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Pantagraph



UNDER 40

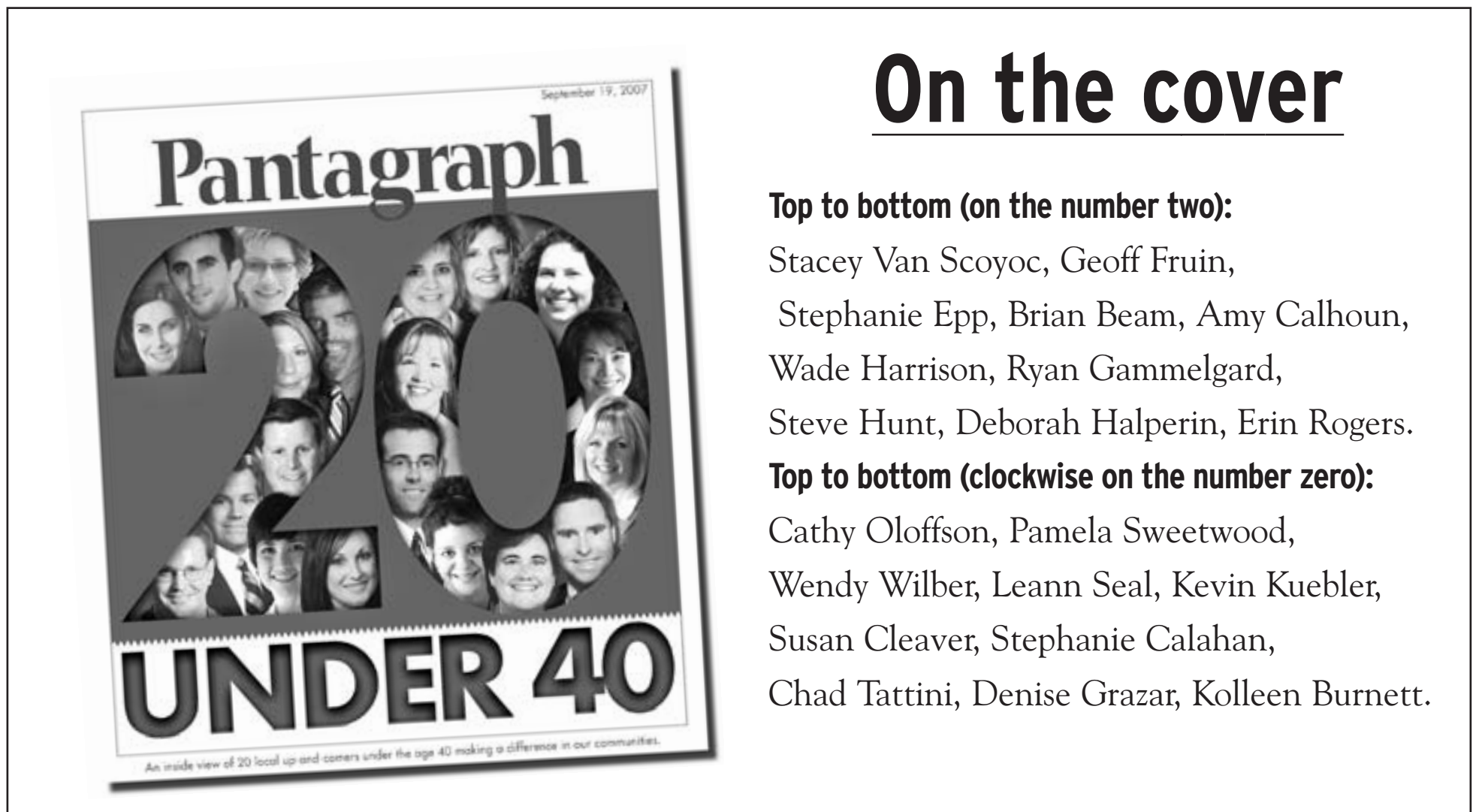
An inside view of 20 local up-and-comers under the age 40 making a difference in our communities.

20 under 40

The Pantagraph is proud to present this special publication to honor 20 people under the age of 40 in our community who make a difference in many ways.

From doctors to lawyers to educators to community advocates, these 20 honorees are helping shape the future. Selected from an overwhelming pool of nominees, these individuals represent the best our community has to offer.

Each has a unique story and offers great wisdom and advice which is shared in the following pages. We hope you enjoy reading about this impressive group of leaders



On the cover

Top to bottom (on the number two):

Stacey Van Scoyoc, Geoff Fruin,
Stephanie Epp, Brian Beam, Amy Calhoun,
Wade Harrison, Ryan Gammelgard,
Steve Hunt, Deborah Halperin, Erin Rogers.

Top to bottom (clockwise on the number zero):

Cathy Oloffson, Pamela Sweetwood,
Wendy Wilber, Leann Seal, Kevin Kuebler,
Susan Cleaver, Stephanie Calahan,
Chad Tattini, Denise Grazar, Kolleen Burnett.

●●● Brian Beam ●●●



Age: 38

Occupation: Vice President, Art Director, Graphic Designer, Business Builders

Education: Masters Degree from Illinois State University and Bachelor's Degree from Illinois Wesleyan University

Vision for leadership:

As President of the American Marketing Association of Central Illinois, I have had a lot of experience as the new leader of our volunteer organization. Everyone has an innate gift, and I believe the challenge as a leader is to

get people to open up and share their gifts. When you assemble a group of people with a mix of great abilities, something magical begins to happen. Once assembled you need to show them a vision of what is possible, and then get out of the way and watch the greatness ensue.

