

EARLY CAREER ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS 2017

JAMES ALLENDORPH '08

Upon graduation, James volunteered in the Peace Corps in Belize. He organizes, coordinates, and hosted community-wide health fairs to raise awareness of vital sanitary practices. He also recruited US based dentists to travel to Belize to provide free care to impoverished regions. There, he learned what true struggle, sacrifice, and interpersonal relationships are all about. James used his time there as a backdrop to launch into a legal career.

After he returned, James attended John Marshall Law School. He served with the Honorable Judge Scottillo in the Circuit Court of Cook County, Third Municipal District. He also served as a teaching assistant while he was at John Marshall. He graduated with his J.D. in 2012. James has also helped other prominent positions throughout this phase of his career with Goodman Networks, Blitt and Gaines, P.C., and the City of Des Plaines as their Consumer Protection Coordinator.

He is now an Associate Attorney General for the State of Illinois, a position he has held since 2015. James has found that public service and helping others has been a rich and fulfilling career move, and he is grateful for Illinois State University for opening his eyes to that need.

KYLE BARBER '09, '10

Kyle Barber graduated with his Bachelor's and Master of Science in Accountancy. He is also an Operation Enduring Freedom Veteran having deployed to Afghanistan after graduation, serving in the Air National Guard (2006-2012).

Kyle is currently a Senior Staff Accountant II for Caterpillar and has held a variety of positions. Caterpillar has recognized him as a top performer. He enjoys the many challenges of his career, and considers himself a continual learner.

Outside of work, Kyle is an active participant in his community. He co-led a team of 20 volunteers who raised \$56,000 for Easter Seals and supported the development of a Young Professional's organization for The Salvation Army called Echelon. He is past chairperson for the Red Hot Christmas event for The Salvation Army and has also completed Peoria's Chamber of Commerce Community Leadership School. He devotes his time and energy to The Salvation Army and has received The Salvation Army's Young Leaders Award. He has also supported and participated in events for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Kyle spends the majority of his free time watching his beloved Chicago Cubs and even attended Game 7 of the World Series. He is a die-hard Redbirds basketball fan and is hopeful they will get to "the dance" very soon. He lives in the Peoria area and will be marrying in November 2017. He claims he was even able to turn his fiancé, a Bradley graduate, into an Illinois State athletics fan, although she may disagree. They have one dog-child named Ivy.

JOHN CONRAD '11

Following graduation, John began working at a software company, Autonomy as a Support Engineer. Over the next 6 years the company went through a number of acquisitions, into Hewlett-Packard, and divesting to become a wholly management owned organization of iManage in 2015.

John's current position with iManage is Manager of Support Operations, which includes directing a team of Support Engineers, driving systems and operational changes, managing enterprise customer issues, and assisting the Cloud and Professional Services team with implementations and escalations.

John serves on the Business Information Systems Advisory Board for the College of Business and has been instrumental in students having successful internships and employment at iManage.

One of the most valuable things about his experience with Illinois State University was the Study Abroad Program. His time studying in France provided him with amazing experiences and new relationships.

CASEY EMERICH (MILLER) '09

Casey Emerich (Miller) graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Business Teacher Education and began her teaching career at West Aurora High School where she taught business and computer education courses. In addition to teaching, Casey co-sponsored West High's DECA Business Club, an organization that prepares students for careers in marketing, finance, hospitality and management.

Casey left high school teaching in 2013 to become a full-time faculty member at the College of DuPage, Illinois' largest community college. As an assistant professor in the Office Technology Information (OTI) program, Casey teaches face-to-face and online courses, develops course curriculum, and is a member of the Business and Technology Division Curriculum Committee. She also serves as the program's co-coordinator by managing course scheduling, dual credit agreements with partnering high schools, instructor staffing, and degree and certificate development and revision. She recently completed a Master of Science degree in Online Teaching and Learning from California State University-East Bay. Casey lives in Chicago with her husband, Joe Emerich '10, a commercial insurance broker. The two met in Schroeder Hall and hosted their 2016 wedding at Illinois State.



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ROSANNA FUGATE '08

Rosanna Fugate works in Samsung's Global Strategy Group based in Seoul, South Korea and is responsible for executive-level projects under the office of the chairman. Prior to this role, Rosanna worked for MetLife in New York City and in Chicago. In her six years there, Rosanna held a number of roles including a position in the Chief of Staff office for the head of the Latin America region in which she managed a number of cross-functional initiatives related to regional governance, executive travel, communications, employee development and quarterly reporting for the Office of the Chairman & CEO. In addition, Rosanna was chosen for the highly selective Leadership Development Program.

