 3,000 square feet before expanding again to its current space of 6,000 square feet. His wine selection has increased to 1,200 wines. “I love helping to educate the customers and help them develop the same passion for wine that I have.” Currently the shop has wine by the glass events on Fridays and tastings every Saturday afternoon. Each event features a different theme.

The perks, benefits and lifestyle of a wine shop owner are wonderful, according to Bland. Those interested in getting into the business should follow their passion but understand that wealth will not be on the horizon. “You meet fascinating people,” he said. “But you are never getting rich.”

Bland has quite a bit of excitement coming up over the next several months. The Corkscrew will be celebrating its 20th anniversary in August. Bland is planning to host special tastings and other events all month long. He is also planning a trip to South Africa, which will be part business and part personal. “That is one of the most beautiful places I have ever been,” he said. □

Eric Woods can be reached at ericw93@aol.com.

Geoff Bland

Title: President and Owner, The Corkscrew Wine Emporium
Address: 2613 Chatham Rd., Springfield, IL 62704
E-mail: springfield@thecorkscrew.com

Born: Rochford, District of Essex, England
Education: M.D. from Dalhousie University Faculty of Medicine, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada
Family: Wife – Brigitte; Children – Jared, Nick, and Sam

Favorites -
Hobby: Bicycling
Movie: *Sideways*
Book: *Lord of the Rings*

Tidbits -
Collects wine and ink wells
Avid St. Louis Cardinals fan
Wants to climb Mount Kilimanjaro

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Dr. Lance Taylor, D.M.D., M.S.
— Owner

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