The person who has had the biggest influence on your work/aspirations and why:

Dick Eikenberg, the President of Business Builders, has been my greatest influence over the 16 years we have worked together. He taught me how to harness my creativity and apply it to help people and companies establish their identities and achieve their goals. Dick has also taught me the value of giving back to the business community.

Leisure time diversions and/or your favorite stress buster:

I have an Epiphone J200 Acoustic Guitar and there is nothing better than busting out

a few chords for the kids. From "Oh Susanna" to "Baby Beluga", I love to get the kids wound-up. My wife says I'm a cross between Jack Black and Raffi. I open Sunday School at our church with a rousing rendition of Happy Day Express—wakes them right up.

Best trip you've ever taken and why:

Grand Cayman is a destination that provides the best in relaxation and adventure. Seven-mile Beach is one of the most peaceful and serene beaches in the world. Swimming with the stingrays is really exciting, and despite the recent bad press, highly recommended. It is so important to recharge your batteries on a regular basis and experience life

What was your first job and how old were you?

Since about age 10 or so I worked construction jobs with my dad back in the western Illinois towns of Canton and Cuba. He was a math and physics teacher who worked extra carpentry and construction jobs after school and on weekends. Working 14 hours per day in construction was not always the way I wanted to spend a Saturday; however, it did teach me about the value of a strong work ethic. I also learned that when collecting spare boards at a construction site to always make sure the nails are pointed down.

AXA Advisors congratulates Kevin on being recognized for the 20 under 40 Award!



We are proud of Kevin and his many professional and community accomplishments. Kevin exemplifies what AXA Advisors is all about: a dedication to his clients and his community. Call Kevin to discuss all your planning needs.



Kevin D. Kuebler, CPA
Financial Consultant
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●●● Kolleen Burnett, DO, FACOP ●●●

Age: 34

Occupation: Pediatrician

Education: Doctorate in Osteopathic Medicine, Board certified in Pediatrics



What you still hope to accomplish:

I have always wanted to practice medicine in a small rural town so I can be part of the whole community. Now that I am in Pontiac, I plan to become more involved in our community. I want to use my education and experience to bring some additional health education into our schools such as puberty/sex education, helmet/bicycle safety and general diet/exercise education. I am also looking into starting a support group for overweight adolescents and teens. Aside from local accomplishments, it has also been a dream of mine to further my medical education and possibly specialize in Neonatology or Pediatric Endocrinology.

Leisure time diversions and/or favorite stress buster:

My family is definitely the best diversion from a long day at work. It is wonderful to walk in the door and have my three children run up to me with hugs and kisses. Whenever we can plan a fun day in Bloomington/Normal or a weekend trip up to the Chicago suburbs to visit family, I always look forward to the quality time I can spend with my husband and children.

If you were stranded on a desert island, name the people you'd like to have with you and why:

It all relates back to family. I would want my husband, John, my daughter Madison and

twins Emily and Shane. But I would also want to bring my stepchildren Kristin and Dale so that my family would be complete. We may be a large group, but I wouldn't have it any other way.

Do you have a favorite charity or cause and why?

I started doing marches for March of Dimes when I was in college. This organization earns money for premature infants. As a pediatrician, I have always had a passion for the care and development of premature infants. I also have had a passion for childhood diabetes and have volunteered several times at the pediatric diabetes camps sponsored by the American Diabetes Association.

What was your first job and how old were you?

My first volunteer job was as a candy striper at a local hospital in my hometown of Downers Grove. I was 13 years old. My favorite part of the job was working in the nursery where our job was to rock and feed the newborns. At 15, I obtained a work permit with the help of my parents and I started as a bagger for Eagle, a grocery chain.



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Congratulations, Dr. Kolleen Burnett, on being selected as one of the area's "20 Under 40!"

Your dedication to the health and well-being of Livingston County's youth is exceptional and we're proud to have you on our team.



●●● Stephanie L. H. Calahan ●●●

Age: 35

Occupation: Founder & CEO, Calahan Solutions, Inc.

Education: B.S., Degrees in HR and Business Information Systems from Illinois State University and a number of industry study certifications and product certifications.

What you still hope to accomplish:

My top three areas center around being a mother, business owner and mentor. My #1 responsibility is to raise smart, considerate, community focused children. In addition, my company is growing

at a nice steady pace. I want to continue that national growth and allow others to be introduced to the profession. I also spend quite a bit of time working with other business owners. Mentoring others and sharing resources and what I have learned is a passion of mine.

The person who has had the biggest influence on your work/aspirations and why:

My dad, through all of his various jobs, has had a tremendous positive impact on me and on thousands of people in his life by helping them grow and develop into better individuals. He is honest and dedicated to every cause he takes on. He has done so with a huge amount of modesty, passion and charisma. I can only hope to have such a positive impact on those I work with. I'm proud to say that he was recently awarded with one of the American Red Cross' Hero awards!

Leisure time diversions and/or your favorite stress buster:

Laughter is my favorite stress buster. Watching our Havanese puppy play with our boys causes much laughter. They are all so funny! All three of them have their own unique personalities and seeing how they interact and play is fabulous.

Do you have a favorite charity or cause and why:

I'm blessed to have teaching and philanthropy as a big part of my family history. There are many different organizations that I personally financially support and volunteer, but my top three are: YWCA Stepping Stones program (Sexual Assault Support and Counseling); The Baby Fold; and McLean County CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate).

What was your first job and how old were you?