Throughout her career, Rosanna has been passionate about supporting others in their professional development. At MetLife, she led the MetLife INROADS Alumni Network affinity group (MIAN). In this role, she transformed MIAN from an informal grassroots organization to an officially recognized employee affinity group through the creation of a formal leadership structure and national programming. At Samsung, Rosanna is currently responsible for developing and establishing the first diversity and inclusion training and corresponding governance for the Global Strategy Group.

Rosanna received her BS in International Business and Marketing from Illinois State University and her MBA from the Harvard Business School.



KATHRYN HENKEL-SLADE '03, '04

Kathryn started her career with the Comptroller of the Currency as an Assistant National Bank Examiner. She worked for them for a little over three years when an opportunity came up to work at ADM. Kathryn started her career at ADM as an Accounting Analyst working with ADM Latin America doing accounting for joint ventures in the region. It was while working with these regions that she had the opportunity to help open a new office in Panama.

In 2011, she spent a year working with the ADM Grain North office in Minneapolis, MN doing accounting for grain elevators. She moved back to Decatur in 2012 and shortly after was promoted to Accounting Supervisor for the NA Cocoa Accounting division. ADM made the decision to divest of this business in 2014, at which point she accepted a promotion to Accounting Manager and helped lead the North American team through the largest divestiture in ADM history. Kathryn wrapped up her work with ADM Cocoa in 2016 and accepted a role with the IADM team which is a project focused on business transformation and working towards putting the company on an integrated system.

In October, Kathryn will become a Global Controller and be the global policy leader on accounting for ADMs fixed assets. She is a CPA and a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

When not at work, Kathryn is both a wife and mother of a one-year-old boy. In her spare time, she serves as a member of the Advisory Board for the Accounting Department at Illinois State University. In the past, she has served the community with her work with Big Brothers Big Sisters, both as a Big and as chairman of the local advisory board.



MATTHEW HORSCHLER '09

While a finance student, Matt secured a highly selective paid internship with State Farm Insurance Bank and decided to double major in Finance and Insurance. Upon graduation, Matthew accepted a full time employment offer from Pekin Insurance and underwent training to be a property insurance field adjuster. He was promoted to be on the Catastrophe Team within one year of full time employment.

After two years with Pekin Insurance, Matt took an opportunity to move to Indianapolis with American Family Insurance in 2011. He worked to develop their large loss property division and their national catastrophe team.

In 2014, Matt moved to Nashville, Tennessee to the Auto-Owners Insurance South Regional Catastrophe Team. Matt was in this role for 18 months when he was asked to join their catastrophe team of 40 total adjusters in the United States. While working for American Family Insurance, Matt traveled all over the U.S. as a member of the company's Catastrophe adjuster team, helping policyholders' who had endured severe weather.

After a year with the Catastrophe Team, Matt was offered and accepted a position with Auto-Owners Insurance, another Fortune 500 company, located in Nashville, Tennessee. Matt was asked to be the first employee and catastrophe team lead on a newly developed catastrophe team while facilitating management with progress and managing the states of Tennessee, Georgia, and Alabama. In January 2017, Auto Owners recognized Matt's leadership by promoting him to the position of Assistant Manager over the South Regional Catastrophe Team. At age 29, he is currently the youngest member of management in this department.

Matt earned his CPCU and AIC designations and plans to continue to pursue his continued education.



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CLYDE MILLER '08

Clyde Miller graduated with a major in Marketing and a concentration in Professional Sales. As a senior, he was a sales scholar and mentored new sales students. He also participated in many other activities including the Sales Scholar Program, Illinois State Cheerleading, the Red Alert Executive Board, and was a member of Delta Sigma Pi. Illinois State offered opportunities, of which Clyde took full advantage. He held various jobs and internships around campus.

Since graduation, he has held a series of financial management, sales and data analytics positions at Wells Fargo, Infogix, Information Builders and now at Salesforce. He began working at Salesforce in 2015 as a Solution Engineer, and after 18 months was promoted to Lead Solution Engineer. He has steadily advanced in his career from individual contributor to his current position of team leadership. He has continued his growth through attaining new certifications and designations at Salesforce, becoming a certified Salesforce Platform App Builder, Certified Salesforce Administrator, and a specialist in the Salesforce data visualization product, Wave.