I was self-employed for the first time as a babysitter at 10-years-old. I loved the idea of watching kids and making a few dollars (at the time it was \$1 per hour – wow the rates have changed!)

Last book you read and why:

The last professional book was Barbara Hemphill's "Taming the Paper Tiger at Work."

●●● Amy Renee Calhoun ●●●

Age: 31

Occupation: Co-owner, A. Renee

Career Highlights:

I have a great marriage and two beautiful children. Everything else I do is ultimately for them for all that really matters is family.

What you still hope to accomplish:

The next year will be incredibly exciting for our business. We've been "baby stepping" toward our dream thus far, and we will see it all come to fruition very soon. Stay tuned for what's to come for A. Renee and our second business venture!

Community service projects of note or of which you enjoy:

The community service project I enjoy is serving on the board of directors for the McLean County Child Protection Network and creating events to benefit the cause.

The person who has had the biggest influence on your work/aspirations and why:

My grandfather. He always tried to make me "be realistic" about my dreams and not to stretch too far, when in reality he was just pushing me so that I'd work even harder to achieve my goals...and to prove him wrong! I keep him in mind always as we work toward our vision.

What would an ideal day be for you?

My ideal day would be spending the day at the lake fishing, having a picnic, and hanging out with my family.

If they made a reality show out of your life, what would it be called?

My mom would title this one - "The Grape Oz". She gave me this nickname because she claims I hide behind the curtain to our office to avoid any work she may be conjuring up for me. Totally untrue, of course!

What was your first job and how old were you?

My first job was at McDonald's when I was 15 working for Bob and Julie Dobski who are iconic in utilizing business to do good in the community and do well at the same time. Those are the core values of ours in business today.



●●● Susan Cleaver ●●●



Age: 38

Occupation: Pricing Manager, Actuary, State Farm Insurance

Education: BS in Mathematics, University of Georgia

Career highlights and/or accomplishments:

I have thoroughly enjoyed my 17 years at State Farm. I completed the actuarial exams in 2002 to become a Fellow in the Casualty Actuarial Society. I recently completed the exam series to earn a Chartered Property Casualty

Underwriter designation. In my work responsibilities, I have had the opportunity to travel and work with people throughout the organization in almost all parts of the country.

Community service projects of note or of which you enjoy:

I am a member of First Christian Church in Bloomington. As a part of the congregation, I have served in a number of roles, including President of the congregation. It's been a tremendous blessing in my life to serve God at FCC. We participate in some community projects such as the Block Party and Jesus Coffee House. I also enjoy serving within the church on committees and special projects that enhance our spiritual growth as individuals and as a community of faith.

The person who has had the biggest influence on your work/aspirations and why:

Rob Kelley, one of my supervisors at State Farm, has had the biggest influence in my

work life. For years he has mentored me, motivated and inspired me, and truly been a good friend. He not only taught me how to succeed as an actuary and make good business judgments, but he sets an excellent example of valuing team members and their contributions to our work.

Leisure time diversions and/or your favorite stress buster:

I enjoy playing golf and volleyball, and especially playing music. I have been a percussionist since I was 10. Unfortunately, I don't play as often as I'd like, but I still enjoy playing on occasion at church or other organizations. In years past, I participated in the Community Concert Band, and still enjoy listening to their concerts.

Best trip you've ever taken and why:

Each year our family takes a trip to the beach in Charleston, South Carolina where my parents live. It's the one time each year our entire family can be together. Although we don't see each other often in between, we have a great bonding week together. Plus, you can't beat the beach for a relaxing place to vacation!

Do you have a favorite charity or cause and why?

I adopted my daughter from an agency called Adoption-Link. One of the new entities that is part of this agency is a non-profit organization called Chances by Choice that specializes in placing children for adoption who are HIV positive. Two of my close friends have adopted children from Ethiopia through this organization as well.

●●● Stephanie Epp ●●●



Age: 39

Occupation: Executive Director, Alumni Relations, Illinois State University

Education: B.S., Education - Northwest Missouri State University

M.S., Education - Drake University Graduate Certificate, Nonprofit Management Executive Program - Georgetown University Ed.D. (To Be Completed, Fall 2007) - Illinois State University

Career highlights and/or accomplishments:

As a former classroom teacher, one of the highlights of my education career

was achieving National Board Certification as one of the first early childhood educators in the country to do so. I am proud of my involvement on both state and national levels to board certify K-12 educators.

What you still hope to accomplish:

The most immediate goal is to complete my doctoral work at Illinois State University. I hope to successfully complete my dissertation in the fall, graduating in December. On a lighter note, I would like to learn to knit and think it's high time I become familiar with how to text message on my phone.

Vision for leadership:

In my view, leadership is not a zero-sum game. Part of the work of a leader is to build the capacity of others as leaders. In doing so, a leader strengthens the organization and expands his/her influence. I have worked with many talented leaders, and one of the

traits shared by all of them, is the belief that their authority was in no way diminished by promoting the accomplishments and skills of those around them.

Best trip you've ever taken and why:

The best trip I've ever taken was this summer. In July, I went to Nebraska to meet my new nephew, Isaac. He is an absolute joy, and I'm looking forward to the next opportunity to spend time with him.

Do you have a favorite charity or cause and why?

I am passionate about higher education and the role it plays in transforming lives. Illinois State University, with its history of preparing teachers and providing access to education, is my favorite cause. As a staff member and student, I could not be more proud to be affiliated with such a wonderful, high-quality institution.

What was your first job and how old were you?

I grew up on a dairy farm in southeastern Nebraska. There was always something to keep me and my sister busy, and we quickly learned not to complain about being bored during the summertime. My first job off the farm was babysitting at the age of 14.



••• Geoff Fruin •••

Age: 27

Occupation: Assistant to the City Manager, Town of Normal

Education: Bachelor of Business Administration, University of Iowa, Master of Urban Planning and Policy, University of Illinois at Chicago

Career highlights and/or accomplishments:

After my second year in college, I was fortunate enough to be given an opportunity to spend four months working for the Clinton Administration at the White House in Washington D.C. This

experience not only solidified my desires to work in the public sector but it also opened my eyes to the hard work, passion and collaboration that is necessary to truly make a difference in any profession.

The person who has had the biggest influence on your work/aspirations and why:

My work ethic and outlook on life is directly attributable to my parents. Their hard work, dedication and support really paved the way for me and my career.

Leisure time diversions and/or your favorite stress buster:

Taking in a football or baseball game seems to do the trick for me. I also enjoy getting outside and staying active through sports.

What would an ideal day be for you?

It's hard to beat a nice summer afternoon at Wrigley Field, but any day just spent relaxing with family and friends is ideal.

Do you have a favorite charity or cause and why?

Over the last few years I have had an opportunity to work with PATH as a member of their board of directors. PATH is truly an amazing organization that has some incredibly dedicated and talented staff and volunteers that serve this community around the clock. McLean County is blessed to have such a community asset.

What was your first job and how old were you?

Although I had plenty of help from my parents and brothers, my first job was delivering the Pantagraph as young kid. I inherited the route from my older brother Rich and then passed it along to my younger brother Pat. All in all, we had the route in our family for probably ten years or more.

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●●● Ryan Gammelgard ●●●

Age: 30

Occupation: Attorney, Livingston, Barger, Brandt & Schroeder

Education: J.D. University of Illinois, B.A. Eastern Illinois University

Career highlights:

I recently put together a brief that is taking a case to the Illinois Supreme Court. In drafting the brief, I relied on a rule of civil procedure that our co-defense counsel, a seasoned appellate attorney at a large firm in Chicago, had never heard of. For a civil procedure junkie like myself, it gave me quite a sense of accomplishment to help "inform" a more distinguished colleague from up North.

Community service projects of note:

I was appointed the Chair of the McLean County Bar Easter Seals Fundraising Committee and was able to raise more than \$1,200 in a couple of weeks. I am currently arranging a project of the Illinois Association of Defense Trial Counsel Young Lawyers Division to collect clothing and school supplies for local school children.

Vision for leadership:

I would like to see the visibility of the local Bar increase. Many attorneys volunteer their time for noble causes but fail to get their message out to the general community. Public perception of attorneys is rather low, and hopefully I can help change that through my position as Secretary of the McLean County Bar Association.

The person who has the biggest influence on your work:

My grandfather, Peter N. Gammelgard, continues to influence my work. He was the captain of a destroyer escort in World War II and the vice-president (when that title

actually meant No. 2 at a company!) of Pure Oil Co. During his tenure, the company became one of the most successful companies in the country. After his retirement, he was constantly testifying before the United State Congress about the state of the industry, and was eventually sent to China to help open the door to trade with that country. Through his experiences and teachings, I've learned to always work hard and value education. Most importantly, he taught me that in order to succeed in business; you have to constantly look for new innovations in your field to make you stand out from the competition.

What was your first job and how old were you?

My first job was delivering the Pantagraph. I was 11 years old.

If you were stranded on a desert island, name the three people you'd like to have with you and why?

My future wife, Amy Nelson (because I enjoy being with her), MacGyver (so he could build a boat out of palm trees and coconuts that would allow us to escape from the island), and my law school contracts professor (so I can leave him stranded on the island by himself, after the rest of leave on the boat MacGyver made).



COUNTRY congratulates the "20 under 40" honorees.
We're especially proud of our very own.



Wade Harrison

- Senior Vice President of Life and Health Operations
- Salvation Army Safe Harbor Mission Capital Campaign Cabinet member and Hope Committee Chair



Cathy Oloffson

- Projects & Executive Communications Manager
- YWCA McLean County Board Director, Governance Committee member and 100th Anniversary Steering Committee Chair
- Illinois Network of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies Board Secretary and Executive Committee member



Insurance & Financial Services



••• Denise Grazar •••

Age: 37

Occupation: Business Manager, Fox & Hounds Hair Studio and Day Spa

Career highlights/accomplishments:

To date the highlight of my career has been watching the growth and maturity of the staff that I work with daily. In addition to my career at Fox & Hounds, I recently began a new job at age 37. I am fortunate to have been given the opportunity to work part-time with the McLean County Coroner's Office.

Last book you read and why?

The last book that I read was the Bible. I try to stay involved in a Bible study most of the year. I find that during the summer months when my Bible study group isn't meeting, I tend to get lazy about reading but I try to remember and apply the lessons daily.

Best trip you've ever taken and why:

In December 2001, I completed the Honolulu marathon. I trained with and raised money for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. One of the ladies who trained and ran with us was a cancer survivor at the time. She has since passed away, but I remember her often. Being able to travel to Honolulu was an awesome opportunity not only because of the people I went with, but also because it was the 60th anniversary of Pearl Harbor. We were able to see some of the remembrance ceremonies for that event.

Leisure time diversions and/or your favorite stress buster:

My favorite leisure time activity is going to the gym. I am blessed to have been chosen to be the mother of the most wonderful son. He is 15 and he still likes hanging out with me. We joined a gym together and that is something we share. He loves to spend time with his friends, but he still gives me a kiss and a hug when he gets out of the truck. I am so lucky.