Clyde has been involved with Habitat for Humanity, Feed My Starving Children, Technovation juvenile entrepreneurship training, and the Ronald McDonald House. He also gives back to ISU as an alum willing to share with students his insights on careers in Data Analytics and Sales. He has participated in Business Week as a panelist and was a guest speaker in Sales Management and Introduction to Professional Sales classes. Clyde gave a video-recorded interview on the benefits of studying Marketing Analytics and organized a field trip for Illinois State University sales and marketing analytics students to tour the Salesforce headquarters in Chicago, network with analytics professionals, and complete a series of use case studies. He met his wife ten years ago on the Illinois State cheerleading team, and they were married three years later. They live in the Northwest suburbs of Chicago and have an amazing daughter and a son.



JEFF RILEY '08

Jeff Riley is in his ninth year in education and currently serves as the Director of Strategic Partnerships at Joliet Township High School District 204. This district level administrative position is responsible for coordinating strategic partnerships that positively impact student learning and achievement, including school business partnerships and special projects that support district initiatives.

Jeff was a dedicated teacher at Joliet Central High School for 5 years. He taught Accounting, Marketing, and Computer Application while contributing to academic and community initiatives. His focus was to provide students with authentic and valuable experiences that go beyond the classroom.

Jeff has continued to be a lifelong learner, receiving his Master's Degree from the University of St. Francis in Educational Leadership with his Principal's endorsement and is currently pursuing a second Master's Degree in School Business Management from Northern Illinois University.

He is married to his wife Brittani (COE, 2011) and is the father of future redbird Grant, born in November 2016.



RONNELL ROBINZINE '09

After graduating from Illinois State University, Ronnell attended the University of Florida - College of Law to pursue a career as a business lawyer. After graduating in May 2012 and passing the Florida bar exam in the summer, Ronnell began his legal career in private practice as an Associate at Bush Ross, P.A. in Tampa, Florida, where he practiced commercial litigation, corporate, and real estate law.

In July 2014, Mr. Robinzine joined the Miami office of Akerman LLP, a national law firm. While an Associate at Akerman, he focused his practice in real estate law, representing financial institutions and investors in commercial mortgage-backed securities originations, as well as purchase, sale, and financing transactions. Ronnell also represented clients in real estate aspects of corporate transactions, including merger and acquisition deals and bond offerings.

Ronnell recently accepted an offer to join the international law firm of Foley & Lardner LLP as an Associate, continuing his legal career as a business law attorney concentrating in commercial real estate.



ALEX RUBIN '11, '12

Alex's career began at a global staffing firm in Minneapolis. Alex realized that there were gaps to be filled in the industry and wasted no time starting his own business that is now New Roots Solutions at the age of 27. His current job, as principal of his company New Roots Solutions, tasks all employees with client business development and recruiting and staffing solutions.

He has been able to use his transitional skills to launch a platform for a more "boutique" service that offers tailored and exclusive experience to clients with staffing needs. At the core of what drives his business' success is an engagement with clients to understand their needs and goals and to reach beyond what Alex's company has previously done to provide the best possible service to each and every client.

Alex drives the success of his business model through his commitment to the core principals outlined by his tenure at Illinois State as both an athlete and a student. He continues to invest in his community, using his business platform to help various charities and causes, as well as providing his employees with opportunities for expanded learning, career growth, and professional development.

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BRETT SCHAEFER '07

Brett Schaefer is a Senior Manager of Assurance Services with RSM US, LLP. He specializes in audits of middle market companies in the industrial products, consumer products, and technology industries.

Since graduation, Brett has been a major supporter of the Accounting Programs at Illinois State, where he was a Presidential Scholar and a graduate assistant in the Accounting Department. He frequently gives back to the Accounting Department by judging case competitions and assisting in recruiting. He is a CPA and a member of the Illinois CPA Society (ICPAS) and the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA).

Brett lives in South Elgin, Illinois with his wife Melissa (also an ISU graduate), their daughter Emerson, and Bailey, their German Shepherd.



JON WORTHEY '12

Jon Worthey is the Global Planning and Analytics Lead - Americas HR for Mondelez International, the \$26 billion maker of Oreos. He graduated with a double major in Human Resource Management and Business Education (Distinguished Honors in both).

Jon spent two years in Indianapolis working for Cummins on the Workforce Planning and Analytics team, and later returned to the Chicago-land area when an opportunity opened at Mondelez.

He played a critical role in the multi-year, \$3.5 billion transformation program undertaken at Mondelez, which included zero-based budgeting, organizational restructuring, setting up a shared services organization, and supply chain reinvention. This project took Jon all over the world and positioned him as a trusted adviser of senior management. He is a part of the North American HR Leadership Team at Mondelez and supports global and Americas-based strategic initiatives.

Jon resides in the northern suburbs of Chicago with his fiancé, Jacquelyn. He is pursuing his Masters in Analytics from The University of Chicago.