Favorite quote and why:

A quote I like: "Resolve to be tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving, and tolerant with the weak...because in your life you will have been all of these."

The person who has had the biggest influence on your work/aspirations and why:

My mother has by far been the biggest influence in my life. From teaching me what it means to be a strong, smart, self-sufficient woman to leading by example of what a mother should be I have been given it all. My mom is not only my mother but I have worked with her for the last 20 years so she is also my boss and mentor. We have worked in a family business for much of my adult life and the fact that we work together but still love to spend time with each other outside of work is awesome to me.

What was your first job and how old were you?

I delivered newspapers before I could really do anything else. I worked as a curbie at a root beer stand, have worked fast food, retail, movie theater cashier and concession counter, restaurant hostess and busser and insurance agency manager. I was always happy that someone liked me enough to give me the chance. Now that I hire and fire employees I understand how overwhelming that process can be.

••• Deborah Halperin •••

Age: 37

Occupation: Coordinator, Action Research Center Illinois Wesleyan University

Education: BA in Sociology, Cornell College; MA in Non-profit Management, Spertus College

Career highlights and/or accomplishments:

I was the General Manager of Community Services for the American Red Cross of Greater Chicago before we moved here in 2003. My team worked toward one set of common objectives - not individual job performance indicators. At the end of the fiscal year, we would all get a raise or no one got a raise. We decided to sink or swim as a group. It takes a special group of people to create a work environment that could embrace that level of accountability.

Vision for leadership:

I'm a bridge-builder. When I find out what people or organizations need, I try to find a resource for them. It's one of the great things in Bloomington-Normal - everything is two degrees of separation, not six degrees. I always have a pipeline in my head of people who are seeking things and people who have things to offer. I try to match them up whenever I can.

Leisure time diversions and/or your favorite stress buster:

We just bought a home built in 1901. It was owned by the same family for over 100 years. Now it's ours. It is a wonderful house. It has original oak trim that has never been painted and gorgeous pocket doors. I found letters from the civil war in an old

desk that was left in the house. It needs a lot of love but we have a vision for it.

If they made a reality show out of your life, what would it be called?

I would call the show "The Grass is Greener Where?" I work part-time, I volunteer part-time (two board positions, a couple of committees, and I plan to help at my son's school), I have a family and a huge network of friends that keep me sane. I need all of it but it's very hard to balance. I could be a full-time stay-at-home Mom, but I think I'm a better Mom because I work and I'm involved in the community. I think it's important to role model that for my kids. I have a responsibility to them - of course - but also to the community where we raise them.

Do you have a favorite charity or cause and why?

I'm the President of the Board of the Day Care Center of McLean County. As a Mom, I know that having someone you trust to care for your children is the most important thing in the world. We are celebrating our 100 year anniversary in January 2008. That's a very special milestone. I'm proud to be a part of that legacy.



●●● Wade Harrison ●●●



Age: 35

Occupation: Senior Vice President, Life/Health Operations, COUNTRY Insurance & Financial Services

Education: B.S. in Actuarial Science, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign 1993

The person who has had the biggest influence on your work/aspirations and why:

The person who has had the biggest influence on my work is my dad, Bill Harrison. My dad was my high school

math teacher at Iroquois West High School in Gilman. He was extremely instrumental in helping me to choose a math related field and specifically, a career in actuarial science. Although I've now moved into a senior management role and away from actuarial work, I believe that actuarial background has helped me tremendously.

Leisure time diversions and/or your favorite stress buster:

Most of my leisure time is spent following my two young boys, Wyatt and Graham, and their activities, so I spend a lot of time standing on swimming pool decks with a stopwatch and coaching soccer games! But I do manage to fit in some golf and reading time for myself.

Best trip you've ever taken and why:

The best trip I've ever taken was last summer to Maui with my wife, Melinda even though it did start off bit crazy. We were invited on the trip at the same time I was pro-

moted to my current position, and the trip was two weeks later. We frantically worked to get everything in place, but it was worth it.

Do you have a favorite charity or cause and why?

One of my favorite organizations in our community is the Safe Harbor shelter run by the Salvation Army. Captain Scott Shelbourn and Tom Fulop and their staff and volunteers have done a fantastic job over the years of helping many men through a very rough time in their lives. I respect the work that they do and really appreciate the effort they put into helping the homeless in our community.

What was your first job and how old were you?

The first job I had was working at the Watseka Elks Club as a bus boy and later as a waiter. I started working there at age 13 and my grandparents managed the restaurant. I continued working there until I went to college.

Last book you read and why.

I try to do a lot of reading, mostly for relaxation. Most of the time I tend to read mystery novels (Michael Connelly is my favorite author of fiction). But I did recently re-read Jim Collins' *Good to Great*. I tend to go back and read parts of that particular book from time to time as it helps me focus on some very important leadership principles.

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●●● Steve Hunt ●●●

Age: 38

Occupation: Associate Professor and ISU Carnegie Fellow for Political Engagement, Illinois State University

Education: Undergraduate: Ph.D., Southern Illinois University at Carbondale; M.A., University of Northern Iowa; B.F.A., 1992, Emporia State University

Career highlights and/or accomplishments:

The work that I am the most proud of centers around developing and researching teaching strategies that promote students' critical thinking, information literacy, and political engagement skills. I was fortunate to participate as a member of an ISU committee tasked with the responsibility of reforming the general education program at ISU. That reform involved restructuring the introductory communication and composition courses as a year long sequence that provides approximately 3200 students a year with the foundational skills necessary for success in academics, future careers, and as citizens. More recently, I have been involved with the Political Engagement Project. Illinois State University was selected as one of eight institutions to participate in the Political Engagement Project.

The person who has had the biggest influence on your work/aspirations and why:

My parents were absolutely influential in developing my work ethic and interest in education and politics. In addition, I have had the tremendous fortune of learning from a number of truly wonderful educators who instilled in me a passion for teaching. However, the person that has had the most significant influence on my work aspirations is my wife, Sarah Diel-Hunt. From the time that we met as debate partners in

high school, she has been the motivating force in my life. It has been through her support, guidance, and love that I am the person I am today.

Leisure time diversions and/or your favorite stress buster:

My favorite stress buster is fishing. Although I enjoy fishing for just about anything, I really enjoy wading the Vermilion River for smallmouth bass. My son Ethan is a little young to wade the river with me (he's only 5), but I look forward to the day when the two of us can walk down the river together.

Do you have a favorite charity or cause and why?

I'm particularly fond of the work being done by the Living Democracy Committee of Bloomington/Normal. This group is committed to the goal of bringing clean elections to the state of Illinois. The group is also committed to motivating community members, including students at Illinois State University, to get more involved in local political issues.



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Pantagraph





••• Kevin D. Kuebler •••

Age: 38

Occupation: Financial Consultant, AXA Advisors, LLC

Education: B.S. in Accounting from Truman State University, Kirksville, MO

What you hope to accomplish:

Throughout my career, I hope I can continue to truly make a difference in the lives of my clients and their families. And I hope my work ethic will set a good example for my children, with one of them following in my footsteps to take care of my clients when I retire.

The person who has had the biggest influence on your work/aspirations and why:

My father has had the most influence on my work and aspirations in life. I learned from a young age what it meant to work hard and to put other people first. I always remember Dad helping out friends and family while still making time for his family and our activities. He would put in long hours at work, coach sports teams, build a garage for a neighbor, and do it all with a smile.

Leisure time diversions and/or your favorite stress buster:

With two pre-teen children, my leisure time often revolves around the kids and their activities. It can be a great diversion to sit back and watch them play a sport, dance, sing, or play an instrument and be very proud of what they have accomplished.

Best trip ever taken and why:

I gave my wife a trip to Mackinac Island for her birthday. Our time was spent riding bicycles, playing golf, eating great meals, and just spending time together.

What was your first job and how old were you?

At age 15, my first official job, not counting lawn mowing, was working at Furr's Cafeteria in Columbia, Missouri. I busied tables and helped out wherever the manager needed me. I learned the importance of customer service, no matter what your job or business is.

Community service projects of note or of which you enjoy:

For the past two years, I have chaired the Pork Chop Fundraiser for the Bloomington Rotary Club. The event is our one main fundraiser and allows us to provide for our many service projects. This event pulls our entire club together through tickets sales to grilling pork chops to delivering the pork chop meals. The event is always fun for our club, and when you realize the impact we can have with the money raised, it makes the event a huge success.

Vision for leadership:

Leadership is demonstrated by example. A good leader is selfless, putting the needs of the group above any personal needs. A good leader will feel individual success when the team succeeds and will be inspired to achieve more through someone else's accomplishments. A leader will stand firm in their convictions and not waiver. Leadership is learned through trial and error and is achieved with much hard work.



••• Cathy A. Oloffson •••

Age: 36

Occupation: Manager, Projects & Executive Communications, COUNTRY® Insurance & Financial Services

Education: Bachelor's degree in mass communication and a master's degree in organizational communication, both from Illinois State University.

Career highlights and/or accomplishments:

My greatest accomplishments are my two daughters – Kayla and Mallory. I am also proud of the positions I have held through the last 15 years including

my most recent as manager, Projects & Executive Communications, and COUNTRYgraduate, COUNTRY Leadership Development Program.

The person who has had the biggest influence on your work/aspirations and why:

Through leadership and example, my mother taught me at an early age it is possible to be a successful working woman and an excellent mother – the two are not mutually exclusive. With extreme encouragement, support and patience, my husband helps me practice that lesson daily.

Leisure time diversions and/or your favorite stress buster:

Reading is my passion and favorite leisure activity. My favorite stress buster is playing the piano. To learn a new song, I have to work hard and focus which helps clear my mind. Mostly, I appreciate the chance to learn with my daughter. We started taking lessons together last year.

What would an ideal day be for you?

On a sunny, beautiful fall day, I'd spend the morning reading a good book and sipping Diet Coke with Lime on a front porch swing. In the afternoon, I'd attend a major league baseball game with my family where the St. Louis Cardinals would triumph, securing a place in the playoffs. Afterwards, we'd attend a post-game party with our family and 100 of our closest friends.

If they made a reality show out of your life, what would it be called?

Project Working Mother – As a little girl, I wanted to be many things and my aspirations changed frequently, sometimes daily. Through it all, I always knew no matter what I did for a living, I wanted to be a mother. My career is important to me, but my family is top priority. My daughters have taught me more than any class, textbook, or business opportunity. Being a mother is the ultimate development experience.

Favorite charity or cause and why?

As a member of the YWCA McLean County's board of directors, I marvel at the wide array of services this organization provides our county. As a parent whose daughters have attended YWCA daycare and summer camp, I am incredibly thankful for that loving, supportive and educational environment. In 2008, the YWCA will celebrate its 100th anniversary in McLean County, and I am proud to lead this effort.

••• Erin Rogers •••

Age: 33

Occupation: Vice President Program Services, Easter Seals

Education: Bachelor of Science from ISU; Master of Education from University of Illinois - Urbana

Career Highlights and/or Accomplishments:

I began working with children in a local at-risk child care center during my freshman year of college. The opportunity taught me about typical child development, discipline, family dynamics, parenting, and working with a variety of people with backgrounds different from my own. I learned of an opportunity to initiate pediatric therapy and family support services in the Bloomington-Normal community through Easter Seals. I was offered the position in 1999, and have been with Easter Seals ever since. I meet so many people who have been touched by Easter Seals, and it's truly humbling to know that our organization has made a difference in the lives of children with disabilities and those who love them. I am now responsible for pediatric therapy programs and family support services for both our Bloomington and Peoria Centers.

What you still hope to accomplish:

In the next five years, I intend to play a significant role in Easter Seals' capital campaign for our new Bloomington building which has enabled growth in services and therapy staff. I hope to influence legislation in FY2008 that supports early intervention and ongoing therapy for children with developmental delays and disabilities.

Leisure time diversions and/or your favorite stress buster:

Spending time with my husband and two children, ages 8 and 5; spending time with

family and friends; exercising, yoga, golf; home improvements and decorating; gardening; and reading

Best trip you've ever taken and why:

My husband and I traveled to Playa Del Carmen in Mexico just this spring. It was our first trip out of the country, and certainly our best trip ever. I enjoyed learning about the local history and culture, and also enjoyed the true relaxation that came with knowing my children and work were in good hands.

Do you have a favorite charity or cause and why?

Easter Seals, of course! It's impossible not to be affected by the children and families I see on a daily basis. A first step, first word, first independent bike ride... these kids, and their parents, work so hard to accomplish many of the milestones typically taken for granted. The staff are also inspiring - they go above and beyond on a daily basis to make sure that each and every child is getting the services and support they need to attain their goals. A close second on my list is the Autism Society; an organization primarily comprised of parents, and these are folks who know what their kids need, and then mobilize to make it happen.



••• Leann Seal •••

Age: 39

Occupation: Corporate Director of Sales and Marketing, Snyder Corporation-Hotels

Education: Graduate of Illinois State University, 1991

Career Highlights/First job:

My first job, at age 14, was at McDonald's Restaurants where I continued employment through my four years at Illinois State University. This experience opened the door for me to work for Bob and Julie Dobski as

Marketing Director in their corporate office. Also, I was employed as a tour guide for Disney World while I completed Disney University Management Training. I began my hotel career with the Snyder Corporation in 1996 at Eastland Suites under the leadership of Tony DeAngelis. For the last five years, my position as Corporate Director of Sales and Marketing for all four Snyder Hotels has allowed me the pleasure to work directly with Jack and Jean Snyder, as well as a wonderful group of owners and employees at the Snyder Corporation.

What you still hope to accomplish:

I want to continue to grow with the Snyder Corporation. I work directly under the Board of Directors which allows me to learn about various divisions and get to know the people that make this company great. They inspire me to know more about the products and services of our company and share that success with our community.

The person who has had the biggest influence on your work/aspirations and why:

My accomplishments are a result of taking bits and pieces from each of my motivational managers. If I had to choose just one person, I would choose Julie Dobski who has been an inspiration to me since I was a teenager. She taught me about balance - work hard, play hard - and the importance of giving back to the community when you succeed.

Best trip you've ever taken and why:

This past May, we were able to get away for a week with our two year old son Jackson and my mother, Kay, to beautiful Hilton Head Island, South Carolina. It was our first out-of-state family vacation with our son! It was amazing to play on the beach and stroll through historic attractions. Above all, it was a great reminder to stop and smell the roses; appreciate the family near you everyday.

Do you have a favorite charity or cause and why?

I am currently a proud Bloomington Kiwanis member who recently co-chaired the Camp Limberlost project with my cousin and colleague Crystal Howard. I was fortunate to be a part of the St. Jude Children's Hospital Gala sponsored by the Snyder Corporation which raised over \$100,000 for the charity.



●●● Pamela Sweetwood ●●●

Age: 39

Occupation: Director of Special Programs, Heartland Community College

Education: ISU, Bachelors in English, Masters in Psychology

Career highlights and/or accomplishments:

I have a very unique work history in that most of the positions I've had were fairly new territory for me. I tend to hit the ground running with what I take on. I consider myself to have a very unusual job which I can count on to be challenging, eventful, and rewarding. To be an advocate for volunteerism is certainly fortunate and something very central to my life.

Community service projects of note or of which you enjoy:

My favorite is the Humane Society of Central Illinois of course! Pets offer so much. My work with HSCI is very meaningful to me. I hope those wanting to add a pet to their life will consider HSCI's wonderful pets first. I also enjoy meeting others through current and past participation in Rotary, Mid-Central Volunteer Coordinators Association, Vladimir/Canterbury Sister Cities, Old House Society and United Way.

Vision for leadership:

Quotes I have posted around me:

"Aspire to inspire before you expire!"

"When angry, count to 4. When very angry, swear!" (Mark Twain)

"Politics is not a spectator's sport."

The person who has had the biggest influence on your work/aspirations and why:

The person who has had the biggest influence on me is my mom because she taught

me the value of giving and sacrifice. She is supportive, non-judgmental, and very determined. In addition, my grandmother was a great influence by exposing me to animals and nature.

Leisure time diversions and/or your favorite stress buster:

I enjoy spending time with my cats. It's hard to be stressed around a cat. Lately, I have the guilty pleasure of watching too many reality shows.

Best trip you've ever taken and why:

England. I had never traveled overseas until then. As with many, it unleashed a desire to experience more of the world.

What would an ideal day be for you?

Rainy day or a blizzard...so I stay home all day and gets lots done or do absolutely nothing.

Do you have a favorite charity or cause and why?

The Humane Society is my passion. We provide such a valuable service to the community. I see so much more than we can do to help pets and people.



●●● Chad Tattini, M.D. ●●●

Age: 34

Occupation: Plastic Surgeon, Chad Tattini M.D. Plastic Surgery LLC

Education: Illinois Wesleyan 1994, Loyola Stritch School of Medicine 1998, Brown University Plastic Surgery 2004

Career highlights and/or accomplishments:

I began my own plastic surgery practice in Bloomington in 2004.

What you still hope to accomplish:

I plan to continue to give back to the community that has made such a large impact on my personality and work ethic

Community service projects of note or of which you enjoy:

Fundraising chairman for the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Illinois, McLean County Chapter

Vision for leadership:

Lead by example

The person who has had the biggest influence on your work/aspirations and why:

My parents—They gave me the confidence to set my goals high and to think positive. They also displayed to me the proper work ethic necessary to achieve these goals

Leisure time diversions and/or your favorite stress buster:

Playing sports and coaching my son's baseball team

What would an ideal day be for you?

Spending it with my family

If you were stranded on a desert island, name the three people you'd like to have with you and why:

Tanner, Maidson and Trey—my three children who mean everything to me

Do you have a favorite charity or cause and why?

Make-A-Wish Foundation. I've seen how profound it can help those with life-threatening illnesses

What was your first job and how old were you?

GTE operator—17 years old





●●● Stacey Van Scoyoc, DDS ●●●

Age: 39

Occupation: Vice president, partner with husband Dr. John Van Scoyoc, DDS, Bloomington Family Dental, Ltd

Education: Doctor of Dental Surgery

Career highlights and/or accomplishments:

I am very proud of the success of my five year old business. I love my job and enjoy the people I work with at my office. Purchasing equipment that keeps my practice on the cutting edge of

dentistry makes my job exciting and constantly keeps pushing me to expand my horizons. My husband and I make a great team splitting time overseeing the business and taking care of our three boys. I am currently on the board of McLean County Dental Society. This board is a multiyear commitment finishing the term as president. Two times my society has honored me with the President's Award.

What you still hope to accomplish:

Professionally, I hope to mold our practice to enable it to give the best patient care and customer service possible. Personally, I hope to encourage my boys to focus on education, family, community service and faith.

Community Service projects of note or of which you enjoy:

John M Scott Health Resource Center – it is a valuable service to the people of this community who do not have health or dental insurance

Vision for leadership:

As a leader, I hope to encourage everyone I come across to find a passion and take risks by expanding their comfort zone. I have found this makes life more fulfilling.

The person who has had the biggest influence on your work/aspirations and why:

My mom for constantly telling me that women can have any career they want. My husband and business partner for always listening, supporting and encouraging me.

Do you have a favorite charity or cause and why?

Ovarian Cancer Research. My mother was diagnosed with stage III ovarian cancer a couple years ago and has gone through treatment. So far she is cancer free. I have been happy to see the recent publicity about encouraging women at risk for ovarian cancer to have CA125 blood tests and ultrasounds of the ovaries at least annually. In time, I hope to see a screening test for ovarian cancer.

What was your first job and how old were you?

Age 3 – believe it or not I was a child model.

Last book you read and why.

The Glass Castle by Jeanette Walls for my monthly book club.

●●● Wendy L. Wilber ●●●

Age: 39

Occupation: Manager, State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company

Education: Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration and Pursuing a Master's in Business Administration

Vision for leadership:

Successful leadership requires positive and visible modeling. A leader must be proven and tempered by difficult challenges, which allows true character to show forth. A person's ability to stay positive and steady through challenges creates confidence in those who follow.

The person who has had the biggest influence on your work/aspirations and why:

Without a doubt, my husband, Ken, has had the greatest influence in my life. He is always my biggest supporter and provides encouragement and love every day in all aspects of my life. He inspires me; I am so blessed to be celebrating our 20th wedding anniversary this year. He is truly my best friend, and I thank God for every day we have together.

Leisure time diversions and/or your favorite stress buster:

I have a special appreciation of classical piano and violin for which I can thank my Mother; those piano lessons were really worth it. I also enjoy reading and traveling.

Best trip I've ever taken and why:

The best trip I've ever taken is yet to come. My husband and I would like to go to Ishigaki Island and Okinawa, Japan, where my Mother was born and Father was sta-

tioned when in the Marines. I still have family there whom I haven't met and look forward to seeing the beautiful islands.

Do you have a favorite charity or cause and why?

Many of the activities I participate in help develop future leaders and encourage others to be active in their community. I have a diverse background with a mother who was raised in Okinawa, Japan, and is now a citizen of the United States. The challenges and discrimination my mother faced has given me a desire to help others overcome such obstacles. I am president of the Central Illinois Chapter of OCA, an Asian Pacific American organization dedicated to advancing the social, political, and economic well-being of all Asian Pacific Americans in the United States.

What was your first job and how old were you?

I was 19 when I started my first full-time job at E.F. Hutton. My first day as a wire operator was on "Black Monday," October 19, 1987. Every day after that was a 'slow day' on that job.





Keynote Speaker: Laural Manegre

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